



Halton Happenings - May 2020

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

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

4 Strategic Priorities of Community Safety and Well-Being

What does it mean?

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





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Incident Response

High School Liaison and Elementary School Liaison Officers throughout the Region have been reassigned to patrol in each District, actively participating in calls for service.

- In April, an Oakville High School Liaison Officer initiated a graffiti project “Project Snoop” to combat increasing incidents of graffiti in the Falgarwood Drive and Sixth Line area of Oakville. Using video surveillance and the assistance of uniform patrol officers, a suspect was identified and subsequently arrested on May 29.

Community Mobilization Bureau Officers

- Community Mobilization Officers’ throughout the region spent the beginning of March, and the beginning of the COVID-19 situation, liaising with Community Partners/Groups to cancel scheduled Community Events. After the initial challenge of connecting with external partners, Community Mobilization Bureau Officers then engaged in proactive patrol activities in their assigned neighbourhoods and responding to calls for service throughout the region.
- B.B. is downtown Burlington resident who is always seen around town out on his “Trike” (adult tricycle). He is known by many local residents. 3 District Community Officer responded to a call for service in which B.B.’s trike had been stolen after his U-lock was cut by the thief. The officer completed the report and obtained good photos of the suspect which were shared internally via bulletin as well as on his work @HRPSbikecop Twitter account. His Twitter followers assisted by sharing the story and one of his followers David Vandenberg (@burlingtodavid) posted that he would like to donate \$20 towards the purchase of a new trike he found for sale online. The officer advised that he would do the same and then let David know that even though he was on vacation, he would be happy to coordinate the purchase and delivery of the trike to Bruce today. Support from the Twitter community was amazing and in less than 12 hours or so, \$950 was raised to purchase the bike and a good quality lock (also going to get him a bell and some lights). Leftover funds will be donated to the Compassion Social and their Foodbank program helping local Burlington residents in need. The officer picked up the bike and lock and surprised him with the help of his Personal Support Worker’s in the Downtown square next to where he lives.

The Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Teams (MCRRT) continued to provide Mental Health support throughout the Region in conjunction with our Mental Health partners from St Joseph’s Healthcare. The teams responded to 157 calls during the month of May, 82 of which were mental health related. This includes 41 in Burlington, 27 in Oakville, 9 in Milton and 5 in Halton Hills. This accounts for 52.2 per cent of the team’s activities. The team continues to experience an increase in telephone support to other officers throughout the Region dealing with mental health related occurrences.



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Risk Intervention

Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST) continued to provide mental health risk intervention supports throughout the region. Service delivery was adapted as our partner for the COAST program, Canadian Mental Health Association of Halton (CMHA), suspended their in-person supports due to the COVID-19 situation, while still providing telephone supports. Information sharing continued through alternate means, and in-person risk interventions were conducted by officers alone. Of Note – the COAST position has not been staffed 7 days a week due to officer time off and requirements for the officer to cover Mobile Crisis Rapid Response shifts. The COAST officers had 22 total occurrences, with 6 of them being mental health related accounting for 27.3 per cent of the officers' time. Discussions are under way with CMHA about the return of their Crisis Intervention Worker to the COAST team.

Older Adult Support Officer continues to work with community partners such as Links2Care, Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO), Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST), Halton Housing and Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT).

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

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

- Burlington Community Mobilization Bureau officers were able to connect a local homeless person to services resulting in the person no longer being on the streets in Burlington.
- Due to increased retail thefts from LCBO stores in Burlington, Community Mobilization Bureau officers proactively patrol in and around the areas of the various stores.
- Officers in 12-Division had interaction with a homeless male who was denied access to public facilities due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19. Following a trespass incident at a local grocery store the officers had a positive interaction and determined that he wanted to relocate to the Niagara Region to be closer to his family. The officers found an available bed at a St. Catherine's shelter and transported him there. A week after the encounter he called Cst. Singh and reported that he had been sober since he arrived and had made positive connections with his family who were continuing to support him during his recovery.

Community Safety and Well-Being Officer

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



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Between March 1 and May 26, 2020, thirteen cases have met the Acutely Elevated Risk threshold. An 85 per cent increase from the same time period last year. Presented cases are more complex in needs.

Action Table on Coordinate Relief-COVID

- Using the framework of the Halton's Community Safety and Well-Being plan a need was established with many community partners in Halton region to form a coordinated response to relief efforts. The key objectives of the action table are:
 - To support well-being among vulnerable residents by creating access to essential goods during self-isolation.
 - To coordinate relief efforts, maximize system resources and avoid fragmentation. The Action Table sits weekly (virtually) and is working on numerous initiatives related to food insecurity, funding for programming and assisting Halton most vulnerable.
 - **Participants:** Food for Life; Halton Region Social and Community Services Department; Halton Region Public Health Department; City of Burlington; Town of Halton Hills; Town of Milton; Town of Oakville; United Way of Halton and Hamilton; Oakville Community Foundation; Halton Regional Police Service.

Crime Stoppers

- Crime Stoppers continues to receive tips and distribute them to the necessary investigative bureaus. 150 tips were submitted to Crime Stoppers in May. Crime Stoppers of Halton member is still not attending in-person to the Halton Regional Police Headquarters due to COVID-19 restrictions. Crime Stoppers Co-ordinator maintains continued contact with the Crime Stoppers of Halton. All community-based initiatives have been suspended until further notice.

***Of note – Crime Stoppers Coordinator has also been assisting with coverage for the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team.



