



HALTON REGIONAL
POLICE SERVICE



Annual 20 Report 24



One Team - People First
Une équipe - Les gens d'abord

ایک ٹیم - پہلے لوگ
一个团队——以人为本

Un equipo: las personas primero
فريق واحد - الناس أولاً

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Jeff Knoll
Chair and Regional Councillor

On behalf of the Halton Police Board, I am honoured to contribute to the *2024 Annual Report* – a special 50th anniversary edition marking five decades of dedicated community-based policing in Halton region.

As the civilian body responsible for the governance and oversight of the Halton Regional Police Service, the Board works closely with Chief Stephen Tanner and the entire Service to ensure the delivery of adequate and effective police services in accordance with the Community Safety and Policing Act. We do this not just through setting strategic priorities and financial stewardship, but through our shared commitment to community safety, transparency, and the well-being of all Halton residents.

This past year, under the direction of the *2024-2027 Strategic Plan*, the Service continued to deliver results that upheld Halton region's longstanding reputation as the safest large municipality in Canada. The Board recognizes that this status is earned, not assumed, and reflects its unwavering dedication to public safety, innovation, and collaboration with community partners.

While overall incidents of violent crime decreased in 2024, the year was not without its challenges. Certain categories of crime, such as home invasions and carjackings, increased, deeply impacting public perceptions of safety, at the same time as the Service made significant inroads in its work to combat other priority issues like auto theft, drugs, guns & gangs, and human trafficking.

The Board commends the proactive and targeted efforts of the Service in addressing these threats, while maintaining a broader focus on crime prevention through education, mental health, road safety, and support for vulnerable populations. We are particularly proud of the Service's leadership in addressing intimate partner violence, human trafficking, and organized crime activity, all of which were identified as priorities as part of community consultation conducted in relation to our Strategic Plan.



Ingrid Hann
Vice-Chair and
Citizen Appointee



Curt Allen
Provincial Appointee



Jane McKenna
Provincial Appointee



Lisa Kearns
Regional Councillor



Navdeep Dhaliwal
Provincial Appointee



Sameera Ali
Regional Councillor

As Board Chair, I also want to highlight the strength of our relationship with Chief Tanner and the entire senior leadership team. We operate with mutual respect and an open, cooperative spirit that reinforces our shared goal of building a safer, more inclusive, and more resilient Halton region. This spirit extends to the close to 1,200 uniformed and civilian members of the Service whose professionalism and dedication we are privileged to support and recognize.

This golden jubilee year was both a time of reflection and a call to action for the next chapter of policing in Halton. As we look ahead, the Board remains committed to ensuring that the principles of good governance, accountability, integrity, and responsiveness, remain foundational to the work of the Service.

Thank you for your ongoing trust in the Halton Police Board and the Halton Regional Police Service. Together with our community, we look forward to shaping a future that builds on 50 years of policing excellence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Knoll', with a stylized, sweeping underline.

Halton Police Board Chair
Jeff Knoll

CHIEF'S MESSAGE



Stephen J. Tanner
Chief of Police



Deputy Chief
Jeff Hill



Deputy Chief
Kevin Maher



Deputy Chief
Roger Wilkie

On behalf of all members of the Halton Regional Police Service, I am pleased to present the **2024 Annual Report**.

This 50th anniversary milestone edition provides an in-depth look at policing in 2024 – a year in which officers responded to 139,119 calls for service, while supporting the priorities detailed in the **2024-2027 Strategic Plan**. The goals set by the Halton Police Board and our Service in this plan guide our response to crime, community engagement, victim support, and relationships with stakeholders and citizens.

A special thanks to Chair Jeff Knoll and members of the Board for their continued open and collaborative approach to everything we do.

Grounded in our mission of **One Team – People First**, the achievements captured herein demonstrate that we can accomplish a great deal when we work together. I am continually grateful to our valued partners and to those who live, work, play, and raise families in our community for their commitment and contributions to a safer Halton for all, and for working closely with us to ensure just that.

Our golden jubilee year was a time to reflect upon our history and to look to the future with purpose and optimism. It was also a period of challenge as our region, and others across Ontario, contended with increases in many categories of crime. While occurrences of auto theft in Halton declined by 20.9% this past year, the number remains too high. The rising prevalence of violent crimes like home invasions and robberies affects our citizens' collective sense of safety and security greatly, and we continued to dedicate considerable resources to addressing them head on, to identifying those responsible, and to disrupting the organized crime groups who are often behind them. Those we serve demand nothing less; the criminals must be held to account.

With a shared goal of building a safer and healthier Halton, and in keeping with the **Regional Municipality of Halton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan**, we remained committed partners in ongoing efforts to address crime and to promote community safety and well-being. Our key priorities in this regard include intimate partner violence, human trafficking, guns & gangs and firearms, and auto theft as well as road safety, mental health, substance misuse, and homelessness.

While it is my honour to share this report with you, it is our close to 1,200 sworn and civilian Service members who do the real work each and every day to maintain Halton region's reputation as the safest large municipality in Canada year after year. It is my privilege to serve alongside each of them.

By fostering partnerships, harnessing technology, and employing best practices in recruitment and retention, we will remain a leader in policing innovation and excellence. Our next 50 years look exceptionally bright and opportunities abound for those interested in joining our team.

Thank you for reading this report and for sharing your valued perspectives with us.

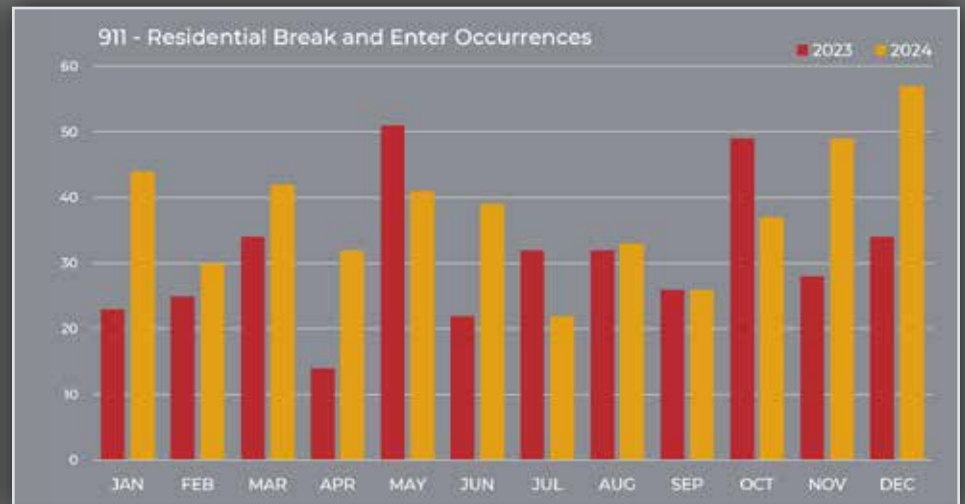
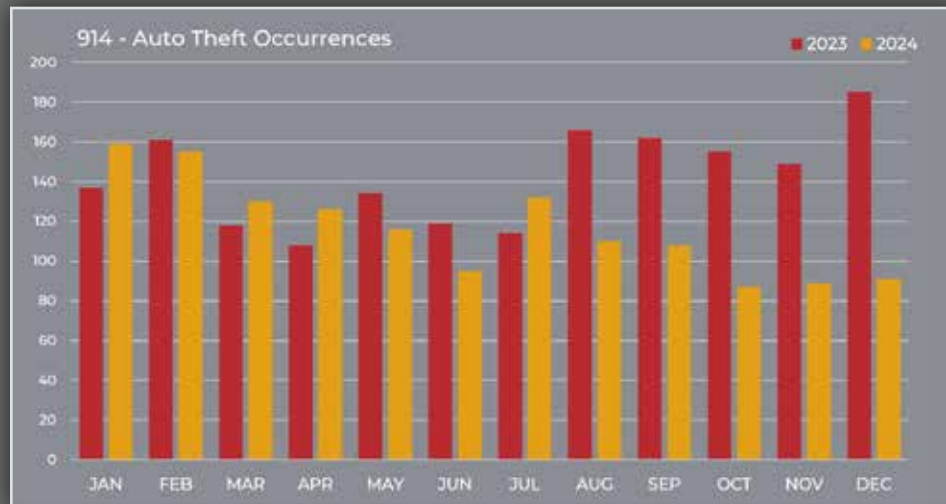
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. J. Tanner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen J. Tanner
Chief of Police

CRIME TRENDS

Proudly recognizing our milestone 50th anniversary in 2024, the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) is the ninth largest police service in Ontario and a leader in excellence, innovation, community safety, and well-being initiatives. We are committed to the principle of *One Team – People First* and work closely with those served to meet their needs and to ensure our efforts align with the goals outlined in our *2024-2027 Strategic Plan*.

Figures pertaining to member satisfaction and wellness are internally reported; measurements of community satisfaction and comparative data with other police services will be shared publicly when available and included in the *2025 Annual Report*.



Reported Crime

Total Crime

↑ **15,967**
705 more than last year

Criminal Charges Laid

↓ **9,461**
657 less than last year

Impaired Driving Occurrences

↓ **421**
61 less than last year

Motor Vehicle Collisions

↑ **10,479**
435 more than last year

Intimate Partner Violence Occurrences

↑ **3,730**
170 more than last year

Human Trafficking Occurrences

↓ **17**
12 less than last year

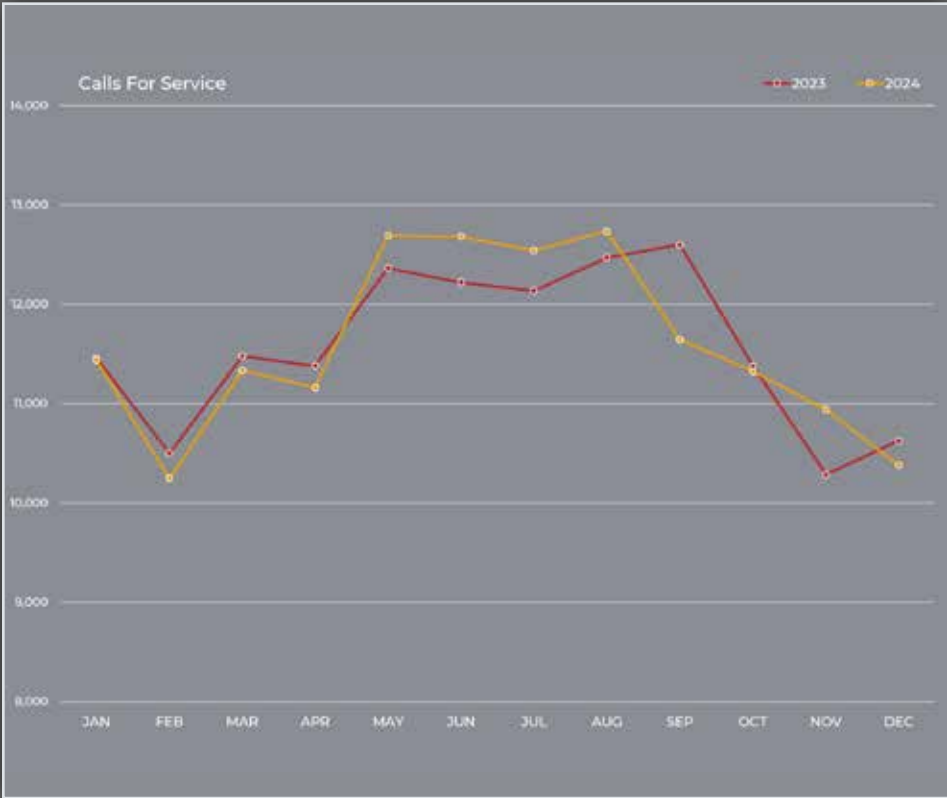
Sexual Assault Occurrences

↓ **142**
35 less than last year

Robbery Occurrences

↑ **130**
17 more than last year

SERVICE DATA



Crime Severity Index (CSI) for 2023

The CSI measures the overall seriousness of crime from one year to the next by tracking both the prevalence of crime within a community and the severity of the crimes committed.

