

**Just a fad**

**Hood ornaments have stopped disappearing off cars**

It looks as if the hood ornament as a teen fashion item has gone out of style.

"We're confident we've nipped it (the two and half month rash of hood ornament thefts) in the bud," says Detective Sergeant Mike Eacrett of the Halton Regional Police's 11 Division in Georgetown.

Several youths from Georgetown and Milton were behind the thefts of about \$2,000 worth of hood ornaments that they wore around their necks or used to decorate their lockers, police say.

**We've interviewed them all so they know we're on to them -Det. Sgt. Eacrett**

Mercedes Benz, BMW and Volkswagen hood ornaments were the most popular, but any brand seemed to do.

Hood ornaments were stolen off of Chryslers, Lincoln Continentals and Dodge Rams.

This new kind of jewellery came into popularity in early October when the thefts started to occur and continued until about two weeks ago, Det. Sgt. Eacrett said.

The hood ornaments were in such demand that if a car owner replaced a stolen hood ornament it

was only a matter of time before the new one was stolen.

Police had reports of cars being targeted two and three times, the detective sergeant said.

He said police worked with high school principals in Georgetown and Milton to identify several suspects.

"We've interviewed them all so they know we're on to them," said Det. Sgt. Mike Eacrett.

Police haven't laid charges because none of the suspected teenagers were caught in the act. But they know that if the thefts continued it would be only a matter of time before they would be caught, said Det. Sgt. Eacrett.

The detective called the youths' interest in the ornaments a "fad" that was unique to North Halton. There were no reports of hood ornament thefts in Oakville or Burlington, he said.

Det. Sgt. Eacrett said the thefts started when some teenagers from Orangeville attending a Norval night club in early October were wearing hood ornaments around their necks.

Constable Tom Rosser of the Orangeville Police Force said Orangeville, like Georgetown and Milton, experienced several hood ornament thefts starting three or four months ago. But he disagreed with Det. Sgt. Eacrett's claim that the idea of hood ornaments as jewellery originated in Orangeville.

"It could have just easily started

in Georgetown," he said. But-Const. Rosser did say there was a link between the thefts in both towns.

The Orangeville police recently seized a "large quantity of hood ornaments" but since then the thefts have stopped.

A lot of the ornaments were seized from school lockers, said Const. Rosser.

The Orangeville police haven't laid any charges but an investigation is continuing. Charges could be laid in the future, said Const.

Rosser. He agreed with Det. Sgt. Eacrett that the thefts were a teenage fad. "Once one kid starts wearing one (a hood ornament), another one wants one and so on and so on," said Const. Rosser.

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