



## Halton Happenings - December 2020

Welcome to the December 2020 edition of Halton Happenings. Halton Regional Police Service's **Framework for Community Safety and Well-being** has the following 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.

When reading through this document, there are four coloured categories: incident response has been highlighted in red, risk intervention in yellow, prevention/education in blue and social development in green.

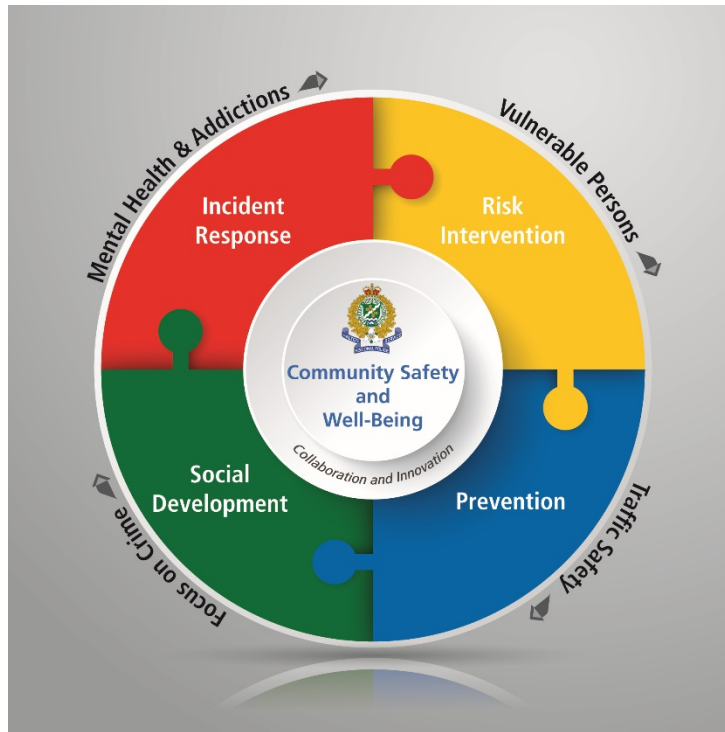
### 4 Strategic Priorities of Community Safety and Well-Being

#### 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

District 2  
Oakville

#### Focus on Crime

- Throughout the month of December, the Oakville Elementary School Liaison Officers and High School Liaison Officers have continued to assist uniformed patrol when available.
- Uniformed officers responded to one of the high schools in Oakville for a perceived online threat involving a student bringing a machine gun to the school the following week. One of the Oakville High School Liaison Officers was assigned to follow up with the investigation in attempts to identify the person responsible. Through a thorough investigation and collaboration with the Cybercrime Unit, a young person was identified and subsequently issued a Youth Criminal Justice Act Warning for their actions.
- One of the Elementary School Liaison Officers assisted uniform patrol and the district's Criminal Investigations Bureau with a suspicious package call. The Investigation revealed that the package contained raw fish. The sender was identified and subsequently apprehended under the Mental Health Act.
- Members of the Community Mobilization Bureau provided assistance to District Officers in managing a protest arranged by "Stand4Thee".



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### Mental Health & Addiction

#### Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT):

- The Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Teams responded to 125 calls for service during the month of December. This included 50 in Burlington, 65 in Oakville, 8 in Milton and 2 in Halton Hills. Of these calls, 73 were a mental health priority call. This accounts for 58.4 per cent of the team's primary activities.

Of the 52 "other" occurrences the teams were involved in, they provided mental health support service in 20. When these numbers are factored in, 93 of the teams 125 calls were mental health related, therefore 74.4% of the team's time was spent *providing mental health support*.



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### Risk Intervention

District 1  
Milton & Halton Hills

#### Diversity, Older Adults & Youth

- Currently, there are only three remaining school liaison officers in 1 District due to staffing realignments. As such, they have been pulled in many directions to respond to the increasing number of calls for assistance at their local elementary and high schools. They have adapted to the current visiting restrictions imposed by the schools and have conducted eight virtual presentations on topics such as internet safety, appropriate use of social media, and cyber bullying.
- They have also been responsible for investigating allegations of criminal activity involving students or related to school property. This past month they have investigated arson, mischief to property, sexual interference, and uttering threats. All of these investigations have resulted in positive outcomes for the victims and have provided a satisfactory conclusion for the school administrators.

District 2  
Oakville

#### Mental Health & Addiction

- During the month of December, the Social Worker conducted 32 outreach calls to adults requiring support. The outreach would range from counselling the individual, to making referrals specific to their identified needs.

