

# SIU probe determines car theft suspect was shot

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

A youth injured during an arrest was shot, the province's Special Investigations Unit has confirmed.

The agency stated in a press release Thursday that the Hamilton youth, who was arrested in Milton Dec. 12 following a lengthy police chase, suffered a gunshot wound to his right forearm.

The SIU began a probe into the discharge of an officer's gun last month, but hadn't revealed the cause of the injury.

The SIU, which investigates serious injury and death involving police officers, was notified about cuts to the youth's arm by Halton Regional Police, said Barbara Theobalds, the SIU's communications officer.

"Initially, it was not apparent that the injury was caused by the discharged weapon," she said.

The investigation will continue to determine the circumstances surrounding the shooting, which police have said was accidental.

The youth was shot after police stopped a stolen car on Trafalgar Road, just south of Hwy. 401.

Initially, an alert citizen saw two youths abandon a vehicle and break into and steal another car in north Burlington shortly after 2 a.m. The witness called police and an officer on patrol spotted the car heading southbound on Brant Street.

The pursuit began when the car failed to stop for police and continued eastbound on the QEW. The chase, which involved speeds up to 150 km/h, proceeded as the vehicle left the highway and travelled north on Trafalgar Road.

The fleeing car came to a stop after Milton officers rolled a spike belt across the road, deflating the vehicle's tires.

After the car was disabled, police attempted to arrest two young suspects in the vehicle, which ended up in the ditch.

However, the youths refused to get out of the locked car, police sources have said, so an officer attempted to break a window of the vehicle with his gun. That's when the weapon discharged.

Because the investigation is continuing, the SIU isn't releasing any further information at this time, Ms Theobalds said.

The probe is expected to last three months. Depending on the outcome, the officer could face criminal charges, an internal disciplinary hearing, or be exonerated.

The youth, who cannot be named under the Young Offenders Act, faces two charges of possession of stolen property and one each of dangerous driving and causing a police pursuit.

## Phase-in MVA may have cost \$200,000

from COUNCIL on page 1  
The phase-in when it was initially put in place in December. Burlington and Oakville have instituted a phase-in program, but Halton Hills didn't. Councillor Day laid the blame for the controversy elsewhere. "Don't miss what's happening here. It's regional government and the boards of education," he said, his voice rising. "Especially the damned boards of education. You pay \$5,000 in property taxes in Milton and \$4,000 goes to the region and the boards of education. The rest is left here for us to fund arenas, parks, roads." Councillor Barry Lee said it seemed as if town council had been dealing with MVA "forever." Considering the phase-in would have taken three years, which coincides with the next scheduled assessment update, he warned that MVA could have remained a never-ending issue if the phase-in was approved.

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"People with decreased taxes are not getting their just desserts and they have to pay \$150,000 for tax write-offs and \$50,000 for administration," said Nassagaweya farmer Lieven Gevaert. "It ain't right. Ten per cent of the people are paying for 100 per cent of the program."

"He added the phase-in would have been put in place for those who had a "free ride" for several years. Mr. Gevaert said numerous segments of the program had not been fully calculated, because of the substantial amount of work required.

"It's impossible to have a complex phase-in program without costs," warned Councillor Marion Howard, who led the fight against the

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2274 Lakeshore Road West  
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Gian Paulo Spangaro

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Gian Paulo Spangaro is a Financial Advisor with Financial Concept Group in Oakville and can be reached at (905) 469-8600.

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