

# Residents shouldn't put their guards down, warns chief

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minutes, Chief Algar said — a vast improvement from the days when it could take weeks to get that kind of information.

"Forensic sciences are improving our capability of apprehending people in a more timely manner."

Police also help prevent crime by tracking and anticipating criminal activity, Chief Algar said.

The police chief noted even with a low crime rate, Halton residents shouldn't let their protective guard down because obviously crime still exists.

"Crime doesn't recognize borders," he said.

University of Toronto criminology professor Scot Wortley said the declining numbers seen in Halton aren't only indicative of what's happening in Canada, but across North America.

"It's not surprising," he said.

What also could be a factor in Halton, an affluent region, is the increased use of private security firms and car alarm systems residents are using to better protect themselves and their property, Mr. Wortley said.

"All of these things make it more difficult for casual crime to take place."

The professor said one thing it's important to note when it comes to crime is how the public views it. He said crime coverage in the media has intensified over the last 20 years, giving people the impression that perhaps crime is all around them.

"People hear about crime everyday where before they didn't," Mr. Wortley said. "I'm sure in Halton they hear about crimes that take place in Toronto, they hear about crimes that take place in the United States, they hear about crimes that take place in Europe... which makes it appear like crime is all around."

Despite a low crime rate, Halton police still face some criminal problems, most notably counterfeiting money. It's a growing concern among the police services, said Chief Algar, especially since it has exploded within a two-year period.

In 2002, there were 692 counterfeiting cases, while in 2004 there were 1,721 such cases — representing a startling increase of 150 per cent.

Chief Algar said the bottom line is technology has made it easier to counterfeit.

"Counterfeiting is a problem," he said.

# Dateline

Tuesday Aug. 2 - 5

Wellspring Halton-Peel, a support network for cancer patients and their families, holds its **peer support program** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2545 Sixth Line in Oakville. For more information, call (905) 257-1988.

Wednesday Aug. 3

Wellspring Halton-Peel, a support network for cancer patients and their families, holds its **Graduate Metastatic Cancer Support Group** from 10:30 a.m. to noon at 2545 Sixth Line in Oakville. For more information, call (905) 257-1988.

The Ontario Early Years Centre holds its **Playtime in the Park** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Bronte Meadows Park with an informal playtime for adults and kids up to six years old. For more information, call (905) 876-1244.

Ebenezer United Church, 12274 Guelph Line, holds special **summertime services** weekly at 7 p.m. Everyone's welcome. Regular Sunday services continue rotationally within the three-point pastoral charge. For more information, call Pastor Mark Rutledge at (905) 854-2423.

The Oakville branch of St. John Ambulance offers an **emergency first aid and CPR class**. For more information, call (905) 469-9325, ext. 0.

Pesticide Alternatives for Milton presents the **Yellow Fish Road storm drain marking event** at 1 p.m. at Laurier Park (Laurier Avenue between Thompson Road and Ontario Street) featuring fun for the whole family. Children paint yellow fish beside storm sewers using Conservation Halton kits. Learn about water pollutants and alternatives to pesticides and chemical fertilizers. An organic lawn care demo and

free samples are also included. For more information, call (905) 693-9837 or go to [www.conservationhalton.ca](http://www.conservationhalton.ca).

Wednesday Aug. 3 - 4

The Oakville branch of St. John Ambulance offers a **standard first aid and CPR class** over two days. For more information, call (905) 469-9325, ext. 0.

Thursday Aug. 4

Milton District Hospital holds a **breast-feeding clinic** with a certified lactation consultant from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment, call Jean Gallen at (905) 878-2383, ext. 7030.

The Fine Arts Society of Milton's **Evening Group of Artists** meets from 7 to 10 p.m. The informal environment provides artists with an opportunity to exercise their drawing skills. For more information, call Janis at (905) 854-5753.

The Women's Centre, suite 210 in Hopedale Mall at Rebecca Street and Third Line, in Oakville holds its **Women's Caring and Sharing Circle** from 1 to 3 p.m. **Peer counseling** is held in person or over the phone from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with no appointment necessary. For more information or to register, call (905) 847-5520.

Friday Aug. 5

Wellspring Halton-Peel, a support network for cancer patients and their families, holds its **Relaxation and Visualization group** from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 2545 Sixth Line in Oakville. For more information, call (905) 257-1988.

The Oakville branch of St. John

Ambulance holds a **babysitting course** for youths aged 11 to 15. For more information, call (905) 469-9325, ext. 0.

Saturday Aug. 6

Mountsberg Conservation Area holds its **Evening with the Bats** event from 7 to 9 p.m., which includes watching the bat population head out for their nocturnal hunt, a puppet show, games and information on bat research. Tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$8 for kids and are available by calling (905) 854-2276.

**Euchre** takes place at 7:30 p.m. at the Hornby Co-operative Nursery School. Everyone's welcome to attend.

Saturday Aug. 6 - 7

Country Heritage Park holds its **Heavy Horse Field Days** event from noon to 5 p.m. each day featuring horse drawn wagon rides, plowing, hay-making and grain-cutting plus stoking, threshing, farrier and harness demonstrations. Tickets cost \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$4 for kids. For more information, call (905) 878-8151.

Sunday Aug. 7

**Christian Music in the Park** takes place in the afternoon at Victoria Square in front of Town Hall on Brown Street featuring various performers. The event is sponsored by Milton Area Christian Churches Working Together.

Monday Aug. 8

Wellspring Halton-Peel, a support network — see more **DATELINE** on page A27

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