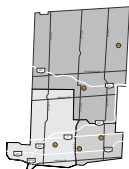


Service Statistics

Region Population

656,926

2.16%
increase from 2023



Calls For Service

139,119

0.16%
increase from 2023



Officer to Citizen Ratio

1 : 853

0.2%
increase from 2023



Operating Budget

\$187,524,452

9.5%
increase from 2023



Crime Clearance Rate

34.9%

8.88%
decrease from 2023



Staffing Levels

Officer: 829
Civilian: 327
Cadet: 15



SOCIAL MEDIA METRICS

As the social media landscape continued to evolve through 2024, so too did the Halton Regional Police Service's (HRPS') online presence. To ensure followers have quick and easy access to the information they want and need, the HRPS reimagined its X (formerly Twitter) accounts in July 2024. @HaltonPolice became the official channel for HRPS news, and existing District accounts were rebranded to provide tailored content on priority safety and well-being issues: traffic (@HRPS_Traffic) and community (@HRPS_Comm).

As of December 31, 2024, the three X accounts had a combined following of 181,256. Metrics for all HRPS social media accounts in 2024 are as follows:

Platform	Impressions*	Engagements**
X (Twitter)		
@HaltonPolice	5,800,856	662,521
@HRPS_Traffic	898,528	116,269
@HRPS_Comm	98,267	41,624
Facebook	4,183,363	667,224
Instagram	1,485,160	53,081
LinkedIn	196,492	18,542

Platform	All Videos	Impressions
YouTube	171	327,682
Vimeo	111	137,775

* An impression is the number of times content is displayed to users.

** An engagement is the number of times a user interacted with content.



@HaltonPolice
@HRPS_Comm
@HRPS_Traffic



Halton Regional Police Service



haltonpolice



Halton Regional Police Service



@HaltonRegionalPoliceService



Halton Police

CRIME STOPPERS OF HALTON

Now in its 36th year, Crime Stoppers of Halton is an independent, non-profit, registered charity that helps solve crimes by taking tips from anonymous sources. A tip is any information that a member of the public is aware of that may help law enforcement prevent or solve a crime.

Countless criminals are brought to justice every year as a direct result of anonymous tips. A tip can be about anything - drugs, theft, child abuse, human trafficking, terrorism, escaped criminals, and more. As a resident of Halton, you are encouraged to keep a watchful eye on your community and to report suspicious activity when seen.

Your call or text is anonymous and the appropriate officials will investigate all tips received.

The information you provide may even help save a life.

	Annual Totals		
	2023	2024	Since 1988
Tips	1,036	1,194	20,404
Arrests	10	8	184
Cases Cleared Due to Tips	5	11	192
Weapons Recovered	81	1	103
Rewards Approved	4	9	107
Reward Dollars Approved*	\$2,100	\$1,800	\$37,165
Narcotics Seized	\$3,360	\$6,100	\$429,054
Property Recovered	\$0	\$500	\$17,745
Total Value (Seized + Recovered)	\$3,360	\$8,400	\$483,964

** Reward money is raised through fundraising events, individual donors, and corporate partners.*



See Something? Hear Something? Know Something? Contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or through the web at www.haltoncrimestoppers.ca.

REGIONAL STATISTICS

Violent Crime	Annual Totals					Annual Rates*	
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2023-2024 % Change**	5-Year Average
Homicide	4	2	5	2	0	-100%	0
Attempted Murder	8	4	8	9	5	-46.7%	1
Sexual Assault	166	213	265	195	175	-13.9%	31
Other Sexual Offences	57	61	68	91	74	-21.9%	11
Assault	1,225	1,171	1,399	1,308	1,355	0.6%	200
Abduction/Forcible Confinement	36	39	44	40	34	-18.4%	6
Robbery	85	68	152	114	132	11.1%	17
Other Violent Crime	579	533	757	759	602	-23.9	100
Totals	2,160	2,091	2,698	2,518	2,377	-9.4%	366
Property Crime	Annual Totals					Annual Rates*	
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2023-2024 % Change**	5-Year Average
Break & Enter	655	676	818	885	1,061	15.1%	126
Auto Theft	547	872	1,302	1,701	1,402	-20.9%	178
Theft Under \$5,000	3,272	3,647	5,103	5,779	6,223	3.4%	735
Theft Over \$5,000	88	138	185	195	273	34.4%	27
Arson	17	5	22	37	40	3.8%	4
Fraud	830	1,017	1,411	1,554	2,252	39.1%	215
Mischief	946	981	1,123	960	1,075	7.5%	157
Other Property Crime	135	125	154	143	129	-13.4%	21
Totals	6,490	7,461	10,118	11,254	12,455	6.2%	1,462

Notes: * Per 100,000 population. Totals may not align due to rounding.

** Per cent change based on unrounded rates.

REGIONAL STATISTICS

Other Crime	Annual Totals					Annual Rates*	
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2023-2024 % Change**	5-Year Average
Counterfeiting	49	31	38	44	45	1.8%	6
Weapons Offences	74	88	109	107	76	-31.8%	14
Administration of Justice Violations	911	1,669	1,928	1,172	851	-30.3%	203
Other Criminal Code Offences	169	156	212	167	163	-6.3%	27
Totals	1,203	1,944	2,287	1,490	1,135	-26.9%	251
Total Crime	9,853	11,496	15,103	15,262	15,967	0.4%	2,079

Road Safety

Impaired	495	490	421	446	389	-16.3%	70
Property Damage Collisions	5,498	5,410	7,719	8,937	9,434	1.3%	1,133
Injury Collisions	664	764	937	1,004	1,037	0.9%	135
Fatal Collisions	8	6	10	14	9	-38.3%	1

Other Performance Indicators

Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Events	145,927	134,167	134,457	138,895	139,119	-3.9%	21,471
Crime Clearance Rate	52.1%	43.8%	40.8%	38.3%	34.9%		

Professional Standards

	Citizen Complaints		Internal Investigations	
2023		119		9
2024		122		28

Notes: * Per 100,000 population. Totals may not align due to rounding.
** Per cent change based on unrounded rates.

DISTRICT STATISTICS

One District (Milton and Halton Hills)	Annual Totals					Annual Rates*	
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2023-2024 % Change**	5-Year Average
Violent Crime	667	721	858	859	783	-8.8%	356
Property Crime	1,902	2,147	2,722	2,928	3,597	22.8%	1,203
Other Crime	554	1,072	1,416	809	472	-41.6	401
Total Crime	3,123	3,940	4,996	4,596	4,852	5.5%	1,960
Reportable Motor Vehicle Collisions	2,023	2,032	3,105	2,016	2,685	33.2%	1,086
Two District (Oakville)							
Violent Crime	796	717	890	803	813	1.2%	353
Property Crime	2,299	2,648	3,597	4,211	4,435	5.3%	1,494
Other Crime	364	349	363	321	323	0.6%	151
Total Crime	3,459	3,714	4,850	5,335	5,571	4.4%	1,997
Reportable Motor Vehicle Collisions	2,057	2,117	2,692	1,977	2,481	25.5%	992
Three District (Burlington)							
Violent Crime	697	644	939	843	771	-15.6%	388
Property Crime	2,258	2,588	3,635	4,054	4,319	6.5%	1,668
Other Crime	284	522	502	353	332	-5.9%	200
Total Crime	3,239	3,754	5,076	5,250	5,422	3.2%	2,255
Reportable Motor Vehicle Collisions	2,089	2,031	2,845	2,128	2,643	24.2%	1,169

Notes: * Per 100,000 population. Totals and percentages may not align due to rounding.

** Per cent change based on unrounded rates.

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

To showcase how each initiative, project or activity featured in this report aligns with the strategic priorities detailed in the [2024-2027 Strategic Plan](#), each article includes an icon in the right-hand corner. The icon highlights which strategic priority (or priorities) the item supports.

More information about the [2024-2027 Strategic Plan](#) can be found at haltonpolice.ca.

Strategic Priorities



Achievement of the highest weighted clearance rate among comparator services

Measured as a percentage, the clearance rate reflects the HRPS' effectiveness at solving or otherwise resolving reported crimes. The weighted clearance rate is adjusted by Statistics Canada to account for the severity of crimes reported. Solving or resolving crimes leads to improved public safety and helps deter criminal acts.



Achievement of 80% or better community satisfaction with the HRPS

Feeling safe and satisfied with the service provided by the HRPS fosters healthier relationships, builds confidence in the justice system, and increases public involvement in crime prevention initiatives – all of which contribute to crime reduction and enhance community safety and well-being.



Improved HRPS member wellness, job satisfaction, and engagement

Sworn (officer) and civilian members' wellness, job satisfaction, and engagement are important contributors to the HRPS' effectiveness and, ultimately, to an even safer region for everyone.



Reduced per capita property crime, including, through partnerships and collaboration, a 50% decrease in auto theft

Working with community members, valued partners, and other police services to address property crime reduces occurrences and helps bring those responsible for them to justice.



Increased intervention and enforcement of the following community responsive policing priorities:

- Intimate partner violence
- Hate crime
- Human trafficking
- Child exploitation
- Guns & gangs/firearms
- Road safety



RAISING THE STAKES

Rapid response and commitment to justice leads to arrests, charges for series of home invasions in Oakville

Home invasions are frightening crimes that deeply affect victims and their sense of security. In 2024, an unfortunate new trend emerged throughout the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) where residences have been forcefully broken into during overnight hours and homeowners confronted for jewelry, money, and keys to luxury vehicles. In some cases, the suspects were armed and violently assaulted the homeowners.

These brazen crimes pose a significant threat to public safety, and investigating and arresting those responsible for them became a top priority for the Halton Regional Police

Service (HRPS) this past year. The following cases were among the particularly noteworthy.

Project Rucker

In the early morning hours of March 4, 2024, a home invasion occurred at a residence in the area of Fourth Line and Bridge Road in Oakville. Two males, armed with hammers, forced open the rear door of the residence and confronted the homeowners, demanding keys to their Mercedes. Over the next few months, officers with the HRPS Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) reviewed forensic, video, and

other evidence collected at the scene. Their work led to the identification of two youths who resided in Québec as those responsible. With assistance from the Montréal Police Service (SPVM), both accused were arrested and a search warrant executed on behalf of the HRPS. A total of 13 criminal charges were laid in relation to the incident.

Project Stark

Shortly after midnight on March 25, 2024, two males, armed with a handgun, forced entry into a residence located near Third Line and Upper Middle Road in Oakville. They also confronted the homeowners, demanding money and jewelry, and struck one of them with the firearm, injuring them. The males fled in a vehicle driven by a third suspect, but were soon located by HRPS officers and followed into Bronte Creek Provincial Park. A short time later, the vehicle struck a post and all three suspects fled on foot. Officers quickly located and arrested two of them. They also recovered two firearms in the park. Almost a full year later, the ongoing investigation led to the identification of the outstanding suspect. A total of 37 criminal charges were laid in connection with the case.

Home Invasion Investigation Ends Swiftly in North York

On November 7, 2024, multiple suspects forced their way into a home in the area of Cornwall Road and Maple Grove Drive in Oakville, where they too confronted the resident and demanded keys to a Mercedes. The victim was struck multiple times, causing injuries that required medical treatment. Investigators were able to quickly locate the stolen vehicle at an apartment complex in North York and immediately set up surveillance. Two males were arrested later that day when they took possession of it. They were found to be responsible for the home invasion and theft, and were subsequently charged with 18 related criminal offences.



