

NEWS

Halton Police goal: Safe 'surfing' by children and youths



As part of the annual international Safer Internet Day on Tuesday, Feb. 9, Halton police joined with communities across the world in promoting the theme Play Your Part for a Better Internet!

The focus of this year's campaign was teaching children and youth about using online technology and their smartphones in a safe and responsible way.

In 2015, the Halton Police Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) unit conducted about 90 investigations. Seventeen people were arrested with 59 criminal charges laid.

Members of the ICE unit also conducted 22 internal/external educational presentations to more than 1,200 community members.

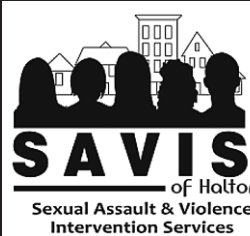
"Kids are becoming more involved with the Internet at much younger ages. It is our responsibility to teach them safe ways to surf, communicate and learn on the Internet," said Det. Raf Skwarka of Halton Police's ICE Unit.

"Lead by example and spend time teaching them about how the Internet works, how to keep themselves safe and ensure you keep the lines of communi-

cation open so they feel comfortable bringing issues to your attention," Skwarka added. The detective advises parents to communicate openly and honestly with their children, discuss the possible dangers and impacts of Internet use, take the time to check in and see what they are doing online, be involved with their Internet interests and build a trusting relationship and resist the temptation to break into personal e-documents, e-mail or browser history.

Go to <https://www.haltonpolice.ca/about/specializedunits/ice.php> for more information.

Anyone with information on child exploitation is asked to contact Crime Stoppers of Halton at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), through the web at www.haltoncrimestoppers.com or by texting Tip201 with your message to 274637 (crimes).



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