

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR METH LABS: POLICE



OPP photo

Meth seized during a 2020 raid by the OPP.

Indicators of a lab may include:

- suspicious activity, secretive behaviour and individuals who may avoid neighbour interactions
- occupants attend for short time periods and at odd hours
- chemical odours
- garbage contains numerous chemical containers, glassware, bags full of soil
- garbage is never put out
- location has excessive security
- evidence of chemical dumping grounds on or near premises (burn pits or dead spots on lawn)
- windows covered

• odd items being brought inside the location — equipment, glassware, chemical drums, etc.

Police are asking residents to share this information with other members of the community.

Anyone who sees indicators of a methamphetamine or synthetic drug lab is asked to maintain a safe distance, not approach suspects and call police at 905-825-4777 immediately or 911 if it is an emergency.

In the coming weeks, Halton police say they will share additional information to help educate the public and community agencies about the dangers posed by these labs.

Halton police are providing residents with tips on how to spot meth labs and other synthetic drug labs in the area.

In a press release issued Thursday, Jan. 7, Halton police announced the launch of a methamphetamine and synthetic drug labs awareness campaign.

Officers said methamphetamine is "pervasive in all our communities" and has contributed to both violent crime and property crime.

They said methamphetamine and synthetic drug labs can be found anywhere.

GEORGETOWN MAN CHARGED WITH FRAUD

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A Georgetown man has been charged with several counts of fraud-related offences following an investigation by Halton Regional Police.

In February, investigators identified a suspect in a number of fraudulent credit card applications where personal information from a number of Halton residents was reportedly used.

The suspect allegedly compromised several Canada Post community mailboxes in Georgetown and Mississauga, and stole personal mail from residents.

The information collected from the stolen mail was then allegedly used to apply for different financial

services through banks and other lenders.

On April 28, police arrested the accused, and a search warrant was executed at his Georgetown residence, where a significant amount of evidence was reportedly discovered.

The 53-year-old suspect has been charged with two counts of fraud over \$5,000, two counts of unauthorized use of credit card data, and theft from mail.

The charges have not been proven in court.

Investigators believe additional victims will be identified through co-operation with other police services and financial institutions.

Residents living in Georgetown with the postal code "L7G" (as well as Mississauga residents with

postal code "L5N") may have been compromised in the breach.

If you believe that your personal information has been compromised, contact a consumer credit reporting agency, Equifax (1-800-465-7166) or TransUnion (1-800-663-9980).

Residents who believe their information has been compromised should also contact the relevant financial institution.

Further inquiries can be made to the Halton Regional Police Service's fraud unit at 905-825-4747 ext. 8741.



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As the Canadian population ages, children of seniors are increasingly challenged with parents who need support.

In many instances, parents resist this assistance, as it often represents a loss of independence. How can we plan for these changes?

As is the case with most things in life, we can make the most progress with an open honest discussion. Families should include all interested parties in the process – siblings, friends, neighbors. This will ensure that down the road when important decisions need to be made, everyone will feel included.

If it has not been addressed recently, this is a good time to revisit your Will, and Powers of Attorney. In the process of discussing wishes, it can lead to a discussion on current personal needs. Although these can often be difficult discussions to have, a proactive approach will likely help the parent to accept life stage challenges with grace.

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