

Police board hears number of hate crimes on rise in Halton

By **DAVID LEA**
Staff Writer

Halton Police reported an increased number of hate-related incidents taking place in Halton in 2011 during recent meeting of the Halton Regional Police Services Board.

In total, there were 51 hate-related incidents in Halton during 2011, 19 of which fit the police definition of a hate crime.

This is up from 41 hate-related incidents in 2010.

Halton Hills had 10 incidents, two which could be considered hate crimes. Eight of the Halton Hills crimes have not been solved.

Oakville had the highest number of such incidents at 19, 11 of which were considered hate crimes.

Burlington followed with 15 incidents, including three hate crimes.

Milton had seven, of which three were considered hate crimes.

Police define a hate-related incident as any act, criminal or not, that expresses bias, prejudice, bigotry or contempt towards a vulnerable or disadvantaged community or its members.

Meanwhile, a hate crime is defined as a criminal offence committed against a person or property that is motivated by the victim's race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender or disability.

The graffiti and vandalism incidents are more difficult to deal with, according to police, as most of these are random and committed by individuals and not organized groups.

Fund set up for Turner children

A trust fund has been established at the Guelph St., Georgetown CIBC Bank for the children of Catherine Turner, who died last month of multiple organ failure as a result of toxic shock syndrome.

Turner, 43, of Georgetown was first diagnosed with streptococcus infection, which caused the toxic shock

syndrome, according to her husband Don.

Anyone wishing to donate to the fund for her children James, Nathan and Tristan Turner can visit the branch at 14-280 Guelph St., Georgetown and quote transit number 02952 institution number 010 and account number 8473196.

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