

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





One Vision. One Mission. One Team.

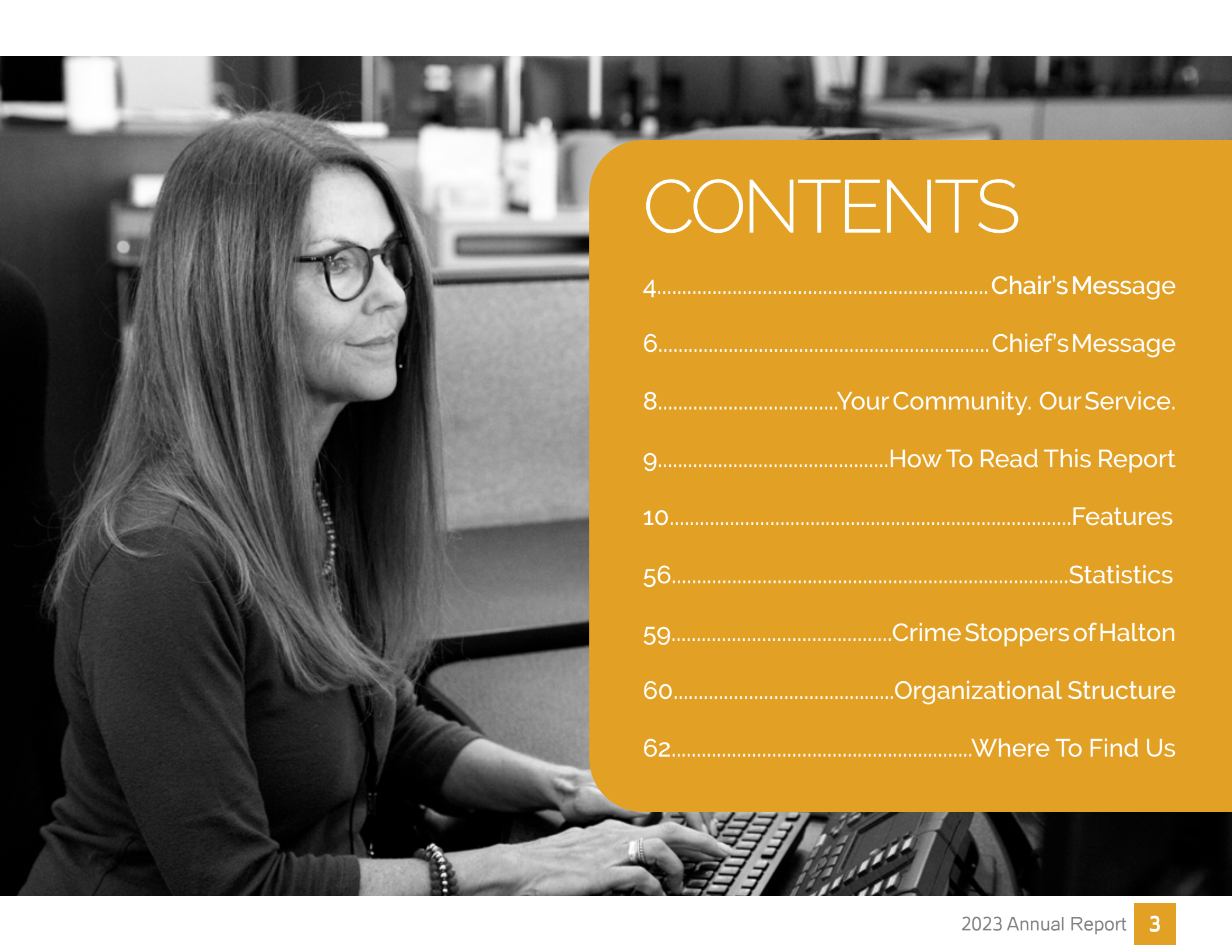
Une Vision. Une Mission. Une Équipe.

فريق واحد . مهمة واحدة . رؤية واحدة.

同一个愿景. 同一个使命. 同一个团队.

Una Visión. Una Misión. Un Equipo.

ایک مقصد . ایک مهم . ایک جماعت



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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

As Chair of the Halton Police Board, I am honoured to present the *2023 Annual Report* for the Halton Regional Police Service. Next year will mark a significant milestone in our history, the 50th Anniversary of our formation. Over these five decades, we've transformed and adapted to the evolving needs of those we serve, always striving to uphold the safety, security, and well-being of every resident in Halton region.

2023 has been a year of reflection, achievements, and setting a course for the future. Through the dedicated efforts of over 1,100 sworn and civilian members of the Halton Regional Police Service, we have continued to focus on our commitment to community safety and well-being, and enhancing our relationships through increased collaboration and engagement. This commitment is further encapsulated in our ongoing work to develop the *2024-2027 Strategic Plan*, which will set forth measurable strategic objectives that will guide our Service's direction over the next four years. It will be published early 2024.

Our accomplishments this past year, as detailed within these pages, reflect a collective effort – not just of our members, but of the invaluable contributions from our partners and stakeholders. Together, we share a vision of a safer, inclusive Halton for all.

In the face of challenges, particularly the surge in auto thefts, our response has been robust and strategic. The formation of a dedicated Regional Auto Theft Task Force and innovative partnerships with car dealerships to install GPS tracking devices are testaments to our proactive and collaborative approach to community-responsive policing. These efforts, among others, highlight our commitment to tackling crime effectively and ensuring the safety of Halton's citizens.

Looking ahead, the implementation of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* will come into force on April 1, 2024. This Act will represent a significant change in policing, enhancing the responsibilities of the Halton Police Board. We look forward to implementing this new framework, which will underscore the importance of governance and civilian oversight, emphasizing a **One Team - People First** approach that is integral to our future success.

The Board has been working with Halton's community and stakeholder groups to ensure the upcoming *2024-2027 Strategic Plan* will include results-based objectives. They will be designed to achieve the highest standards in law enforcement and community engagement, emphasizing the importance of partnership, innovation, and a steadfast dedication to the well-being of both our members and the community.

As we look forward to commemorating our 50th Anniversary next year, we do so with a sense of pride in our past and an unwavering commitment to the future. These are not just milestones, but stepping stones towards a vision of excellence in community policing. The path ahead will require resilience, innovation, and continued collaboration. However, I am confident that, together, we will rise to meet these challenges, guided by our strategic objectives and an unyielding dedication to the Halton community.

On behalf of the Halton Police Board, I extend my deepest appreciation to all members of the Halton Regional Police Service, our community partners, and to the citizens of Halton region for their ongoing support and cooperation. Together, we will continue to build a safer and more inclusive community for all who call here home.

Jeff Knoll
Chair, Halton Police Board

Chair Jeff Knoll



Ingrid Hann
Vice-Chair



Curt Allen
Provincial Appointee



Navdeep Dhaliwal
Provincial Appointee



Jane McKenna
Provincial Appointee



Lisa Kearns
Regional Councillor



Clark Somerville
Regional Councillor



CHIEF'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Halton Regional Police Service, I am pleased to present our *2023 Annual Report*.

This report reflects the goals outlined in our *2020-2023 Strategic Plan*. Included among them are an unwavering commitment to community safety and well-being, and enhancing relationships with those we serve through increased collaboration and engagement. Both are at the core of the re-envisioned *2024-2027 Strategic Plan* which will guide our Service's priorities for the next four years.

The achievements captured in this report are not only a testament to the efforts of our more than 1,100 sworn and civilian members; they are a result of contributions made by our valued partners and community members who share a vision of a safer and inclusive Halton for everyone.

While there was much to celebrate in this regard, 2023 was not without its challenges. The years following the COVID-19 pandemic have been undoubtedly difficult for law enforcement as we, and others across Ontario, continued to record increases in many categories of crime.

Notable among them was the surge in auto theft occurrences, which rose in Halton from over 1,300 in 2022 to more than 1,550 this past year. This increasingly bold crime transcends our region and we, along with our partner police agencies and all levels of government, continued to devote considerable resources to investigating and disrupting the organized crime groups behind it.

Here in Halton, this included establishing a dedicated Regional Auto Theft Task Force, as well as working with car dealerships to install GPS tracking devices in vehicles to assist in their recovery.

As a result of these and other measures, numerous individuals were arrested and hundreds of vehicles were seized. Read about these efforts on page 12.

Considerable funds and supports were also allocated to the prevention, response, and investigation of carjackings, robberies, and break and enters, which likewise saw upticks in reporting this past year.

Our Service recognizes the impact that post-pandemic challenges and the economy had taken on the health and well-being of those we serve, and we continued to devote significant resources to help address issues such as intimate partner violence, mental health, alcohol and drug misuse, and homelessness.

Our milestone 50th Anniversary in 2024 will be an opportunity to reflect on our history and achievements, and to look to the future with purpose and optimism. Ensuring we are equipped to meet the ever-evolving and complex challenges of policing will require an ongoing **One Team - People First** approach to everything we do. As we continue to welcome record numbers of new members to our organization, we are implementing internal programs and processes that have made us one of *Greater Toronto Top 2024 Employers* and have positioned us to serve the people of Halton first and better.

By leveraging partnerships, harnessing technology, and employing best practices in recruitment and retention, we are dedicated to maintaining our reputation as a leader in policing innovation and excellence now and for the next 50 years.

Stephen J. Tanner
Chief of Police



Chief Stephen Tanner

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to be 'S. Tanner', located below the name.

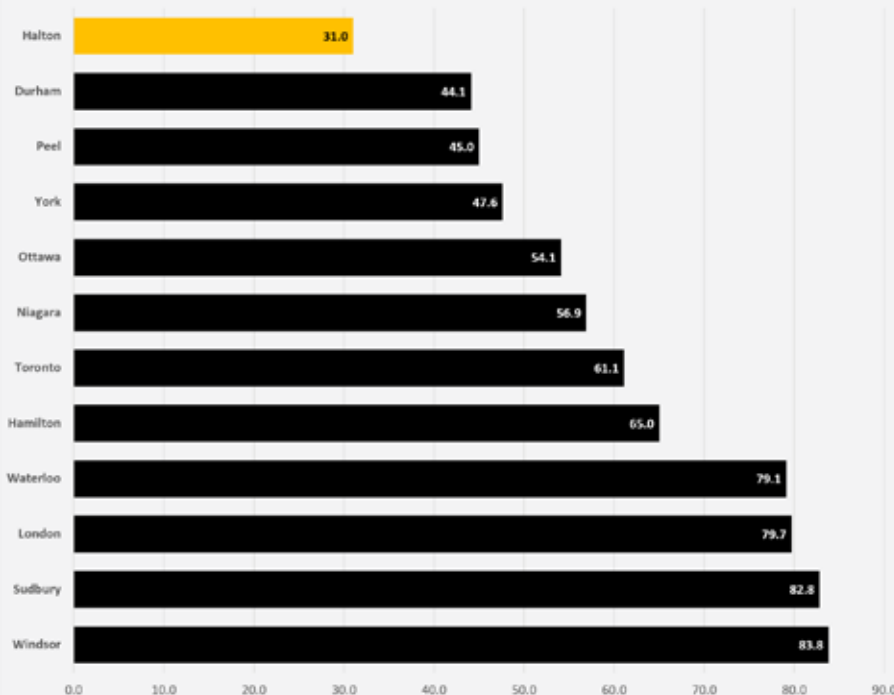
YOUR COMMUNITY. OUR SERVICE.

The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) is the ninth largest police service in Ontario, proudly providing frontline and investigative support to more than 672,000 area residents. Our jurisdiction is the fastest-growing region in the GTA and is expected to reach a population of 897,000 by 2031.

Our Service is recognized as one of the leading police agencies in the areas of diversity and community safety and well-being initiatives, and remains committed to ensuring that Halton is even safer tomorrow than it is today. Working in partnership with the communities we serve, we continue to align our efforts with the Themes and Goals outlined in our *Strategic Plan*.

Crime Severity Index (CSI) Rating (2022)

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 seriousness of the crimes committed.



