

# New Highway Help sign being touted by the police

Imagine becoming stranded on our highways without a cellular phone, or in a non-serviced area, having dead phone batteries or having left your phone at home? What would you do? How would you safely communicate your need for help without leaving your vehicle?

The answer? Equip your vehicle with the Highway Help Sign!

The Ontario Provincial Police Service, along with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, ask motorists to think safety when purchasing gifts this winter and holiday season, by giving the Highway Help Sign. "It is a must for people without cellular phones and it also provides a great back-up for cell phone owners," explains Staff Sergeant Paul Powers of Wellington OPP.

Being stranded on the highway is a frightening and potentially dangerous situation for motorists, especially in the winter, police point out. With cold temperatures and reduced visibility, it is not safe to be stranded for a long period of time. This sign offers a proven solution that enables stranded motorists to receive the help they need as quickly as possible.


The Highway Help Sign replaces the previous Call Police signs that get propped inside the vehicle, and are difficult to see at night and in inclement weather. The Highway Help Sign hooks onto the outside of the window and is clearly visible to passing motorists from both directions. It features a fully reflective surface of 3M Scotchlite™ sheeting, thus it allows for high visibility at night, from far distances and in rain and snow.

If you're stranded, simply hook this sign onto the outside of your window. It will inform passing motorists that not only do you require assistance, but also how they can help by contacting the police.


Help can be given and received without having to leave the security of one's vehicle.

Highway Help Signs sell for \$5.99. They are available at Canadian Tire, and as of January, 2002, Avon Canada will be offering the sign through its Canadian sales dealers.

For more information on the Highway Help Program call Provincial Constable Keith Robb or Provincial Constable Jennifer Smith at the County of Wellington OPP, Fergus Detachment at (519) 843-4240, or contact the Highway Help Program at 1-888-466-5486 or visit [www.highwayhelp.org](http://www.highwayhelp.org).



## ROYAL REPORT



By Mark Laframboise and Ryan Pyne

Last Friday, the senior students of Bishop Reding were dressed in suits and gowns for the annual Snowflake Ball. We would like to thank all who put in many hours to help make this year's event spectacular.

Recently, Bishop Reding hosted Tour Canada 2001. Senior students were given the opportunity to meet and discuss with more than 40 admission officers concerning post secondary education in United States and international universities. Thanks to Student Services who made this insightful event possible.

Last Friday, Bishop Reding held Mass to commemorate the season of Advent. Mrs. Yarema, Bishop Reding's former principal, was present to say her formal goodbye. She was presented with a farewell gift with money collected from

students.

Once again, period five classes will have the opportunity to participate in the annual Christmas Toy Drive. All toys collected will be sent to the Halton Women's Place and given to children at the shelter. This year's drive looks promising with some classes sponsoring more than one child. Students are also reminded to bring non-perishable food items for the Christmas Food Drive which will conclude tomorrow.

In Royal athletic news, the Junior Boys' Basketball season "tipped off" their season with the Classics Against Cancer Tip Off tournament in Georgetown. The team fared well in two close matches as many players made their debut in high school play. Special mention goes to Liam Tennant who was selected to

the tournament all-star team.

The Bishop Reding Girls' Hockey team won its second exhibition game last Monday. The ladies "wowed" the home crowd with an outstanding 5-0 victory over Acton. Carly LeBlanc led the team with two goals while Nicole Gooding, Kim Standing, and Melody Edwards each contributed with one goal. Emily Ruigrok was solid in net for the shutout. Great playing, girls.

The Senior Girls' Volleyball team put forth an excellent effort at the Ryerson University tournament recently. They placed fourth of 18 participating teams. The Junior Girls' Volleyball team also played in their first tournament and show promise for their upcoming season.

"I have not failed; I have merely discovered 10,000 ways that do not work." - Thomas Edison.

## Crime down in rural areas, HHRPC credits police service

November statistics which show crime is down in rural Halton Hills while other surrounding communities have seen increases has prompted the town Rural Community Policing Committee (HHRPC) to publicly thank Halton Police.

Statistics show break and enters are down 25% for shops and 7% for homes while auto thefts are down 11%. Over 800 tickets have been written since Project Gateway was initiated in the spring.

Personal injuries are down 56% and property damage down 28% indicating much better road safety, a committee spokesman said.

The rural team members include Inspector Bill Ford, former Staff Sgt. Don Cousens, Sgt. Grey Baun and four rural community officers. They meet regularly with HHRPC to identify rural problems and find solutions. They made recommendations for increasing the resources available to the rural areas including one which kept the Georgetown station open and expanded it to include a crime unit.

Two additional radar cars, a "ghost" car and "Stealth" car will soon be available for traffic enforcement along the 202 kms of rural roads in Halton Hills as well as a new motorcycle.

The HHRPC and police also jointly promote the Road Watch program which encourages residents to report aggressive driving so warning letters can be sent out by a constable and civilian co-ordinator working together. Rural officers also report all break-ins to an HHRPC co-ordinator who warns residents through Rural Alert, a phone network linking 11 Rural Watches.

Councillor Bryan Lewis, who sits on the HHRPC notes that rural residents who would like to participate in the program can attend the next meeting on January 22 at the Georgetown police station.

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