



Halton Happenings - August 2020

Welcome to the condensed and combined August edition of Halton Happenings and the Community Safety and Well-Being Dashboard. Like many organizations across the country and world, Halton Regional Police Services Regional Community Mobilization Bureau has had to reassign, adapt and change normal service delivery. Weekly, changes have been made to address emerging needs and considerations. Regional Community Mobilization Bureau resources strive to follow the Framework for the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, and to follow the strategic priorities:

1. **Incident Response** – To ensure those in need get the right response, at the right time, by the right responders.
2. **Risk Intervention** – To address the criminal behaviour that most affects the safety of community members.
3. **Prevention** – Community collaboration is the catalyst for positive, working relationships with all community agencies, resources and partners.
4. **Social Development** – To assist in the continued development, education and support of all social groups in Halton Region.

4 Strategic Priorities of Community Safety and Well-Being

What does it mean?

The delivery of police services in Ontario has evolved to include working with partners to focus on reducing the risk factors that affect community safety. This reduces the demand for incident response by providing a coordinated response to risk, and leads to more positive outcomes. The Halton Regional Police Service has built on our policing philosophy by including proactive measures of intervention, constituting the four strategic priorities of community safety and well-being.





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Incident Response

Community Mobilization Bureau Officers

Oakville Community Mobilization Bureau conducted an investigation regarding graffiti on Kerr Street. The culprits were identified, they admitted to the offence on video, and were recommended to the Adult Diversion program.

The Burlington Community Mobilization Bureau has developed a liaison program with a local youth group home and one of our Officers attends regularly. As a result, the youth residents and staff are familiar with the Officer which proved to be beneficial during one particular call where one of the youths had a violent episode and the Community Mobilization Officer attended. Due to previous rapport established with the youth, the officer was able to calm him down and mitigate the risk to the other residents and staff.

The Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Teams (MCRRT) continued to provide Mental Health support throughout the Region in conjunction with our Mental Health partners from St. Joseph's Healthcare. The teams responded to 146 calls during the month of August, 84 of which were mental health related. This includes 31 in Burlington, 39 in Oakville, 8 in Milton and 6 in Halton Hills. This accounts for 57.5 per cent of the teams activities. The team continues to experience an increase in telephone support to other officers throughout the Region dealing with mental health related occurrences.



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Risk Intervention

Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST) continued to provide mental health risk intervention supports throughout the region. Service delivery was adapted as our partner for the COAST program, Canadian Mental Health Association of Halton (CMHA), suspended their in-person supports due to the COVID-19 situation, while still providing telephone supports. Information sharing continued through alternate means, and in-person risk interventions were conducted by officers alone. Of Note – the COAST position has not been staffed 7-days-a-week due to officer time off and requirements for the officer to cover Mobile Crisis Rapid Response shifts. The COAST Officers have ten total occurrences, with eight of them being mental health related accounting for 80 per cent of the officers' time. CMHA began to return to in-person checks September 1, 2020.

Traffic Services Unit

Education

Traffic Services met with the Halton Regional Police Service Level 3 officer group to discuss service vehicle collisions and 'guaranteed safe arrival', which focusses on officer decision making while engaged in police vehicle operations. Officers were introduced to elevated decision making skills, Service policy and considerations pertaining to various forms of applicable legislation that govern rights, entitlements and obligations of police officers when operating police vehicles within our community. Court judgements and case law pertaining to previous at fault police involved collisions were also discussed as a learning tool to ensure our new Halton officers are afforded the best guidance to assist with the driving component of their newfound occupation.

Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement (CMV)

While August is traditionally a slow month in terms of CMV enforcement, as officers take leave, the CMV Unit conducted 41 truck inspections and issued 121 charges. The majority of charges laid were for equipment violations including mechanical defects, sanctions pertaining to overweight or loads exceeding dimensional allowances, and various CMV related document offences. Load security concerns and dangerous goods transport violations rounded out infractions observed in August. Four in five trucks inspected failed inspections and were placed out of service, amounting to 32 trucks in total.

The Regional CMV Unit also supported a 3 District CMV blitz, situated at the Mainway Arena in Burlington. Regional CMV officers collaboratively partnered with frontline uniform officers and Ministry of Transportation inspectors. 111 inspections were conducted resulting in 110 charges, a 36 per cent out of service rate and an arrest of a commercial vehicle driver for impaired operation at 9am.



