



The new Satan's Choice club in Milton is located in this industrial complex on Lawson Road, just north of Steeles Avenue. According to police, the two units owned by the group are heavily fortified.

Satan's Choice moves into Milton

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Bike gangs have been known to fight their battles with bombings and drive-by shootings, he said.

Police are now referring to motorcycle gangs in the media as organized crime groups, following a recent civil suit launched by the Paradise Riders against Durham Regional Police.

The bikers unsuccessfully took Durham police to court, complaining that it was against the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms for cops to set up spot checks outside biker gatherings.

"The judge ruled that outlaw motorcycle gangs were a form of organized crime," Det. Sgt. Eacrett explained. "Outlaw motorcycle gangs are now recognized by the courts as organized crime groups."

Halton police set up a spot check outside the Satan's Choice inaugural party at its new Lawson Road home April 13, and police regularly patrol the complex.

Five of six Lost Souls members flipped their patches to make up Satan's Choice's new Milton chapter. The gang now has six chapters and approximately 82 members in the province, since the recent opening of a Hamilton clubhouse. The other chapters are in Kitchener, Toronto, Oshawa, Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

To date, no significant problems have been reported at the Lawson Road clubhouse, which is frequented by other gang members and associates.

However, police have information indicating Satan's Choice members have flexed their muscles in at least one Milton drinking establishment, intimidating staff and customers by helping themselves to the bar and refusing to pay.



Nine outlaw bike gangs — the Hell's Angels, Last Chance, Lobos, Loners, Outlaws, Paradise Riders, Red Devils, Vagabonds and Satan's Choice — are active in Ontario.

The only club with a chapter in Halton is Satan's Choice, after the Loners recently moved from Highway 25 in Milton and joined the Loners' Woodbridge chapter.

However, members of other outlaw clubs live in Halton, Det. Sgt. Eacrett said.

The Milton clubhouse will be monitored particularly closely following last month's announcement by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) of a strategy to curtail the illegal activities of outlaw motorcycle gangs.

The CACP, in conjunction with the Criminal Intelligence Service of Canada (CISC), announced May 30 the kickoff of a new nation-wide, joint initiative in the law enforcement community's campaign against bikers.

The public and police have become increasingly concerned about escalating intimidation and violence by members of outlaw motorcycle gangs, said Tom O'Grady, CACP president and OPP commissioner.

Territorial rights seem to be the force driving some bikers to extreme behaviour, said CISC Director Tom Burns.

"It's greed, pure greed, and power," he said.

The CACP's announcement followed a recent police summit in Ottawa at which law enforcement representatives pledged widespread support of reducing and even eradicating the illegal activities.

Examples of profitable, illegal pursuits for gangs are the importation and distribution of drugs, theft, and the control of prostitution.

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