

# Hare calls it a career as the city's fire chief

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Come October, Mississauga Fire Chief Cyril Hare will be looking at the same fire prevention issues but from a different perspective.

"I'll sort of be on the other side of the table," says Hare of his move to the private sector, where he'll be working for a Toronto-based consulting engineers firm which specializes in fire protection.

The sudden career switch for Hare, 50, comes after 29 years as a member of Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services, the last seven of which he served as fire chief.

In March, the Port Credit native was named Fire Chief of the Year by the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association for his much-publicized work in fire prevention.

In a move that surprised City of Mississauga staff and councillors, Hare announced his retirement behind closed doors at Wednesday's council meeting.

In a memorandum immediately sent out to the fire department, the City's Commissioner of Community Services Paul Mitcham recognized Hare's accomplishments while, at the same time, expressing disappointment with the news.

"... Cyril has established a reputation as a strong advocate for life safety through fire prevention. In my mind, he will be long remembered for pursuing sprinkler protection in residential homes. He has never wavered in his support for this important initiative," the memo reads. "It is with hesitation and concern that Chief Hare's retirement request is accepted."

There's no word yet on who will succeed Hare.

The chief's last official day on the \$107,847-a-year job is Sept. 30.

Three days after that, Hare will take to his new professional digs at Leber Rubes Consulting Engineers, a firm that has



**HARE**

worked on a number of local projects including the Hershey Centre and Square One Shopping Centre, as well as the Air Canada Centre and SkyDome.

In his new position, Hare will help design fire protection systems in buildings.

The chief says that while he's proud of his accomplishments as the city's head firefighter, he leaves with some sense that not all issues have been resolved.

"There is always lots that needs to be done," says Hare. "Issues are coming up such as the delivery of ambulance service. And labor relations

have always been a problem. They were when I came here and they are now."

Hare, born and raised in Port Credit, has been recognized for a number of initiatives throughout the years, including: the Home Safe Home program, in which firefighters en masse conduct free home safety inspections at night and on weekends, often handing out free smoke alarms; arson prevention; defibrillation equipment on fire trucks; and making carbon monoxide detectors mandatory in homes.