



Halton Regional Police photo

Halton Police are looking for this man in connection with a series of purse and bag thefts since July 2016.

Serial purse snatchers targeting women at Halton hotels since 2016

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The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) is looking for the public's help in identifying a man suspected in a number of purse thefts across Halton Region since 2016.

Police believe the man, who may be working with an accomplice, is responsible for a number of purse thefts from hotels and restaurants across the region and beyond over that time.

In a release sent Monday (Aug. 28), police said the thefts began in July 2016 and have continued sporadically across Halton Region since. Investigators believe the suspects are responsible for at least 15 such thefts in Halton alone.

The suspects are also believed to be responsible for similar thefts in both Toronto and York Region.

The latest reported incident occurred on Sunday (Aug. 20). Halton police have not provided any specific details of individual incidents but are reporting a number of similarities between the crimes.

"It is also believed the male suspect works with an accomplice, who acts as a driver and/or distraction while the theft occurs," wrote Halton police in the release.

"The suspect targets women, usually foreign tourists, who use the back of their chairs to hang their purse on.

The suspect is usually seen on his cellular phone and approaches the chair. Using the cover of his own jacket, he casually removes the purse from victim's chair and leaves with it concealed," it added.

Police added the thefts usually occur during breakfast hours at hotels or dinner time at standalone restaurants.

In an accompanying document to the release, Halton Police referred to the crimes as "distraction thefts".

"Distraction thieves work in teams and often approach their victims with an offer of assistance such as claiming that you have dropped something, including money on the ground. While you are distracted, an accomplice steals your purse or bag," added HRPS.

Police are advising residents and visitors to never leave personal items (purse, phone, wallet etc.) unattended.

If staying at a hotel, utilize the in-room safe for expensive items/cash if possible and are suggesting people not carry large amounts of cash on their person.

"The Halton Regional Police Service would like to remind everyone to be aware of their personal belongings while in public places, specifically hotels and restaurants," said HRPS in the release.

Photos of the suspect have been released by police and are included with this article.

Anyone with information regarding these thefts, or can identify the male suspect, is being asked contact D/Cst Mike Tidball, Oakville Criminal Investigations Bureau, at 905-825-4747 Ext. 2275.

Tips can also be submitted to Crime Stoppers "See something, Hear something, Say something" at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.haltoncrimestoppers.ca, or by texting "Tip201" with your message to 274637 (crimes).



halton.ca 311



Halton Hills Labour Day Household Waste Collection Notice

Please note collection day changes:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Sept 4	Sept 5	Area A, B & C Collection moves	Sept 7	Area D Collection moves	Sept 9

Due to the Labour Day holiday, household waste collection services the week of September 4, 2017, will take place **the day after** your regular collection day.

Please place your waste at the curb by 7 a.m. on your scheduled holiday collection day.

Halton Waste Management Site

Will be closed on **Monday, September 4, 2017**
5400 Regional Road 25, Milton

Regular Operating Hours:

Monday to Saturday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Help Reduce Green Cart contamination

With less contamination in the Green Cart, Halton's composted material can be used on agricultural fields. Follow these tips to keep our compost clean:



No plastic packaging.

Remove food from plastic bags, plastic produce bags, plastic wrap and Styrofoam.



No elastics.

Remove elastic bands from vegetables such as broccoli, celery, green onions and asparagus.



No stickers.

Remove the sticker from fruit and vegetables such as bananas, apples, pears, peaches and peppers.

For more information on the Green Cart program, visit halton.ca/greencart.

Ready, set, go—preparing for back to school!

As we enjoy the last days of summer, I want to share some resources with you that can help your family prepare for the start of the new school year. Visit halton.ca to find information and useful tips including the **Ready, Set, Go!** and **Ready, Set, Whoa!** resources for parents of children starting kindergarten or high school. You can also find immunization requirements and our online reporting tools at halton.ca/immunization and other parenting resources at HaltonParents.ca. Have a wonderful and safe Labour Day weekend and as always, our 24-hour essential services will remain available—call 311 or visit halton.ca.



Gary Carr
Regional Chair

Meetings at Halton Region, 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville, L6M 3L1

Visit halton.ca/meetings for full schedule.

No Regional Council or Standing Committee meetings in September.



Please contact us, as soon as possible, if you have any accessibility needs at Halton Region events or meetings.