

Pan Am security detail similar to high-profile criminal probe: police

By Rachael Williams
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

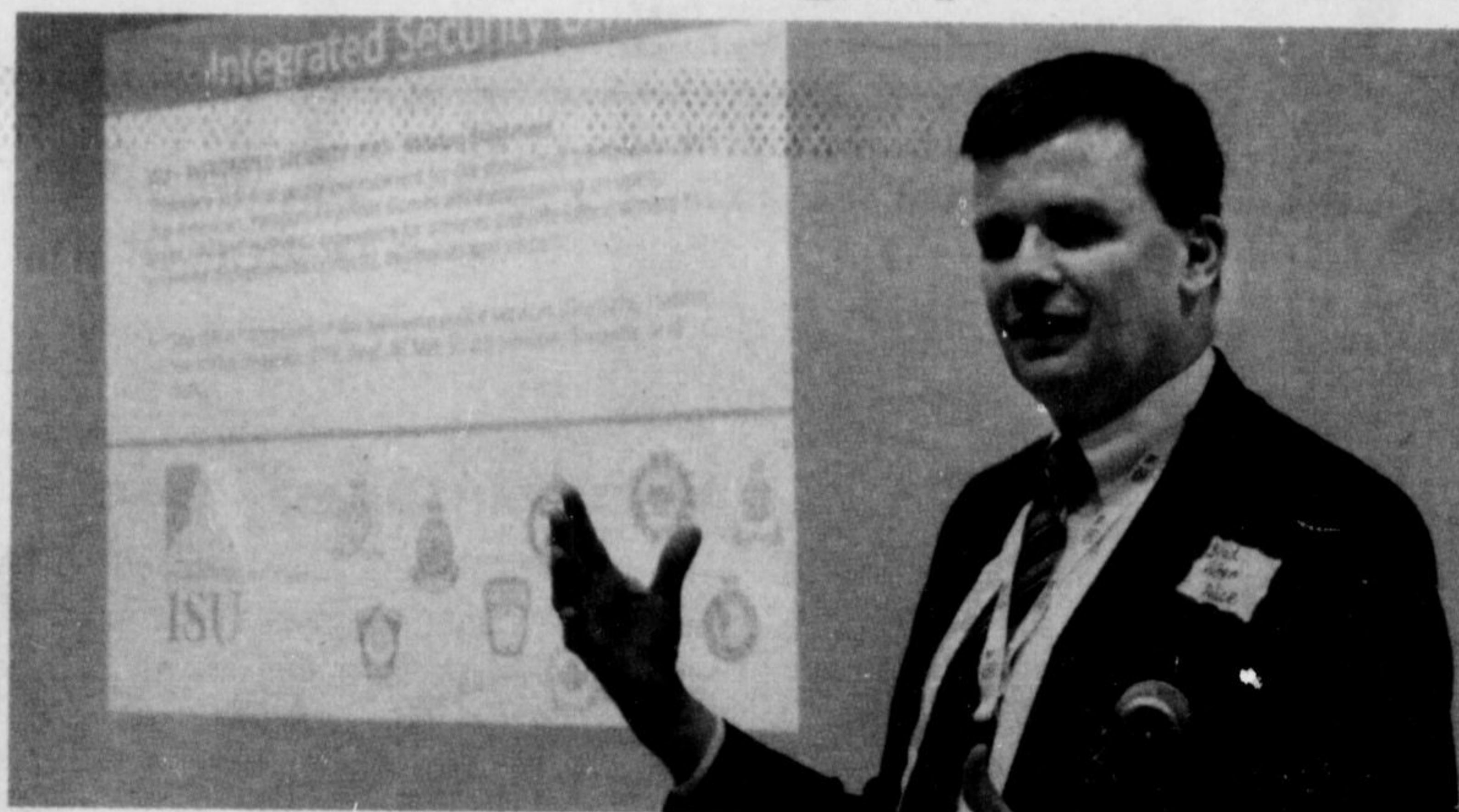
With thousands expected to flock to Ontario for the Pan Am/Parapan Games 2015, preparing a localized security strategy for Halton has been an experience like no other, said Det. Sgt. Brad Cook, Halton's security lead planner for the Games.

"You think you've seen everything, done everything, and then you get something like this," Cook told a crowd at the Milton Sports Centre during March's Pan Am information session.

Cook, a member of the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) who served on the Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Unit and with Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services, said in scope, Pan Am security detail is comparable to high-profile criminal investigations.

"What's different is the preparation and the planning," he told the crowd.

The Games will see more than 10,000 athletes



Halton Regional Police Staff Sergeant Brad Cook speaks to guests at one of two information sessions held at the Milton Sports Centre in advance of the Pan Am Games.
Graham Paine / Metroland West Media Group

and officials from 41 countries and territories participate in 51 sports. There are 31 Games competition venues, 13 non-competition

venues and 15 training sites spread across the Greater Golden Horseshoe, from Welland to Oshawa and from Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay.

"We want to provide a safe spot for everyone to go. Everyone in the community will be impacted by the Pan Am Games. Our job is to make sure everyone is safe," said Cook.

The OPP has formed and leads an Integrated

Security Unit (ISU) for the Games that will include several major security partners. The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) are one of 10 police forces that make up the ISU, including units from Durham, Hamilton, Niagara, Peel, South Simcoe, Toronto, York, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Ontario Provincial Police.

Sgt. Peter Leon, provincial media relations co-ordinator for the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), said in an interview with the *Champion* that when it comes to planning for an event of this size and magnitude, the OPP has reached out to police organizations who have co-ordinated similar sized events, such as the Vancouver Olympics, including the RCMP.

"And the police service of jurisdiction for each of the Games venues will be responsible for security planning in their jurisdiction and will maintain operational command and control during all events," said Leon.

The HRPS will be responsible for providing safety and security around the Halton venues, which includes the Mattamy National Cycling Centre in Milton and Burlington's City View Park, a soccer practice venue.

Assessing the threat level for the Games is based on the national threat level set by the RCMP. According to Leon, the shooting at Parliament Hill on October 22 that resulted in 23...

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Temporary Road Closure Advisory

Laurier Avenue Bridge:
Between Valleyview Crescent and Commercial Street

Temporary Closure in Effect from:

7:00 am, Monday, June 29 to 5:00 pm, Friday, September 4, 2015

In order to accommodate the rehabilitation of Laurier Avenue Bridge over 16 Mile Creek, Laurier Avenue (between Valleyview Crescent and Commercial Street) will be closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic during the time noted above.

During this closure, traffic will be detoured to Main Street East, via Ontario Street South and Commercial Street.

The Town of Milton is committed to programs for maintaining and improving our vital infrastructure and services to our community. We respectfully request and thank you for your patience and understanding during this period.

Any inquiries should be directed to the following:

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Engineering Services

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