Scan the QR code to learn more about the HRPS' strategy and response to auto theft and home invasions:





BRAKING THE TREND

Multijurisdictional investigation into series of carjackings in Halton and Hamilton leads to arrests, dozens of charges

As the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) continued to devote considerable resources to combatting auto theft in 2024, it, and law enforcement agencies across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), also contended with a rise in its troubling counterpart: carjackings.

Carjackings are a type of auto theft that involves violence, or the threat of violence, to take occupied vehicles by

force. The levels of aggression and intimidation, and increasing use of firearms in the commission of these acts, represent an ongoing and significant threat to public safety. As noted elsewhere in this report, thieves often steal vehicles for use in other violent crimes or take the proceeds from their illegal resale to fund other criminal activities.

On October 7, 2024, the HRPS responded to a carjacking in Oakville. A second carjacking was reported in Burlington on October 21, followed by another in Oakville on October 28. Each time, the suspects would wait in a vehicle for unsuspecting owners to approach their high-end automobiles. A violent confrontation would ensue, with the suspects assaulting victims with firearms and demanding the keys to their cars. In most cases, the suspects



were successful; when they were not, they would soon try again.

The subsequent carjacking of a luxury SUV in Burlington the following day quickly led investigators with the HRPS 3 District Robbery Team to an address in Hamilton, where the stolen vehicle was located unoccupied. When the suspects returned, an interaction with police ensued. The suspects fled and committed another carjacking nearby. One youth was arrested; the others eluded police. Significant evidence was discovered and collected from the scene.

Meanwhile, the HRPS 2 District Robbery Team, who had previously joined forces with the Hamilton Police Service (HPS) and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), continued their investigation into the previous carjackings in Oakville. As a result of their coordinated efforts, the task force was quickly able to develop a list of persons of interest who were also involved in a series of pharmacy robberies in the City of Hamilton.

A subsequent search of the youth's cell phone, and that of an adult who had since been arrested in relation to the aforementioned Hamilton carjacking, enabled investigators to gather critical

evidence linking them to the Burlington and Oakville carjackings as well.

In June 2024, the suspects were charged with 13 criminal offences in connection with the Halton incidents, bringing the total number of charges in both jurisdictions to 59.

Partner Agencies:





TROJAN HORSE

***Project Ninja* unearths organized auto theft group using Toy Hauler RV to conceal stolen vehicles bound for resale overseas**

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, incidents of auto theft in Halton region were relatively low, with 547 recorded in 2020. A year later, that number jumped to 872, and continued to trend upward before peaking at 1,701 in 2023. It was this past year, however, that ongoing proactive and investigative efforts undertaken by the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) began to pay off, with auto theft occurrences dropping 20.9% region-wide.

Project Ninja

In May 2024, members of the HRPS Organized Crime Unit began investigating an organized group of auto thieves operating within Halton region and across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Using a wide variety of investigative techniques, including covert cameras and multiple tracking warrants, a number of suspects were identified. Many were Algerian

nationals who had arrived in Canada on student visas and were residing in Québec. The individuals would travel to the GTA to commit a series of reprogramming-style vehicle thefts over a number of days before returning to their home province.

Given the interprovincial nature of the group, the HRPS partnered with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Montréal Police Service (SPVM) to propel

the investigation forward. As a result of their combined efforts, it was soon learned that the individuals were loading stolen vehicles into a repurposed recreational vehicle to avoid police detection while en route to the Port of Montréal to have them shipped overseas.

On August 24, 2024, HRPS officers arrested three suspects in relation to the investigation. A search warrant was then executed at a short-term rental in Oshawa, where additional evidence was located and seized. Included in the seizure was the Toy Hauler RV used to conceal and transport the stolen vehicles (see photo).

All told, 12 stolen vehicles were recovered, with the group suspected to have been involved in upwards of 40

auto theft occurrences in Ontario. It was later announced during a press conference at HRPS Headquarters on September 11, 2024, that as a result of *Project Ninja*, a total of eight men, ranging in age from 22 to 35, had been charged with 55 criminal offences. The charges included multiple counts of Conspiracy to Commit an Indictable Offence, Theft of Motor Vehicle, and Possession of Property Obtained by Crime.

Partner Agencies:



Auto theft is more than stealing cars. Proceeds from their resale are funding organized crime that impacts the safety and well-being of all law-abiding citizens. It's why our work to identify those responsible and hold them accountable will never stop.

Deputy Chief Jeff Hill



For the latest on the HRPS' ongoing commitment to combatting auto theft:





OUT OF THE WOODS

Use of investigative genetic genealogy leads to identification and arrest of violent sexual offender in high-profile, historical case

In August of 1992 and 1995, three violent sexual offences involving children took place near parks in Kitchener, Brampton, and Oakville. In all three incidents, the offender lured the young victims into secluded wooded areas before assaulting them. The Centre of Forensic Sciences (CFS) linked the three crimes by DNA later that year and a joint task force investigation was launched. Despite significant investigative efforts at the time, the case remained unsolved.

In October 2022, the Toronto Police Service (TPS) received a three-year, \$1.5-million grant from the Office of the Solicitor General of Ontario to fund the use of Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG) in high-profile, unsolved cases. The decades-old sexual assault case was subsequently identified as a candidate and, as a result of the leading-edge IGG process, the TPS Homicide Cold Case Unit identified a male person of interest in July 2023.

This led to the formation of *Project Woodland*, a multijurisdictional investigation undertaken by the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS), Peel Regional Police (PRP), and Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS). With a focus on trauma-informed, post-event victim support and offender accountability, the aim of this dedicated Major Case Management Team was to locate the person of interest and to bring him to justice. As the individual resided in Victoria, British Columbia, *Project*



Woodland members engaged the Victoria Police Service (VPS) in the collection of DNA samples for testing. Results of that testing confirmed the suspect's identity.

From there, investigators sorted, reviewed, and documented all existing information and evidence to ensure they adhered to modern-day procedural and investigative standards. Working closely with the Ministry of the Attorney General and the IGG Provincial Working Group, investigators authored multiple judicial authorizations to obtain the best evidence and to hold the offender accountable.

Their collective efforts led to the arrest of

a 65-year-old man in March 2024 on 20 criminal charges for offences that occurred between 1992-1995, including Kidnapping – Cause Confinement, Utter Threat to Cause Death or Harm, Sexual Assault Threaten with Weapon, Sexual Assault Cause Bodily Harm, and Assault.

Our Service is honoured beyond measure to have been part of the investigative team who worked so hard to close this despicable case.

Deputy Chief Jeff Hill

Partner
Agencies:



Sexual assault is any touching of another person without their consent, where the touching is of a sexual nature or where the sexual integrity of the victim is violated. A sexual assault can range from unwanted touching to sexual assault involving penetration.

There is no statute of limitation when it comes to reporting a sexual assault. This means that no matter how long ago the assault happened, survivors can still report it to police and initiate an investigation.

If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted and wants to report it to police, we encourage you to contact the HRPS by calling 9-1-1 if you are in immediate danger or if the offender is still present, or 905-825-4777 in a non-emergency.



PROJECT CASINO

Luck runs out for group engaged in trafficking more than 30 victims in Halton region and beyond

Human trafficking is an abhorrent crime that targets those least able to defend themselves, most commonly women and children. Survivors are often forced to perform sexual services or labour through coercion, deception, and/or abuse of power, resulting in significant physical, psychological, and emotional trauma to them.

Like many criminal acts, human trafficking lives in the shadows and knows no jurisdictional boundaries.

In May 2024, members of the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) Human Trafficking (HT) Unit began investigating a human trafficking ring operating in Halton region and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Over the course of the next five

months, officers identified two ringleaders and three associates who had actively engaged in the trafficking of more than 30 victims across multiple jurisdictions over the past five years.

I am exceptionally proud of all those involved in Project Casino. The determination of our officers and valued partners to see this complex investigation through, and to remove these dangerous offenders from our streets, is instrumental to ensuring the safety of everyone who calls Ontario home.

Deputy Chief Jeff Hill



The investigation, dubbed *Project Casino*, was complex and far-reaching. Completing it required members of HT to draw upon the resources and expertise of several specialized units across the HRPS, including Major Crime, Financial Crimes, Intelligence, Regional Drug and Organized Crime, Forensic Services, Computer Crimes, Analytics, the Tactical Rescue Unit, and Victim Services.

External agencies such as Elizabeth Fry - Hope and Help for Women, Savis of Halton, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), and the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC) were also engaged in the effort to liberate and bring justice to the survivors.

On September 17, 2024, search warrants were executed on five residences and two vehicles located in the GTA, leading to a number of notable seizures (see infographic).

Five men and women in their 20s and 30s from Brampton and the surrounding areas were arrested. Together, they face a total of more than 55 criminal charges in relation to the investigation, including Trafficking in Persons, and Procuring to Provide Sexual Services for a Criminal Organization. At the time of publication, the case remained before the courts.

You are not alone. If you or someone you know is being trafficked, dial 9-1-1 or call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010.

PROJECT CASINO RESULTS
More than 55 criminal charges laid
5 search warrants, 6 arrests
50 officers from the HRPS and neighbouring police services participated in takedown day

For additional information and access to human trafficking supports, scan the QR code:



SEIZED ITEMS

Electronic devices

Box of 9mm ammunition

HT-branded jewelry estimated at more than \$100,000

Over \$200,000 in cash

Pieces of victims' identification and other supporting documents

Loaded Springfield XP Compact Pistol with 10 rounds

2016 Mercedes Benz

Prohibited drum magazine



JUSTICE DELAYED. JUSTICE DELIVERED.

Investigation into 2020 murder of innocent teenager leads to second-degree murder plea

In the early hours of June 30, 2020, Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) officers responded to the area of No. 10 Sideroad in Milton, west of Guelph Line, following the discovery of a deceased male. The 16-year-old victim had been shot several times and left at the roadside, where he succumbed to his injuries.

An investigation was immediately undertaken by members of the HRPS Homicide Unit. Working closely with the Service's Major Incident Response Team, Intelligence Bureau, and

Forensic Services Unit (FSU), investigators uncovered that, on the day prior to his murder, two men in their 20s had driven to the victim's

Thousands of investigative hours and extensive trial preparation were devoted to securing convictions for the senseless murder of this innocent teenager. The commitment and tenacity of all involved in bringing him and his family justice is truly commendable.

Deputy Chief Jeff Hill



home in Brampton and picked him up. They proceeded to hold the teenager hostage while driving him through the regions of Greater Toronto, Peel, and Waterloo in a violent bid to extort money owed to them by one of his associates. When negotiations to recover the perceived debt failed, the suspects ordered the victim out of the vehicle in Milton and shot him several times. His body was found the following morning.

Investigators quickly identified the suspects. One, however, fled to Alberta



before they could be apprehended, leading to a Canada-wide warrant being issued for their arrest.

On October 6, 2020, the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) responded to an inner-city shooting. One of the men detained in connection with that case was later determined to be a suspect in the Milton homicide. Upon conviction for Attempted Murder in the Vancouver shooting, and after being sentenced to 10 years in prison, the man was returned to Ontario to face charges.

In the years that followed, HRPS investigators worked closely with the Crown Attorney's Office to catalogue evidence and to prepare for court to ensure that justice was served for the

victim and his family.

The accused and three other suspects, who had since been arrested and charged for their involvement in the teenager's abduction and killing, were scheduled to stand trial for a combined total of seven criminal offences, including First-Degree Murder and Kidnapping, in October 2024. They pleaded not guilty.

However, just before trial was set to begin, the man who had previously been convicted in Vancouver changed his plea to guilty of Second-Degree Murder. On December 17, 2024, he was sentenced to life in person with no eligibility for parole for 16 years.

A second accused later pleaded guilty to his role in the victim's kidnapping

and was sentenced on January 12, 2025 to time served and probation after spending five years in pre-trial custody. Charges against the remaining two accused were stayed.

