

Crime Prevention Week

October 31 — November 6

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and support our
Oakville Police Force
for their hard work
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We are happy to support and truly
thank our local Police Force.

Crime prevention begins at home

By Sgt. Joe Prasad
Halton Regional Police
Crime Prevention Supervisor

Crime prevention is the responsibility of everyone, not just by being aware of the crime risks that surround us, but by contributing to raising the best community we possibly can — our children. They are the ones who eventually grow up to create havoc and make life miserable for others. It is our responsibility to educate and prepare children for the harsh realities awaiting them in the world they will have to face.

If we instill good moral values at an early age and respect for others and their property, someone, when faced with the decision to hurt or vandalize will hesitate. Our liberalism today has clouded our judgment between right and wrong. Wrong has no degree. We tolerate casual sex and violence on television and our young people accept this as the norm. Parents are afraid to reprimand their teenagers for fear of either reprisals or of their children leaving home.

We must not depend on teachers, social workers or the police to be

Working Together To Prevent Crime

socially responsible for our children while outside the home.

Teenagers are young adults and it is not fair to arm them with a driver's licence and the family car and turn them loose on the world on Friday and Saturday nights.

Sending kids out into a safer world starts at a basic level — teaching them how to take care of themselves both in everyday and emergency situations; learning simple skills such as what to do if lost at a shopping mall to making emergency phone calls — builds a child's confidence and self esteem.

We must encourage children to take crime prevention into their own hands.

As children grow and broaden their horizons, simple self-protec-

tion rules don't hold all the answers.

Young people also need guidance and experience in handling problems like bullies, fights in schools, and pressures to join gangs or experiment with alcohol and other drugs.

The concepts of open communication, respect for self and others, and individual responsibility must be introduced.

Efforts to teach these skills could be vital elements in long term violence prevention.

As levels of aggression increases around us, children begin to accept violence as commonplace and become numb to its consequences.

We should not only work together to make neighbors and schools safer, but we must teach young people to solve problems in nonviolent ways, both through community partnerships and individual behavior.

Our behavior is usually influenced by our environment. The young person with a stable background will react differently when faced with a decision than his peers
(See 'Crime' page 31)



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See the display at Oakville Place

Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 4th & 5th, 1-9 p.m. Sat., Nov. 6th, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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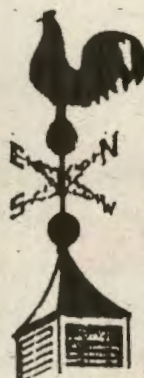
SUPPORT

THE HALTON REGIONAL POLICE AND CRIME PREVENTION WEEK

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Happening At Hopedale*

Hopedale

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THE OAKVILLE MILTON AND DISTRICT REAL ESTATE BOARD

Would like to extend

Our Heartfelt Thanks

To the Fine Men & Women Who Police Oakville & Area

For Keeping Our Community Safe