

Opioid Awareness night set for GDHS Wednesday

Opioid medication, used by some youth to get high, will be the topic of discussion at an evening for parents at Georgetown District High School Wednesday, Nov. 23.

“Do you know?” Opioid Awareness Evening for Parents will be held in the school’s auditorium, 70 Guelph St., from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The free event, open to everyone, is presented by the schools’ parent council and local Do you know campaign team.

In 2009 the Canadian Association of Mental Health (CAMH) Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey revealed that use of opioid medication (OxyContin) among students ranked third behind alcohol and cannabis. According to CAMH, 180,000 students in Ontario used opioid painkillers to get high.

Oxycodone-related deaths increased nine-fold between 1991 and

2006 in Ontario and recently the College of Physicians and Surgeons identified this issue as a public health crisis.

The Awareness Evening will feature speakers Betty-Lou Kristy of Georgetown and Bill Robinson of Oakville who have both lost sons to accidental prescription OxyContin overdoses.

Robinson’s topic will be “A Father’s Story” Opioid Drug Misuse and Addiction and Kristy’s will be “What I Didn’t Know.”

Halton Regional Police Det. Const. John MacKinnon of the Drugs, Guns and Gang unit will speak about “When legal drugs become illegal” and address issues in Halton.

There will also be a question and answer session with a panel of professionals— Dr. Lori Regenstreif, pharmacist Harmen Herar and addictions counselor Kaitlyn Walsh.



BETTY-LOU KRISTY

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