Guilty pleas in homicide cases are rare. The process to secure them is arduous, and often comes at great personal and professional cost to those involved in bringing justice for victims and their loved ones. In Halton region, the responsibility for doing so falls to members of the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) and its partners who work tirelessly over the course of several years to gather evidence and prepare for trial.

THE RIVER RUNS DRY

Proactive investigation by officer leads to dismantling of million-dollar drug trafficking and auto theft ring

As noted earlier, it may seem that police services across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and beyond have been battling auto theft for years. In fact, its dramatic uptick began during the COVID-19 pandemic, when a global shortage of vehicles was exploited by criminal organizations as a revenue generator. These vehicles, however, are not only stolen for profit; they are used to fuel drug trafficking and to commit violent crimes like armed robberies and home invasions, making it a priority issue for the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS).

Project Bayou commenced in December 2023 following an investigation into suspicious auto theft activity and residential break and enters in Oakville. Over the next three months, investigators with the HRPS 2 District Street Crime Unit (SCU) used information gained to identify an organized crew of thieves targeting high-end vehicles through break and enters, carjackings, and technology-based theft. The stolen vehicles were subsequently re-vinned and sold for profit to fund and facilitate drug trafficking, robberies, and other criminal activity.

In March 2024, and with assistance from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Peel Regional Police (PRP), and

Toronto Police Service (TPS), multiple search warrants, targeting residences, storage lockers, and connected vehicles, were executed in Oakville and Toronto. Numerous drugs, stolen vehicles, weapons, reprogramming technology, and currency were seized at that time.

Investigators with the HRPS 2 District SCU were subsequently able to identify additional members of one suspect’s criminal network. This led to the discovery of more than 110 vehicles that were believed to have been stolen and/or re-vinned.

Project Bayou concluded in April 2024 with the arrest of four suspects, three of whom were Oakville residents. They now face a combined total of more than 30 criminal offences, ranging from Firearms and Drug Possession to Possession of Stolen Property, and more.

PROJECT BAYOU SEIZED/RECOVERED ITEMS
30+ stolen motor vehicles
7+ kilograms of cocaine
3 firearms
\$1,000,000+ in Canadian currency
5 individuals charged with 46 criminal offences






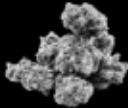





Project Bayou dealt a critical blow to organized crime in Halton region, significantly disrupting drug trafficking and an extensive ring of vehicle thefts, while ensuring the safety and security of area residents.

Superintendent Dave Costantini

Partner Agencies:



PROJECT BAYOU: ADDITIONAL SEIZURES

 <p>Cocaine <i>7.8kg, with 6, intact, 1kg bricks</i></p>	 <p>Mason Jars <i>36 mason jars containing liquid cannabis resin</i></p>
 <p>Psilocybin (Mushrooms) <i>375g</i></p>	 <p>Oxycodone <i>772 pills</i></p>
 <p>LSD <i>1,229 tabs</i></p>	 <p>Hash <i>755.7g</i></p>
 <p>Cannabis <i>37lbs; significant quantity of edibles and vapes</i></p>	 <p>Canadian Currency <i>\$1,123,217</i></p>
 <p>Clonazepam <i>142 pills</i></p>	 <p>Stolen Vehicles <i>BMW M4, Grand Cherokee, BMW X7, motorcycle, and box trailer</i></p>
 <p>Codeine <i>1,248g</i></p>	 <p>Key Fobs <i>128</i></p>



Plus:

Money counters, scales, packaging, and other indicia of drug trafficking; stolen license plates from numerous high-end vehicle thefts; reprogramming technology; fraudulent VIN plates



BAD MEDICINE

Disrupting the flow of illicit drugs across Halton region remained a key Service priority in 2024

While the scope of organized crime at home and abroad continued to expand in 2024, a key focus and revenue generator for those behind it remained the trafficking of illicit drugs. With a commitment to identifying these sophisticated groups and ridding the community of their dangerous goods, the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) devoted considerable resources to this area this past year.

Project Breakdown

In February 2024, members of the HRPS Regional Drug and Organized Crime Unit (RDOCU) and the 2 District Criminal

Investigations Bureau (CIB), in collaboration with the Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario (CISO)*, commenced *Project Breakdown*. It aimed to target and disrupt a multijurisdictional fentanyl and firearms trafficking

PROJECT BREAKDOWN SEIZED ITEMS
8 firearms
1,800 rounds of ammunition
26 ounces of fentanyl
11 ounces of cocaine



Six of eight firearms seized by Project Medusa investigators.

network operating in Halton, Hamilton, and throughout Southwestern Ontario.

In the months that followed, RDOCU and CIB members employed a number of investigative techniques to develop leads and gather evidence.

On June 25, 2024, and with assistance from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Hamilton Police Service (HPS), and Brantford Police Service (BPS), nine search warrants were executed in the City of Hamilton as well as Brant, Haldimand, and Oxford counties. Seven people were arrested and charged with a total of 90 criminal offences, including multiple counts of Trafficking in a Controlled Substance, Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking, Conspiracy to Commit an Indictable Offence, Trafficking Firearms, Ammunition, Devices and Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm.

Project Fade

Project Fade began in late 2023 with an HRPS-led investigation into a Milton resident who was believed to be involved in high-level drug trafficking. Using a variety of surveillance techniques, investigators were soon able to identify additional members of a broader drug trafficking network operating in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), along with two condominiums in Oakville and Mississauga that were being used for the sole purpose of packaging and reprocessing illicit drugs.

Several judicial authorizations were granted. On March 24 and 25, 2024, officers executed six Controlled Drug and Substances Act (CDSA) search warrants in Milton, Oakville, Mississauga, and Guelph. Four individuals were arrested on 12 charges, including Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking and Property Obtained by Crime – Over \$5,000.

Firearms seized during Project Medusa.



PROJECT FADE SEIZED ITEMS

18 kilograms of cocaine

1 ounce of MDMA

379 oxycodone pills

200 clonazepam pills

\$350,000.00 in bundled Canadian currency

authorizations were granted, which yielded additional evidence and identified further associates.

Project Medusa culminated with the execution of four search warrants and the seizure of large quantities of drugs, firearms, and ammunition. Three individuals in their 20s and 30s were arrested on October 17 and 18, 2024, and were charged with 84 criminal counts relating to drug and weapons trafficking, firearms, and other offences.

Project Medusa

In early 2024, and in partnership with Toronto Police Service (TPS) Firearms Unit and CISO, HRPS RDOCU members began investigating two individuals involved in trafficking firearms and cocaine in Halton region, Mississauga, and Toronto. Over the course of the multi-month investigation, dubbed Project Medusa, several officers worked to determine the hierarchy of the distribution network. Numerous judicial

Organized crime groups generate substantial profits from the distribution and sale of illicit drugs. This is their sole focus. They do not concern themselves with the violence and devastation they bring to our communities. It's our job to stop them.

Superintendent Dave Stewart



PROJECT MEDUSA SEIZED ITEMS

9 firearms
Prohibited devices (extended magazines)
Ammunition
7 kilograms of cocaine
1/2 kilogram of methamphetamine
114 grams of ketamine
678 oxycodone tablets
38 benzocaine tablets
Numerous cutting agents and manufacturing materials for fentanyl
A stolen, re-vinned Mercedes Benz
\$60,000 in bundled Canadian currency

Total street value of drugs: More than \$1-million.

** Project Breakdown and Project Medusa were made possible through funding provided by the Government of Ontario, Ministry of the Solicitor General, and were supported by the Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario(CISO).*

Partner Agencies:



Drugs seized, Project Fade.



Vehicle seized, Project Medusa.

TIP OF THE ICEBERG

Commercial break and enter at auto plant traced to organized gang, leads to large-scale firearms and weapons seizure

During the evening of January 7 and into the early morning hours of January 8, 2024, a break and enter occurred at an automobile manufacturing plant in Oakville. Preliminary investigation by responding officers revealed that entry had been gained by cutting a large hole in the exterior fence surrounding the property. Fifteen brand-new SUVs had been stolen. Several of the vehicles were equipped with GPS devices.

Assisted by the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) Intelligence Unit and the Organized Crime Strike Team (OCST), officers quickly recovered three of the stolen SUVs from locations across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). A fourth was discovered with two occupants inside. Both were taken into custody without incident. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed small quantities of drugs, Canadian currency, and a knife.

On January 10, 2024, members of the HRPS 2 District Street Crime Unit (SCU) attended an address in Mississauga to recover another of the stolen SUVs that was pinging from the location. After obtaining a search warrant, officers

found it unoccupied in one of multiple sea containers on the property. The vehicle was later sent for examination by the HRPS Forensic Services Unit (FSU).

At around the same time, SCU officers were notified that a sixth stolen vehicle had been discovered in Scarborough. Officers attended the location and arrested two additional suspects without incident after they attempted to flee. A replica firearm and a small quantity of illegal drugs were subsequently recovered.

The following day, SCU members were conducting surveillance on a Milton residence in relation to a seventh stolen SUV when they learned that a surveillance team with the Ontario Provincial Police's (OPP's) Biker Enforcement Unit (BEU) was investigating a case involving illegal weapons importation on behalf of the Canada Border Service Agency's (CBSA's) Firearm and Weapons Smuggling Team. It was also determined that the target of the investigation was a full-patched member of the Iron Dragons Motorcycle

Club with an extensive criminal history.

Warrant in hand, members of the OPP's Tactical Rescue Unit (TRU) executed a search of the residence. The target male attempted to flee through a basement window, but was captured by the OPP's K9 Unit a short distance away. While the stolen SUV was not located on the property, a significant number of firearms and prohibited weapons were seized (see infographic).

A total of four males and a female, ranging in age from 33 to 42, were arrested and charged with 59 criminal code offences in relation to the case. They included multiple counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000, Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking, Possession of a Prohibited Weapon, and a litany of other firearms-related charges.

All of the stolen SUVs were ultimately recovered.

Partner Agencies:





SEIZED ITEMS

27

weapons,
including:



Two Glock semi-automatic pistols



Two conductive energy weapons (CEW)



Two foldable, pocket size, .22 calibre pistols



Two semi-automatic revolvers



Two crossbows



Two brass knuckles



One pistol



Two expandable batons



Four long guns



Five pellet guns

23

rounds of ammunition



Twenty-one rounds of .44 magnum ammunition and two rounds of .22 calibre ammunition



Two rounds of .22 calibre ammunition

4

types of drugs



1/4 oz of fentanyl



4 oz of methamphetamine



12 lbs of dried cannabis bud



4 oz of crack cocaine

ONE



brand-new key fob



belonging to the stolen SUV pinging on the property



NUMBER NOT IN SERVICE

Three-month SIM card fraud investigation leads to the arrest of two and discovery of intricate counterfeit lab

As the pace of technological innovation continues to quicken, so too have the ways in which individuals seek to exploit it for personal gain. This is not only the case with crimes like auto theft; financial scams have become increasingly prevalent in recent years, affecting a wider number of people than ever before. As these scams evolve, they become harder to detect, leaving people of all ages vulnerable to financial loss.

In January 2024, the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) Financial Crimes Unit began investigating a scam involving the use of SIM cards that was operating in Halton region and the surrounding areas. It was being carried out by a group of individuals who used fraudulently-obtained

telephone numbers from victims to gain unauthorized access to their bank accounts.

Dubbed, *Project Buff*, the three-month SIM card scam investigation led to the identification of 13 victims who had a combined \$136,000 in funds stolen from them. On April 18,

Thieves are constantly finding new ways to leverage technology to steal from unsuspecting members of the public. Investigations such as Project Buff serve as a warning to these individuals that police are working even harder to stay ahead of them.

Superintendent Dave Stewart





2024, police executed four search warrants at residential locations in Toronto and Brantford. An additional search warrant was carried out in Toronto in May 2024.

