

Police try to track down sex assault suspect

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Police are seeking the public's help as they continue to investigate a recent sexual assault on a woman out for a walk. They're also reminding residents to be cautious when out walking or jogging alone.

On Saturday, Aug. 7 about 11:45 p.m., a 23-year-old Milton woman was walking alone southbound on the east side of Bronte Street, approaching Vanier Drive, when a male jogger passing her grabbed her buttocks. He continued running

south toward Derry Road, police said. The woman wasn't injured.

The incident is being investigated by Halton police's Child Abuse and Sexual Assault (CASA) Bureau, and residents are asked to report any information they may have.

CASA's Det. Tamara Sandy said this seems to be an isolated incident and there's no need to be fearful. But being careful is always smart.

"It's a matter of being cautious," Sandy said. "There's been no other incidents that are similar at this time... This case seems to be a one-off."

Being vigilant can mean different things to different people, Sandy said. Carrying a cell phone to call police in the event of a problem is a good idea, but might not be practical for a jogger, she said.

A tip everyone can use, whether walking to the store, going for a run or heading to the bus stop, is to tell someone exactly where you'll be.

Another idea, particularly if you're prone to running the same route every day, is to mix it up a bit and take different paths. That way, in the unlikely event you're being watched, your whereabouts won't be predictable, Sandy said.

And, as always, stick to well-lit, well-travelled paths, she said.

These safety precautions aren't only for women, she said. Although men are less likely to be sexually assaulted, they can be targeted for different motives, including robbery.

Just last month, a young man was walking his dog in the early morning at Rotary Park when he was chased by three men who pushed him to the ground, assaulted him and took his wallet. He sustained minor injuries.

Just because a person isn't physically injured in an incident — as in this most recent occurrence — doesn't mean he or she isn't a victim, Sandy said; the negative impacts can be long-lasting. "It can (leave) a feeling of being unsafe in your own community."

The Bronte Street suspect is described as dark brown-skinned, 17 to 20 years old, five-foot-10 to six feet, 190 to 210 pounds and clean shaven with short dark hair. He wore a red shirt, black shorts and white running shoes.

If you have any information, call police at (905) 465-8970 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

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Man's robbery attempt fails

Police are looking for a man who may be armed after an attempted robbery took place Sunday afternoon.

Just before 1 p.m. at Shoppers Drug Mart on Kennedy Circle — near Thompson Road and Louis St. Laurent Avenue — a man approached the pharmacy counter and produced a note demanding a quantity of a prescription drug, Halton police said.

He indicated he was armed.

"It's believed he may have had a handgun tucked inside his belt," said Det. Sgt. Murray Drinkwater.

His demands weren't met and the man left the store and was last seen walking briskly in an easterly direction. Nobody was injured.

The suspect is described as black, in his early twenties, about five-foot-five, with a thin build. He wore a black t-shirt with silver lettering, a silver logo on the chest and a silver pattern on the back, black jogging pants with a silver stripe down the side, white running shoes and a mostly black — likely Chicago White Sox — baseball cap.


Call police at (905) 825-4777 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

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