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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Village Constable Mike Hunchak of Halton Regional Police investigates the latest graffiti-laden walls of the Sixteen Mile Creek aqua duct, just north of Millside Drive.

## Public's help needed to fight graffiti

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Halton Regional Police is calling for the community's help in fighting the graffiti incidents that've been occurring around Milton.

According to Det. Sgt. Murray Drinkwalter, there are several things local residents can do to help the service deal with the graffiti issue, such as call police if they see someone spray painting public or private property.

"We need the help of the community to work on these incidents," said Drinkwalter. "The public is our eyes and ears out there."

He said citizens can also call Crime

Stoppers if they believe they know someone responsible for graffiti.

Although there's actually been a decrease lately in the number of graffiti incidents reported to police, Drinkwalter said he knows there are a lot of occurrences out there that go unreported — something that makes dealing with the issue that much more difficult for police.

"It (graffiti) is a growing concern of ours. Any time people don't have respect for public or private property, it's always a concern," he said. "It's definitely a quality of life issue for everyone, so if you see something, don't be afraid to call it in."

Drinkwalter said there has been three graf-

fiti occurrences reported so far this month and three last month, which is down from five in June. Within the past year, the busiest month police had when it comes to graffiti was October, which had 10 incidents.

While police don't have an explanation as to why the numbers fluctuate, Drinkwalter said one trend police have noticed is that most occurrences happen in areas where youth congregate, such as schools.

"Not all youth are doing this though," he emphasized. "Ninety-five per cent of youths are great kids. It's just five per cent who've lost all respect (for property)."

Drinkwalter said he wants individuals who

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## Man arrested in standoff

A man was pepper sprayed during a standoff Saturday night in which a police officer was assaulted.

Police were called to a Milton home shortly before 7 p.m. by a woman involved in a verbal dispute with her husband, said Det. Sgt. Murray Drinkwalter of Halton Regional Police.

Officers were confronted by a man holding an axe in a threatening manner. He also had knives taped to his wrists.

The man was ordered to drop the weapons. He originally refused, but after further negotiations he complied.

Police attempted to take the man into custody, but he lashed out, striking an officer with his fist, Drinkwalter said. Pepper spray was then deployed.

After a short struggle, a suspect was subdued and arrested.

The police officer wasn't injured.

A 46-year-old Milton man has been charged with mischief, possession of dangerous weapons and assaulting a police officer. He was to be held for a bail hearing Monday.

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