

# Halton paramedic accused in child pornography sting

By Louie Rosella  
Metroland Media Group

egy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet.

The most fundamental responsibility of any society is to protect its children. Every child has the right to be nurtured and the right to be safe. The Provincial Strategy demonstrates the success that police services worldwide can achieve when working together and sharing our best practices and information, said OPP Chief Superintendent Don Bell said at last month's news conference announcing details of the investigation.

Bell added that these investigations, which involve children in pictures of every imaginable sex act being available to everyone online, are a top priority for police.

A total of 174 search warrants were executed, resulting in 274 charges against 80 people, including one youth who cannot be identified under terms of the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Charges include sexual assault, child luring, drugs and weapons and a range of child pornography charges.

In addition, 20 victims were identified during the investigations and referred to appropriate community-based resources for assistance, police said. Drug and weapons-related charges were also laid.

Police say the investigation uncovered human trafficking and officers were also able to ensure the safety of nine people who had been working in the sex trade as a minor or against their will.

Halton Region is conducting an internal investigation after one of its paramedics was charged in a massive internet child exploitation bust in which police say more than 20 victims were rescued, including young children.

Tad Nelson, 56, of Dundas, Ont., faces two counts of possession of child pornography. Halton Region confirmed Monday that Nelson is a Halton Regional employee and has been placed on leave as the Region conducts an internal investigation.

Community safety is our top priority and we take these allegations very seriously, said Region of Halton spokesperson Heather Anderson.

Nelson is listed as an Advanced Care Paramedic and was on Ontario's Sunshine List in 2014 and last year. The list forces taxpayer-funded organizations to publicly reveal the names and salaries of employees collecting annual salaries of \$100,000 or more.

Nelson was named as one of 80 people facing more than 270 charges by the OPP in a joint-forces investigation with other police forces in and around the GTA and agencies such as the RCMP, Canada Border Services Agency and United States Homeland Security Investigations.

It was described by the OPP as a province-wide investigation by members of the Provincial Strat-

## Be careful with Pokemon Go

Halton police are among police forces across Canada warning residents of the risks involved in playing augmented reality mobile games such as Pokémon Go.

As media reports surface of people getting injured, or in some cases, breaking the law, as they play the cellphone-based game, Halton police have taken to social media this week to warn residents of the dangers of playing the game.

Pokémon Go allows players to capture, battle, and train virtual creatures, called Pokémon, who

appear in the real world through their mobile phones.

Don't become a #pokemonGo #distracted-drivingzombie, tweeted Halton Police's Oakville detachment earlier this month.

The game has no place in the hands of a driver. \$490 ticket.

Released earlier this month, the Nintendo smartphone game became available in the U.S., Australia and New Zealand, and in Canada on July 18.

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