2023 Regional and Police Statistics



Population
672,200



Operating Budget
\$186,039,009



Calls for Service
138,895



Crime Clearance Rate
38.3%



Officer to Citizen Ratio
1 : 853

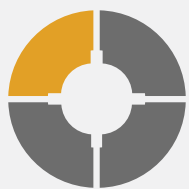


Staffing Levels
Sworn: 788
Civilian: 325
Cadet: 14

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

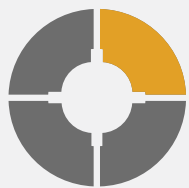
To showcase how each initiative, project or activity featured in this report aligns with the *Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWB)* and Halton Regional Police Service's Operational Priorities, each article includes a key in the top-left or right-hand corner. This key outlines which pillar(s) of CSWB and which priority item(s) the article aligns with.

CSWB Pillars



Incident Response

Circumstances that require intervention by first responders such as police, paramedics, and other crisis-driven services in the human services system.



Risk Intervention

Identifying and responding to situations of acutely-elevated risk and mobilizing immediate interventions before an emergency or crisis-driven response is required.



Prevention

Applying proactive strategies to known and identified risks that are likely to result in harm to individuals and/or communities if left unmitigated.



Social Development

Addressing the underlying causes of social issues through upstream approaches that promote and maintain individual and community wellness.

HRPS Priorities



Crime Trends

Reduce crime trends in priority areas across the region through targeted information sharing, cross-agency partnerships, and public education.



Priority Populations

Enhance the consistency, accuracy, and timeliness of response to priority populations by equipping members with the tools to support a risk-based, appropriate response by the right provider.



Traffic Safety and Enforcement

Actively engage the public through new and proven techniques to raise awareness of traffic safety and enforcement issues to improve transparency and mitigate risk to drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.



Mental Health and Addictions

Proactively identify and work closely with partners to provide appropriate, efficient, and effective response to individuals living with mental health concerns and addictions.

More information about the *CSWB Plan* can be found at [haltonpolice.ca](https://www.haltonpolice.ca).



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Our Service recognizes the profound impact this tragic crime had on the entire community. We are exceptionally proud of the work undertaken by our officers to help bring justice to the victims and restore residents' sense of security.

Chief Stephen Tanner

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JUSTICE SERVED

Rare guilty plea in high-profile, double-murder case a testament to the work of tenacious investigators.

In the early morning hours of February 17, 2021, the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) responded to a Georgetown residence following reports of a fire. Members of the Halton Hills Fire Department were already on-scene managing the blaze which had fully engulfed the home.

Two bodies were discovered in the remnants and were soon identified as the homeowners, a 59-year-old male and his 56-year-old wife. Results of autopsies conducted by the Office of the Coroner General and Forensic Pathology Services ultimately determined that foul play was involved prior to the fire being set and that the cause of death for both victims was homicide.

Members of our Homicide Unit immediately commenced an investigation. Working in close concert with Halton Hills Fire Department, the Office of the Fire Marshal, and with support from members of the public, investigators were able to collect compelling and significant evidence that led to the identification of a suspect.

On March 29, 2023, our Service arrested a 27-year-old male who had previously worked with the female victim. He was subsequently charged with two counts of First-Degree Murder and one count of Arson.

Following the arrest, and in the months leading up to the trial, our Homicide Unit continued to gather evidence to bolster the Crown's case and help secure a conviction. In December 2023, the accused appeared in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in Milton where

he pled guilty to one count of First-Degree Murder and one count of Second-Degree Murder. He was sentenced to life imprisonment without eligibility for parole for 25 years.

Securing guilty pleas in murder cases is not only rare and an arduous process; it is a testament to the tenacity of our Homicide Unit members and our partners who gathered overwhelming evidence that was simply too compelling for the accused to refute. In doing so, they achieved justice for the victims in this tragic case and restored a sense of security to affected community members.

Scan the QR code below to access our *True Blue: Cold Case* podcast released in 2023 to learn more about how our officers investigate unsolved homicides:



Partner Agencies



PUMPING THE BRAKES

Efforts to combat auto theft continue to ramp-up in Halton and beyond.

While it may seem that the auto theft epidemic gripping this region and communities across Ontario appeared overnight, its origins can be traced to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was during this time that global vehicle supply chain shortages, coupled with newer technology, came to be exploited by criminal organizations as a revenue generator.

Reprogramming thefts commonly target newer push-start models. They are committed by criminals who record an automobile's Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), which is visible through the windshield, typically use force to gain entry, and access the diagnostic port to reprogram a blank key fob. Within seconds, thieves can start a vehicle and begin its journey (often to the Port of Montréal) for shipment overseas to Europe or Africa.

Last year alone, 1,701 vehicles were stolen in Halton; more than 780 vehicles, some of which were stolen from other regions, were recovered.

While locating stolen vehicles can be like finding a needle in a haystack, the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) remains committed to battling this priority community safety issue.

Regional Auto Theft Task Force

In January 2023, our Service assigned seven experienced investigators to a newly-created, internal Regional Auto Theft Task Force. Its mandate is to conduct collaborative and targeted auto theft enforcement in Halton and the Greater Toronto Area.

One of the key investigations undertaken by task force members began that August. It centred around a Québec resident temporarily living in Milton who was believed to be involved in organized crime.

Using a number of investigative techniques, officers were able to identify several locations where stolen vehicles were being taken to “cool off”. After securing search warrants, the task force was able to recover 25 stolen vehicles. Four individuals were arrested in Oakville and charged with a combined total of 29 criminal offences.

Joint Efforts

By its very nature, auto theft transcends jurisdictional borders and requires an all-hands-on-deck approach to tackling it. Alongside fellow police leaders, government officials, and representatives from the manufacturing sector, our Service was proud to participate in the inaugural Auto Theft Summit hosted by Peel Regional Police in March 2023.

The event garnered considerable media and public attention, and led the Solicitor General to commit \$51 million in support of new measures to help police identify and dismantle organized auto crime. The funding was announced at an event hosted by our Service at Headquarters in May 2023.

To round out the year, our investigators joined police agencies operating across Ontario at the Port of Montréal in December to assist Canada Border Services Agency in searching shipping containers. The blitz resulted in the recovery of hundreds of stolen vehicles destined for shipment abroad.

For the latest on auto theft





To date, our Regional Auto Theft Task Force alone has arrested more than 60 people, laid over 310 criminal charges, and recovered more than 780 stolen vehicles valued at an estimated \$54 million.



UPPING THE ANTE

HRPS joins GTA partners in establishing dedicated Joint Task Force to curb dramatic rise in carjackings.

In February 2023, two males with an extensive history of property crime and dangerous driving carried out a daytime crime spree in Milton. The suspects drove a stolen truck throughout the town at a high rate of speed and onto a public school's playground where children played nearby. They also caused three separate motor vehicle collisions before fleeing from police. Shortly after, the suspects pulled into a grocery store plaza and carjacked a female victim by forcibly dragging her from her vehicle. The carjacking was video recorded by a witness, uploaded to social media, and went viral across Canada.

Together, with the support of the community, our investigators in 1 District (Milton) were able to quickly identify the suspects. Although both were arrested and charged in the weeks that followed, stories like this have become all too familiar in Ontario. There were a total of 18 carjackings in Halton in 2023, up from 16 in 2022, and just two in 2021.

Carjackings are a type of auto theft that involves violence, or the threat of violence, to take an occupied vehicle by force. The levels of aggression and intimidation occurring during these acts, and the increasing number of incidents involving firearms, represent a significant threat to public safety.

In many cases, thieves are stealing vehicles for use in other violent crimes or are shipping them overseas for resale for well below their value. Alternatively, vehicle identification numbers (VIN) are altered and the vehicles sold domestically.

Provincial Carjacking Joint Task Force (PCJTF)

To combat the rise in these violent incidents, not only in Halton but across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), our Service joined forces with the Ontario Provincial Police, Toronto Police Service, Durham Regional Police Service, Peel Regional Police, York Regional Police, and other external agencies, including the Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario (CISO), in September 2023 in the creation of a dedicated Provincial Carjacking Joint Task Force (PCJTF). Its initial six-month aim was to coordinate law enforcement efforts and disrupt the criminal networks responsible for these violent and high-risk vehicle thefts within the GTA. All carjackings reported by members of the PCJTF were jointly investigated by the respective service and the group. The PCJTF was made possible, in part, through funding provided by the Ministry of the Solicitor General, with support from Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario.

In its first four months alone, the PCJTF arrested 89 people, laid 554 Criminal Code charges, and recovered 109 stolen vehicles.

Closer to home, our Service continues to implement a number of grassroots efforts to help prevent such incidents from occurring, including town hall meetings and ongoing information-sharing through our news and social media channels.

Partner Agencies



SUPPLY AND DEMAND

How cutting the pipeline of illicit drugs with ties to organized crime is keeping Halton safer for everyone.

Sadly, Halton is not immune to the impacts of the opioid crisis that continue to grip communities nationwide.

In addition to supporting those affected and their families through our Overdose Coordination Group, and in partnership with area organizations, the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) devotes substantial resources to removing the supply of dangerous drugs from our streets.

The year 2023 was a notable one for our Regional Drug and Organized Crime Unit (RDOCU). Members of this specialized team undertook a number of high-profile investigations which resulted in the arrest of dozens of individuals, the seizure of millions in cash, and the removal of massive quantities of illegal drugs from local, regional, and national supply chains. Key among them were:

Project Bora (February)

With a focus on two suspects who were alleged to be facilitating the movement of cocaine throughout Southern Ontario, RDOCU members executed two search warrants in Scarborough and Etobicoke.

Seized: 23 kg of cocaine.

Project Guild (March)

Leveraging a variety of investigative techniques over a six-month period, our officers dismantled a network of criminals who were distributing illicit drugs throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. The execution of search warrants in Mississauga and Milton, as well as for two motor vehicles, led to the arrest of four individuals with links to organized crime.

Seized: 15 kg of cocaine, 1.6 kg of fentanyl, 1.1 kg of ketamine, 0.5 kg of MDMA, 0.3 kg of heroin, and cutting agents. **Total street value:** \$1 million.





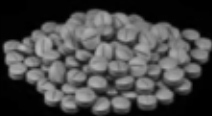
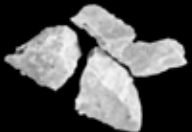

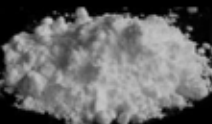


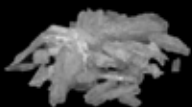

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Given the health and safety dangers associated with drugs in Halton and surrounding communities, our Service will continue to vigorously pursue those who manufacture, traffic, and distribute them.

Deputy Chief Jeff Hill

”

Summary of Drugs Seized: 2023

 <p>Cocaine 196.194 kg Wholesale: \$9,598,806 / Street: \$22,562,345</p>	 <p>MDMA (Ecstasy) 4.670 kg Wholesale: \$66,009 / Street: \$364,229</p>
 <p>Crack Cocaine 0.179 kg Wholesale: \$11,032 / Street: \$21,686</p>	 <p>Oxycodone 7280 tablets Street: \$436,785</p>
 <p>Fentanyl 3.663 kg Wholesale: \$369,428 / Street: \$1,087,970</p>	 <p>Ketamine 0.594 kg Wholesale: \$27,243 / Street: \$23,764</p>
 <p>Heroin 0.489 kg Wholesale: \$38,923 / Street: \$141,289</p>	 <p>Cannabis 153.142 kg & 8,000 plants Wholesale: \$612,567 / Street: \$13,531,417</p>
 <p>Methamphetamine 3.071 kg Wholesale: \$56,774 / Street: \$343,952</p>	 <p>Psilocybin (Mushrooms) 92.778 kg Wholesale: \$368,144 / Street: \$927,783</p>

Total Amount Seized: **458 kg / 8,000 plants / 7280 tablets** Total Wholesale Value: **\$11,171,062** Total Street Value: **\$39,507,112**

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Project Spectre (May)

Over the course of several months, our investigators, along with Hamilton Police Service, Peel Regional Police, and the Ontario Provincial Police, identified several individuals who were suspected of importing firearms for illicit sale and distributing illegal drugs across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. A total of 10 search warrants were executed, which resulted in the dismantling of an active psilocybin lab and the arrest of six individuals.

