



Halton Regional Police Service Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit investigators made an announcement regarding the results of a Region-wide investigation into child pornography. From left to right, OPP Detective Inspector Scott Naylor, OPP Detective Staff Sergeant Frank Goldschmidt, Halton Detective Inspector Al Albano, Halton Detective Sergeant Brad Cook.

Riziero Vertolli/Metroland Media Group

Police vow to nab child porn distributors

Continued from pg. 1

That, says Detective Sergeant Brad Cook, manager of the Halton Police child abuse and sexual assault bureau, is about average and the findings would be similar in any Ontario municipality of similar size.

While Halton's ICE unit is one of 19 police services which are a part of the provincial strategy to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation on the Internet led by the Ontario Provincial Police, the arrests followed a two-month investigation generated by Halton Police.

Cook could not say at this time how many alleged child pornography images are involved or what age range of the child victims might be because investigators have just begun to sift through the computers seized.

"Our message is loud and clear: if you possess or distribute child pornography in Halton or anywhere else in Ontario, police will find you and arrest you," said Det.-Insp. Al Albano, head of regional investigative services.

"As a society, our most fundamental responsibility is to protect our children from those who would do them harm.

Child pornography is visual evidence of child sexual abuse. As police officers, we will use every means possible to identify child predators, and eliminate the threat they pose to our children and our communities," said Albano.

Halton Police this year doubled the number of investigators working Internet exploitation to four from two. The extra manpower reflects the fact child pornography has exploded on the Internet since about 2007, the year Halton conducted about 100 investigations. The number of investigations has doubled since.

Now, says Cook, Halton investigators are finding around 150 Halton households accessing child pornography a month. In fact, he said, 158 homes were viewing child porn in February.

"Child sexual exploitation is a crime. It is international and it is borderless," said Cook.

Cook said the Halton Police continue to investigate child exploitation incidents and asked anyone with relevant information to contact the Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Unit at 905-465-8970 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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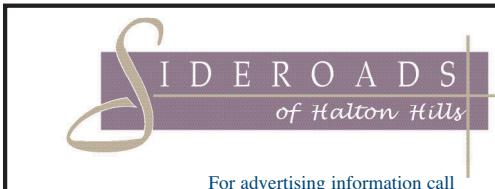
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