

## Mental health awareness still a concern

From Dec. 1, 2015 to Nov. 1, 2016, officers from Caledon OPP responded to 543 occurrences related to mental health (compared to 306 in the same period of the previous year).

Thanks to a partnership between the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Peel Branch and Caledon OPP, police have been able to work collaboratively to assist residents of Caledon who find themselves in crisis, struggling with mental health and/or addictions.

The team operates seven days a week between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. and consists of a plain-clothes officer partnered up with a mental health professional from CMHA Peel. The program is referred to as 24.7 Crisis Support Peel. The team of registered health professionals may also visit individuals where they are to provide support.

Police believe the community should know that this team represents a community crisis service, which offers timely response to adults (16 years and older) experiencing problems involving mental health or addictions, as well as those having trouble coping, along with family, caregivers and friends needing support.

For residents in Caledon, professional support is available 24 hours a day seven days a week by calling 1-888-811-2222.

Caledon OPP encourages residents to utilize this support if they ever find themselves or someone near to them struggling and in need of assistance.