Seized: four handguns, one assault rifle, a prohibited, 50-round drum magazine, 4.5 kg of cocaine, 4 kg of MDMA, 1.9 kg of packaged psilocybin, 82 kg of growing psilocybin, 71 kg of marijuana, 273 kg of cannabis edibles, indicia of trafficking, and \$260,000. **Total street value:** > \$1 million.

Project Atlas (August)

In partnership with police agencies in Ontario and Western Canada, our Service arrested and charged four individuals who were transporting large volumes of cocaine and currency across provincial borders using highly-sophisticated vehicular hydraulic traps with a variety of drug and conspiracy-related offences.

Seized: 126 kg of cocaine, more than \$1.2 million, cutting agents, cocaine stamping plates, and other indicia of high-level drug trafficking. **Total street value:** > \$10 million.



Project Wander (September)

Through this multi-jurisdictional investigation into the distribution of fentanyl and methamphetamine, our officers obtained search warrants for a Mississauga condominium and storage facility, leading to the seizure of numerous illicit drugs and the arrest of two individuals on charges related to their alleged involvement.

Seized: one handgun, 1.5 kg of methamphetamine, 1 kg of purple fentanyl, oxycodone pills, and Canadian currency.

Learn how to protect yourself and others from drug poisoning:



HOUSE OF CARDS

Brazen residential break-and-enter network toppled by large-scale, joint police operation.

In January 2023, the attention of the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) was drawn to four individuals who had committed a widespread series of residential break and enters across Oakville, the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), and Southern Ontario.

The brazen criminal network was operating in an organized manner and had soon amassed dozens of occurrences a month. In some instances, the front doors of occupied residences had been kicked down in broad daylight. In others, the suspects fled from police, leaving few investigative leads behind.

In May 2023, in an effort to identify those responsible for what would eventually total more than 150 break and enters provincially, the HRPS hosted a meeting with eight other Ontario police agencies. The meeting resulted in the creation of **Project Splinter**, with HRPS taking the lead.

Over the next four months, investigators collected extensive data from dozens of judicial authorizations, broad canvassing, and intelligence gathering, which led to the identification of all four suspects by September 2023. Each had an extensive criminal history, which included break and enters, armed robberies, and other violent crimes.

With the identity of the individuals known, officers were subsequently able to pinpoint their residences, telephone numbers, and vehicles, setting the stage for members of our Service to initiate surveillance operations. Additional valuable evidence was obtained as a result.

In November 2023, search warrants were executed in Mississauga, Brampton, Hagersville, and Niagara, leading to the recovery of cash, stolen luxury items, and two, high-end, stolen vehicles.

Due to the sophistication of the group and tactics they employed to evade police capture – some of which put the safety of the public at risk – Project Splinter investigators worked together to develop and execute a multi-jurisdictional arrest plan that involved 90 officers from four additional police services.

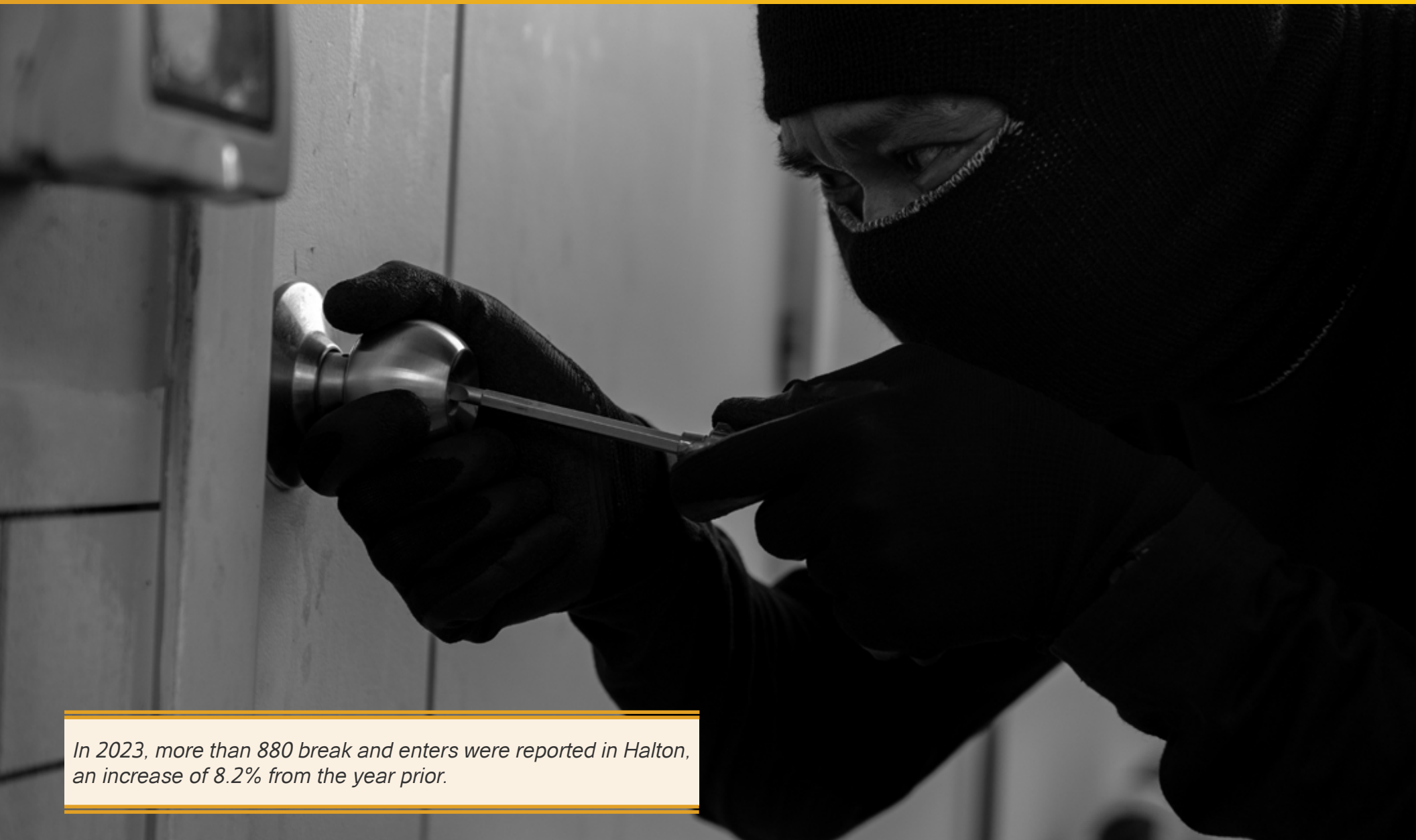
Information and updates on the case were shared with local media and on our Service's social media platforms in the days and weeks that followed, which helped secure the arrest of all four suspects by mid-December 2023. The group now faces a combined total of more than 70 charges in relation to 45 residential break and enters, including 13 in Oakville and Milton.

For additional information on break and enters, as well as valuable prevention tips:



Partner Agencies





In 2023, more than 880 break and enters were reported in Halton, an increase of 8.2% from the year prior.





AUTO-CON

Project Luxe dismantles international, high-end vehicle fraud ring.

While the epidemic of auto theft continues to generate extensive media and public attention (see page 12), the lesser-publicized but significant issue of vehicle-related fraud remains on the radar of the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) and law enforcement agencies at all levels.

In Summer 2023, our Regional Fraud Unit began investigating a group of individuals who were impersonating representatives of a legitimate, high-end vehicle retailer. The group attended several dealerships throughout the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and Southern Ontario where they used exceptionally high-quality counterfeit documents to obtain luxury vehicles. Once in their possession, the vehicles were modified. Many were destined for export overseas.

As the scope of the investigation widened, members of our Regional Fraud Unit established **Project Luxe**. Working in partnership with the Ontario Provincial Police, Toronto Police Service, the Department of Homeland Security, the New York and New Jersey Port Authority Police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, our combined efforts led to the successful identification of members of an organized crime group and established connections to a larger, international criminal distribution network.

A number of luxury vehicles valued at more than \$1.6 million were subsequently intercepted and recovered throughout Ontario and the United States. Notably, among them were a 2023 Maybach GLS600 and 2020 Lamborghini Urus (each worth more than \$300,000), a 2021 Ferrari F8 Spider (valued at \$600,000), and a 2023 Porche 911 Turbo (worth more than \$225,000).

In November 2023, search warrants were carried out at locations throughout the GTA, resulting in the seizure of evidence linking the group members to the alleged offences. This included equipment used to replicate security features for various methods of secure payment.

Three men, including a 27-year-old from Oakville, were arrested and charged with Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000, and/or Fraud Over \$5,000.

Preventing Vehicle Sale Fraud

- Exercise common sense and good judgement when dealing with prospective buyers and throughout the sale process. Be wary of those offering to purchase sight unseen.
- Be mindful that scammers often use high-pressure tactics to secure a sale before sellers can exercise their due diligence.
- Verify the buyer's identity with a driver's licence and one other form of identification that includes their name and address.
- Secure payment before transferring ownership, if possible.
- Verify payment with the issuing bank before accepting it. Although your financial institution may accept a cheque or money order, payments may not clear for several days or weeks.

Partner Agencies



NO ONE IS ALONE

Working together remains key to reducing incidents and harms caused by intimate partner violence.

Intimate partner violence (IPV), also known as domestic violence, includes the use or threat of physical or sexual force, including emotional or psychological abuse, or harassing/threatening behaviour directed between partners with whom there is (or has been) an intimate relationship.

IPV impacts people from all walks of life, regardless of age, socio-economic status, culture, race, or gender.

Know that if you or someone you know has or is experiencing IPV, it does not define you or them. In fact, it has unfortunately become so prevalent that, in 2023, it was declared an epidemic in Halton. Sadly, cases are expected to continue to rise.

IPV crimes can range in severity but are often characterized by a pattern of assaultive and/or controlling behaviour, and sometimes include financial control and social isolation.

Addressing the root cause(s) that can lead to IPV, and offering trauma-informed support to those experiencing it and their families, are shared responsibilities. Our Service is honoured to work closely with various community agencies, including Halton Women's Place (HWP), to help people identify IPV, become safe, and access the resources they need to help them or a loved one on their journey to recovery.

In 2023, our Service was pleased to welcome a dedicated member from HWP to our Intimate Partner Violence Unit (IPVU) for one day a week to offer timely resources and support to survivors, deepen our mutual relationship, and foster further collaboration.

