

Halton among safest places to live in Canada

By Frances Niblock

Halton Region is the safest place to live in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and Acton and Georgetown are the safest places to live in Halton, a trend that began in 2004.

Halton is also the safest regional municipality in Canada according to Maclean's magazine's 2009

crime rankings released last week. Halton was also the safest GTA community last year. Halton police statistics show that Halton Hills has the lowest crime rate of the Region's four municipalities. The Maclean's figures and the Halton police statistics are based on 2007 data.

Halton police are understandably happy with the

results – in a press release Chief Gary Crowell said, "As police, we are privileged to work in a region where local residents, municipalities and business owners want to work collaboratively with us, and they are all keen to do their part to prevent and deter crime." Crowell said the Maclean's ranking validates that Halton

officers, volunteers, local politicians and community partners are committed to keeping Halton as safe tomorrow as it is today.

Maclean's ranking was based on aggregate results of the 2007 per capital crime rates in six areas including personal and property crimes, murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, robbery, breaking and entering and auto theft. Saskatoon had the highest crime rate in Canada.

Halton police's director of corporate communications, Janice Coffin said Halton ranks fifth on the most desirable places to live and is the only regional municipality in the top five.

The safest community to live in is Caledon – one-sixth the size of Halton.

"This (ranking) is not something police take sole credit for. It's really a testament of how in Halton the community is really engaged and keen to work with police," Coffin said, adding there are a number of factors beyond police control that affect the crime rate including population, socio-economic standings and demographics.

Figures released by Keith Moore, a Halton police planner, indicate that Halton Hills had the lowest crime rate per 100,000 people in Halton at 2,824. Oakville's crime rate

Another robbery at Milton bank

Banks in Milton have frequently become targets for robberies.

The latest was at a Bank of Montreal branch at 1001 Maple Ave. Wednesday, March 4 when a lone male at a teller's desk produced a note demanding money at about 11:25am. The man

received some cash but no weapon was seen or indicated, Halton Police said.

The man left the bank and ran eastbound through the parking lot. Police initiated a search of the area with tracking dogs with no success.

The suspect is described

as male, with an olive or dark complexion in his mid '20s, about 6 feet tall, a slim build and a pronounced nose. He was wearing a black touque, black winter jacket with a dark fur type collar, black pants, work boots and black sunglasses.

Police are asking anyone with information about this crime to contact District One Criminal Investigations Bureau at 905-825-477, ext. 2415 or by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



Surveillance video captured this image of the suspected bank robber.



Lunch and Learn

The Ontario Early Years Satellite in Acton is pleased to offer a free five week program every Wednesday throughout April for parents and caregivers of children from 0 to 6 years of age. Adults and their children enjoy their lunch for the first half hour and guest speakers are invited speak for the remaining hour. Childcare is provided during this program to enable the adults to enjoy these stimulating & informative workshops. For more information or to register please contact Jennifer at 905-873-2960 or visit our centre at 85 Wallace Street, Acton. (In the Acton Citizens band hall).

Newcomers Breakfast

The Ontario Early Years Satellite in Georgetown (96 Guelph St.) is hosting a breakfast for newcomers to their programs Thursday, March 26 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. This is an opportunity for families with young children aged 0 -6 years of age to learn more about the resources and supports offered by the Ontario Early Years Satellites in both Georgetown and Acton. There is no charge for this event. For more information or to register please contact Jennifer at 905-873-2960

Income Tax Help

Links2Care offers free income tax preparation services. To qualify for the service, the maximum income for a single person is \$25,000 and the maximum for a couple is \$35,000. For one adult with a child the maximum is \$30,000 plus \$2,000 for each additional dependent. To find out more about this service please call Cathy at 519-853-3310 (Acton) or Brenda at 905-873-6502 (Georgetown).

Frozen Meals for Seniors

Don't feel like cooking tonight? Then why not try our range of delicious frozen meals! How about beef stroganoff, roast chicken, salmon in lemon sauce or Hawaiian pork? And for dessert, strawberry shortcake, cherry cheesecake or chocolate fudge cake? There is something to please everyone; Vegetarian meals, Chinese meals or breakfast snacks. Place your order by Tuesday morning for delivery on Thursday by our volunteers, or stop by one of our offices and purchase directly from the freezer.

For more information please contact Lynn at our Acton office 519-853-3310 or Liz in Georgetown at 905-873-6502.

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