

Police investigating attempted thefts at dealership

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A notable spike in vehicle break-ins and attempts in 2017 continues in Halton Hills.

Halton police are reaching out to the public for assistance in identifying a male suspect who allegedly tried to break into several vehicles at a Georgetown car dealership.

In a release sent Wednesday (Aug. 16), police said the unknown male suspect attempted to enter a number of vehicles at the Toyota dealership at 312 Guelph St. The suspect was unsuccessful in his attempts and no damage to any of the vehicles was reported.

The suspect is described as white, with a slim build, short dark hair and a small beard. He was wearing a blue T-shirt and blue jeans, with grey shoes.

In June, Halton police reported a big spike in vehicle break-ins in Halton Hills during a presentation to Halton Hills council.

As of May 31, the town had already seen 79 reported incidents since the new year, as many as the previous two years combined.

"If there's a spike for Halton Hills, thefts from cars is it," said Perkins. "Ninety-eight per cent of those cases are from people just not locking their car doors," said district superintendent Chris Perkins during his presentation to council in June.

"Theft from autos is typically an opportunist, quite often young persons - sort of high school age, perhaps a little bit older - perhaps people drinking and coming home from the pub and deciding to try all the car doors down a particular street," Perkins told the

IFP at the end of June.

However, at the time, Perkins added the spike seen in Halton Hills is more thanks likely due to organized groups coming into the area from other jurisdictions.

While police did not connect this incident to any of those groups, it is part of a larger trend seen so far in 2017 not only in Halton Hills, but across the region as a whole.

"What we've found in 2017 is a lot of what we would call more sophisticated, organized groups doing it, (who) are actually landing here from other jurisdictions," he added.

As of June 25, Halton police reported 833 thefts from vehicles across the region, representing an 80 per cent year-over-year increase over last year's total numbers in the first seven months of 2017.

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