

Halton Hills Fire Department advises against enrolling in provincial naloxone program

Demand in community does not require the drug, says report

ALEXANDRA HECK
aheck@metroland.com

The Halton Hills Fire Department is recommending not to enroll in the Ontario Naloxone Program, as they are not seeing a need for the opioid mitigation drug in town.

"We are currently not seeing the impacts or demands on resources that other communities unfortunately are seeing," said a report brought forward to the Halton Hills community and corporate affairs committee. "None of

the other fire services in our region have taken steps to enroll in this program."

The Ontario Naloxone Program is an initiative by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, to provide naloxone, a drug that combats the effects of an opioid overdose to first responders across the province.

"We keep a close eye on statistics," said Halton Hills chief administrative officer Brent Marshall. "It doesn't seem to have reached our community yet."

The report says that the department has the option to enroll in the program if they meet a set of eligibility requirements and engage in a memorandum of understanding with the local public

health unit.

"We just believe that we're in the right place at this point in time," Marshall said, noting that firefighters will need specialized training to be able to administer the drug. "It's a step that you want to take when you're sure."

Senior staff in the fire department met with members of the region's public health department, as well as other emergency service representatives through the Joint Emergency Services Operation Advisory Group in making the decision.

The fire department will continue to monitor the situation locally, and should there be any changes, they will report these to the local Community Care Access Centre (CCAC).

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Leakage may have started off with minimal and tolerable amounts of leakage that occurred with a cough or sneeze, but then leakage can accelerate to amounts that are substantial enough to wear protective padding, continence garments or simply just avoiding activities that were once enjoyed.

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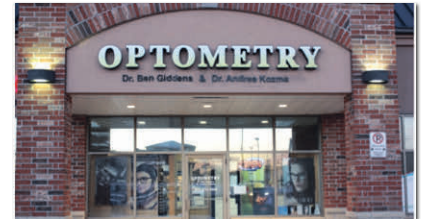
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