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Older Adult Support Officer

- Older Adult Support Officer continues to work with community partners such as Links2Care, Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO), Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST), Halton Housing and the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT).
- Older Adult Support Officer facilitated a frauds and scams presentation to the Oakville Probus Club via Zoom.
- Older Adult Support Officer providing ongoing support and contact with older adult with no family in the area believing they are being targeted by the community. No criminal action concerns.

District Youth Officers/Social Workers continue to provide support to youth and families in the community. Existing Diversion contracts continue to be monitored and checked on.

Community Mobilization Officers assigned to general patrol have continued to assist the service and community as they would have in the past.

- An adult male who is a resident of the Bob Rumball Home for the Deaf has been exhibiting escalated behaviours towards staff, including physical assaults. Members of the 1 District Community Mobilization Bureau scheduled a meeting with the staff and directors of the group home to discuss a response strategy. The staff was encouraged to focus on the safety of the client and the staff when these situations occur and to call for a front line police response when the client's behavior begins to escalate. The staff was also advised that they would be supported by Community Mobilization Bureau and frontline officers to pursue criminal charges against the client if the situation warrants such a response.
- 2 District Community Mobilization Bar Project – 30 premises were checked.
- 2 District Community Mobilization Bureau officers conducted five Crime Prevention through Environmental Design audits.
- 2 District Community Mobilization Bureau assisted in Project Police on Park Patrol, five Provincial Offence Notices were issued Criminal Arrest – three charges and warrant on Original charges.
- 3 District Community Mobilization Officer has assisted in an ongoing neighbour dispute by providing a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design to two neighbours who had concerns regarding the behavior of another neighbour. The ongoing dispute never reached the level of criminal behavior, however in the interest of proactive crime prevention, these safety audits were conducted.



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Community Safety and Well-Being Officer

- Community Safety and Well-Being Officer continues to work to provide support to internal and external partners. Continued communication to determine what community supports were going to be available throughout the region.
- The Situation Table continues to meet on a weekly basis by utilizing video conferencing tools. Regularly, 30-plus community partners met to discuss cases of Acutely Elevated Risk.



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Prevention

District Youth Officer's and Social Worker's

- District Youth Officers and Social Workers continue to work with youth and families pertaining to pre-charge Youth Diversion, and external partners for the Adult Diversion Programs. Video conferencing and telephone contact utilized for intakes on new cases, and for continued work/education/support for existing cases.
- Burlington Social Worker has been working on an ongoing mental health issue with a local resident that has caused concern to the community. Through a collaborative effort with community partners at the Situation Table, a plan is in place to mitigate risk to the community and get the individual the help that they very much need.

District Community Mobilization – while being assigned to patrol duties, these officers engaged in proactive crime prevention initiatives by being highly visible around closed schools and community organizations that they have previous connections with.

- Officers of the 1-District Community Mobilization Bureau have been working cooperatively with the Criminal Investigations Bureau to deploy and monitor a bait bike along the Milton bike path network. The bait bike project continued throughout the month of August and a deployment schedule was followed where possible. To date there have not been any attempts to steal the bike.
- A remote monitoring camera system was deployed with the assistance of the Intelligence team to identify potential suspects responsible for dumping garbage and waste at the dead-end of Thompson Road, south of Britannia in the Town of Milton. The area has enforceable by-law signage posted, however this poses little in the way of deterrence for those less civic minded individuals that choose to avoid the Halton Region Waste Transfer facility less than five kilometers from this site.
- Following a number of incidents of trespassing at an abandoned home located at Trafalgar Road and Derry Road, Milton efforts are being made to contact the owner of the property. This site has become a location where unknown individuals congregate and there is a high potential for injury or damage, due to the remote location of the house.
- Project Noisemaker – Oakville Community Mobilization Bureau assisted District Response Team with this project on the weekend of August 22. Several charges were laid.
- Burlington Community Mobilization Bicycle Officer has continued to assist on Project Police on Park Patrol, doing proactive enforcement to reduce illegal activities and liquor violations that have been identified as a community concern. He has engaged multiple people and issued warnings, and in some cases provincial offence notices were given.



