



# Halton Regional Police Service

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Dear Oakville Community Member,

As the temperatures outside start to rise with the arrival of warmer weather, we know that the number of property crimes and thefts from vehicles will also rise. The Halton Regional Police Service is requesting your assistance to ensure that this year, you do not become one of the more than 1,000 people in our community who have their vehicles broken into at a combined loss of in excess of \$500,000 each year.

Last year in Oakville, more than 35 people were arrested for breaking into vehicles, with 70% of those arrested being teenagers. The majority of offences occurred between June and August. ‘Carhopping’ as it is commonly known among youth is talked about frequently at parties, and teens can often find themselves committing a criminal offence that they did not plan, but because the opportunity presented itself on their way home from a party, or to sleep over at a friend’s house.

In order to help deter these kinds of incidents from occurring, plainclothes and uniform police officers in Oakville will be taking a zero tolerance approach to targeting the culprits. If we see a youth engaged in theft, they will be arrested and charged. However, enforcement is only one part of the equation. Prevention is the key, and here are some ways you can help do your part:

## Teens

- Discourage your friends from taking part in “carhopping.”
- Stand your ground and refuse to participate in carhopping yourself. It is a crime, and you will be held accountable.
- If you are feeling peer pressure or being bullied to commit a criminal offence, speak to your parents, a teacher or a high school liaison officer.

## Parents

- Be aware of where your teenager is at all times.
- Talk to them about this crime trend and ensure they know it is a criminal offence.
- If your teen arrives home with new unexplained property such as a laptop, iPod, or GPS, question where they got it from.

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[www.haltonpolice.ca](http://www.haltonpolice.ca)

## Vehicle Owners

- Never leave your vehicle unlocked.
- If you do choose to leave your vehicle unlocked, do not leave any items of value inside.
- Secure laptops, GPS equipment, and other electronics and valuables in the trunk, out of sight.
- Call police immediately if you see any suspicious activity.

For more crime prevention tips on how to keep your property and your family safe, visit our website at [www.haltonpolice.ca](http://www.haltonpolice.ca)

Thank you in advance for your valuable assistance in this matter. By working together, we can make a positive difference in our community, and ensure Halton remains as safe tomorrow as it is today.

Sincerely,



Superintendent Marty Power  
Commander, #2 District (Oakville)  
Halton Regional Police Service

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