Poor car seat compliance in Acton blitz

The fail rate was enough to make volunteers shake their heads following a car seat clinic in Acton on Saturday - 82 per cent of the 51 car seats checked failed, potentially putting 42 children at risk because they were unharnessed, their seat straps were too loose, or forward-facing seats weren't tethered.

While this year's fail rate improved from 92 per cent last year, volunteers with the Halton Partners for Car Seat Safety Community Coalition, including Halton police and Halton Health Department, were concerned so many motorists had incorrectly installed seats, or

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seats unsafe for the age/ inspected. "We have weight of their child.

Some drivers were unnerved and apologetic when told their child's car seat was installed incorrectly, or was not being used properly, but a few of those pulled over in Saturday's blitz were annoyed with the delay, especially if their car seat failed an initial five-point inspection. One hundred quick checks were completed on Saturday.

"We want to educate, not ticket and fine people who don't have their seats installed rate yet. properly," said Halton Health Nurse Julie Fluit on Saturday as a steady stream of vehicles entered the fire hall to be

clinics where we invite parents to have their (car) seats inspected, but today we hope to reach more people, not just those concerned about the safety of the seat."

Those that failed the initial inspection were not given a \$214 fine, but were directed into the Acton fire hall where volunteers made their car seats/boosters safe. Of the 48 booster seats checked, 13 failed - a 27 per cent fail rate, the highest booster fail

In numerous instances, kids who had outgrown their car seat were given a free new booster seat, purchased



CAR SEAT SAFETY: Saturday's car seat inspection blitz in Acton had an 82 per cent fail rate, and an all-time high 27 per cent fail rate for booster seats. Keira Ward's outgrown car seat was replaced with a new free booster seat at the clinic, hosted by the Halton Partners for Car Seat Safety Community Coalition at the Acton fire hall. Halton Hills Firefighter Trevor McNally also checked Curtis Ward's car seat for Mom Michelle Ward, all of Acton. - Frances Learment photo

by the Coalition. Staff was found sitting on top found many booster seats had the vehicle's lap belt over top of the handles instead of under, with shoulder belts over

of the harness and was unrestrained in any way.

An earlier Ministry of Transportation study found that 90 per cent the shoulders. One child of child safety seats in

Ontario are not properly installed. Proper use of a car seat/booster can reduce the chance of a child being killed or injured in a collision by 75 per cent.

What do you think?

children in the Halton District School Board are invited to complete the annual 'Tell Them From Me' Partners in Learning Parent Survey. Parents/guardians have

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Parents/guardians with survey asking about issues related to learning opportunities, communication, school culture and cli-

> The survey information will help schools continue to create positive school climates, to inform annual bullying intervention plans, and to give parents a voice in creating a supportive community at school.

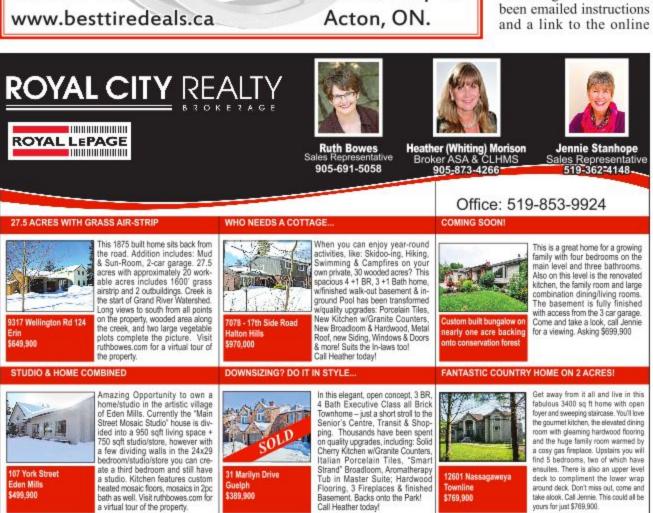
Students and teachers are invited to complete a similar version of the 'Tell Them From Me' survey at school. Participants can't be identified and individual responses will be grouped together for analysis.

Got a question? Call Frank Nezavdal 905-335-3663, ext. 3381, or by email at nezavdalf@ hdsb.ca

For difficulties accessing the survey or for technical assistance call 1-888-432-4372, Monday to Friday, or email informationcentre@hdsb.ca

Surveys will be accepted until May 30.





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