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Police search for purse thieves

Halton Regional Police are asking for the publics help in identifying the suspects responsible for a series of purse thefts from hotels, including one in Oakville in which the victim lost around \$33,000 in jewelry and cash.

Police said the incidents began in mid-June with suspect(s) attending hotel restaurants during the breakfast hour and stealing purses left on chairs while the patrons are distracted and/or grabbing food.

Many of the victims are visiting from other countries and as such are often carrying passports, jewelry and large amounts of cash needed for travel.

In one incident in Oakville, police said, suspects stole a purse containing approximately \$25,000 worth of jewelry and \$8,000 in cash.

Police believe this successful theft motivated those responsible to target additional hotels. Eight similar thefts have been reported in Halton since July 1.

Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to contact Det. Tom Hockney at 905-825-4747 ext. 2491.



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