

Police seek public's help to locate wanted woman

Halton police are searching for a woman wanted on numerous charges in connection with the alleged use of a stolen credit card.

Police allege that between Sept. 12 and Oct. 26, the suspect used a hospitalized woman's credit card without her knowledge or consent on a number of occasions.

Police have released to the public a photo of Leanna Inglis in hopes of locating her.

Police say the accused faces charges, including: three counts of credit card theft, three counts of the fraudulent use of a credit card, two counts of fraud under \$5,000 and one count of fraud over \$5,000.

Police say the suspect's last-known address was in Toronto, however she's known to frequent locations in Halton.

The suspect is described as 5-foot-3, around 200 lbs. and has shoulder-length, brown hair.

Halton police say the suspect is also wanted by Toronto police.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Det.-Cst. Patricia Kenel, the senior investigator with Milton Criminal Investigations



LEANNA INGLIS

Bureau at 905-825-4747, ext. 2454 or Det/Cst. Nadine Clarke of the Community Mobilization Bureau, Vulnerable Persons Unit at 905-825-4747 ext. 5345 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), or through the web at www.haltoncrimestoppers.com, or by texting "Tips201" with your message to 274637 (crimes).

Police to investigate 'Crack'ton

By Melanie Hennessey
Special to The IFP

Ward 1 Councillor Jon Hurst often hears residents complain about the lack of police on the streets of Acton, questioning whether there's a correlation between this and illegal drug activity in town.

"As much as it pains me to say the word, Acton has been referred to as 'Crack'ton. This is difficult for me to understand because it's something I don't see," said Hurst at a Halton Hills Community Affairs meeting Tuesday afternoon. "Is there enough enforcement in the small town of Acton? Are the Halton Regional Police doing all they can? I'd like to see that name fall from grace because it's been concerning me to hear it."

He was directing his comments to Halton Police Inspector Ivan L'Ortye, who was speaking to committee members about policing in Halton Hills.

"I will be looking into that situation," said L'Ortye, noting he's already in conversations to build up the police presence in Acton. "We do keep a number of officers every shift in Acton, but I will look to see what we can do to enhance that."

The proposed new District 1 station, which will serve as a single central facility for Milton and Halton Hills, was also discussed briefly, with

L'Ortye assuring the committee members that there will continue to be a police presence in Halton Hills.

Last year, the Halton Regional Police Services Board approved in principle the District 1 Facility Plan that suggests a location in northeast Milton or southwest Halton Hills would best meet the needs of the District.

Somerville said he's concerned about the potential of having two unmanned store front-type police stations in Acton and Georgetown.

Local and Regional Councillor Jane Fogal voiced her frustration with the lack of details available on how the Georgetown station will operate once the central facility is built.

"It's been under discussion for a long time. You'd think by now we'd have an idea of how the Georgetown substation will look when it's on the ground. How many hours will it be open? Is the door unlocked?" she asked. "We can't get all excited about something if we don't know what it is we're talking about."

"I can't comment on the staffing levels of that building," L'Ortye said, noting he will convey the councillors' concerns to the police chief and endeavour to find some answers. He also said the chief is in discussions with the Region on the topic.

Halton Police work with mental health agencies to prevent crisis situations

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289 mental health calls in Halton Hills in 2014— 112 in Acton and 177 in Georgetown— and that number increased to 300 by last year (97 in Acton and 203 in Georgetown).

To better help those struggling with non-criminal issues, Halton police are using what's known as the mobilization and engagement model of community policing. This method sees the police partnering with community agencies to address those at risk through early intervention, rather than waiting for an emergency situation.

"It's not just the police driving the

bus anymore. We're trying to make sure we're doing the right things at the right time with the right people," said L'Ortye, explaining that some individuals identified through this approach may be referred to the Canadian Mental Health Association, Reach Out Centre For Kids, etc. to address their mental health before it becomes a police situation.

"If you can prevent something from happening, you're saving money and saving people a lot of grief and hardship," he said.

In December, Halton police also launched a Mobile Crisis Rapid Re-

sponse Team that sees a uniformed police officer in an unmarked car and a registered mental healthcare professional respond to mental health calls.

"They have more skills to determine whether someone should go to the hospital or not," he said. "If the call involves an apprehension, we have to work with hospitals and typically have to stay until that person is admitted. That can take anywhere from 30 minutes to eight hours."

The officers involved have a background in mental health response and experience working with Halton Regional Police's Crisis Outreach and

Support Team (COAST). The Rapid Response Team has been trained to defuse or de-escalate crisis situations, advocate for the person and families in crisis and ensure necessary medical health assessments are completed.

"That program is working very well. It's already showing great results," said L'Ortye. "I believe we're doing a really good job in addressing mental health issues."

Local and Regional Councillor Clark Somerville likened the amount of time officers are spending at hospitals with those in a mental health crisis to the offloading delays that tie up

EMS staff at local emergency rooms—the latter of which costs the Region millions of dollars.

"I'm tremendously concerned with the amount of time officers are spending on mental health calls, not just here, but across the country," he said. "It's just part of a system that's broken that we have to get fixed."

"I think we're doing a good job fixing it and addressing it," said L'Ortye, noting the aforementioned police teams are able to divert many people facing mental health issues to other community resources outside the hospital.

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