



Toronto Police chief-designate Mark Saunders speaks to media during a press conference announcing his appointment at Toronto Police Headquarters on Monday. The former Milton resident attended W.I. Dick Middle School and Milton District High School. *Cole Burston / Toronto Star*

## New T.O. police chief former Miltonian

By Julie Slack  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

When the Toronto Police Services Board announced Monday that Mark Saunders would become the next chief, many Milton residents felt a wave of pride rush over them. That's because Saunders, 52, who's currently deputy chief at Toronto Police Service (TPS), has many ties with Milton. He'll take over when Chief Bill Blair retires on Sunday. Saunders' family is originally from Jamaica, then came to Quebec and in 1969 moved to Milton.

Many Milton residents commented about his promotion Tuesday on social media, saying things like remembering him as a great athlete in sports including track, basketball and kickboxing. He was also a basketball referee in the late 1970s at Holy Rosary School. He served as student council president while attending Milton District High School. He also was a student of W.I. Dick Middle School. Toronto Mayor John Tory said the decision to name Saunders chief was a difficult one, given the high-calibre pool of candidates. But in the end, the choice was unanimous by the seven-member board.

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