Numerous cell phones, fraudulent documents, SIM cards, and currency were seized as a result (see infographic). Also notable among the finds was a fully-operational counterfeit lab, which was later dismantled by police.

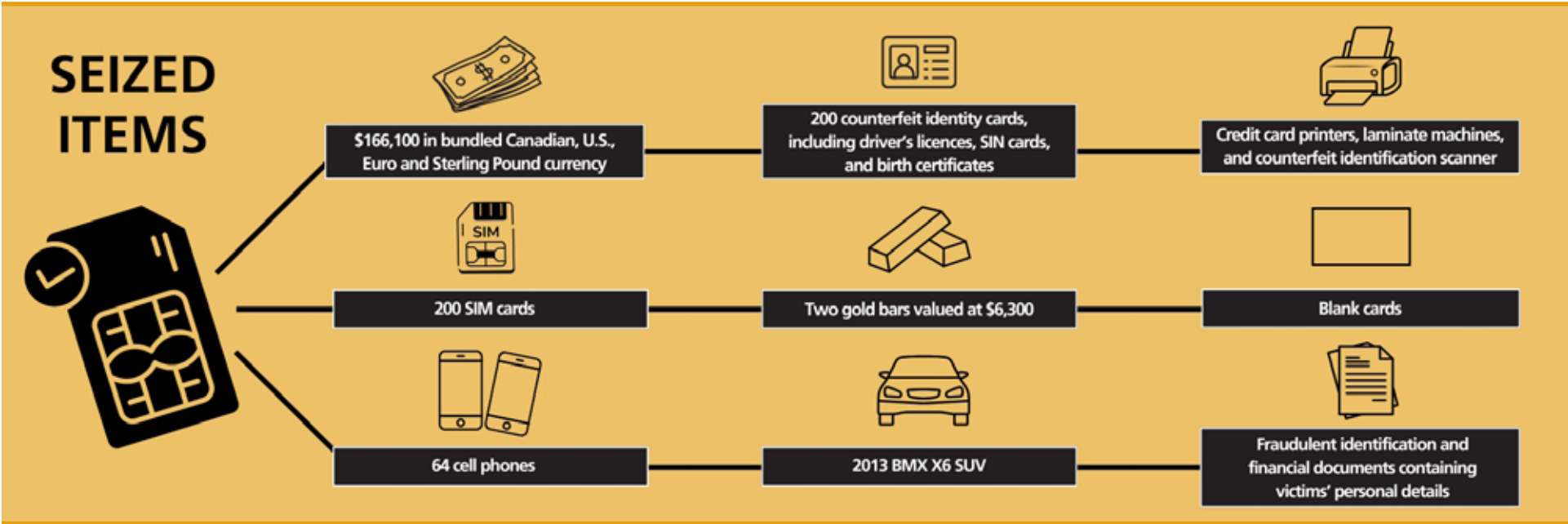
Two males, both from Toronto, were subsequently arrested and charged with multiple counts of Identity Theft and Fraud.

How SIM Card Scams Work

SIM cards connect telephone numbers and service to mobile devices. Most mobile applications are linked to email addresses and/or telephone numbers. The SIM card scam begins when a fraudster impersonates a legitimate

mobile telephone user to gain access to their accounts, often by claiming that the device has been lost or stolen. The telephone number will then be linked to a new SIM card and a device that the fraudster controls. From there, fraudsters will download a series of popular applications, selecting 'Forgot Password' when prompted. If an account is associated with a user's email address and/or telephone number, the fraudster will receive a verification code that they will then use to take the account(s) over. In addition to withdrawing funds, fraudsters can apply for credit and/or go on to defraud individuals on a victim's contact list.

To learn more about this and other popular scams, scan the QR code to visit the Anti-Fraud Centre website:



HOLDING OFFENDERS ACCOUNTABLE. KEEPING SURVIVORS SAFE.

Embedding offender management officers within intimate partner violence unit a first for police services in Ontario

Intimate partner violence (IPV), also known as domestic violence, affects people of all ages, races, and genders, and from all walks of life. It can include the use or threat of physical or sexual force, emotional or psychological abuse, financial control, social isolation, and harassing or threatening behaviour. While IPV ranges in severity, its destructive impacts on individuals and family units have been well documented for years, so much so that it was declared an epidemic in Halton in June 2023.

The specially-trained members of the Halton Regional Police Service's (HRPS) Intimate Partner Violence Unit (IPVU) are responsible for investigating all reported cases of IPV in the region and laying charges, as appropriate. Their work also includes monitoring high-risk IPV offenders to ensure the security and well-being of survivors and the community. Locally, an average of 80 to 100 of these individuals, who pose a significant risk to public safety, are outstanding (wanted) at any given time.

To strengthen their ability to track these offenders, to ensure compliance with release conditions, and to apprehend those unlawfully at large, the HRPS launched a one-year

pilot project in 2023 that realigned internal resources to form a five officer Offender Management Unit (OMU) within the IPVU. Their efforts resulted in the arrest of 170 offenders on an additional 430 charges.

In late 2024, the Service received budget approval to establish a permanent, six-officer IPVU OMU. When launched in 2025, it will be the first of its kind to operate within a police agency's IPVU in Ontario.



You are not alone. Scan the QR code to access IPV resources and supports:



I am extraordinarily proud of the work being done by our IPVU and the offender management officers working alongside them to protect survivors and ensure the safety of everyone who calls our region home.

Deputy Chief Jeff Hill



PUTTING PREDATORS ON ICE

Former educational assistant pleads guilty to multiple charges, including child pornography, sexual assault, and voyeurism

The risks posed by technology and social media platforms have been chronicled for years. The sad reality, however, is while awareness is on the rise, so too are reports of internet child exploitation at home and the world over. In this region alone, the number of files investigated by the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) has increased a staggering 100% over the past five years.

The mission of the HRPS Internet Child Exploitation Unit (ICE) is to protect those most at risk from online predators, and to ensure that those responsible for violating them are identified and charged. In operation since 2006, and as a proud member of the Ontario Provincial Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention Strategy, the ICE Unit ensures a coordinated response to internet-based offences against children locally, provincially,

and beyond.

In October 2023, an electronic service provider reported to the U.S.-based National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) that a user had uploaded an image consisting of child pornography through their cloud-based storage application. The report was sent to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and was then forwarded to the HRPS ICE Unit. An investigation commenced that December.

Soon after, officers identified the individual responsible as a 42-year-old Milton man who had been formerly employed as an educational assistant (EA) at four schools in Halton region. Search warrants were executed at two homes occupied by him in Milton, resulting in the seizure of several electronic devices. An extensive forensic examination of those devices led to the discovery of a large quantity of child pornography, including evidence that the material had been shared internationally. A total of 10

victims from the suspect's professional and personal life were identified, with the youngest being five years old.

The man was arrested on March 7, 2024, and was charged with 48 criminal offences, including multiple counts of Possession of Child Pornography, Making Child Pornography, Sexual Assault, Sexual Interference, and Voyeurism. Following the release of information on the case by the HRPS Media Relations Office, an additional survivor contacted investigators. Their disclosure resulted in additional charges of Sexual Assault and Sexual Interference stemming from the man's work as an EA being laid.

He later pleaded guilty and faces up to 12 years in prison.

Learn how you can keep yourself and your loved ones safe online:



Partner Agencies:







WHEN SECONDS COUNT

Quick action by Marine Unit officers save the life of man drowning in Lake Ontario

The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) Marine Unit is an operational branch of its Emergency Services Unit (ESU), which also includes Tactical Rescue, K9, Explosives Disposal, and Crisis Negotiations. It was established in the 1980s to ensure the safety of residents and visitors around Halton's shores from Mississauga to Hamilton. The officers who are part of this specialized unit are highly trained in marine rescue and work closely with agencies like the Canadian Coast Guard to ensure that those who spend time on or near water in the region do so safely. On the afternoon of August 5, 2024, HRPS Marine Unit officers conducting a

routine check of Burlington Beach and Spencer Smith Park spotted an inflatable tube overturned on the beach. As they moved closer, they observed a man in distress 50 feet from shore. Within moments, he vanished beneath the waves.

Without hesitation, the officers piloted Marine 1 (pictured) toward the scene at top speed, while another officer wearing a rescue vest dove into the water. He was immediately met with two-foot waves in his life-or-death search for the victim. Once located, the officers pulled the unresponsive man's head above the water, and with assistance from a local



boater, guided him onto their vessel. Officers immediately began life-saving efforts, which included CPR and use of an on-board defibrillator. The man was quickly brought to shore, where Burlington Fire and EMS teams awaited his arrival and transported him to hospital for further care. As a result of the collaborative and heroic efforts of the HRPS Marine Unit and those on scene that day, the male regained consciousness and fully recovered.

MARINE UNIT OPERATIONS (2024)	
Provincial Offence Notices (PONs)	167
Vessel stops	181
Arrests	27
Search and rescues	20
Calls for service	426

Emergency calls for service on Halton waterways and across western Lake Ontario – including this one – increased by 50% in 2024. In addition to Marine 1, its primary search-and-rescue vessel, the HRPS Marine Unit fleet consists of Marine 2 for rapid response, and Marine 3, used for inland waterway searches. A new, 10-metre Marine 2 watercraft will join the fleet in 2025, replacing its predecessor, and bolstering the Unit’s patrol and response capabilities.

Scan the QR code to access valuable water safety information and tips:

NO STONE LEFT UNTURNED

Service-wide search effort leads to the safe return of missing Burlington senior

Each year, between 70,000 to 80,000 people of all ages are reported missing to police in Canada.

Leading the coordination and search for these individuals in Halton region are members of the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) Search Incident Response Team (SIRT). Established in 2008, their goal is to locate missing persons in the shortest time possible and to return them to safety. It is comprised of 24 search managers and more than 200 HRPS officers, who have received specialized training in ground search techniques, in addition to their regular duties. The SIRT is available 24/7, 365 days a year, and is called upon when a missing person's last known location is relatively certain and they are on foot.

On the evening of September 9, 2024, the HRPS responded to a call for missing person in west Burlington. Upon arrival, officers were advised that a vulnerable senior had been missing for nine hours. With inclement weather and colder temperatures in the forecast, a SIRT callout was immediately initiated and a full-scale ground search began.

In the hours that followed, a dozen SIRT members, including three search managers and the SIRT Sergeant, were deployed, and used GPS and drone technology to track the movements of fellow officers and ensure that all accessible

locations were examined. Members of the HRPS K9 and Marine Units, and officers with 3 District's Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB), were also engaged to assist, while media and social media were leveraged by the Service's Media Relations Office to raise awareness about the case.

