

# 33 new York cops coached by veteran officers

Thirty-three new cops hit the streets of York Region this week following a swearing in ceremony in Newmarket Thursday.

But they're not on their own just yet, York Regional Police staff services Supt. Chris Barratt said.

Having recently graduated from the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, new recruits have been sworn in as fourth-class constables.

Now they are spread across the region and partnered with veteran "coaching" officers who will teach them the ropes.

"They're not totally trained just yet," Supt. Barratt said. "Now they get the hands-on training in citizens' houses and on York Region's roads."

There are a lot of roads in the region and many of the recruits, who are not from the area, will be using the next few months of coaching to become familiar with the community, Supt. Barratt said.

Once again, the new recruit class represents the region's diversity as the fourth-largest municipal police service in Ontario continues its commitment to hire with a vision.

Among the new officers are those who speak Gujarati, Urdu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, Singhalese, Dutch, Patois, Korean, French and sign language.

Most of the new officers will remain on regular uniformed patrol for at least the next three years before they have an opportunity to

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York Regional Police

take advantage of the professional development program and move up the ranks.

While their hiring may precipitate the moves of some officers into senior investigative units, Supt. Barratt said new officers are needed to deal with traffic issues.

At its April 27 meeting, the force will be asking the police services board to approve the hiring of

another 35 new officers who would enter police college May 4 and graduate July 28.

Along with the new officers, York Regional Police named an honorary chief, as Herbert H. Carnegie was sworn in.

The Order of Canada recipient is only the third honorary chief in the history of York Regional Police, joining Hal Jackman and Lincoln M. Alexander, both former Ontario lieutenant governors.

Mr. Carnegie was a star hockey player with the Quebec Aces in the 1940s.

He played alongside the likes of Jean Beliveau, who went on to a Hall of Fame career in the National Hockey League. But Mr. Carnegie

never played in the NHL because of his race.

A successful businessman, Mr. Carnegie now promotes a college and university scholarship program rewarding good citizenship.

"Mr. Carnegie is a living example of the values we believe are important, such as integrity, honesty and teamwork," said Chief Armand La Barge. "Despite the challenges he faced, he has always extended his hand to help others in need."

Mr. Carnegie is a patron of the annual police appreciation dinner and, for the past two years, an award that bears his name is given to a police officer for excellence in building positive relationships with the community.

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