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Prevention

Traffic Services Unit

- During May, Traffic Services received a complaint from a Milton constituent about volume and speed of dump trucks on local roadways in the 10 Sideroad and Second Line Nassagaweya area. Commercial Motor Vehicle officers attended the area and conducted enforcement, however, via a partnership with the Town of Milton, a property was identified on Second Line where a permit had been approved by Conservation Halton to permit the delivery of 40,000 cubic meters of dirt to level a field at a horse farm. Traffic Services Unit clarified that 40,000 cubic meters equated to 4,000 dump truck loads; thus, the constituent would see a total of 8,000 trucks pass his home as a result of trucks both attending and later departing the area. Viewed through the lens of Community Safety and Wellbeing (CSWB), Traffic Services Unit continues to work with the Town of Milton on identifying potential avenues to mitigate the resulting issues that affect area homeowners in terms of increased traffic, noise and safety concerns. More information will be reported as it unfolds in the June Halton Happenings report.

District Youth Officers and Social Workers continue to work with youth and families pertaining to pre-charge Youth Diversion, and external partners for the Adult Diversion Programs. Video conferencing and telephone contact utilized for intakes on new cases, and for continued work/education/support for existing cases.

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

Mental Health and Addiction

- 11-Division officers have been actively involved in monitoring and managing the welfare of an adult male who has been sleeping rough in the community. He is known to police and has few options of finding temporary housing, due to violent incidents in the past. With the assistance of Halton Housing the individual was placed in a hotel in Milton until more permanent accommodations can be found.
- A young female residing in Georgetown who suffers from a number of personality and psychological disorders has recently had an escalation in her behaviors. Members of the 1-District Community Mobilization Bureau team have been working closely with the individual and her family to ensure access to medical intervention when it is required.
- An adult female resident of the Bob Rumball Home for the Deaf has had a recent change in her behavior resulting in an increased response from uniformed officers. Members of the 1-District Community Mobilization Bureau team have connected with the individual and the staff at the facility. There has been a turn-over of staff at the home, which has resulted in a change in the protocol of dealing with the client's behaviors. The Community Mobilization



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Bureau team involvement with this matter should result in a reduction in the amount and frequency of calls for assistance to the Home.

Crime Prevention

- 1-District Community Officer was contacted by the Hope Center to provide instruction and direction to the staff to assist with dealing with a person in crisis. Cst. Lyn is working with the program coordinator of Hope Center to facilitate this training using technology remotely.



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Social Development

Traffic Services Unit

- During the period of May 12–18, Traffic Services Unit supported Canada Road Safety Week service level activities via social media messaging in light of the unique environment pertaining to Covid-19. Traffic Services Unit created four public safety announcement videos focusing on general road safety awareness, impaired driving, stunt driving and motorcycle safety. The videos generated in excess of 55,000 views across all social media platforms and the video content was picked up and re-broadcasted on Cogeco and the Weather Network.

Community Mobilization Officer continue to conduct community outreach and support.

Diversity, Seniors and Youth

- Members of the 1-District Community Mobilization Bureau participated in a parade of honor at Mountainview Residence Retirement Home in Georgetown to celebrate the end of their COVID-19 isolation. They were joined by Halton EMS and Georgetown Fire Department in acknowledging the hard work and dedication of care staff.
- Milton Community Mobilization Officer and Social Worker Darcie Robertson participated in a virtual meeting with a female resident of the Bob Rumball Group home in Milton. The resident has had numerous encounters with the police in the past, but after a period of calm the calls to police had started to escalate again. The contact that the member of 1-District Community Mobilization Bureau had with the resident were positive and the staff had reported that resident's behavior was improving.
- Regional Community Mobilization Officer participated in a virtual meeting with members of the Halton District School Board Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee. Discussion about how sectors are modifying service delivery.

Regional Community Mobilization Officers

- Regional Community Mobilization Officers continue to have contact with our various Religious and Cultural partners in the region to provide information of service delivery/supports during the COVID-19 situation.
- Regional Community Mobilization Officers participated in several diversity and inclusion "Webinars" through the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion and Pride At Work Canada. Topics include: History of Indigenous Peoples in Canada; Exploring the + in LGBTQ2S+; Allyship – Your Role Supporting Minorities; The Intersection of Race, Mental Health and Stigma in the age of COVID; Addressing Exclusion and Racism in the Workplace; Exploring your Employer Partnership.



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Children's Safety Village

- Halton's Children Safety Village was closed for March break and continued to be closed following school closures due to COVID-19. Preparations underway for the pending retirement of the current Safety Village Co-ordinator and subsequent replacement. Coordinator announced her retirement for mid July. Efforts are underway to identify a new Coordinator.

Auxiliary Policing Unit

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

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

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

Youth in Policing (YIPI)

- Eighteen applicants were interviewed for the Summer Youth in Policing Initiative positions. Eight candidates were identified for the positions and will receive conditional employment offers due to COVID-19. Interviews for the YIPI Coordinator position will commence the first week of June.

Other

- Two 1-District Community Mobilization Officers have been seconded to the Domestic Violence Unit until September.
- One 2-District Community Officer has been seconded to the Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Bureau until September.
- Five 3-District Community Mobilization Officers have been seconded to other units throughout the Halton Police until September 2020. Four to the Homicide Unit and one to the Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Unit.



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Traffic Services

The end of May 2020, saw the complete turnover of the Traffic Services Unit Commercial Vehicle Unit as Constables Pat Martin and Scott Oldfield retired. This marked the end of an era for Halton Police as Pat and Scott were instrumental in striking a balance between enforcement and education, creating over 6,000 Twitter followers, working with various committees from local to international to advance all forms of truck safety and ensuring a legacy for Commercial Motor Vehicle operations within Halton Police by training the next generation of police truck inspectors. The Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit now welcomes Constables Darren Bonney and Mark Dickson who take over as the commercial vehicle truck experts for the Halton Police.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

June 2020, the Halton Regional Police will welcome a dedicated Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Sergeant. Sergeant Ryan Smith will commence his new role with a focus on internal and external EDI initiatives.