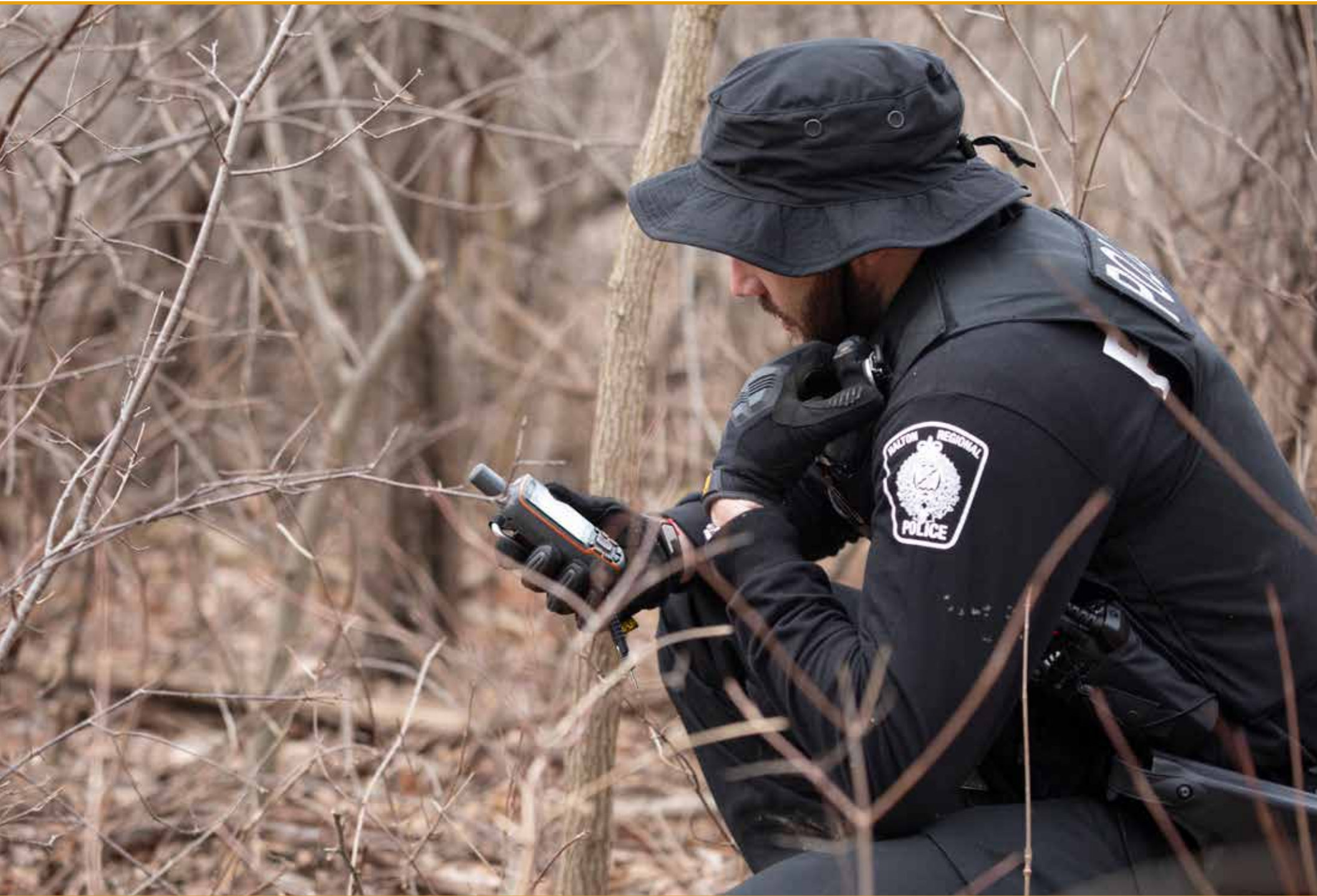
Efforts to locate the missing person continued through the night and into the morning hours, with new teams of SIRT members and investigators following up on information gleaned from earlier efforts. This information, coupled with CCTV footage collected, enabled the SIRT to concentrate their search on a wooded area of Burlington. It was here, more than 32 hours since they were last seen, that the vulnerable senior was located disoriented, but alive, in a steep ravine less than three kilometres from their residence.

All told, more than 80 HRPS officers from six different units, along with countless local businesses and residents, were involved in the successful effort to reunite the Halton resident with their family.

Learn more about how to report a missing person:



A person can be reported missing at any time – there is no 24-hour waiting period. If you are concerned for someone's immediate safety, call 9-1-1. Otherwise, you can report a person as missing to the Halton Regional Police Service by calling the non-emergency number, 905-825-4777.





FUTURE FORWARD, PEOPLE FIRST

Halton Police Board appoints Kevin Maher as Service's new, third Deputy Chief of Police

The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) has evolved considerably in both size and complexity over the past 50 years. With a sworn and civilian complement of 289 members then to close to 1,200 now, the HRPS continues to respond and adapt to Halton region's rapidly changing policing needs.

In March 2023, the Halton Police Board approved the creation of a new, third Deputy Chief of Police position – the first addition to the rank since the Service was established in 1974. In recognition of the depth and breadth of talent within the HRPS, only internal candidates were considered. The Halton Police Board announced the appointment of

then Superintendent Kevin Maher the role of Deputy Chief of Police later that month.

“Deputy Chief Maher is a strong and people-focused leader, and the Board was delighted to appoint him to role,” said Jeff Knoll, Chair of the Halton Police Board. “His appointment not only strengthens the HRPS’ leadership team; it positions the Service to tackle new challenges and seize opportunities for growth and development in new and important ways.”

Deputy Chief Maher began his policing career in 1987 as a Cadet with the Toronto Police Service before joining the HRPS in 1990. With close to four decades of progressive

policing experience, he has served in a number of frontline and specialized investigative units over the years. Deputy Chief Maher has been a valued member of the HRPS' senior executive leadership for the past nine years, most recently as the Superintendent in charge of Regional Investigative Services and as one of six Critical Incident Commanders responsible for overseeing high-risk occurrences in the region. In his role as Deputy Chief of Police, he remains steadfast in his commitment to supporting public safety and well-being in Halton region as well as Service members through engagement and collaboration.

Then Superintendent Maher was sworn in as the HRPS' new Deputy Chief of Police at the Atrium Banquet and Conference Centre in Burlington on April 25, 2024. The ceremony was attended by the Halton Police Board, elected officials, community and faith leaders, local and regional councillors, HRPS senior command, and a number of retired and current uniform and civilian Service members.

Deputy Chief Maher is now responsible for a number of the HRPS' specialized support units, including the Community Services Bureau, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), the Emergency Services Unit (ESU), Training and Recruiting, and Human Resource Services. He joins Chief Stephen Tanner, Deputy Chief Jeff Hill, and Deputy Chief Roger Wilkie in leadership and service to the residents of Burlington, Oakville, Milton, and Halton Hills.

I am deeply honoured to serve as Deputy Chief. I look forward to working with the Police Board, Chief Tanner, Deputy Chief Wilkie, Deputy Chief Hill, and the dedicated members of the HRPS to ensure Halton region remains a proud place to call home.

Deputy Chief Kevin Maher





BREAKING GROUND

New, state-of-the-art 1 District police station will serve Milton and Halton Hills residents for decades to come

Halton region's longstanding reputation as a safe and welcoming place to live, work, play, and raise a family has made it one of the fastest-growing communities in the country. From around 220,000 residents in 1974 to more than 650,000 today, a key priority of the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) remains meeting the needs of everyone it serves, now and in the future.

Recognizing that rapid population growth in Milton and Halton Hills was outpacing the capacity of the Service's existing 12 Division facility to support it, the Halton Police Board approved the construction of a larger 1 District police station in 2023.

When completed in 2026, the projected \$48-million station, situated on 5.25 acres near the intersection of Steeles Avenue and Sixth Line South, just north of Highway 401, will serve as the base for 1 District Operations. The state-of-the-art facility will accommodate 390 sworn and civilian members, one of the HRPS' three collision reporting centres, and prisoner holding facilities. It will also feature leading-edge systems, including rooftop solar panels, which will measurably reduce electrical consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

The new 1 District station will replace the HRPS' existing 12 Division facility, located at 490 Childs Drive in Milton, that was built in 1997. It will remain operational until the new 1 District is complete, after which time it will be returned to



Breaking ground on a police station for the future: (L-R): Deputy Chief Kevin Maher, Deputy Chief Jeff Hill, Board Member Sameera Ali, Board Member Navdeep Dhaliwal, Board Chair Jeff Knoll, Chief Stephen Tanner, Board Member Lisa Kearns, Board Member Jane McKenna, Vice-Chair Ingrid Hann, and Deputy Chief Roger Wilkie.

the Regional Municipality of Halton.

On May 8, 2024, sworn and civilian HRPS members were joined by the Halton Police Board, and the mayors of Halton Hills and Milton to officially break ground on construction of the new 1 District station. The project was made possible, in part, from a nearly \$29,000 grant received from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund for a feasibility study. The \$1.65-billion federal program supports municipal sustainability initiatives, helping communities implement climate-friendly solutions.

Follow @HaltonPolice on X or Halton Regional Police Service on Facebook or Instagram for the latest on the 1 District project.

Our new 1 District station will meet the policing needs of Milton and Halton Hills residents for years to come, not only as the base for operations, but as a welcoming and inclusive place for our team and community to come together to address issues of common concern.

Deputy Chief Roger Wilkie



WITH A TRACE

Water-based, ballistic recovery chamber manufactured by TSN the first of its kind to be deployed by Canadian police service

The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) has long been a leader in policing innovation and excellence, continually seeking out ways to harness new technology, enhance its operations, and improve public safety.

With the goal of investigating gun-related crimes faster, the HRPS Forensic Services Unit (FSU) became the first in the country to acquire a TRACE Ballistic Chamber from TSN US, a leader in groundbreaking forensic and ballistic technology solutions for law enforcement, in November 2024.

When firearms are made, microscopic markings, comparable to fingerprints, are etched into their metal components. These markings are transferred to bullets or cartridge cases when a gun is fired. Just as no two sets of fingerprints are alike, no two firearms are the same.

All firearms recovered by the HRPS under suspicious or criminal circumstances are now examined and test fired with the TRACE Ballistic Chamber. The user-friendly chamber, more commonly referred to as a 'water tank', quickly and accurately captures ballistic evidence, including spent bullets and casings recovered from crime scenes or seized firearms. Analysis data derived from the samples are then uploaded to the International Ballistics Database, or IBIS, for comparison. Similar to a DNA database, IBIS can determine if a firearm has been used in a previous shooting(s) in Canada or the United States, if it is already in the system.

Time is of the essence when investigating firearms-related offences. With the TRACE Ballistic Recovery Chamber, we can produce ballistic samples within hours of recovering a gun at a crime scene, bolstering our ability to solve cases and protect the community.

Chief Stephen Tanner



In addition to enabling investigators to link crimes through ballistics and generate valuable investigative leads in shorter times than ever before, the TRACE Ballistic Chamber does so more safely than its traditional counterparts. Its innovative, two-pump design filters water within the system, eliminating a user's exposure to toxic chemicals and lead contamination.

As pictured, the chamber is attached to a mobile platform which can be easily moved by one person, and did not require changes to the ventilation, plumbing or infrastructure of HRPS Headquarters when it was delivered, making its acquisition a relatively easy and cost-effective one for the Service.



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

New software enhances traffic enforcement, simplifies collision reporting process for motorists

Last year, more than 10,000 motor vehicle collisions were reported in Halton region, an increase of 5% from 2023. Under the Highway Traffic Act of Ontario (HTA), any collision where the combined vehicle damage appears to exceed \$5,000, or where there is damage to private, municipal, or highway property, must be reported to police as soon as possible. 'Fault' for the collision does not excuse motorists from their obligation to file a collision report. Failure to do so can lead to charges under the HTA.

To enable frontline and Traffic Services Unit officers to better respond to collisions and to streamline the reporting process for motorists, the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) joined with its longstanding partner, Accident Support Services International (ASSI), to introduce key changes to its existing offerings. ASSI has operated the Service's three collision reporting centres, located in Burlington, Oakville, and Milton, since 2012.

The Collision Reporting and Occurrence Management System (CROMS)

The first changes came to the Collision Reporting and Occurrence Management System (CROMS) used by officers when they respond to motor vehicle collisions. The analytical and statistical improvements introduced within CROMS

this past year enable the Service to receive real-time information on collision hot spots and to conduct more targeted traffic enforcement than it could before, making area roadways safer for all users.

Start from Your Device

In November 2024, the HRPS and ASSI launched 'Start from Your Device'. The online service allows drivers involved in the majority of property damage motor vehicle collisions, where a report is needed, to begin the reporting process from their mobile device or computer. Individuals are now directed to 'Start from Your Device', regardless of whether an officer responds to a collision, the Service is called for guidance, or if they attend a HRPS police station.