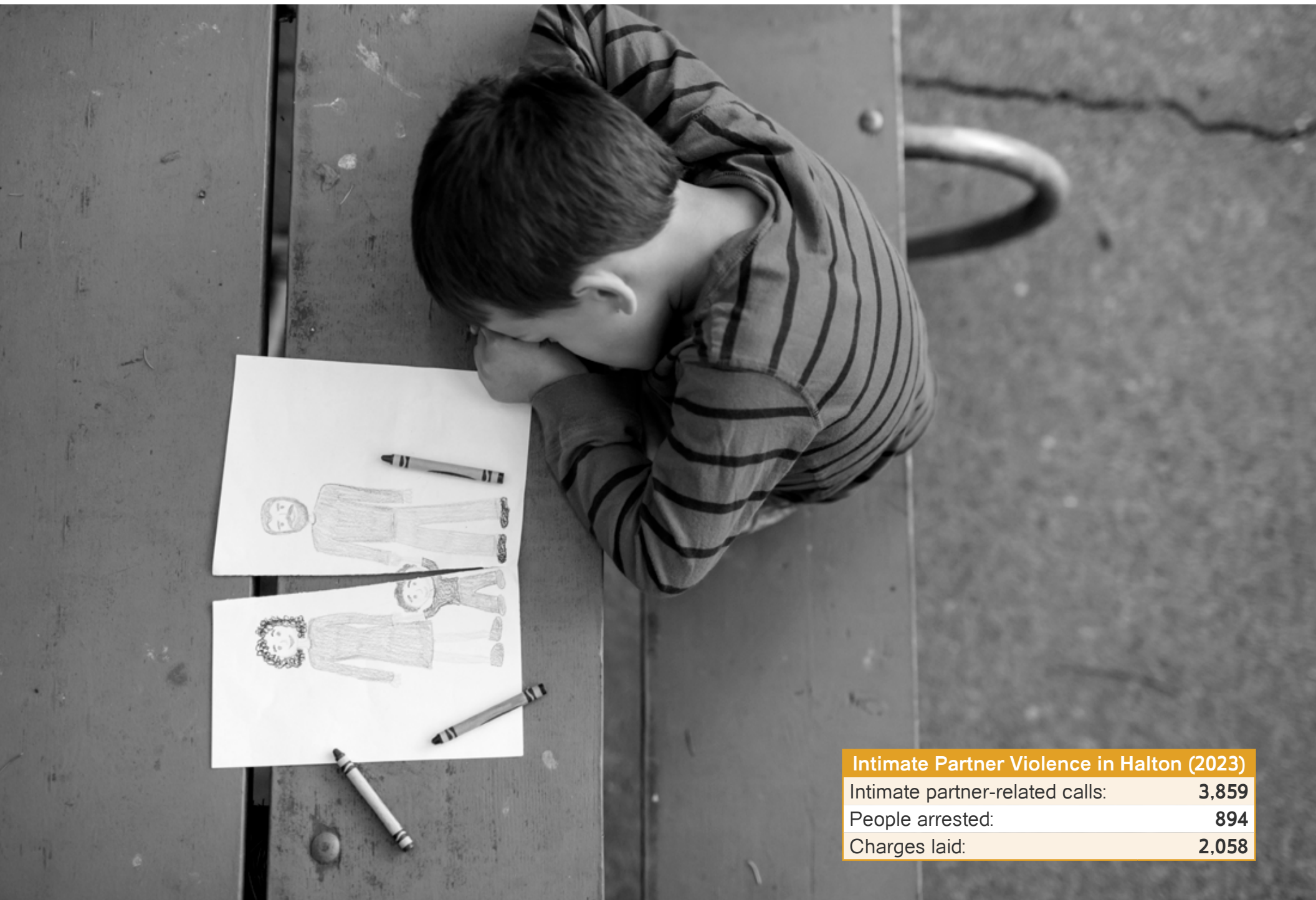
In September, our officers were proud to support HWP's *Hope in Every Step*, an annual walk in Burlington and Milton which strives to end violence against women and show solidarity with those affected by gender-based violence in the region.

Our Service also endorsed the installation of commemorative purple benches in Halton and remained an engaged member of several IPV-centred groups, including the Halton Violence Prevention Council, the Domestic Violence Courts Advisory Council, and the new Halton Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault, Human Trafficking Hub.

Through further education, partnership, and enforcement, our Service aims to prevent IPV incidents from occurring, to secure justice when it does, and to continue offering meaningful support to those whose lives are often forever altered as a result of being a primary, secondary, or tertiary IPV survivor.

Scan the QR code below for more information and IPV resources:





Intimate Partner Violence in Halton (2023)	
Intimate partner-related calls:	3,859
People arrested:	894
Charges laid:	2,058

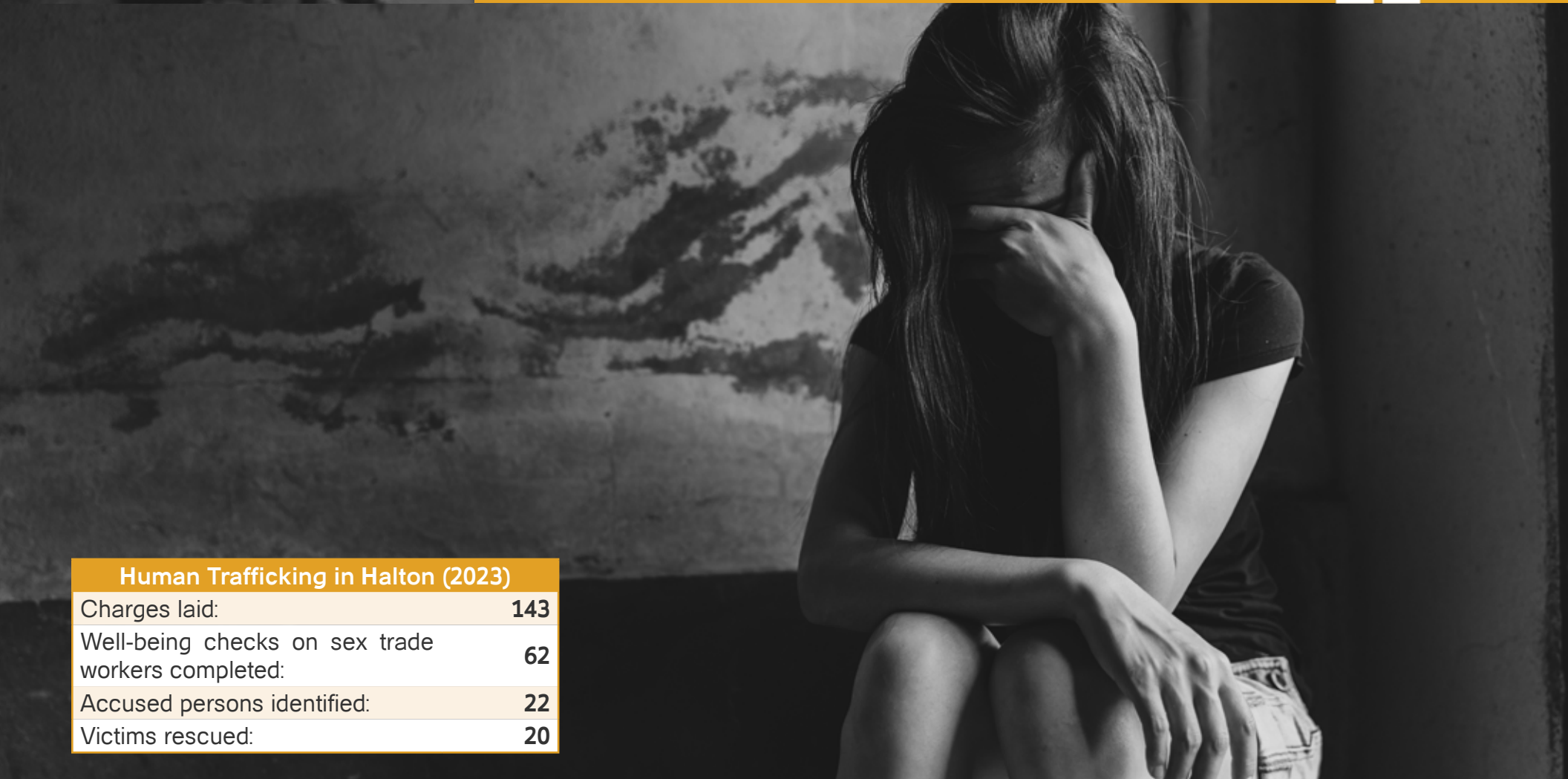


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Human trafficking is hidden beneath the surface but exists in communities all over Ontario. It is an alarming and reprehensible crime for which we will continue to hold predators accountable.

Inspector Dave Costantini

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Human Trafficking in Halton (2023)

Charges laid:	143
Well-being checks on sex trade workers completed:	62
Accused persons identified:	22
Victims rescued:	20

EMPOWERING SURVIVORS, PROSECUTING PREDATORS

How investigations like Project Lonestar are tracking down human traffickers and freeing survivors.

Human traffickers are notorious for exploiting people – usually women and children, for gain. According to the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline, survivors are often forced to perform sexual services or labour through force, coercion, deception, and/or abuse of trust, power, or authority, which often results in significant physical, psychological, and emotional trauma to them.

While many people believe that human trafficking is an international, cross-border issue, the harsh reality is that this problem exists in our own backyard. As part of Halton Regional Police Service's (HRPS') continued efforts to empower survivors and bring justice to those who cause them harm, our Human Trafficking (HT) Unit spearheaded **Project Lonestar**.

For two days in November 2023, members of our HT Unit executed the second phase of a proactive sting which sought to identify and arrest offenders who were seeking females for sexual services, despite knowing they were just 15 years old. As a result of their efforts, six individuals were arrested and charged with Communicating for the Purpose of Obtaining for Consideration the Sexual Services of a Person Under the Age of 18.

In a media release issued by our Service at the time, then Inspector Dave Costantini, who oversaw our HT Unit said, "Our Human Trafficking Strategy mirrors our National and Provincial Plans, taking an enhanced approach. We will continue to implement proactive

and preventative measures to identify, prosecute, and hold those who engage in predatory victimization of our most vulnerable accountable."

Project Lonestar was the second of its kind undertaken by HRPS in as many years to target those who are willing to obtain sexual services from children. A year earlier, our Service conducted **Project Embark**, a similar three-day operation that also resulted in the identification, arrest, and charges laid against six individuals.

We're Here to Help

If you are a victim of human trafficking, or if you suspect someone is being trafficked, we urge you to call 9-1-1 or the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010.

For additional information and resources, scan the QR code:



NO STATUTE OF LIMITATION

Disclosures by multiple survivors result in sexual assault charges against retired elementary school teacher for incidents spanning the 1980s.

Sexual assault is described as 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.

In June 2022, a male informed the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) that he had been sexually assaulted by his female teacher while he was a grade 8 student at a public school in Burlington in 1982 and 1983. Members of our Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Unit (CASA) launched an investigation. With the help of a disclosure witness (someone whom the survivor confided in), officers identified a second male who had been sexually assaulted by the same teacher between 1983 and 1984.

Given the accused's access to children over the years as an employee of two different school boards in neighbouring jurisdictions, our CASA and Media Relations Officers worked closely with local media outlets to raise awareness about the case and to encourage survivors, witnesses, or anyone with information to come forward. As a result of these efforts and publicity surrounding the case, an additional four survivors contacted investigators. This included a male teenager who had been sexually assaulted while attending the now-retired teacher's Burlington home to play music with her.

A total of five counts of Sexual Assault and two counts of Acts of Gross Indecency* have been laid against the now 86-year-old Burlington woman since February 2023 for offences that took place between 1982 and 1987.

The clock on reporting sexual assault never stops ticking. This case is a powerful reminder that the passage of time does not end our search for justice for survivors of this deeply personal crime.

Inspector Chris Newcombe

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.

Additional information about our victim-centric approach to sexual assault and the pivotal role our Victim Services Unit plays in supporting survivors is found on page 53.

**This charge was laid as the offence(s) took place prior to the statutory amendments to the Criminal Code in 1983.*





IT'S A SMALL WORLD

Milton teacher facing up to 10 years in prison for child exploitation, thanks - in part - to resourceful U.K. teens.

It is a troubling and unfortunate fact that cases of internet child exploitation continue to rise in Halton and across the globe. The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) is dedicated to protecting those most at risk as well as ensuring those responsible are brought to justice.

To help accomplish this and to address the transborder nature of this abhorrent crime, our Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit continues to work with our law enforcement and judicial counterparts as members of the Provincial Strategy Team. The team, which has been in operation since 2006, aims to deliver a coordinated response to internet-based offences against children in Ontario and beyond.

In December 2022, a 16-year-old female attended 2 District in Oakville after receiving a social media message from two unknown females in the United Kingdom. Prior to reaching out to the teenager, the British youths had been interacting with a Canadian male through a popular social media platform. The man, who called himself "Mr. Z.", shared that he was a school teacher and confessed that he had sexually assaulted some of his students. He also shared a profile photo of a female student he taught and was currently interested in.

The observant British teenagers noted a social media username on the photo and took it upon themselves to initiate contact with the Canadian female via the same online platform. Once connecting with her, they relayed the information they received from the man, prompting her (the Canadian teenager) to report the incident to the HRPS.

Members of our ICE Unit immediately commenced an investigation. Supported in large part by evidence collected from the females, and with search warrants in hand, officers entered the Ancaster home of a 44-year-old male and arrested him for Possession of Child Pornography. Numerous devices were seized, leading to countless hours of forensic analysis.

Working alongside national and international law enforcement agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, the male was later charged with an additional 35 criminal offences relating to child sexual abuse material. A total of ten victims were identified across several Canadian provinces as well as in the United States and the United Kingdom. The youngest was just eight years old and suffered significant trauma.

The man was remanded in custody and later pled guilty. He now faces up to 10 years in prison.

