

60 PER CENT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CANADA ALONG 400-SERIES HIGHWAYS

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Walczykiewicz also pointed out there is no standard age, background or even gender for a human trafficker.

"I have personally charged girls with human trafficking where they trafficked another female," he said.

"It could be anybody."

In a presentation aimed at helping hotel employees identify human trafficking situations, Powers and Walczykiewicz listed some possible indicators.

These included the same person reserving multiple rooms and the woman not knowing what city she is in because she has been moved around so

much.

Walczykiewicz said Halton police have also noticed a recent trend with human traffickers making use of Airbnbs.

He said people renting out their properties this way should have a neighbour or someone else keep an eye out for suspicious activity like people coming and going at all hours of the day and night.

Those present also heard from human trafficking expert Kelly Tallon Franklin, who noted that 60 per cent of human trafficking that takes place in Canada is initiated along the 400-series highways.

"Ontario is a hub," she said.

"They're hoping you

don't think you're a hub so you won't educate yourself about what to look for at McDonald's and Tim Hortons. Ever see a girl washing in a bathroom sink ... has all her clothes in a No Frills bag ... she's afraid to talk to you ... she has no ID ... she has multiple phones ..."

Maher pointed out that many of the recent human trafficking arrests took place because someone noticed something was wrong and called police. Anyone who suspects they see human trafficking is asked to call 911 if it is an emergency situation or 905-825-4747 if they see suspicious activity or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) to report a crime anonymously.

COUNCIL

EMPLOYMENT LANDS ARE BACK IN BUSINESS AFTER MINISTRY WITHDRAWS APPEAL

BRYAN MYERS
bmyers@metroland.com

Halton Hills' employment land is open for business.

The provincial government has withdrawn an appeal of an official plan amendment that tied up about 75 hectares of employment land in the area of Hornby and Trafalgar roads, frozen in 2011 for the GTA West highway study.

In December 2018, Mayor Rick Bonnette, MPP Ted Arnott, and chief administrative officer Brent Marshall met with Minister of

Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark.

"Our ask to the province was to allow us to proceed with development of 75 hectares of employment land we had worked to identify with Halton Region," Bonnette said.

"These were replacement lands to make up for previously approved employment lands we were told to freeze to make way for the GTA West Corridor."

The town spent about \$650,000 on background studies and agency approvals to advance the proposed

replacement lands; however, following approval by both the town and Halton Region, the ministry, under the previous government, appealed the proposal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

"I am delighted with the recent correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing withdrawing their appeal," Bonnette said.

"I appreciate that our concerns were heard and that the ministry recognized the value in opening these employment lands to economic development."



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