

Crime mapped

“Information is power.”

That is part of the reasoning behind Halton Regional Police’s decision to launch a mapping function that will allow Halton residents to monitor criminal activity in a particular neighbourhood, according to Halton Police Chief Steve Tanner.

Tanner made the comment at last Thursday’s launch of the function which is available on the police website www.haltonpolice.ca.

“Providing reliable, timely crime data to the communities we serve is one of our top priorities, because an informed public is a safer public,” says Tanner. “This partnership with CrimeReports gives us the ability to keep the public informed on a regular basis as to what is going on in our community.”

Police dispatch data is stripped of personal information, including the exact address, and sent securely to CrimeReports.com, which hosts the crime mapping software. The public can access the data through the Halton Regional Police Service’s website, under the Crime Files/Mapping navigation button.

Incidents reflected on the map will be shown within 100 numbers of the address, to protect individual’s privacy, while still being within the general vicinity to give people an accurate idea of crime in their neighbourhood.

The crime mapping data will include police-dispatched calls for property damage, sexual assault, assault, robbery, break and enter, theft, impaired driving, homicide, attempted murder, offensive weapons, drug-related offences, and various traffic-related offences such as impaired driving, hit and run, and motor vehicle injuries and fatalities.

The idea behind the function is to allow the public to understand crime trends and thus better help police in preventing crime.

We are constantly amazed by residents who contact us saying they were surprised that a break-in had occurred on their street or that a particular neighbourhood had been vandalized.

Crime can happen anywhere, and the more people realize that, and take precautions to safeguard themselves and their property, the better.

This new project is simply another educational tool to help make Halton safer.

WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to www.theifp.ca)

With contracts now imposed on Ontario public school teachers, should they return to providing extra-curricular activities?

- Yes. The fight is over...for now (68%)
- No. They have the right to withhold that service (32%)

The Independent & Free Press

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Letters to the editor

Hamper support was appreciated

Dear editor,

This past holiday season was made a little brighter for 458 children in Halton Hills, thanks to the many generous donors who provided assistance with the Links2Care Holiday Hamper Program.

These children received gifts of new warm winter clothing, often including snowsuits and winter boots.

Many lower income families in our community struggle to meet their daily needs and the holiday season can put a great deal of extra pressure on these families. The Holiday Hamper Program attempts to relieve some of the financial stresses around the holiday season and the families who receive the hampers are so very grateful to have this help, and often comment that they wouldn’t have known what they would do if this program didn’t exist.

This program involves many hours of preparation and relies on countless hours of volunteer time, as well as the time spent by our wonderful sponsors, who gener-

ously shop for specific children and donate the clothing to our program. Many people also made financial donations and gave gift cards or other gift items.

On behalf of Links2Care I would like to extend my thanks to all the sponsors, donors, and volunteers who helped to make this program a success this year. Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated!

Cathy Gerrow,

*Community Support Program
Co-ordinator,
Links2Care*

Library complaints should go to board

Dear editor,

Re: *Library pricetag annoys resident* (letter to the editor Jan. 15).

In his letter Mr. Bill Shuttleworth states, “Ms. (Jane) Diamanti (Director of Library Services) is a superb saleswoman but needs to be challenged on every one of her requests for more town money!”

All library funding requests come to Town council by way of the Halton Hills Public Library Board (Board). Those who are displeased with any aspect of the two wonderful library branches in Halton Hills, should bring

their complaints or comments directly to the board and not take rude or uninformed shots at Ms Diamanti.

The board meets on the second Wednesday of each month and the public is welcome to attend.

Frank Loreto, vice-chair

Halton Hills Public Library Board

Let there be lights

Dear editor,

I live on Guelph Street close to Hall Road and agree totally with what John Elliott (Jan. 17 letter *Lights required at intersection*) had to say about the traffic in and out of the Hall Road/McFarlane Dr. area.

This intersection is just an accident waiting to happen now, can you imagine another 200 cars trying to get onto Guelph Street?

Christine Deforest, Georgetown

Send a letter

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