Learn how to keep yourself and your loved ones safe online:



CRIME DOESN'T PAY

Combined police effort puts an end to serial, helmet-wearing bandit responsible for robbing 15 GTA banks.

Between August 12 and October 5, 2023, 15 banks affiliated with five different financial institutions across multiple regions were robbed by a man donning a motorcycle helmet who, in some cases, wielded a sharp-edged weapon.

Three of the incidents occurred in Halton, five in Peel, four in Hamilton, with the remaining three occurring in Toronto, Guelph, and Kitchener-Waterloo.

During three of the robberies, the accused benefitted from the assistance of two accomplices.

A combined total of \$50,000 was stolen over the two-month period.

In response, and given the multi-jurisdictional nature of the spree, Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) joined forces with Peel Regional Police, Hamilton Police Service, Toronto Police Service, Guelph Police Service, and Waterloo Regional Police Service. Through collective investigation, information sharing, and approximately 250 hours of surveillance, officers were able to determine that the accused travelled to two specific locations in Hamilton following each of the 15 robberies.

On October 6, 2023, members of the HRPS 2 District (Oakville) Robbery Team undertook surveillance in downtown Hamilton. There, they observed a motorcycle with a stolen licence plate affixed to it which belonged to the suspect and had been involved in three robberies in Peel the day prior. Investigators continued to surveil the accused, following him to an apartment building located in the city's west-end.

Four days later, with the assistance of our Mobile Surveillance Unit and Tactical Response Unit, the accused was taken into custody. Search warrants were later executed at his home, resulting in the seizure of the motorcycle and other items in relation to the robberies.

A 28-year-old man from Hamilton was subsequently charged with 29 offences, eight of which stemmed from incidents that took place in Halton. They included:

- Robbery (3 counts)
- Disguise with Intent (3 counts)
- Possession of Stolen Property
- Possession of Firearm Ammunition Contrary to Prohibition Order

The identity of a second accused was also established and charges were later laid against him by Hamilton Police Service.

Subscribe to receive our latest news updates directly via email:



Partner Agencies







“

While many people think of fraud as a cyber-related crime, in many cases, victims come to personally know the individual or individuals committing it against them.

Deputy Chief Jeff Hill

”



TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Tiny home and illegitimate investment schemes reveal the scope of fraud in Halton.

This past year, more than 1,550 frauds were reported to the Halton Regional Police Service, a rise of 10.1% from 2022.

As the following cases illustrate, frauds and scams take many forms, and it is imperative that members of the public remain vigilant in their day-to-day interactions and transactions to avoid becoming victims to these increasingly-common crimes.

Tiny Homes, Big Opportunity for Fraudster

In late 2022 and early 2023, members of our Regional Fraud Unit began an investigation into a tiny home manufacturing business after several customers reported making substantial payments for houses that were never completed.

To appear legitimate, the company began construction on two tiny homes which multiple victims were led to believe were theirs. As a result, the buyers continued to make payments as scheduled and agreed upon. When the homes were not delivered, the victims were met with excuses aimed at soliciting additional funds.

Further analysis of the builder's financial records and transactions uncovered additional irregularities and victims.

All told, the fraudulent scheme netted more than \$1 million from unsuspecting buyers, with individual losses ranging from \$10,000 to more than \$200,000.

In Spring 2023, the business' owner, who had a history of convictions in Halton region, was charged with 15 counts of Fraud Over \$5,000.

Investors Lose Millions in Multi-Year, Energy Fund Scam

The year 2023 also saw the culmination of a three-year Regional Fraud Unit investigation into the activities of an Oakville-based, energy investment company.

Between 2017 and 2019, nearly \$5 million was loaned to the company by private investors to fund electrical generator installation projects. Investors were advised that insurance policies with their names on them guaranteed their loans when, in fact, coverage had never been put in place. The company also misled investors on the number of contracts that existed.

While private investors were initially paid interest on their loans, the payments made to them ceased in October 2019. Ultimately, and despite offers to exchange promissory notes for shares in another company, the investors were never repaid their loans.

In June 2023, the owner of the company, a 65-year-old resident of Oakville and a 61-year-old insurance broker from Markham, were arrested and charged with multiple counts of Fraud Over \$5,000 and forgery-related offences.

For the latest information on frauds and tips on how to protect yourself:





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By turning in unwanted or unregistered firearms and weapons, the chance of them falling into the hands of criminals and being used in violent crimes is eliminated.

Superintendent Al Albano

”



Firearms and Weapons Amnesty Results (2023)

Firearms:	166
Rifles and shotguns (Non-restricted):	111
Handguns (Restricted):	14
Rifles/handguns (Prohibited):	7
BB/pellet/replica guns:	34

IN THE RIGHT HANDS

How our latest Amnesty Program is keeping firearms and weapons away from criminals.

While reported incidents of violent crime such as homicide, assault, and robbery decreased by close to seven per cent in 2023 (see page 56), a key focus of the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) remains eliminating dangerous weapons from local streets and neighbourhoods.

To help accomplish this, the HRPS introduced its latest **Firearms and Weapons Amnesty** on June 1, 2023. Led by our Property and Evidence Management Unit (PEMU), its goal was twofold: to educate members of the public about prohibited weapons, and to provide the opportunity for individuals and businesses to safely surrender firearms and weapons they no longer wished to possess without worry of facing criminal charges.

Our Amnesty Program was not associated with any government buyback program, nor was it intended to focus on lawful gun owners, hunters, sporting shooters, or gun enthusiasts.

In addition to traditional firearms and ammunition, any weapon that may pose a threat to public safety and well-being was also eligible to be surrendered under the Amnesty. These items included imitation firearms and air guns, switchblades, butterfly knives, pepper spray, nunchucks, push daggers, crossbows, and batons. A comprehensive list of prohibited weapons and images of key items to assist with identification are available on our Service's website, [haltonpolice.ca](https://www.haltonpolice.ca).

Awareness of our Amnesty Program was also raised via letters sent to members of the business community, through our Service's social media channels (X, Facebook, and Instagram), and at a media event hosted at our Headquarters on October 2, 2023.

As a result of these efforts, and in its first seven months alone, PEMU officers attended more than 100 residences across Halton, collecting a total of 166 firearms, 60 weapons – some of which were prohibited – and 579 pounds of ammunition. In keeping with the spirit of the Amnesty, no charges were laid.

Due its success to date, the HRPS Amnesty Program has been extended indefinitely.

Members of the public are reminded to never bring any weapons or firearms to a police station, to never transport firearms or weapons in vehicles, nor to greet any officer at the door with a weapon. Officers assigned to retrieve weapon(s) as part of our Amnesty Program will provide police identification and will require a signature for destruction.

To learn more or to request an appointment online:



THE ABCs OF CMV

Making area roads safer through commercial motor vehicle education and enforcement.

Commercial trucking brings great value to Halton region and its residents, ensuring that we have access to goods we rely on daily. However, if not maintained and operated in compliance with the law, large trucks pose a serious public safety risk. When things go wrong, the sheer size and weight of these vehicles and the loads they carry can and does lead to catastrophic outcomes.

The *Highway Traffic Act* defines 32 different formats of trucks, each with varying levels of complexity. And unlike those operating passenger vehicles, commercial drivers are mandated to perform daily inspections on their trucks. Given that in 2023 the Halton Regional Police Service's Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit (CMV) conducted 848 inspections, removed 510 trucks from the road, and laid 1,452 charges, it is clear that continued education and enforcement must be prioritized to help keep the roads we all travel on safe.

Our CMV Unit is comprised of highly-trained officers who are required to complete up to four months of rigorous academic, practical, and in-field training. Their primary goal is to enhance road safety through compliance by identifying commercial vehicle defects and issuing offence notices, but they also believe that the number of safety deficiencies can be reduced and compliance increased through education and awareness.

CMV Education and Enforcement (2023)

Inspections conducted:	848
Vehicles removed from the road:	510
Charges laid:	1,452

Areas of enforcement include:

- Mechanical fitness
- Load security
- Weight of load versus capacity of truck
- Weight of load versus weight limit permitted via registration paid for by the owner to MTO
- Licencing, permits, and hours of service
- Driver sobriety, including drugs and alcohol

Each October, our Service is proud to host one of the largest annual CMV enforcement blitzes in Southern Ontario, in partnership with neighbouring police agencies. Our most recent crackdown, held on October 3 and 4, 2023 at Mohawk Park in Milton, resulted in 475 inspections, the removal of 149 trucks from the road for various defects, and 290 charges laid.

Follow @HRPSCMV on X for the latest on our CMV Unit's work.

To learn more about traffic safety in Halton region, scan the QR code below:





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It is imperative that operators and owners ensure that their vehicles are properly inspected and maintained. Credit to those in the industry who make this a daily priority. Safe trucks, safe drivers, and safe loads benefit everyone on the road.

Sergeant William Clayton

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In 2023, the HRPS responded to 146 hate-related incidents in Halton. Of those, 70 were identified as hate crimes, resulting in a total of 18 charges laid.

GROWING TOGETHER

Enhanced incident tracking and new opportunities for engagement aim to make Halton more welcoming for all.

The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) recognizes the profound impact that hate- and bias-motivated crime have, not only on a personal level, but on a community's collective sense of safety and well-being.

Our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Unit (EDI) takes the lead in guiding our Service's response to hate crimes, suspected hate crimes, and non-criminal hate incidents. They are also responsible for supporting internal and external groups as well as individuals to ensure everyone is treated with respect and dignity and is provided with equal opportunity and support that is free of bias, misogyny, discrimination, and racism.

No Case Left Behind

In 2023, our Service introduced a dedicated call heading for all reported occurrences with a clear or possible hate component. Training has been provided to members of our Communications Bureau as well as to frontline officers to promote consistent usage and tracking of hate-related incidents in the region.

To make certain that hate is not overlooked, details of every HRPS call for service are reviewed. Many are screened by our EDI Unit. From there, each occurrence is classified as a hate crime, hate incident or not hate-motivated using our newly-created Hate Crime Analytics tool. All incidents are forwarded to our Information and Records Services Bureau for records management.

Community Engagement Imperative

The HRPS acknowledges that much remains to be done to achieve equity and end hate, and that progress is only possible through close, ongoing collaboration with our diverse and valued community partners. As input from those we serve is vital to enhancing our methods and practices, we continued our longstanding tradition of hosting EDI roundtables this past year.

In 2024, members of the public will be invited to participate in a series of Diversity Engagement Tables (DETs). The events will be attended by our Chief, Deputy Chiefs, Senior Leadership, and EDI Unit, and will offer an opportunity to learn more about our ongoing work to combat hate as well as provide candid feedback to us on the effectiveness of strategies to address Halton's diverse and changing needs.

Halton: Growing Together

This past October, we were proud to host more than 200 community members and partners for our inaugural Halton: *Growing Together Symposium*. The daylong event included presentations from experts in the field and others which highlighted the importance of working together to address hate in a meaningful way. It also aimed to foster mutual understanding and inspire those in attendance to build a better future for the next generation by becoming leaders in preventing, reporting, and responding to acts of hate.

A second symposium, which will focus on conflict resolution as a path to living in harmony with one another, is planned for Fall 2024.

OPERATION NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Immersive pilot program was an opportunity for officers to learn about Indigenous culture and policing.

Indigenous Northern communities face unique challenges due to their history of oppression, remote locations, limited access to healthcare, education and resources, and desire to preserve culture. As a result, some communities in these areas struggle with economic and social issues on a greater scale than in Halton and elsewhere in Ontario.

As part of ongoing truth and reconciliation efforts and in recognition of the need for additional policing resources to support officers serving these communities, Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) partnered with Peel Regional Police (PRP), York Regional Police (YRP), and the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) on **Operation Northern Exposure**.

Operation Northern Exposure was a four-month outreach opportunity for officers from the three Southern Ontario services to join NAPS officers in the Northern communities of Kashechewan, Fort Albany, and Attawapiskat to learn about Indigenous culture, strengthen relationships between police and Indigenous people, and foster continued truth and reconciliation through exposure and understanding.