Once logged on, motorists answer a series of questions about the collision and submit them before attending the ASSI reporting centre in the district where it occurred. 'Start from Your Device' has been shown to reduce wait times and increase the capacity of ASSI locations to assist motorists, particularly on bad weather days when spikes in collision volume typically occur. Using it also frees up HRPS officers to attend higher-priority calls for service.

By year's end, close to 30% of self-reported motor vehicle collisions in Halton region were initiated using 'Start from Your Device', with uptake expected to rise considerably in 2025 and beyond.

Scan the QR code to learn more about obligations to report and the collision reporting process:



Reported Motor Vehicle Collisions

Collision Type	2023	2024	% Change
On-Scene Collisions	3,881	3,782	-3%
Self-Reported Collisions	5,963	6,547	10%
Total Collisions	9,844	10,329	5%

Municipality	2023	2024	% Change
Halton Hills	1,060	946	-11%
Milton	2,262	2,546	13%
Oakville	3,108	2,549	-18%
Burlington	3,381	3,550	5%

Classification of Collision	2023	2024	% Change
Fatal Injury	13	6	-38%
Non-Fatal Injury	889	901	1%
Property Damage Only	2,818	2,724	-3%
Non-Reportable	88	70	-20%
Other	13	10	-23%



Fatal Collisions by Municipality	2023	2024	2023 Pedestrians	2024 Pedestrians	2023 Cyclists	2024 Cyclists
Halton Hills	3	0	1	1	0	0
Milton	0	3	0	1	0	0
Oakville	4	1	1	0	1	0
Burlington	1	2	1	0	1	0

Chief Tanner addresses EDI Summit attendees.



A SAFE AND WELCOMING PLACE FOR ALL

Enhancing response to hate and bias-motivated crime through data collection, education, and relationship building

As its name suggests, hate crime is a criminal act against a person, group of people or property that is motivated by hate, prejudice or bias based on race, colour, nationality or ethnic origin, language, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability or sexual orientation. While it can take many forms, its deep and lasting impact on individuals and communities is widely recognized.

Leading the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) in its response to hate and bias-motivated crime and victim support in the region are members of its Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Unit (EDI). The team has received extensive training in EDI and works closely with Halton's diverse communities to foster trust and to eliminate hate. While

much remains to be done in this realm, the HRPS is pleased to report that progress was made in 2024 on a number of notable fronts.

No Case Left Behind

Service members continued to identify and categorize hate crimes and hate-related incidents across the region using the dedicated call heading that was introduced in 2023. Capturing these occurrences accurately is vital, as doing so informs incident response and helps the HRPS identify patterns of hate-related offences requiring additional attention, education, and/or resources. It also enables the Service to share information with its Hate Crime Extremist



Investigative Team (HCEIT), neighbouring police agencies, and provincial bodies in a way that promotes a collaborative and consistent response to hate crime across all jurisdictions. The data further supports training and other internal Service initiatives designed to promote understanding of current and emerging EDI issues and trends.

EDI Summit

On October 7, 2024, the HRPS was proud to host the annual EDI Summit, in partnership with the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS), London Police Service (LPS), Peel Regional Police (PRP), Toronto Police Service (TPS), and York Regional Police (YRP). Over the course of two days, attendees from law enforcement agencies across Ontario and beyond learned about the impacts of diaspora on hate, the characteristics of extremists, and successful strategies to engage community members and enhance cultural competency from leading organizations, including the Ministry of the Solicitor General,

the U.S. Secret Service, and the Centre on Hate, Bias, and Extremism.

Halton: Growing Together

Later that month, the HRPS was privileged to host its second *Halton: Growing Together Symposium*. Building upon the success and learnings from its inaugural event in 2023, the daylong gathering of Service members and community groups explored ways to resolve conflict and navigate the complex impacts of hate and bias-motivated crime on victims and so many others. Those attending were also offered valuable resources and tools to support ongoing, collective efforts to combat hate in Halton region and beyond.

Learn more about Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion within the HRPS:





SECOND CHANCES

Wider availability of naloxone is saving lives, reducing stigma, and promoting healthier communities for everyone

Despite increasing awareness of the harms associated with opioid use, communities across Canada, including Halton region, still contend with its far-reaching and often devastating impacts.

In 2024, the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) responded to 412 overdose-related calls, 33 of which were fatal. Although the number of reported opioid-related overdoses was 3% lower than the previous year, they, and substance misuse in general, continue to place considerable strain on public health systems, emergency services personnel, and

community resources who work closely in the space.

Of particular note, HRPS officers administered naloxone at 37 of the above calls for service, while third parties did so at 68. Naloxone is a synthetic drug that can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid drug poisoning. Once administered, it will begin to work in one to five minutes, and stays active in the body for 30 to 90 minutes, meaning it can save the life of anyone at risk of an overdose.

The HRPS' efforts to provide this life-saving drug to those



who need it most, and to educate members of the public on its benefits and use, are led by its Overdose Coordination Group (OCG). The group, comprised of representatives from Regional Investigative Services (RIS), Community Services (CS), and Corporate Communications, was created in 2019 to ensure a coordinated response to the then-emerging opioid crisis.

In November 2022, the HRPS became one of the first police services in Ontario to make free naloxone kits available to everyone released from Central Lock-up (CLU), no questions asked and no records kept. Each kit contains two doses of NARCAN nasal spray (a type of naloxone), one pair of non-latex gloves, one rescue breathing barrier, a pamphlet containing directions for use, and card listing additional resources and supports. Close to 300 of the vital first aid tools have been distributed by CLU from inception to the end of 2024.

In response to the program's success, the Service announced on February 6, 2024, that it had expanded its naloxone distribution network to include members of its Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT), Community Mobilization Officers, and support workers. Like their counterparts in CLU, these 30 officers and civilians have received in-depth training on how to administer naloxone as well as connecting those interested in receiving kits with additional assistance. By year's end, almost 200 had been placed in hands that needed them through this new

distribution channel.*

To complement its frontline efforts, the HRPS continued to publicly promote safer opioid use through media and social media channels at key points throughout the year, including International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31. That day, the Service was proud to launch a new *Have the Conversation* back-to-school campaign, which urged parents and guardians to discuss safer drug use with their children. This was in addition to ongoing work to educate members and valued community partners through its annual Lunch and Learn event in November 2024 and other internal initiatives.

** The HRPS' administration of naloxone across its frontlines, CLU, MCRRT, Community Mobilization, and support workers is supported by the Halton Police Board, The Regional Municipality of Halton, and the Ministry of Health.*



We are committed to keeping those we serve safe. The success of our naloxone distribution programs shows that members of the public want this life-saving drug. We are proud to work with our community partners to not increase access to it but to reduce associated barriers and stigma as well.

Deputy Chief Kevin Maher



Learn more about naloxone and safer opioid use:



THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

First-in-Ontario Halton Police Foundation envisions a community where all have equal opportunity to thrive

As the longest-serving Police Chief in Canada, Stephen Tanner has been at the forefront of change leadership, championing for organization-wide innovation and transformation to ensure that the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) remains equipped to meet the ever-evolving and complex challenges of policing.

Last year was no exception. Inspired by the Service's vision of One Team – People First, Chief Tanner rallied the support of many to realize his long time goal of creating a non-profit foundation to enhance community well-being in Halton region.

His idea was not new. Police foundations have existed since 1971, with the majority based in the United States and internationally. By 2021, 250 such foundations had been established in Canada and the U.S., including Vancouver Police Foundation (est. 1976) and Calgary Police Foundation (est. 2011). After several years of planning, discussion, and consultation, the HRPS officially launched the Halton Police Foundation (HPF) in 2024. Like its predecessors, and as the first of its kind in Ontario, the HPF will champion and fund life-changing programs that strengthen relationships and support vulnerable community members, particularly youth at risk.

To celebrate the launch of the HPF and to recognize the HRPS' golden jubilee, the inaugural Halton Police Foundation Gala took place on September 19, 2024, in Oakville. The black-tie event brought together Service members, donors, local business owners, and community partners to honour and

support the Foundation. The evening drew over 620 attendees and raised more than \$500,000 in funds which will assist the HPF in transforming its vision to reality.

In the months since the gala, the HPF's Board of Directors has embraced the understanding that transformational change comes by working together. Its focus has also shifted to long-term investment and to the development of giving plans that will ensure it can operate in a sustainable way, while making as large of an impact as possible in the community. The HPF aims to be a valued addition to Halton region's non-profit landscape and to support the many organizations already doing great work by filling in the gaps, when and where possible. Addressing the region's varied and often complex needs requires all stakeholders to collaborate, to listen, and to learn from one another to ensure that the programs and services offered enable those most vulnerable to thrive.

"The Halton Police Foundation is honoured to work with the HRPS and our valued partners and donors to achieve Chief Tanner's goal of enhancing the well-being of everyone in Halton region," said George Limberis, Chair, HPF. "It takes a village, and we all have a role to play in caring for our community."

I am so proud that we were able to create the very first police foundation in Ontario, and am so thankful to our supporters, donors, and all those who made it possible. Together, we will make a difference in the lives of many youth at risk, and underserved community members.

Chief Stephen Tanner



SERVE WITH HEART

It takes a special person to work for the Halton Regional Police Service

The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) is home to close to 1,200 sworn and civilian members who each bring unique backgrounds, skill sets, and personalities to the table; the common thread that binds them is their passion for helping people.

A career as a police officer is not a one-size-fits-all journey. Those who pursue this path have the opportunity to apply for advancement and explore diverse roles throughout their career. Whether serving as a highly trained and dedicated frontline member, working toward a position within a specialized unit, pursuing further education, or developing new skills, officers are encouraged to grow and evolve. Most importantly, they can align their work with a deeper purpose: making a meaningful and lasting impact in their community.

Meanwhile, those employed by the Service in a civilian role offer their expertise in a number of professional fields, such as IT, Analytics, Human Resources, Finance, and more, to provide essential support to first responders. They have the potential to catapult the Service forward by leveraging their education and experience to identify breakthrough opportunities to improve the organization and inspire the evolution of policing.

Together, sworn and civilian members ground themselves in the Service's motto *One Team – People First*, which places them and those we serve at the core of everything we do. It's no surprise that our Service was recognized for the second consecutive year as one of *Greater Toronto's Top 2025 Employers*. The award recognizes our ongoing focus on employee wellness through robust mental healthcare coverage as well as our leadership development opportunities, coaching and mentoring program, tuition reimbursement program, pension plan, and support offered to members who are ready to plan their retirement and pursue their next chapter.



And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Through our newly established People, Culture and Wellness Unit, we are exploring even more ways to foster a holistic approach to employee engagement and wellness by understanding what matters most to our members so they feel empowered and positioned for success in both their personal and professional lives.

If you have what it takes and are ready to join a world-class team, don't wait any longer - apply today to serve with heart:





CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF POLICING EXCELLENCE



➤ **1970s**

The Halton Regional Police Service's (HRPS') journey began on January 1, 1974 with 205 sworn officers, one of whom was female, and 45 civilians. We also marked the unveiling of our own coat of arms, approved by the Regional Police Commission.



➤ **1980s**

During the 1980s, our Service expanded its investigative and support capacity with the introduction of new specialized units. Our first 9-1-1 call centre began operations later that decade as well.



➤ **1990s**

In 1990, the Halton Regional Police Force became the Halton Regional Police Service. Our new Headquarters, located at 1151 Bronte Road in Oakville, opened its doors in 1992.



The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) has been widely recognized as a visionary leader in community safety and policing excellence in Canada since its inception on January 1, 1974. Grounded in our motto of *One Team - People First*, our mission then, and now, is to meet the ever-changing and complex needs of those we proudly serve.



