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One of those high school liaison officers is Const. Noel Bowes, who has been assigned to Milton public and Catholic schools for the past three years.

Part of his responsibility is to engage with youth and provide counsel on all the available resources in the region through day-to-day interaction, programs and events, and presentations.

He'd get invitations from teachers to make a presentation on a number of topics. Depending on the school grades, it may include discussion on drugs, violent behaviour, and antisocial behaviour.

"Some teachers will bring us in for a law presentation and have an open forum and discuss with the young people regarding their interactions with police and in the community," he added.

Bowes, who has been with the force for 17 years, can often be seen across

the schools or in the library at lunchtime conversing with staff and the students.

"We stress to the (students) that we're there to support you and if you have any questions, we're there for any inquiries," he said.

He also encourages them to find their voice and to speak up if they see something wrong. He said any concern about being a social pariah and labelled as a snitch is counterproductive to why their parents raise them in a safe community like Halton.

As has happened in the past, those who don't want to report of a troubling behaviour in the community to an officer or a teacher can provide anonymous tips to Crime Stoppers.

Colin Jessome, executive director of the Halton chapter of Crime Stoppers, says the crime-prevention charity organization helps educate the public and catch "the bad guy," with a focus on drugs, human

trafficking, robbery and thefts, frauds and scams, break and enters, and assaults.

Jessome said they receive numerous tips from the general public about criminal acts throughout Halton, shootings included.

As of January 2020, anonymous tips submitted to Halton Crime Stoppers contributed to the arrest of 1,250 individuals and 2,261 cases cleared — with over \$62,000 rewards paid, according to its website.

In addition, the estimated value of properties recovered and drugs seized reached over \$2.7 million and \$18 million, respectively.

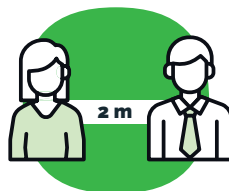
For Bowes, being a friendly presence in the school areas helps shed the notion that police officers are only around when there's something going on or there's something wrong.

"It's important to let them know that we're not the enemy," he said.

As more businesses and services reopen, we must all continue our efforts to protect each other.



Download the COVID Alert app to be notified if you may have been exposed to the virus.



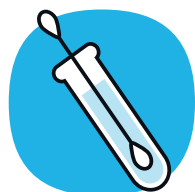
Continue to practice physical distancing, stay two metres apart even in gatherings.



Wear a face covering where physical distancing is a challenge or where required.



Continue to **wash hands frequently**.



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