#### Focus on Crime

- High School Liaison Officers continued an investigation into nude photographs of two students being sent around. Over the aforementioned days, the officers were able to locate and speak to multiple students who had been identified as being involved. The students were counseled on the legalities of their actions and were warned for the offences of producing, distributing and possessing child pornography.
- Elementary School Liaison Officer was contacted by one their principals and advised that some of the school's students were improperly using social media. After reviewing the content in the social media, the officer decided to speak with the offending students and their parents and educate them on the safe and proper use of social media.

#### Diversity, Older Adults & Youth

- Over the month of December, the Oakville Social Worker conducted youth outreach to five at-risk youth. The outreach included counselling and referrals to an appropriate community support depending on the identified need.
- Oakville Social Worker conducted three opioid outreaches with intent of connecting the individuals with ongoing addiction support or other community resources they may require to mitigate their drug use.
- Elementary School Liaison Officers participated in a Violent Threat Risk Assessment at one of their assigned schools for a student who had threatened another student. The results of the assessment deemed the youth to be a low risk.
- A staff member of one of Oakville's group homes reached out to the Elementary School Liaison Office looking for assistance in educating one of the residents on the dangers and consequences of sending inappropriate selfies to strangers online. One of the officers spoke with the resident and counselled them as requested.



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- High School Liaison Officer was involved in a Violent Threat Risk Assessment for a student who had threatened to bring a machine gun to school. The assessment was conducted in the presence of school administration and police in order to identify the risk level of the student. In this case, the youth was deemed to be a low risk.
- The Oakville Youth Diversion Officer assisted uniformed officers with an investigation relating to a youth that was assaulted and forced to pay money in order to prevent further assaults by a group of youths. As a result of the investigation, one youth was placed on Diversion for assault and theft. The officer also met with several other youths and their parents, school administration and hockey coach to discuss the incident and the inappropriateness of the behaviour of this group of youth.
- The Oakville Youth Diversion Officer assisted a uniformed officer with an investigation relating to harassing communications. It was initially believed that a youth was involved in this incident but further investigation revealed that it was actually the youth's mother that had sent the harassing communications. The woman was initially referred to Adult Diversion for harassing communication but it was later decided that a caution and a referral to mental health counseling was a more appropriate resolution.



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### Traffic

#### Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit

- Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit officers continue to adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being approach to address commercial truck concerns within our communities. In the month of December, a trend was discovered involving overweight dump trucks attending the area of Britannia and 4th Line in Milton. Weights identified eclipsed 100,000 pounds, which can be 20 per cent in excess of allowable weights. The Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit identified the offending company, initiated charges and then escalated enforcement when compliance wasn't achieved by forcing the offending company to offload overweight trucks prior to the truck being placed back in service. These efforts achieved the desired effect; trucks from this specific company were found to be compliant during subsequent random enforcement, thus elevating road safety for all road users.

### Mental Health & Addiction

#### Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST)

- COAST mobile visits commenced again in September with a Crisis Intervention Specialist from the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) – Halton Region Branch, after CMHA suspended in-person visits due to COVID-19. Due to staffing issues at CMHA, the COAST Mobile Team is only available approximately 30 per cent of the time. COAST continues to support the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team. The COAST Mobile Team had 23 occurrences in December, 20 of which were mental health related accounting for 87 per cent of the team's time. Of the 23 mental health calls 9 were in Burlington, 12 in Oakville, 0 in Milton and 2 in Halton Hills.

### Diversity, Older Adults & Youth

- The Older Adult Support Officer worked with community partners such as Links2Care, Behavioural Supports Ontario, COAST, Halton Housing, and MCRRT. Older Adult Support Officer conducted nine follow ups in December to provide supports to Older Adults and their families living in the community
- Older Adult Support Officer attended weekly Situation Table meetings to engage with community stakeholders (RE: acute elevated risk clients in the region); Older Adult Support Officer also facilitated Situation Table session.

### Complex/Community Social Navigator

- The Halton Complex System Navigator position commenced on November 9, 2020, as a partnership between the Canadian Mental Health Association – Halton Region Branch and the Halton Regional Police Service. The Community Social Navigator proactively engages community members who are having multiple contacts with police. In the five week period up until December 17, the following services were provided.
  - A total of 12 client files were opened with varying levels of service provided, ranging from in depth and multi-faceted support, to consultations only.
  - 11 of 12 of the referrals came from the Halton Regional Police Service with one received from a mental health worker.
  - The Complex System Navigator provided a total of 14 consultations to various agencies, uniform officers and individual units within Halton Police.