It began in late 2022 with a joint proposal developed by the HRPS and the NAPS for a ride-along program. Over time, Operation Northern Exposure expanded to include PRP and YRP, and evolved to undertake operational policing duties.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by leaders from each police service in late 2022, and between January 14 and April 4, 2023, a total of 36 officers, including 12 from HRPS, were stationed with NAPS for one week at a time. While deployed, the officers attended calls for service, engaged with community members, and were immersed in Northern and Indigenous culture and practices.

The unique partnership enabled participating officers to build positive relationships with their NAPS counterparts, listening and learning about what policing looks like in an Indigenous community, and forming bonds with band and local leaders. It also provided officers with valuable insights into Indigenous culture that have since shaped the work they undertake with their respective police services.

A video capturing the officers' experiences was later released by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police in honour of National Indigenous People's Day on June 21. It is available for viewing on YouTube on the OACPOfficial channel.

Planning for additional and longer deployments with expanded policing duties began in late 2023. The first of six, two-week assignments commenced in early 2024 and ran until the end of April.

Partner Agencies



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This program was everything that our police services envisioned and more. What began as a small step to better understand Indigenous culture and heritage became a gateway to deeper connection with those we serve, while there and since.

Deputy Chief Roger Wilkie

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CLEAN MACHINE

HRPS becomes one of the first police services in Ontario to introduce an all-electric truck to its fleet.





Our investment in all-electric vehicles not only reflects our Service's focus on policing innovation; it reaffirms our commitment to being a leader in the growing movement to ensure a sustainable future.

Civilian Director Paul Lavergne



Environmental sustainability has become an increasingly higher priority for individuals, organizations, and communities alike, both locally and globally.

For the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS), reducing our carbon footprint and contributing to a greener planet supports our goal of being a world-class law enforcement agency. From our facilities and fleet, to the technology and equipment used by our more than 1,100 sworn and civilian members, our Service is committed to continual innovation and progress on this important front.

In 2021, and in keeping with the ever-growing popularity of electric vehicles, a constable with our Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit (CMV) initiated a proposal to add an all-electric truck to their operations. Supported by Fleet Services, the goal was to not only reduce emissions, but to leverage the opportunity to assess evolving technologies in a policing environment while promoting sustainable organizational practices.

To realize this vision, Fleet Services worked closely with a leading automobile manufacturer to secure an order for and procure an all-electric, F-150 Lightning. With high market demand for the all-electric truck, the HRPS was proud to become one of the first police services in Ontario to take possession of one in June 2023.

To ensure that the infrastructure required to support the vehicle was in place, our Facilities Management Team coordinated the installation of our first level 2 charging station, located at Headquarters.

Following a short period of pre-deployment testing, our F-150 Lightning was fully commissioned and officially released into commercial vehicle operations in Fall 2023.

Since being added to our Service's fleet of more than 400 vehicles, our F-150 Lightning has supported our growing CMV Unit while decreasing demands on its primary, heavier-duty truck. In addition to increasing efficiencies, our new all-electric vehicle has contributed to reducing fuel consumption and our overall carbon footprint.

Importantly, the introduction of our F-150 Lightning has equipped our Service with the ability to measure and evaluate the real-world performance of all-electric vehicles in comparison to their fuel-based counterparts. The information gleaned from ongoing use of our F-150 Lightning in a policing environment – in particular, how it fares when it comes to the constant running of engines, computers, radios, and lighting, as well as charging in all environmental conditions, will prove invaluable when determining our level of long-term investment in the evolving technology.

Our Fleet Services team is comprised of five civilian members who are responsible for the management and safe operation of all vehicles in the HRPS fleet. This includes vehicle and equipment procurement, the assessment and installation of emergency equipment, Service branding, maintenance, and repairs.

ANYTHING BUT ANALYSIS PARALYSIS

How behind-the-scenes data and analytics are playing lead roles in solving crime and planning for the future.

While most members of the public associate policing with frontline operations, few, if any, realize that there are specialized teams behind the scenes who help make it all happen.

Halton Regional Police Service's Strategic Management Office (SMO) encompasses our Police Analytics Unit (PAU) and our Crime Analysis Unit (CAU). Both are at the forefront of ensuring that our Service has the technology and data we need to make informed decisions about emerging trends, priorities, resources, and response.

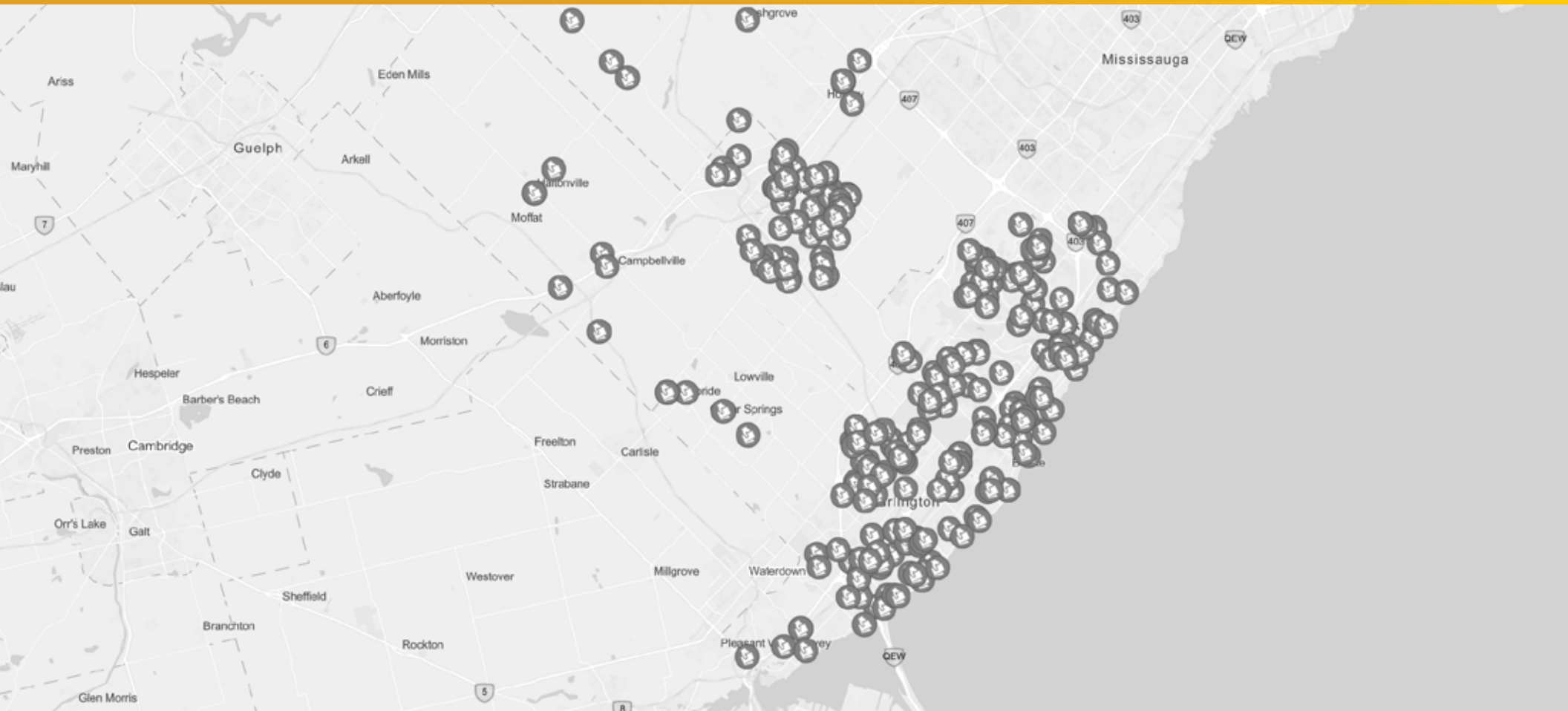
In 2023, we continued to work closely with local, national, and international investigative and frontline partners to add even better tools to our crimefighting arsenal. These tools provide our PAU and CAU with valuable data on crime statistics, trends, and other key information. The data is then extracted and uploaded to internally-accessible dashboards and can be shared with our law enforcement partners. This has proven to be tremendously helpful in improving the efficiency of our operations and investigations, especially for groups like our Auto Theft Task Force (see page 12). It has also been replicated by other police agencies.

Investments in technology and training further enhanced the work of our PAU and CAU this past year, enabling them to reach new heights in investigative support. This included introducing new software to quickly and easily analyze judicially-sanctioned cell phone tower data in major crime cases. The software makes it possible for detectives to identify promising investigative avenues early on, saving them hundreds of hours of work and allowing them to focus on other high-priority tasks.

Collaboration between our PAU and CAU also allowed us to fine-tune other internal tools that are used every day by members of all ranks and positions across our Service. Unit commanders and managers are now better equipped than ever before to allocate resources and deploy officers using heatmaps, as well as analyze crime trends based on real-time information and accurate, quality data.

In recognition of the tremendous value that our PAU and CAU bring to our Service and supporting the safety and well-being of the communities we serve, the decision was made in 2023 to expand both Units and hire additional Analysts.

Learn more about our organization and how to apply for these and other exciting civilian positions on page 54.



DESCRIPTION	DATE	LOCATION	CITY
THEFT OF VEHICLE	4/5/2023, 4:06 AM	HINCKS DR	MILTON
THEFT OF VEHICLE	4/5/2023, 4:25 AM	RIXON WY	MILTON
THEFT OF VEHICLE	4/5/2023, 11:00 AM	KERR ST	OAKVILLE



REAL-WORLD READY

New virtual training platform a game changer for police officers.

Like any industry, employees are only as good as their training. This is especially true for police officers who routinely encounter dynamic and, at times, life-or-death situations while performing their duties. To ensure that every member of the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) is equipped to succeed and be safe on the job, all sworn officers undergo what is known as annual 'Block Training'. Here, each officer is put through various exercises and assessments to hone their skills and learn new techniques.

In 2023, the HRPS added to its robust officer training program with the introduction of VirTra V300 Virtual Reality Training (VirTra). This leading-edge system unlocks more than 200 fixed and custom-made immersive scenarios to help officers practice their de-escalation, communication, and use-of-force skills in a controlled setting.

Surrounded almost 360-degrees by five large screens, officers are placed into realistic simulations that test their vigilance, ability to effectively engage with individuals and other officers, assess a range of personalities and sources of conflict, and respond appropriately. Each officer is required to successfully complete four randomly-selected scenarios as part of their Block Training.

Common scenarios faced by officers trained on VirTra include:

Person in crisis: Officers are called to assist an individual experiencing a mental health crisis and who is speaking incoherently. They must establish rapport with the person, attempt to de-escalate the situation, and determine what, if any, use-of-force is necessary.

Active threat: After shots are fired in an occupied building, officers must successfully navigate the premises while avoiding innocent bystanders. They ultimately encounter a suspect holding a hostage and must de-escalate, negotiate, and decide next steps in a matter of seconds.

Bank machine robbery: Police arrive to a pitch-black scene and locate a female using an ATM. A male armed with a knife pulls up in a vehicle and attempts to rob the woman. Officers must intervene to prevent injury to the female while having to turn their attention to a second armed male in the vehicle.

VirTra does more than make our training programs more efficient; it enhances safety by exposing officers to more scenarios than ever before.

Inspector Trevor Bradley

VirTra does more than place officers in any time, location, and situation; it provides valuable insight into their decision-making processes while under pressure. It also gives our Training Bureau instructors an opportunity to debrief officers' performance on-screen and offer positive feedback on behaviours or approaches. These learnings can truly make a difference in the outcome when police interact with the public.

LEADING THE WAY

Service's new Complex Service Navigator enhances support for people in crisis throughout Halton.

The COVID-19 pandemic undoubtedly took a toll on people's mental health and well-being. It also increased demand for community and policing resources that were already under strain. The pressures faced by the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) during this time and since to respond to calls for people in crisis – many of which involve the same individuals – made clear the need to re-evaluate our approach and response in this area.

In 2023, our Service introduced a Complex Service Navigator (CSN) to our Regional Community Mobilization Bureau.

Our CSN works closely with clients who regularly request our help. With a focus on building relationships with every individual served, they take time to learn about each person and their background. This, in turn, enables them to identify their root challenges and needs. These needs may involve treatment, housing, accompaniment to appointments, guidance through the court system, and/or face-to-face contact in the community, with hospitals, and/or correctional institutions.

