



FACT SHEET



What is Graffiti?

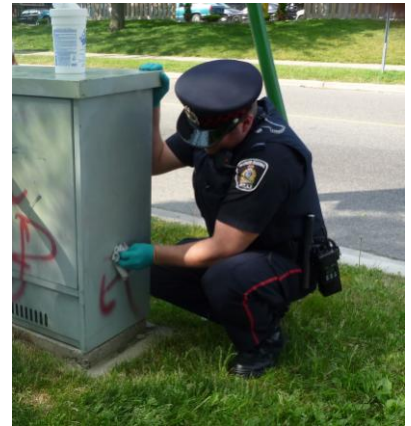
- **Graffiti is an act of vandalism** by etching, painting or placing a mark on public or private property without the owner's consent.
- The criminal charge that would be laid for someone committing an act of vandalism is "mischief".

What is the Impact of Graffiti?

- **Graffiti affects everyone!** It is a major concern for many citizens, organizations, and businesses. Graffiti is not a victimless crime. If ignored, graffiti can:
 - Lead to increased graffiti and crime
 - Create loss of business and tourism
 - Result in costly clean up
 - Reduce property values
 - Decrease residents' feelings of safety

Graffiti Clean up

- The faster graffiti is removed, the less likely the site will be tagged again. With your help we can start to reduce this kind of vandalism in our community.
- **Keep it clean!** Properties that have littered lots, graffiti, broken fences, overgrown greenery and poor lighting, suggest neglect and are prime targets of graffiti vandals. Keeping your property clean and maintained has a positive effect on the community and deters graffiti.



Reporting Graffiti

- Reporting Hotline: **1-855-TAG-FREE** (1-855-824-3733)
- When to call police? Incidents of hate crime or gang graffiti should be reported directly to police at 519-653-7700.