

Police collected 123 kilos at prescription drug drop

The inaugural Halton-police sponsored drug drop-off day resulted in the collection of prescription medications totalling the weight of an average National Football League defensive end.

Halton Regional Police along with representatives of the OPP, RCMP, Halton Region, and the municipalities of Halton Hills, Milton, Oakville and Burlington hosted the region's first ever Prescription Drug Drop Off Day on May 11.

People were encouraged to go to one of six

sites across Halton and drop off any old or unused medication. The event was part of a public awareness campaign supported by Public Safety Canada and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police.

Police collected more than 123 kilograms (270 pounds) of prescription medication. The voluntarily discarded drugs included codeine, Demerol, diazepam, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, morphine, oxycodone, Percocet, Phenobarbital and several hundred needles.

"In terms of weight it was quite substantial,

but it was about what we expected based on what we've seen of other drop-offs in other regions," said Det.-Sgt. Jeff Dunham of Halton Regional Police's Integrated Drug, Gun and Gang Unit.

Police were assisted at the six drop-off sites by community volunteers and pharmacists from Morrelli's Guardian Pharmacy at the Oakville, Burlington and Milton drop-off locations.

Dunham said residents can always turn in their unwanted or expired medication to any

pharmacy.

Halton police say studies show the misuse/abuse of prescription medication is the third leading cause of drug abuse among Halton youth with most finding the drugs in their home.

Police are reminding the public to use Crime Stoppers of Halton to report any illegal drug, gang or gun activity at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), through the web at www.haltoncrimestoppers.com or by texting Tip201 with your message to 274637 (crimes).



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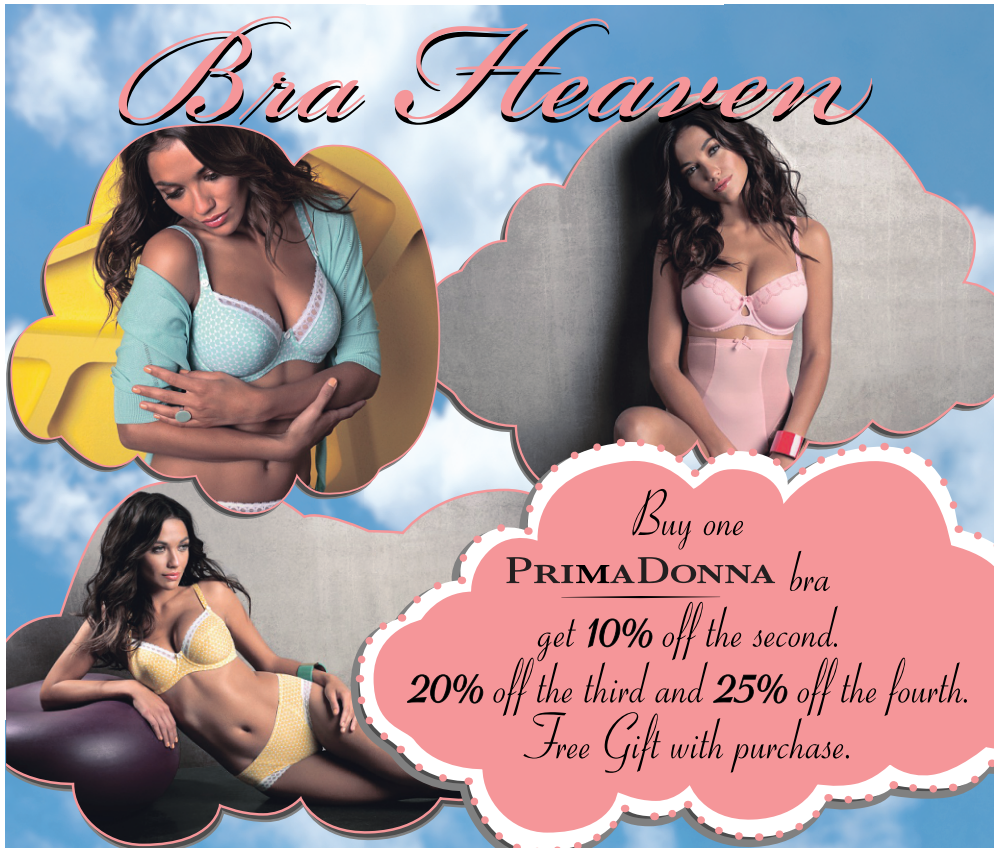
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