In situations where a client lacks insight, refuses to engage, and/or displays high-risk behaviors due to their deteriorating mental health, the intervention required can be more extensive. In these cases, our CSN may opt to partner with that person's family, community, and/or those who have filed a police report with respect to the individual to educate them on the *Mental Health Act*, assist with obtaining a Form 2 apprehension order, and/or aid in developing an intervention plan.

Internally, our CSN supports officers in forming grounds to apprehend someone and liaises with medical teams in-hospital regarding treatment decisions. They will also follow the case and client through their hospitalization, incarceration, and/or re-integration into the community using alternative and creative approaches.

As the subject matter expert in her field, our CSN coordinates and teaches our Crisis Intervention Training course and contributes to annual police training for newly-hired officers. They are also assigned unique projects that help HRPS members navigate the social services and mental health systems.

Since the CSN role was added last year, our Service has seen a dramatic reduction in calls for mental health support, including for a local resident with 77 prior police occurrences. Since being referred to our CSN, and as of the time of publication, the individual's mental health has stabilized and they have had no further contact with police – both testaments to the need for, and impact made by, our CSN in this unique role.

In 2023, our Service attended 4,177 mental health calls, 349 less than the year prior.



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The work undertaken by our CSN to intervene and develop impactful relationships with individuals in crisis before a situation escalates has made a real difference in the number of high-risk, mental health-related calls requiring police response.

Inspector Bruce Dickson

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Halton Regional Police Service

2 District



“

The efforts of our Victim Services Unit have given survivors of sexual assault the resources they need to seek justice and place them on paths to healing.

Deputy Chief Jeff Hill

”

PAVING PATHS OF HOPE AND HEALING

Victim Services Unit receives *Attorney General's 2022-2023 Award of Distinction.*

Sexual assault is a profoundly personal crime that deeply affects those who experience it or know someone who has.

While the investigation of reported incidents and bringing those responsible to justice falls to members of Child and Sexual Assault Unit (CASA), our Victim Services Unit (VSU) plays a vital role in ensuring survivors receive the support and care they need to place them on paths of hope and healing.

Our VSU consists of more than 60 dedicated and highly-trained civilian Service members and volunteers who provide on-scene and telephone aid and intervention as well as guidance on safety planning and community program referrals.

In recent years, their work with sexual assault survivors has been informed by the results of a comprehensive review of unfounded sexual assault occurrences in Halton by the Sexual Assault Advisory Committee (SAAC) that was completed in 2019.

Our Service's VSU is now the first point of contact for all sexual assault survivors wishing to connect with police. In addition to supporting immediate emotional needs and helping navigate next steps, our VSU provides each survivor with a copy of the *Sexual Assault Information Guide*. This SAAC-compiled guide helps survivors understand reporting, investigative, and court processes, as well as provides a list of available resources. It has been adopted by all frontline service providers as a region standard so that everyone who reports a sexual assault gets the same information.

Our VSU is also committed to ensuring that each survivor receives a closing letter outlining the specifics and status of their investigation, the potential impact of sexual violence, and the variety of community resources in place to assist them on their journey to healing.

These practices have come to be viewed as best-in-class by the Ontario Police College and the Office for Victims of Crime, and similar programs have since launched in Hamilton, Ottawa, London, and Guelph.

In May 2023, our VSU received an *Attorney General's 2022-2023 Award of Distinction* for their groundbreaking, victim-centric program that places Victim Services as the first point of contact for sexual assault survivors. The award is presented annually to recognize the outstanding contributions made by individuals and organizations to support victims of crime as well as raise awareness of issues surrounding victims in Ontario.

Learn more about our Victim Services Unit:



ONE TEAM – PEOPLE FIRST

***Greater Toronto's Top 2024 Employer Award* and other initiatives reflect ongoing commitment to members and those we serve.**

Since it was founded in 1974, the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) and its now more than 1,100 sworn and civilian members have worked hard to ensure the safety and well-being of over 672,000 residents of Burlington, Oakville, Milton, and Halton Hills.

Our close to 790 sworn officers perform a wide range of duties, from patrolling the region and responding to calls for service, to investigating crime and supporting those impacted by it. Meanwhile, our more than 325 civilian staff bring valuable experience and expertise from various fields, including Communications, I.T., Records, Project Management, Human Resources, and Finance, to the table.

We have long been proud of our organization and our people.

Late last year, our Service was honoured to be named a *Greater Toronto's Top 2024 Employer*, an annual province-wide competition that recognizes employers with exceptional human resources programs and workplace policies. Organizations are evaluated on a number of criteria and ours was named a standout for:

- Prioritizing employees' mental and physical health through extensive benefits, a dedicated employee wellness unit, various on-site fitness facilities, and programming that assists members in achieving their physical health goals
- Employee growth opportunities, including training, tuition, reimbursement programs, and a formal coaching and mentoring program, and
- A flexible, hybrid workplace model and other initiatives that help promote work-life balance.

Our ability to attract top talent and bring on new personnel is key to ensuring we are well-positioned to meet the region's growing and increasingly-complex policing needs. In support of this, members from Human Resources Services, our Recruiting Unit, and Corporate Communications undertook the first phase of a major project to redesign and enhance our recruiting website in late 2023. The new police officer career portal, which features detailed information about the hiring process and testimonials from new and experienced members, serves as a gateway for those interested in policing and, soon – civilian professionals, to not only learn about career opportunities but what makes us the award-winning Service we are.

Think you have what it takes to join our team? We're always on the lookout for skilled and passionate individuals who have the desire to make a positive difference and help keep Halton a safe place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

To learn more or to apply, scan the QR code:





It has been everything I ever wanted in a career and more. Every single day has been different and I am constantly learning, but I always go home feeling like I have made a difference in the lives of our officers and the people we serve.

Rin MacAuley
Communications
Trainer



When I immigrated from Poland as a child, I had no concept of Canadian policing. What started as a ride-along led to becoming a Cadet, then pursuing OPC before becoming a Constable. By stepping out of my comfort zone, I've grown leaps and bounds and am proud of who I am today and the life I've built.

Cst. Mielczarek
1 District
Uniform Patrol



Policing can be a handful of careers wrapped into one if you decide to apply to specialized units. I've been fortunate to explore many opportunities with the Service, and am proud to make a difference in the place I've called home for my entire life.

D/Cst. Vu
Forensic Identification
Unit

REGIONAL STATISTICS

	Annual Totals				Annual Rates* (Per 100,000 population)		
Violent Crime	2022	2023	2022-2023 Change	2022-2023 % Change	2022	2023	2022-2023 % Change**
Homicide	5	2	-3	-60.0%	0.8	0.3	-61.7%
Attempted Murder	8	9	1	12.5%	1.2	1.3	7.8%
Sexual Assault	265	195	-70	-26.4%	41	29	-29.5%
Assault	1,399	1,308	-91	-6.5%	217	195	-10.4%
Other Sexual Offences	68	91	23	33.8%	11	14	28.2%
Abduction/Forcible Confiment	44	40	-4	-9.1%	7	6	-12.9%
Robbery	152	114	-38	-25.0%	24	17	-28.1%
Other Violent Crime	757	759	2	0.3%	118	113	-3.9%
Violent Crime Totals	2,698	2,518	-180	-6.7%	419	375	-10.6%
Property Crime	2022	2023	2022-2023 Change	2022-2023 % Change	2022	2023	2022-2023 % Change**
Break & Enter	818	885	67	8.2%	127	132	3.7%
Auto Theft	1,302	1,701	399	30.6%	202	253	25.2%
Theft Under \$5,000	5,103	5,779	676	13.2%	792	860	8.5%
Theft Over \$5,000	185	195	10	5.4%	29	29	1.0%
Arson	22	37	15	68.2%	3	6	61.2%
Fraud	1,411	1,554	143	10.1%	219	231	5.5%
Mischief	1,123	960	-163	-14.5%	174	143	-18.1%
Other Property Crime	154	143	-11	-7.1%	24	21	-11.0%
Property Crime Totals	10,118	11,254	1,136	11.2%	1,571	1,674	6.6%

Notes: * Totals and percentages may not always align due to rounding. ** Per cent change based on unrounded rates.

	Annual Totals				Annual Rates* (Per 100,000 population)		
	2022	2023	2022-2023 Change	2022-2023 % Change	2022	2023	2022-2023 % Change**
Other Crime							
Counterfeiting	38	44	6	15.8%	6	7	10.9%
Weapons Offences	109	107	-2	-1.8%	17	16	-5.9%
Administration of Justice Violations	1,928	1,172	-756	-39.2%	299	174	-41.8%
Other Criminal Code Offences	212	167	-45	-21.2%	33	25	-24.5%
Other Crime Totals	2,287	1,490	-797	-34.8%	355	222	-37.6%
Total Crime	15,103	15,262	159	1.1%	2,345	2,270	-3.2%

Road Safety

Impaired	421	446	25	5.9%	65	66	1.5%
Property Damage Collisions	7,719	8,937	1,218	15.8%	1,198	1,330	10.9%
Injury Collisions	937	1,004	67	7.2%	145	149	2.7%
Fatal Collisions	10	14	4	40.0%	2	2	34.1%

Other Performance Indicators

Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Events	134,457	138,895	4,438	3.3%	20,875	20,663	-1.0%
Crime Clearance Rate	40.8%	38.3%	-2.5%				

Professional Standards

	Citizen Complaints	Internal Investigations
2022	100	13
2023	119	9

Notes: * Totals and percentages may not always align due to rounding. ** Per cent change based on unrounded rates.

DISTRICT STATISTICS

	Annual Totals				Annual Rates* (Per 100,000 population)		
One District (Milton and Halton Hills)	2022	2023	2022-2023 Change	2022-2023 % Change	2022	2023	2022-2023 % Change**
Violent Crime	858	859	1	0.1%	396	372	-5.9%
Property Crime	2,722	2,928	206	7.6%	1,255	1,269	1.1%
Other Crime	1,416	809	-607	-42.9%	653	351	-46.3%
Total Crime	4,996	4,596	-400	-8.0%	2,303	1,991	-13.5%
Reportable Motor Vehicle Collisions	3,105	2,016	-1,089	-35.1%	498	316	-36.4%
Two District (Oakville)							
Violent Crime	858	803	-55	-6.4%	377	341	-9.4%
Property Crime	3,597	4,211	614	17.1%	1,580	1,790	13.3%
Other Crime	363	321	-42	-11.6%	159	136	-14.4%
Total Crime	4,850	5,335	485	10.0%	2,131	2,268	6.4%
Reportable Motor Vehicle Collisions	2,692	1,977	-715	-26.6%	431	310	-28.1%
Three District (Burlington)							
Violent Crime	858	843	-15	-1.7%	430	409	-4.9%
Property Crime	3,635	4,054	419	11.5%	1,821	1,966	8.0%
Other Crime	502	353	-149	-29.7%	252	171	-31.9%
Total Crime	5,076	5,250	174	3.4%	2,543	2,546	0.1%
Reportable Motor Vehicle Collisions	2,845	2,128	-717	-25.2%	456	334	-26.7%

Notes: * Totals and percentages may not always align due to rounding. ** Per cent change based on unrounded rates.

CRIME STOPPERS OF HALTON

Now in its 33rd 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 you or a member of the public are 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 from someone just like you. 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 you see it. 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.

