

New station replaces decade old 'temporary' building

By **KAREN SMITH**
The Champion

Out with the old and in with the new. The new year will bring in a state-of-the-art facility for Halton Regional Police in north Halton.

Milton's new police station, situated on the south side of Childs Drive east of Ontario Street, is expected to open its doors in mid-January, said project manager Keith Moore, a Halton Regional Police civilian employee.

Construction is right on schedule and completion is slated for late December, he said. Furnishings, installation of utilities and other final touches will follow.

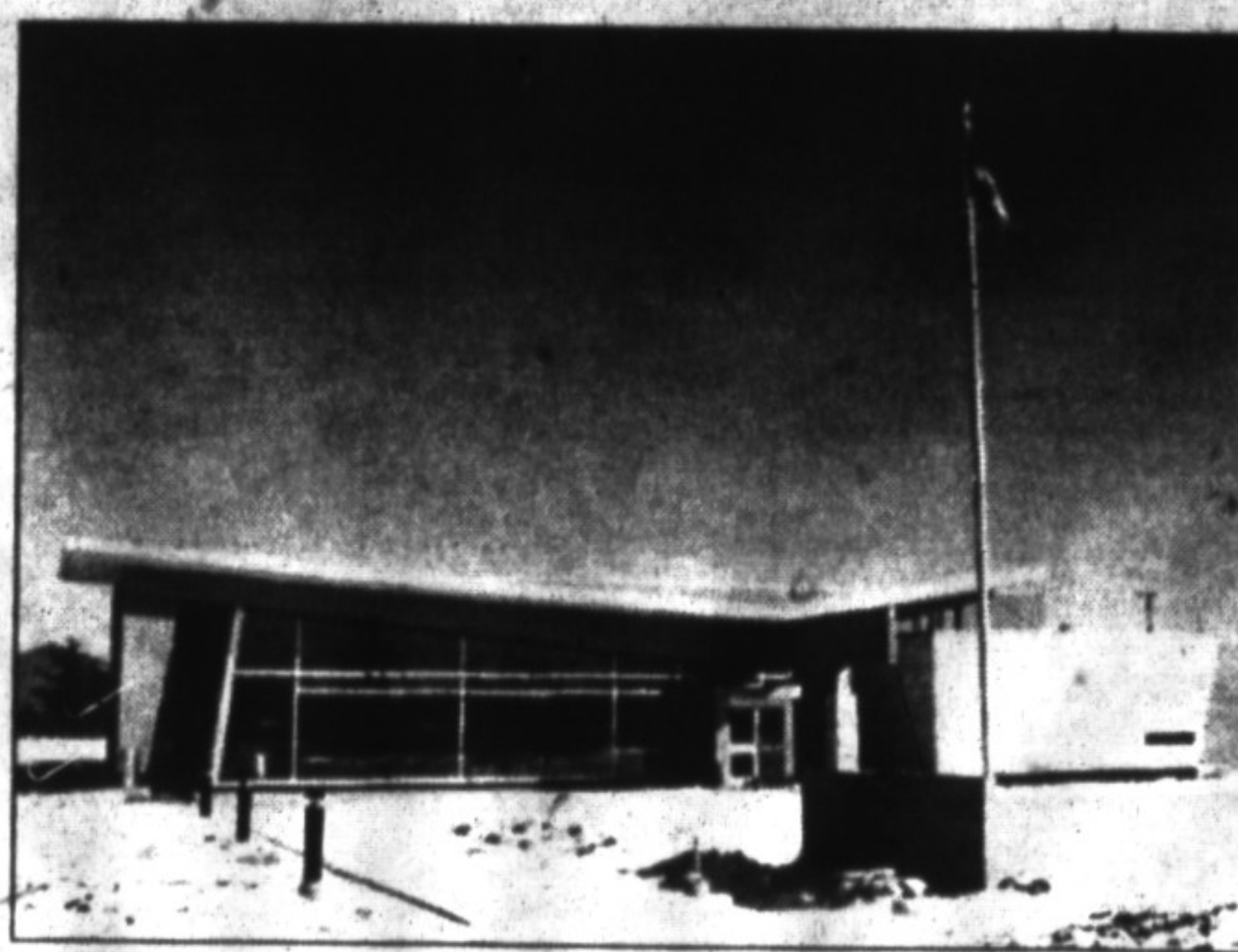
Long in the waiting, the \$2.8 million project has gone smoothly, Mr. Moore said.

"I've got no complaints, questions or concerns," he said. "It's been problem free."

Dunlop Farrow Architects of Toronto designed the structure and Consolidated Canadian Contractors Inc. are building it.

The innovative facility will serve as headquarters for police District 1 — consisting of Milton and Halton Hills. The current District 1 headquarters, operated out of the Georgetown police station, oversees administrative duties for the area.

The new building replaces Milton's 12 Division station on King Street station — the former district health office — which police first occupied in the early 1980s as a temporary location.



With construction right on schedule, Milton's new police station is slated to open in mid-January.

However, lack of funding and others issues held up the project for 10 years.

Police have hired a moving company equipped with "lockable boxes" to transport confidential documents, Mr. Moore said.

The facility will bring improvements in areas where the current "temporary" station falls short, Mr. Moore said.

Police have been unhappy with the lack of privacy for detec-

tives investigating cases and limited security at 12 Division.

The new, 22,000-square-foot building will feature a multiple camera monitoring system that will allow front desk clerks to view 16 different areas of the station on a single screen.

Panic strips will be installed along hallway walls to improve the safety of officers. When pressed, an alarm will sound.

The station will also boast a gym, a community room for public meetings, a lounge and ample parking.

About 65 officers assigned to Milton and Halton Hills are expected to work out of the facility initially.

The cost of the project was shared by Halton Region and the federal and provincial governments through the Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Works Program.

The project was financed by \$2 million from the infrastructure works program, almost \$1.1 million from development charges, \$279,000 from reserves and \$387,000 borrowed.

The regionally-owned King Street building will be for sale once it is vacated, said Don Williams, manager of realty services.

The Town of Milton has already been approached and granted the first opportunity to buy the facility, he said.

Police Chief Peter Campbell has said the service currently has no plans to close 11 Division in Georgetown, however, the move hasn't been ruled out considering anticipated budget restraints.

An official opening ceremony for the new station will likely be held in the spring, Mr. Moore said.

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