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- Direct telephone support was provided to clients on 46 different occasions with contact made.
- The Complex System Navigator engaged with client family members on eight occasions.
- 23 referrals were made on behalf of clients with 100 per cent of connections confirmed.

There were a total of 91 contacts completed where information was exchanged to ensure client care.

Contact/collaboration was made with many agencies. The following is a sample of some contacts made with organizations within the community.

LHIN, Links 2 Care, Public Guardian and Trustee, Halton Seniors Mental Health Outreach Program, OMTM Mental Health Outpatient Program, OTMH Brief Assessment Services, Phoenix Program, Kerr St Ministry, Service Ontario, Trillium Health Services, Region of Halton, St Joseph's Health Centre, Meals on Wheels, Halton Housing Helps, ADAPT, RAAM clinic, and Oakville Transit-Car A Van.





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### Prevention

District 1  
Milton & Halton Hills

#### Diversity, Older Adults & Youth

- The Community Mobilization Bureau Officer has developed a solid working relationship with the management staff of the Amazon Fulfillment Centre in Milton. They approached the officer with a plan to distribute surplus items to members of the community.
- On December 15, Officers distributed toys and essential goods to the Milton Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Halton Women's Place. Especially noteworthy was the participation of Cst. Dimitroff at the event, marking his first appearance in the team following a lengthy illness.
- The Amazon YYZ2 team donated approximately \$46,000 worth of merchandise, including toys and household goods to The Royal Canadian Legion, Miracle on Main Street, and the Halton Women's Place. A further \$2050 in gift cards was shared between the two organizations.

District 2  
Oakville

#### Traffic

- On December 9, 2020, the Halton Regional Police was advised of an ongoing traffic concern in the area of an elementary school. These concerns included illegal parking, misuse of the drop off/pick up lanes and other violations. Officers spent mornings and afternoons monitoring the concerns. The feedback from the school was of appreciation for the efforts.

#### Focus on Crime

- Members of the Oakville Community Mobilization Bureau continued their outreach related to neighbour disputes, which have increased considerably during the pandemic. The Oakville Community Mobilization Bureau reviews these incidents, and recommends various methods of resolution including the parties speaking with the Community Conflict Resolution Service of Halton.
- Members of the Community Mobilization Bureau were requested to attend a local place of worship to complete a safety audit using the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. The members that attended were able to identify areas of concern for the patrons to address to increase their feeling of safety, and lessen the chance of the premises being targeted for crimes.



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### Traffic

#### Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit

- The Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit continued to support Traffic Services Unit initiated area tow truck inspections in the month of December. Despite these inspections being scheduled, a local towing company with known compliance concerns attended for an inspection during which Halton Regional Police Service truck inspectors located damaged suspension components and a flat tire on the tow truck. The offending tow company had to resort to requesting another towing company to attend to tow their tow truck, due to the weights involved. These inspections, which occur throughout the year, complement road safety and consumer protection efforts by ensuring privately owned road service vehicles meet minimum standards and are otherwise safe when hired by a member of the community to transport a vehicle.

#### Mental Health & Addiction

- The Complex System Navigator attended three case conferences to discuss complex client cases with multiple agencies.
- The Complex System Navigator completed seven outreach visits, four independently and three with a uniform officer.
- One Section 17 Apprehension was completed with Complex System Navigator accompanied by the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team and uniform officer.
- The Complex System Navigator attended two separate Opioid Table meetings.



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### Social Development

District 1  
Milton &  
Halton Hills

#### Diversity, Older Adults & Youth

- Community Mobilization Bureau Officer attended the Great Canadian Superstore in Georgetown on December 5 and supported a number of volunteers who facilitated a food drive. The food and cash donations were forwarded the Georgetown Bread Basket to be shared with families in need.

District 2  
Oakville

#### Mental Health & Addiction

- Oakville Social Worker reports that she received seven referrals for support.

#### Focus on Crime

- Members of the Oakville Community Mobilization Bureau continued their community outreach throughout December. Members are currently maintaining contact with members of the community that were finding themselves starting down the bad path to criminality. This outreach has limited the person's contact with police, and helped steer them away from criminal behaviour.

