

## Number of collisions in Halton on a downward trend: police

some other property.

"Those are terrible situations, but they are not armed robberies," said Tanner.

Oakville Ward 5 Councillor and Halton police board member Jeff Knoll said there is a perception in north Oakville that break-ins to homes are on the increase.

Such an increase is not reflected in the statistics provided by Halton police, which shows break-ins are the lowest they've been in five years.

When Knoll asked how this mistaken perception was possible, Tanner said even though the numbers are low, it only takes a few break-ins in a specific area to raise concerns.

"If there is a break-and-enter on your street, it's getting close. It's not in some other part of town, it is on your street," said Tanner.

"We did have three break-ins in that area of Oakville in one night where individuals probably gained access through unlocked garage doors... When that happens that is going to be the topic of conversation around the neighbourhood."

Tanner noted a low crime rate does not mean no crime at all.

He pointed out that recently someone entered his car and stole sunglasses and some other items.

"I would sure like to meet the criminal that



Halton Regional Police Chief Stephen Tanner believes the number of robberies may be driving the violent crime numbers up.

*Champion file photo*

would break into the police chief's car," said Knoll.

"That's a Darwin Award winner right there."

Police received fewer calls for service with 77,198 in 2016 compared to 78,346 in 2015.

In the area of motor vehicle collisions the news was better with these accidents down 5.4 per cent from 4,469 incidents in 2015 to

4,226 incidents in 2016.

Traffic accidents that caused property damage dropped from 3,928 incidents in 2015 to 3,712 incidents in 2016.

Collisions that caused injuries also went down from 539 in 2015 to 507 in 2016.

That said, fatal collisions rose from two in 2015 to seven in 2016.

Impaired driving apprehensions dropped 10.9 per cent in 2016 from 230 to 205.

The number of traffic tickets issued by officers also dropped in 2016 from 27,046 to 25,888.

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