



**POLICE AND FIRE** 

## Missing Acton charity coat rack found, man charged

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Halton Police have located coat racks that went missing last week from a property in downtown Acton and have charged a 58-year-old man in the incident.

Norman Paulsen, owner of Acton Motors, has been charged with theft under \$5,000 for removing the charity coat racks that stood beside the building on the corner of Main and Mill streets in

The coat racks were set up to offer jackets and boots to those in need and was set to be taken down for the season in mid-

"I thought it was abandoned," said Paulsen, explaining that with the building vacant, he thought it was not being cared for. "I simply wanted to clean it. It was misplaced civic pride."

The coat racks were set up by Tina Mandarino, owner of Blooms Away Flowers, who used to operate her business out of the building there, before moving down the street.

She was keeping the coat racks at her former location for the rest of the season, and says she was shocked to find them missing when she went to check on them last week.

Mandarino admits the racks were disheveled but was disturbed that the items had been removed and disposed of without being contacted.

Paulsen says the coats were donated to Goodwill.

Police returned the racks to Mandarino, which she says are mangled and unusable, however, new racks have been donated to Mandarino to help her start a new coat rack initiative next year.

"I'm just glad the police did their job, and everything got figured out in the end," she said.

Paulsen is set to appear in court in Milton on March 19.

## Man arrested following downtown break-in spree

A 21-year-old local man is facing 11 charges after several unlocked vehicles and garages were broken into on Thursday morning (Feb. 22) in downtown Georgetown.

Halton Regional Police received several calls at around 6:30 a.m. for a suspicious male on Market Street, who was observed entering a parked vehicle on the street before leaving the area on a bicycle.

A citizen chased the suspect into the backyard of a home as uniformed and canine unit officers arrived on scene and established a perimeter.

Approximately 30 minutes after the initial call, the suspect was seen by an officer walking between two houses and was arrested.

Police said a subsequent investigation revealed the suspect was responsible for breaking into a number of unlocked vehicles and garages in the area.

A stolen laptop computer, a bicycle and a GPS device were recovered and returned to their

owners, with an estimated value of \$5,000.

Charged with counts of break and enter, two counts of theft under \$5,000, possession of break-in instruments, two counts of possession of stolen property, three counts of failure to comply with a probation order and failure to comply with a Youth Criminal Justice Act sentence or disposition is Bailey Collins of Georgetown.

The accused was held in custody pending a bail hearing.



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