#### Diversity, Older Adults & Youth

- The Oakville Youth Diversion Officer conducted five new Youth Diversion Intake meetings, received two Adult Diversion referrals and there were ten Youth Diversion terminations.
- The Oakville Social Worker conducted one Youth Diversion assessments during this December time period.
- The Oakville Youth Officer also had nine check in meetings and one outreach meeting.
- The Oakville Youth Officer also assisted the Halton Youth Probation Office with nine requests and Syl App with one.
- On December 5, 2020, members of the Community Mobilization Bureau attended Canadian Tire stores within the region for the annual 'Miracle on Main' toy drive. Despite the current pandemic, citizens attending the various stores showed their support by donating approximately 120 large bags of toys and approximately \$40,000.00 in cash donations
- The Oakville Social Worker chaired a meeting for the Oakville Child and Youth Networking Committee. This meeting's focus was to inform caregivers of the various supports available during Christmas time and throughout the pandemic.
- The Oakville Community Mobilization Bureau continues to engage the community in various ways. During the month of December one of the Oakville High School Liaison Officers conducted virtual tours of 20 Division. Through the use of Zoom, the officer was able to provide a meaningful experience given the current pandemic situation.



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District 3  
Burlington

## Diversity, Older Adults & Youth

- A new bike was donated to the HRPS to provide to a youth/family that was in need. The bike was donated by students and staff at Aldershot High School and the Aldershot community. Community partners (Arthouse) assisted in helping identify the youth in need from the Maple Crossing community. The youth and her parents were thrilled by the gift.



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### Diversity, Older Adults & Youth

- The Older Adult Support Officer liaised with the Admissions Coordinator at Wellington Park Care Home about a perspective virtual presentation in 2021.
- The Older Adult Support Officer liaised with the Coordinator of the Older Adult Advisory Council in regard to the electronic dissemination of fraud prevention material.
- The Older Adult Support Officer attended training pertaining to Elder Abuse Investigations.
- In December, all successful candidates were selected for the upcoming Halton Regional Police Service Youth Advisory Council. Sixteen youth will be participating with the first meeting occurring on February 3, 2021. It is anticipated that the group will meet 1 to 2 times per month for the remainder of 2021.

### Miracle on Main Street - Tiger Jeet Singh Foundation (formally Toys for Tots)

The Miracle on Main Street holiday initiative successfully completed another great year assisting many families and children throughout our region during the holiday season. During this year's campaign, the Halton Regional Police Service was able to assist 20 elementary schools (92 students) by way of gift cards, totalling \$9,000. The Halton Regional Police Service also distributed 336 bags of toys valued at \$100,800 and \$8,960 in gift cards to several local agencies throughout our Region.

Each year, the Halton Regional Police Service work with their Community Partners to gather new donated toys and gift cards. This initiative allows thousands of families the opportunity to have an enjoyable Christmas by providing toys for less fortunate children in the Region of Halton. In 2019, the Halton Regional Police Service formed a partnership with the Tiger Jeet Singh Foundation to bring awareness to the campaign, enhance overall service delivery and assist more families than ever before.

### Cram-a-cruiser event at six Canadian Tires in Region

On Saturday December 5, the Halton Regional Police Service hosted our annual "cram-a-cruiser" event at six Canadian Tires locations in the region. The event was extremely successful. Gallinger Ford generously lent the Halton Regional Police Service one of their vans to pick up the toys purchased and donated by residents of our region. 117 bags of toys were donated (valued at \$35,100) and approximately \$12,725.80 in cash was also donated from members of our community.

### First Virtual Citizen Police Academy Completed

On Monday December 7, the Halton Regional Police Service wrapped up their first ever Virtual Citizens Police Academy. Due to the pandemic, it was decided to take this program on a "virtual" platform for members of our community. The fall 2020 program lasted six weeks and had officers from the following units give an "online" presentation: Training Unit, Emergency Services, Internet Child Exploitation, Intimate Partner Violence Unit, Human Trafficking, Drugs, Polygraph Unit, Homicide, Forensic Identification and the Collision Reconstruction Unit.

### Auxiliary Bureau

The Auxiliary Bureau activities have been suspended due to the Pandemic since March 2020. In December, 2020, Auxiliary members were permitted, under special circumstances, to assist with the annual Miracle on Main Street toy drive campaign (formerly Toys for Tots). On December, 5, 12 Auxiliary members assisted



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District Officers at six Canadian Tire stores across the region collecting donations for this year's campaign. Auxiliary members were excited to be able to assist the Service and the community once again.



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## Looking Ahead

- 2nd Virtual Citizens Police Academy – planning for the Winter 2021 version of the Citizens Police Academy. This Session is planned to begin in February 2021