

Halton police photo

Gun, drugs and cash seized by following a four-month investigation targeting drug traffickers in Halton and Mississauga in December 2019.

POLICE AND OTHERS LOOK AT WAYS TO GET DRUGS OFF THE STREETS

#HIGHWAYPIRATES: GUNS. DRUGS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

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This story is part of a Metroland-wide series on drugs, guns and human trafficking happening along the major highways that run through our communities.

As people continue to die from opioid overdoses in Halton, questions persist around whether there is a way to get illicit and dangerous drugs off local streets.

The stakes are clearly

high. According to the Halton Region, between 2014 and September 2019 a total of 152 people in Halton died from opioid overdoses.

Another seven possible opioid-related deaths were reported by Halton police between October 2019 and April 2020. Between November 2019 and April 2020 alone, there were 133 Halton police service calls related to opioids — 45 per cent of which involved overdoses.

Recent events also show that these drugs are not only being used in Halton, but sold here as well. On Feb. 28, Halton police say they seized approximately \$10,000 worth of fentanyl, methamphetamine. COcaine, oxycodone and hydromorphone from a vehicle in downtown Burling-

"Because of the increased overdose incidents that have occurred, our service has re-prioritized substances to be investigated with opioids at the top," said Det. Paul Foley of the Halton police Drug and Human Trafficking Unit.

"Most recently, we published two media releases about benzos/opioid mixtures that have been found in Halton Region. What we've seen, and what neighbouring municipalities have seen, is traffickers have been mixing opioids with benzodiazepines. Then naloxone doesn't have the same desired effect when someone is overdosing, which increases the likelihood of

See DRUG, page 43

