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Acton  
waste day  
Saturday

## Covert team wages war on drugs

By **JULIE SLACK**  
Metroland Media Group

Earlier this month, Milton Champion reporter Julie Slack spent the evening on undercover patrol with Halton Regional Police Detective Dwayne Perron and the Strategic Support Team, to get an idea of how this team of officers work together to help put an end to the drugs on the streets of north Halton.

Sometimes Halton Regional Police use good old-fashioned police work to get to the root of crime.

Often, that means staking out suspected drug dealers, traffickers and users in undercover operations.

One such little known team does just that— full-time. And they'd just as well stay low-key.

Called the Strategic Support Team (SST), one detective and four detective constables with Milton's Criminal Investigations Bureau work to put an end to illegal drug activity in Georgetown, Acton and Milton. Headed by Det. Dwayne Perron, the unit is covert— dressing in plain clothes and driving unmarked cars.

Active for the last few years, the unit is comprised of five detectives who work on crimes that involve drugs, property offences, thefts from vehicles and more. Basically, they help support the efforts of the Criminal Investigations Branch (CIB).

They also support other branches of the service including the homicide unit, break and enter team and robbery team.

"We're doing a lot of support, wherever we're needed," he said. "We hop out wherever it's necessary."



Officers from the Halton Regional Police 1 District Strategic Support Team (SST) executed a search warrant at a Morningside Drive residence in Georgetown last Wednesday evening. Officers arrested two adult males and seized a quantity of drugs and cash. Here, Halton Det. Const. Paul Harrower holds up one of the bags of marijuana and a stack of the seized cash from the arrest.

Photo by Graham Paine/Metroland Media Group

### On patrol

7 p.m.— Heading north to Halton Hills to stake out the home of another target brought in by tips from prior arrests. Perron says the information came from "informants."

Parked adjacent to the target home,

Perron and I watch as numerous parties enter and leave a home, each spending about 10 to 20 minutes inside. Licence plates and descriptions are recorded of each person entering and leaving.

"Just enough time to buy," he says.

**STEALTH, pg. 3**

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