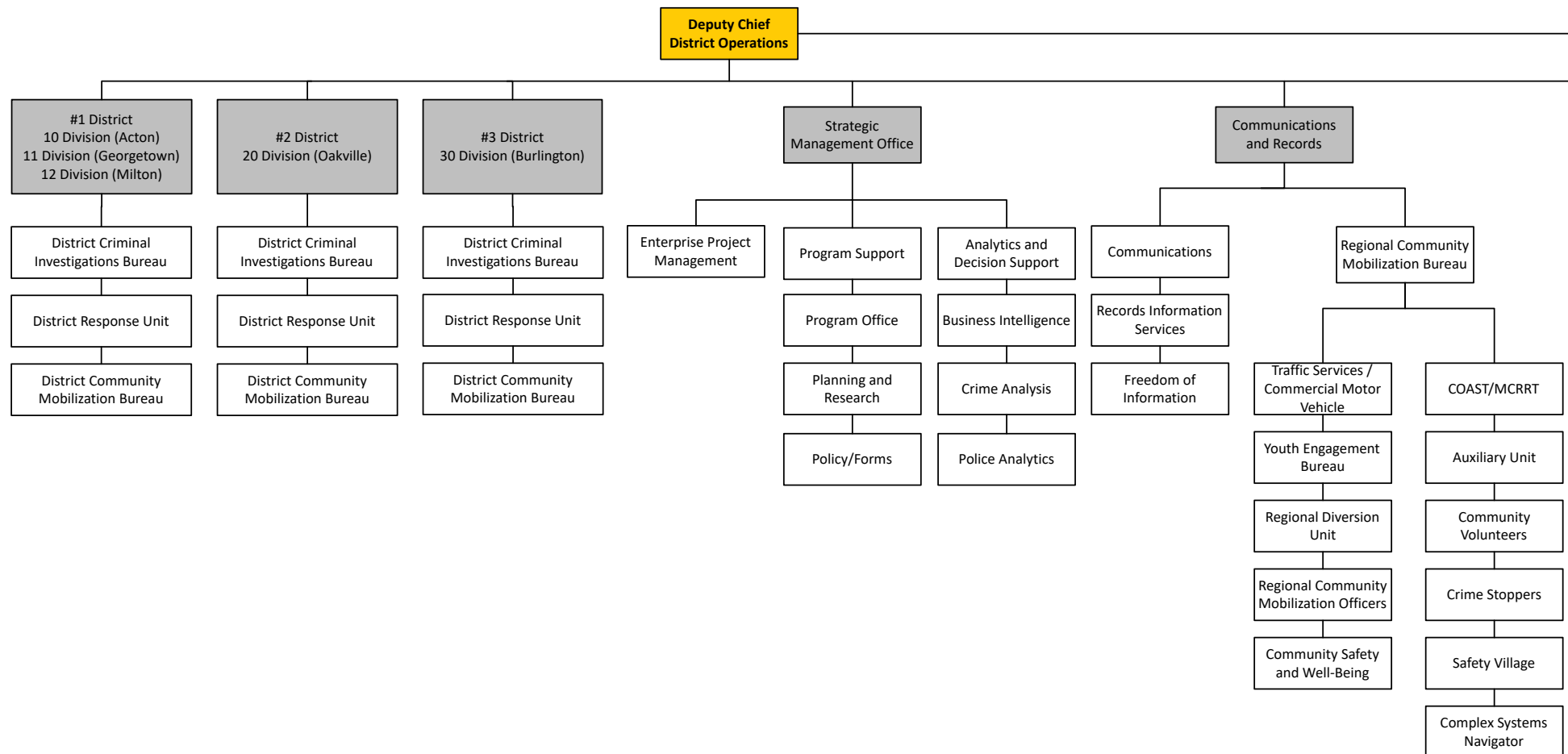


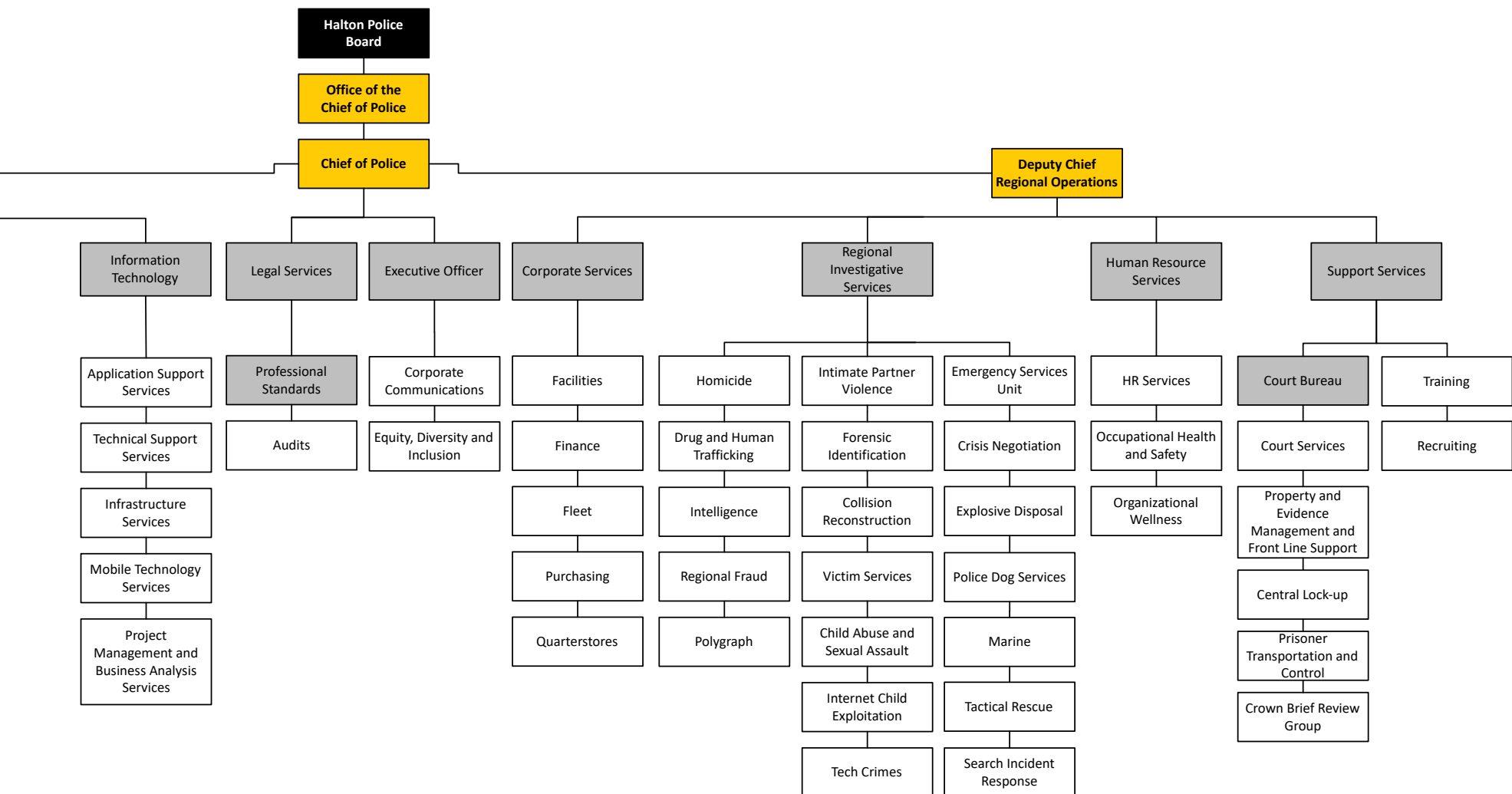
	Annual Totals		
	2022	2023	Total Since 1988
Tips	954	1,036	25,362
Arrests	47	10	1,364
Cases Cleared due to Tips	36	5	2,356
Weapons Recovered	3	81	194
Rewards Approved	11	4	1,339
Reward Dollars Approved*	\$7,000	\$2,100	\$209,761
Narcotics Seized	\$1,200	\$3,360	18,522,287
Property Recovered	\$800	\$0	\$2,751,992
Total Value (seized + recovered)	\$9,000	\$3,360	\$2,961,753

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

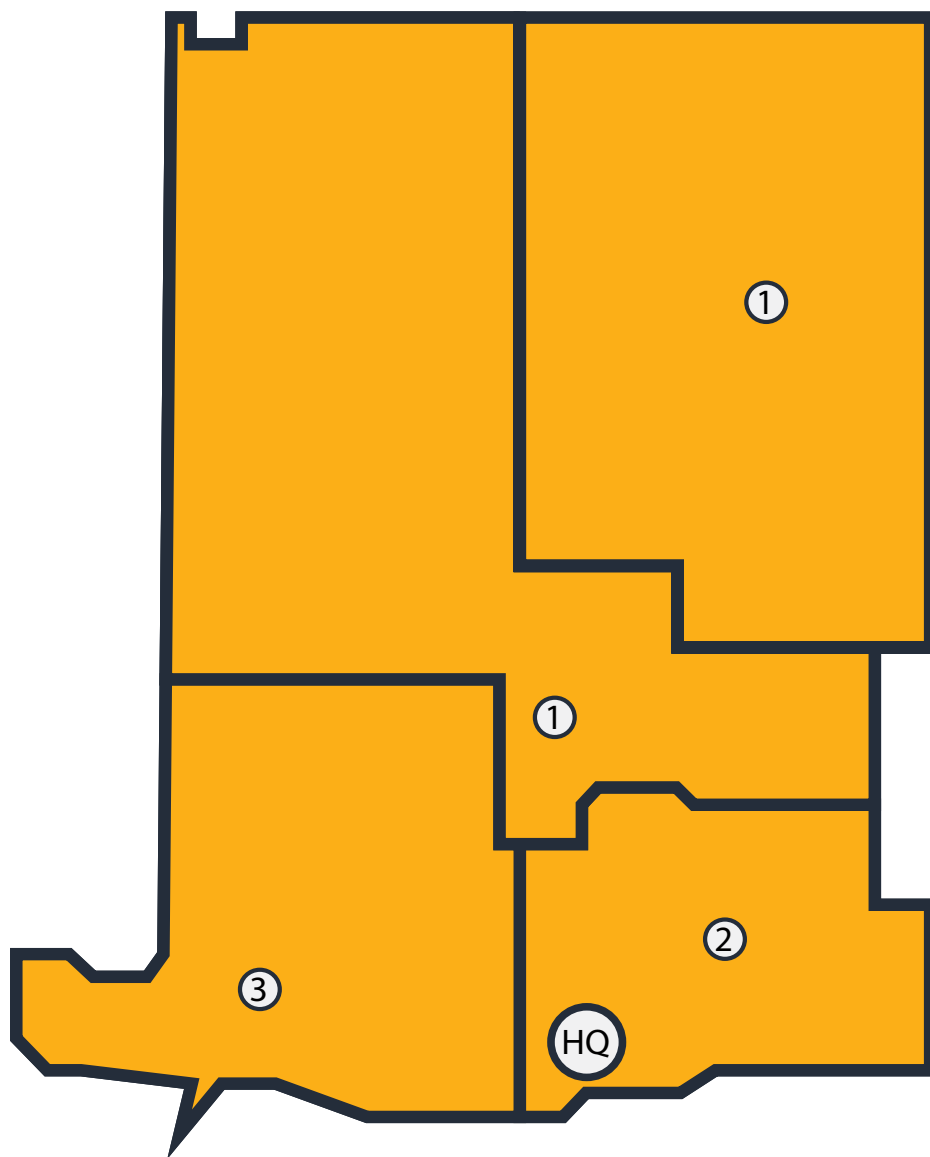
**“See Something? Hear Something? Know Something? Contact Crime Stoppers”
at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or through the web at www.haltoncrimestoppers.ca.**

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





WHERE TO FIND US



Regional Headquarters



2485 North Service Road West
Oakville, ON, L6M 3H8



905-825-4777
1-800-990-8199

1 District Georgetown



217 Guelph Street
Georgetown, ON L7G 4A8



905-825-4777
905-878-5511

1 District Milton



490 Childs Drive
Milton, ON L9T 5G2



905-825-4777
905-878-5511

2 District Oakville



95 Oak Walk Drive
Oakville, ON L6H 0G6



905-825-4777

3 District Burlington



3800 Constable Henshaw Blvd.
Burlington, ON L7M 3Y2



905-825-4777

IN AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 9-1-1



SOCIAL MEDIA





social development opportunities
justice passion
volunteers
community
leadership
transparency
safety officers
continuous improvement
inclusion
teamwork
prevention
organizational wellness
consultation
empathy
barrier-free
Halton
exemplary service
stakeholders
professionalism
cultural sensitivity
risk mitigation
future-proof
diversity
positive change
strategy
partnership
outreach
commitment
initiative
excellence
emergency response
duty
respect
technology
accountability
dedication
lifesaving
mission
evidence-based
victim-centric
innovation
civilians
engagement
values
recruitment
intervention
first responders
collaboration
vision
honour
sustainability
well-being