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Crime Prevention

- 3 District Community Mobilization Bicycle Officer assisted on Project Police On Park Patrol, doing proactive enforcement to reduce illegal activities and liquor violations that have been identified as a community concern. He has laid four Provincial Liquor Licence Act offences and issued multiple warnings.



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Social Development

Community Mobilization Officer continues to conduct community outreach and support.

- Oakville Community Mobilization Bureau assisted Tim Hortons with Camp Day.
- Oakville Community Mobilization Bureau attended a birthday drive-by organized for Special Olympians.
- Officers from the Oakville High School Liaison team presented to youth at the Halton Multicultural Center. The Virtual Presentation covered topics of cannabis and vaping laws in addition to cyberbullying. Four presentations were done.
- Oakville Community Mobilization Bureau attended Milton to assist with a Black Lives Matter March
- Over the weekends in August, Oakville Community Mobilization Bureau members played basketball with youth in the Maurice and Margaret Areas.
- Burlington Community Mobilization Officer has spent the majority of the summer months engaging youth through a "positive ticket" initiative. While out on bike patrol if he sees a youth practicing safe cycling practices, he will stop them and issue them a positive ticket. The positive ticket entitles the youth to a free slushy at a local convenient store. It has been a great tool in engaging young cyclists regarding safety but has also been great in reinforcing positive police-youth relations in the community.

Regional Community Mobilization / Diversity

- Regional Community Mobilization Officers continue to have contact with our various Religious and Cultural partners in the region to provide information of service delivery/supports during the COVID-19 situation.
- Selection for the reinvigorated District Diversity Teams began in August. These teams will consist of individuals within the districts who have the most day-to-day interactions with members of the public. The goal of the teams will be to ensure our members become more effective when navigating diversity issues both internally and externally and become more capable of engaging with the diverse population living in the region of Halton. These teams will also provide an opportunity to administer consistent and ongoing diversity related training to all our members. It is anticipated that once the district diversity teams are created, it will be expanded to other areas within the Police Service.
- On August 15, members of Regional Community Mobilization Bureau participated in the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton's Youth Leadership Program. Officers conducted several presentations virtually to close to 100 youth on topics including leadership, mental health, online safety, and a career in policing. This leadership program runs annually and our Police Service will continue to support this initiative.
- On August 18, members from Community Mobilization Bureau and the Chief's office participated in the first ever virtual Diversity Engagement Table. This provided the



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opportunity for our Police Service to connect with the many faith leaders and diverse community organizations within Halton. The event was attended by 26 individuals and productive discussions took place surrounding the work our Police Service is doing to enhance our equity, diversity and inclusion programming.

Children's Safety Village

- Halton's Children Safety Village was closed for March break and continued to be closed following school closures due to COVID-19. Efforts underway to identify a new Coordinator.

Auxiliary Policing Unit

- All activities have been suspended until further notice. Online training continues for the Auxiliary Unit pertaining to COVID-19 and Personal Protection Equipment use. All online training resources being offered to front line officers pertaining to the COVID-19 situation will be available to the Auxiliary Unit. Auxiliary Officers have been completing online training on various topics.
- Thirteen new Auxiliary members began training in January, 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, in March their in-person training had to be postponed. In an effort to keep the new Auxiliary engaged, and to ensure in person training can begin when directed, Regional Community Mobilization has worked with the Training Bureau to provide the new Auxiliary with a series of online (virtual) training experiences. Academic portions that would typically be taught in-person, continue to be covered in a virtual format.

Halton Regional Police Volunteers (COPPS, SALT, Pipes and Drums, Chorus, Halton Seniors Helpline, Victim Services, Auxiliary)

- All volunteer activities have been suspended until further notice. Members of the Regional Community Bureau continue to have regular contact with service volunteers to provide them with ongoing information and to offer supports. Discussion to start mid-September about the possible return.

Other

- Many of the officers from the District Community Mobilization Bureaus were seconded to various investigative units over the summer. September will mark the return of the majority of these officers to their positions in the school liaison and community mobilization officer roles.



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Upcoming Dates

- Halton Hills Farmers Market – Resumes in downtown Georgetown from June 6 - October 16.
- Guinness Record 10km Run – Velodrome September 7
- Milton Classic Car Cruise – September 13