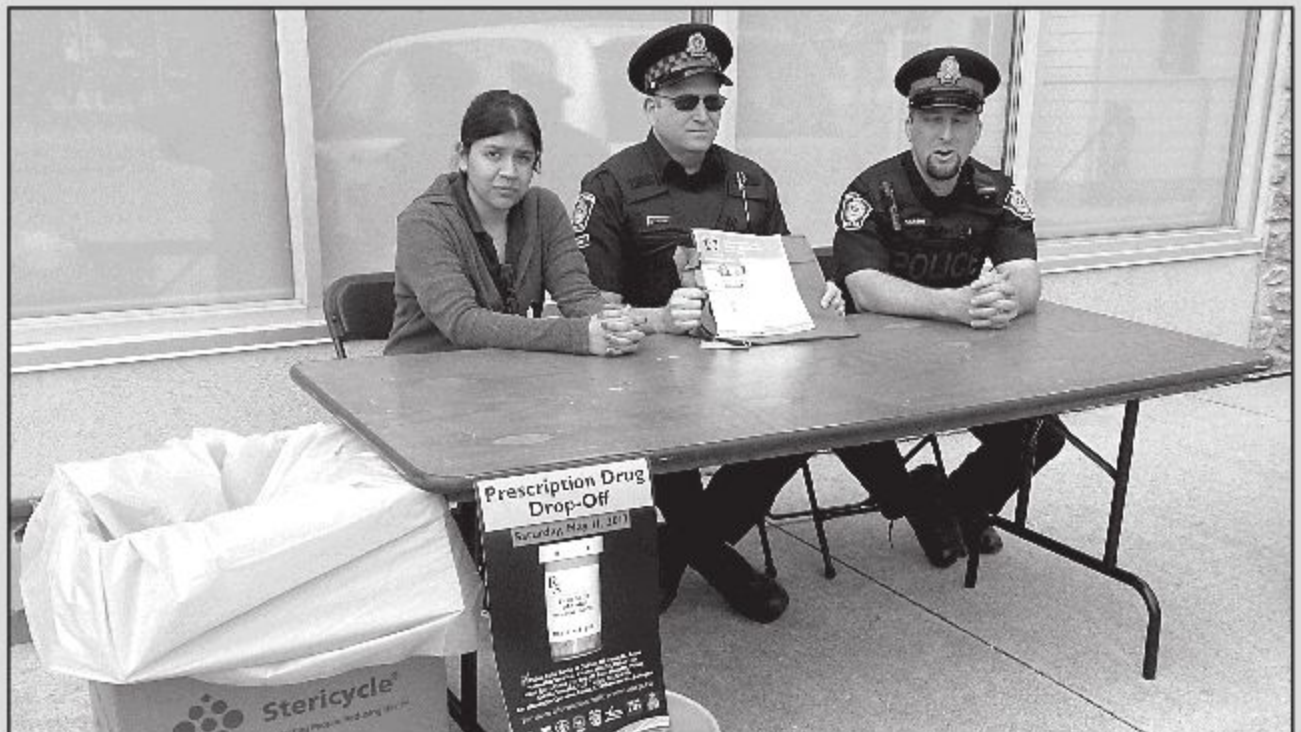


Fighting abuse and misuse of prescription drugs in Halton

Knowing that reducing availability of prescription drugs will reduce misuse, Halton police accepted approximately 123-kilograms of prescription medicines from 120 people, including five in Acton who turned in five-kilograms of drugs, on Saturday during a Region-wide prescription drop-off which also involved the OPP, RCMP, Halton Region and its four municipalities.

"Part of the program is also a public awareness campaign...misuse of prescription drugs is the third leading type of (substance) abuse, after alcohol and marijuana abuse," D/S Dunham said on Tuesday, adding after they sort and catalogue the medications, and some needles, they will be incinerated.

He said they will assess this year's drop-off to determine if it is the most effective way to raise awareness about abuse and misuse of prescription drugs and to keep them off the streets. D/S Dunham reminded people that they can take unwanted prescription medicines to a pharmacy for free disposal. He did not immediately know the cost to stage the prescription drop-off day.



PRESCRIPTION DROP-OFF: All across Halton on Saturday, police accepted out-dated or no longer needed prescription medicines for safe disposal. In Acton, volunteer Claudia Pasten, Auxiliary Officer Rob Rovers and Constable Derek Andrews collected a "shopping bag full" of unwanted drugs. — Frances Learment photo

Saving lives during Canada Road Safety Week

May 13 to 20 marks Canada Road Safety Week, a national campaign aimed at making Canada's roads the safest in the world.

This campaign is a police initiative that Halton Region is proud to partner with, and is designed to remind people that an essential part of the enforcement job is to save lives and reduce injuries on our roadways.

Educating the public about safe driving practices is a priority. The focus will be on behaviours that put drivers, passengers and other road users most at risk — impaired driving, seat belt use, child car seat safety and all aspects related to aggressive and distracted driving. While police across Canada will

be making sure drivers are following the rules, Halton police officers will be closely watching drivers across the community and helping remind them to follow the rules of the road.

"The deaths, pain and broken hearts that result from carelessness behind the wheel can be prevented," said Regional Chair Gary Carr. "Partnering with the police, pairing education and enforcement, helps to keep our roads safe and contributes to Halton being the safest Region in the country. Whether it's drinking and driving, distracted driving, speeding or making sure your child's car seat is properly installed, we all have a responsibility to ourselves and our neigh-

hours to drive safely."

Police agencies across the country are collaborating on this initiative and asking people to choose safe behaviours, whether you're a driver or a passenger. "It's incumbent upon the police and public to work together to ensure that Canada's roadways are the safest in the world," said Halton Regional Police Chief Steve Tanner.

Halton Police's Road Watch program allows residents to report dangerous or aggressive driving by filling out an online form at www.halton-roadwatch.ca. Police will review the report and may send a letter to the registered owner of the vehicle reminding everyone who drives that vehicle to drive safely. If there's a passenger in the car, ask for their help in writing down the license plate numbers to help file a report. See it. Report it. Keep Halton's roads safe.

Throughout 2013, Halton Region and the Halton Regional Police Service will carry out several different initiatives through its Drive SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone) program tackling the issues of distracted driving, speeding and impaired driving. In addition to enhanced enforcement throughout the year, the partnership is launching web pages (www.halton.ca/distracted) targeted at informing the community about distracted driving dangers. Residents can take the pledge against distracted driving themselves, either online or at various events throughout the Region. The community can also watch a powerful video showing how impaired driving devastated the lives of an Oakville family at www.halton.ca/impaired. For more details on road safety programs across Halton, visit www.halton.ca/driveSAFE.

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