

HALTON HILLS SETS SIGHTS ON SKY WITH HIGH-TECH DRONE

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Emergency responders in Halton Hills will have the ability to take to the skies should the situation require it. The Town is anticipating the purchase of a drone for the Halton Hills fire department.

A donation from the Terra Cotta Cookie Co. will provide some of the necessary funds for the purchase of a specialized drone for the Halton Hills Fire Department.

Paul Brass, president of the Terra Cotta Cookie Co., told council at the Nov. 11 meeting that he had read

the town borrowed a drone (formally known as a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System or RPAS) from Brampton during an ice jam that led to flooding in Glen Williams earlier this year.

Emergency services employed the drone to locate the source of the ice jam in a matter of hours, something ground attempts had been unsuccessful to accomplish for weeks.

"We found something we could do, and hopefully this donation pushes that over the edge," Brass said.

Town staff will authorize the purchase of a DJI Matrice 210 V2 drone for



Bryan Myers/Torstar

Jane Brass, Jason Brass, Bryce Marshall, assistant deputy fire chief, and Mayor Rick Bonnette. The Brass family received an honorary fire helmet for their contribution to the Halton Hills Fire Department.

the Halton Hills fire department from a budget of \$56,072.81, including the \$15,000 donated from Terra Cotta Cookie Co.

The drone has a range of seven kilometres with a maximum flight time of 38 minutes, and the ability to navigate strong winds and inclement weather.

Newly-introduced technology for the drone in-

cludes a heated battery that would improve the drone's function in sub-zero conditions.

The drone will officially be named 'Cookie.'

Currently, drone operators must be certified - the Halton Hills fire department has a certified RPAS pilot, with more certified pilots anticipated in coming years.

CRIME

LOCAL MAN ARRESTED FOLLOWING SERIES OF THEFTS FROM VEHICLES

MELANIE HENNESSEY
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Halton police have tracked down and charged a Georgetown man suspected of entering unlocked vehicles and stealing valuables.

Samuel Osei-Boateng, 25, is facing two counts of theft under \$5,000 and trespassing charges, police say.

Police released surveillance photos late last week of a man entering a vehicle in the hopes of making an arrest.

"This suspect has been identified and charged," police tweeted on Nov. 11. "We would like to thank the

public for their help." Numerous reports of theft from vehicles were filed throughout October, with most of the thefts occurring in south Georgetown, though reports have also come from throughout Halton Hills.

Police are reminding residents to make sure they lock their vehicle doors to prevent opportunists.

Anyone with information can contact Det.-Const. Jonathan Nancarrow at 905-825-4747 ext. 2405, or by email at jonathan.nancarrow@halton-police.ca. Anonymous tips can be made to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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