

DRPS COMBATS HUMAN TRAFFICKING



OPEN YOUR EYES

93% of Human Sex Trafficking victims are Canadian citizens.

Nearly 2/3 of police reported Human Sex Trafficking violations in Canada occur in Ontario.

Average age of recruitment into Human Sex Trafficking is 13 years old.

On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) is raising awareness about human trafficking and reaffirming its commitment to protecting victims, supporting survivors, and holding offenders accountable.

Between 2021 and 2025, the DRPS Human Trafficking Unit conducted 1,332 investigations involving elements of human trafficking, identifying 531 accused persons and persons of interest, laying 754 human trafficking-related charges, and assisting 1,175 individuals at risk of exploitation and victims of human trafficking.

During June and July 2026, DRPS participated in a province-wide, multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional human trafficking enforcement initiative alongside 18 police services and victim services organizations from across Ontario. The coordinated effort, led by Peel Regional Police, focused on identifying individuals at risk of exploitation, connecting them with supports, and strengthening investigative partnerships across jurisdictions. As a result of the initiative:

- 98 individuals involved in the sex trade were identified and offered and/or facilitated access to appropriate social services and community supports.

A coordinated investiga-

tive response was established among human trafficking investigators across Ontario.

Multiple ongoing human trafficking investigations were initiated.

Intelligence gathering and information sharing were enhanced to strengthen future enforcement and victim support efforts.

Human trafficking remains one of the most underreported crimes in Canada and often targets vulnerable individuals through manipulation, coercion, fear, and control. Victims frequently know their traffickers, making it difficult to seek help or escape exploitative situations.

Through partnerships with victim services organizations and police agencies

across the province, DRPS continues to work toward identifying victims, disrupting trafficking networks, and ensuring survivors have access to the resources they need.

"This initiative demonstrates the importance of collaboration in addressing human trafficking," said Deputy Chief Ryan Connolly. "By working together across jurisdictions and alongside victim services professionals, we can better identify those at risk, support survivors, and strengthen investigations targeting those who seek to exploit vulnerable individuals. Human trafficking has no boundaries, and neither should our response."

Anyone who may be experiencing exploitation, or who has information about

human trafficking, is encouraged to contact police. In Durham Region, individuals can report information to DRPS at 1-888-579-1520. In an emergency, call 9-1-1. Support is also available through the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010. For more information on the signs of human trafficking visit: stopht.com

Participating Police Services Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Anishinabek Police Service, Barrie Police Service, Belleville Police Service, Brantford Police Service, Cornwall Police Service, Durham Regional Police Service, Guelph Police Service, Halton Regional Police Service, Hamilton Police Service, Kingston Police, London Police Service, North Bay Police Service, Peel Regional Police, Greater Sudbury Police Service, South Simcoe Police Service, Waterloo Regional Police Service, Woodstock Police Service, and York Regional Police.

Participating Victim Services Organizations Victim services professionals from Peel Region, York Region, Durham Region, and the City of Hamilton collaborated throughout the initiative, providing support and resources to individuals identified during the operation.

This collaborative, multi-jurisdictional approach strengthens the ability of law enforcement and community partners to identify trafficking activity, support victims, and detect offenders as they move between jurisdictions.



Matt Cardwell is with Glenda Cardwell in Downtown Whitby

It was another awesome experience spending time in the dunk tank on Saturday at the Downtown Whitby BIA Home Sweet Home Festival. We were raising money for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. Thank you to everyone in the community who participated and came together for an important cause. I am excited to see the fundraising results and how we did versus Mayor Roy, MP Ryan Turnbull and MPP Lorne Coe.

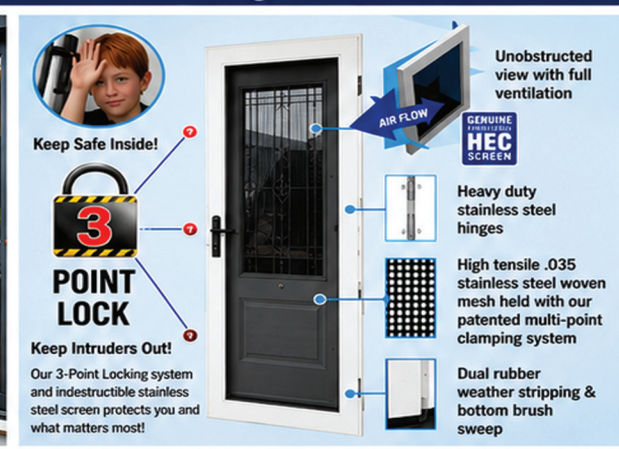






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