➤ **2000s**



➤ **2010s**



➤ **2020s**

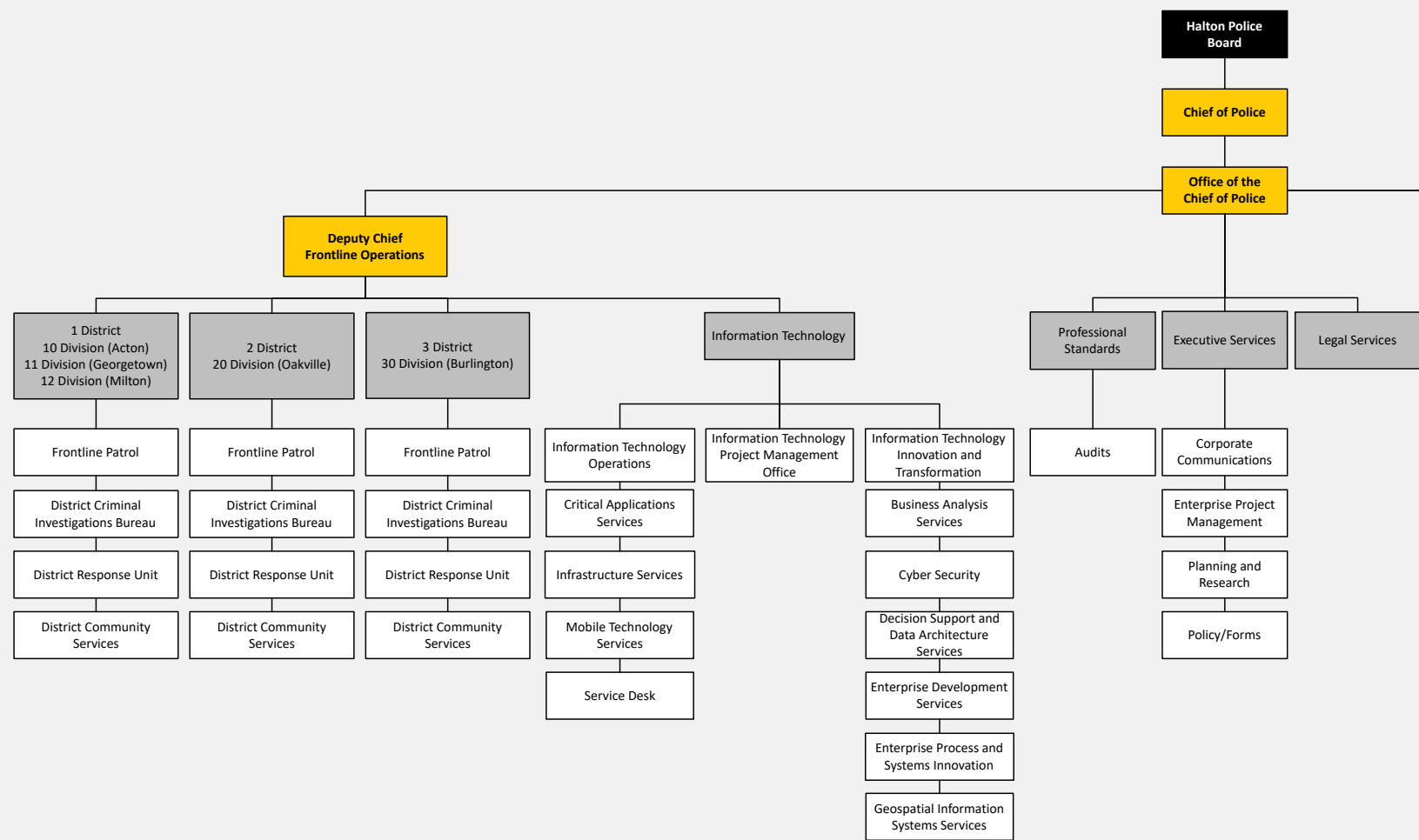
As technology continued to evolve through in the 2000s, Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) were replaced with Mobile Work Stations (MWS) in police cruisers, enabling officers to perform the bulk of their duties from their vehicles.

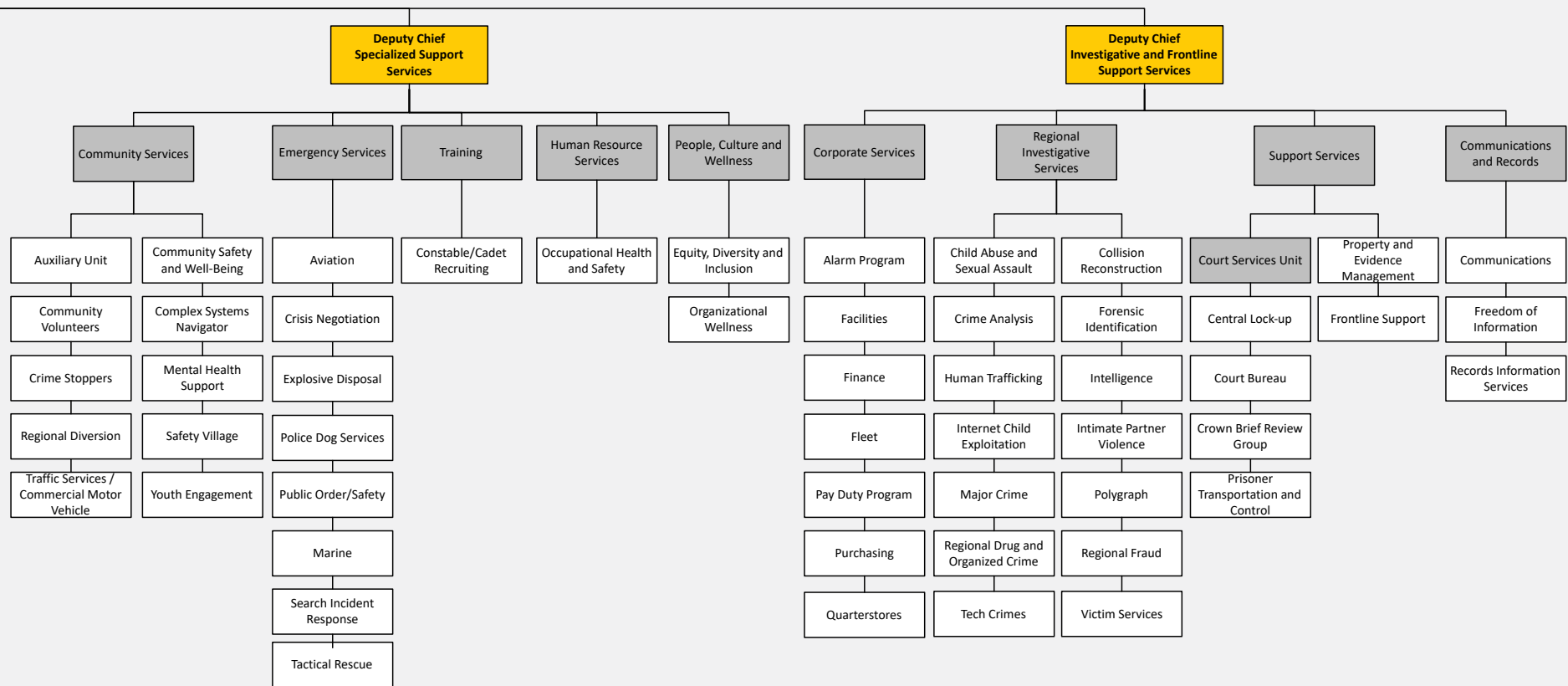
In keeping with our rapidly-growing community, our facilities expanded. A new police station in 2 District (Oakville) opened in 2010, followed by our current Headquarters in 2018.

This past year, our Service named our community room in honour of our late Chief, W.I. James Harding. Chief Harding led the HRPS from 1979 until he retired in 1994. His influence on us and on the policing profession continues to this day.

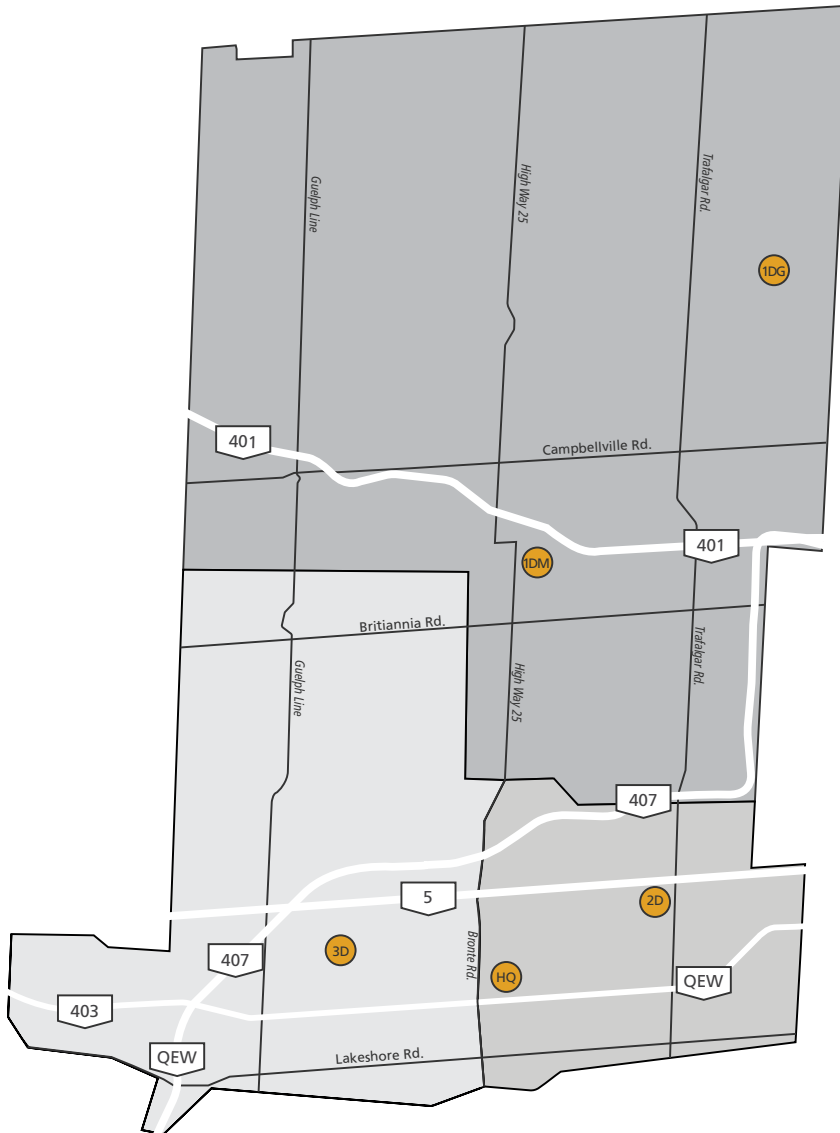


ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





WHERE TO FIND US



Headquarters

2485 North Service Road West
Oakville, ON L6M 3H8
905-825-4747
905-878-5511
1-800-990-8199

1 District Acton (10 Division)

22 Main Street South
Acton, ON L7J 1X1
905-878-5511

1 District Georgetown (11 Division)

217 Guelph Street
Georgetown, ON L7G 4A8
905-878-5511

1 District Milton (12 Division)

490 Childs Drive
Milton, ON L9T 5G2
905-878-5511
905-825-4747

2 District Oakville (20 Division)

95 Oak Walk Drive
Oakville, ON L6H 0G6
905-825-4747

3 District Burlington (30 Division)

3800 Constable Henshaw Boulevard
Burlington, ON L7M 3Y2
905-825-4747



DIAL 9-1-1 IN AN EMERGENCY



Halton Regional Police Service
2485 North Service Road West
Oakville, ON L6M 3H8

905-825-4747
1-800-990-8199
haltonpolice.ca



**HALTON
POLICE
BOARD**
EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE

Halton Police Board
2485 North Service Road West
Oakville, ON L6M 3H8

905-825-4747 ext. 5014
haltonpoliceboard.ca

