

## GROUP CONDEMNS RACIST GRAFFITI AT SCHOOL

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The Halton Coalition for the Prevention of Hate Crime has issued a statement condemning "yet another hate crime" taking place in Halton Hills after graffiti that included a swastika symbol was found at George Kennedy Public School in Georgetown.

"We are understandably outraged by these repeated demonstrations of violence and hate towards marginalized and minority residents of Halton. The Coalition stands with the Halton Hills Alliance for Social Change and all who condemn such acts of hate in Halton communities," the group said in a statement.

Graffiti is often per-



Danielle Phaphol photo  
Police are investigating graffiti with a hate symbol found at George Kennedy Public School.

ceived as a youthful mischief or prank, the group said.

"However, the use of the swastika is an intentional message to the Jewish and minority communities that spreads fear and perpetuates oppression. It is an act of violence that re-

verberates past the geographical boundaries of Halton and sends a clear and distinct message to those who perpetuate hate while simultaneously articulating that minorities are neither welcome nor safe," the statement reads.

The anti-hate coalition group said it is presenting a counter message to those who perpetuate hate and the minorities they target that hate is not tolerated and all are welcome in Halton.

Halton Regional Police are making a public "appeal for information" after they received a report on Dec. 7 regarding the hate graffiti.

Halton police Chief Stephen Tanner said the service always investigates hate crimes to the fullest extent possible.

"There is no place for hate anywhere in the Region of Halton or in our society," he said.

— With files from Louie Rosella and Bryan Myers

On behalf of Mayor Rick Bonnette  
& the Halton Hills Town Council

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