

A STRONGER VOICE

We recognize that diversity is the strength of our communities and we are inviting you to share your voice in our publications.

THEIFP.CA/COMMUNITYDIVERSITY



CRIME



Graham Paine/Metroland photo illustration

Vehicle theft is not just a crime of opportunity, as certain makes and models are targeted by thieves for export.

ROBBERY, EXTORTION AND OTHER CRIMES ON THE RISE

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Robbery, extortion and sexual assault are among the crimes that are on the rise in the region, according to a report presented to the Halton Police Board on Thursday, Oct. 27.

During its September meeting, the board called on Halton police to provide more details about growing criminal activity after officers reported a 30.5 per cent increase in Halton's crime rate during the first six months of 2022.

While much of that increase was chalked up to crime returning to pre-pandemic levels, Halton police Chief Stephen Tanner acknowledged some crimes are occurring more frequently.

Halton police noted in their report that between January and June of 2022 there were 83 robberies reported in the region compared to an average of 61.5 robberies, which occurred during the same period in the pre-pandemic years of 2018 and 2019.

This represents a 25 per

cent increase.

The report showed an 11.3 per cent increase in sexual assaults with 114 incidents in 2018/2019 compared to 137 incidents in 2022.

There was also a 9.7 per cent increase in assaults (418 versus 495 incidents), a 3.9 per cent increase in assaults with a weapon causing bodily harm (152.5 versus 171 incidents), a 37.2 per cent increase in extortion (38.5 versus 57 incidents), a 15.4 per cent increase in motor vehicle thefts (412 versus 531 incidents), and a 15.5 per cent increase in shoplifting under \$5,000 (811.5 versus 1,012 incidents).

The report noted there were a total of 901 more criminal offences reported during the first six months of 2022 (7,081) than were recorded during the same period in 2018 and 2019 (6,180).

This represents a crime rate increase of 6.1 per cent when regional population growth is taken into account.

Violent crime has reportedly increased by 16.2 per cent from 1,156 inci-

dents in 2018/2019 to 1,343 in 2022. When population growth is factored in, this represents a violent crime rate increase of 7.6 per cent.

Police said property crime has gone up 17.2 per cent from 4,035 incidents in 2018/2019 to 4,728 incidents in 2022.

This works out to a property crime rate increase of 8.5 per cent when population growth is factored in.

"I do believe violent crime is up," said Tanner.

"We have had a number of carjackings certainly. We've had a number of robberies where firearms are present. I believe, and I've said this before, a lot of those particular crimes are street gang related. Criminals coming here from the east of us."

Deputy Chief Jeff Hill noted many of the recent shootings in Halton have been related to organized crime. He said Halton police recognize the problem is not going away and have dedicated officers to com-

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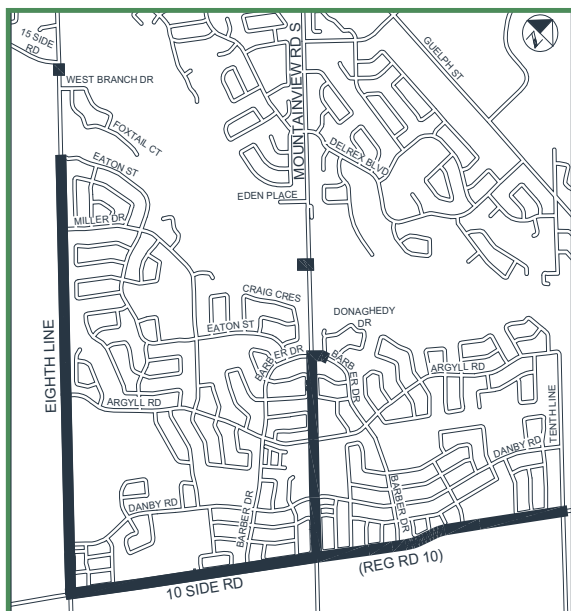


halton.ca 311



NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION

Watermain and Wastewater Main Improvements on 10 Side Road (Reg. Rd. 10), Eighth Line and Mountainview Road South, Town of Halton Hills (Georgetown)



Project Number: PR-3348
Scheduled Start Date: October 2022
Scheduled Completion Date: December 2024

For more information about Regional improvement projects:

- visit halton.ca;
- sign up to receive email notice and updates; or
- email accesshalton@halton.ca or call 311.



Honouring our nation's heroes

Each year in November we reflect on the courage of Canadian veterans and soldiers, including our Indigenous veterans who have served and protected our rights and freedoms. We remember all those who sacrificed their lives in the World Wars, Korean War and War in Afghanistan, and in ongoing peacekeeping missions and exercises. On Remembrance Day (Nov. 11) and National Indigenous Veteran's Day (Nov. 8) that passed, we honour the bravery and sacrifice of all members of the Canadian Armed Forces, both past and present.



Gary Carr
Regional Chair

Meetings at Halton Region

Regional Council meetings are taking place through web conferencing until further notice. Videos will be posted to halton.ca.

Please contact us, as soon as possible, if you have any accessibility needs at Halton Region events or meetings.