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# Region, town say emergency plans are in place

**B**oth Halton Region and the Town of Halton Hills have emergency plans in place to respond to different types of emergencies that may arise here in the wake of events in the U.S. since September 11.

At Milton Mall a store employee discovered a powdery substance on a roll of coins, and at Oakville Place a powdery substance was found on a vehicle. Both substances were tested and revealed to be non-hazardous.

"We have informed the medical community about our emergency preparedness and have forwarded information regarding bioterrorism. In addition we have asked that they report any unusual clusters of disease," said Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton's Medical Officer of Health.

They have had their plans in place for many years, and are now simply fine tuning them.

Halton Region Health Department assisted emergency service workers responding to the two incidents.

Halton Region advises residents to use caution and limit concern in response to the increasing number of reports about suspicious packages and unidentified substances.

"We have an excellent emergency plan in place and has been in place for years," assured Halton Regional CAO Brent Marshall. "We have done lots of work in the past 12 months perfecting the plan."

"There are protocols in place to respond to these types of incidents," said Marshall. "Police, fire, ambulance services and the Health Department follow a specific protocol but should the need arise Halton Region has an emergency plan in place. Ongoing communication between emergency services, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, ensures Halton's emergency plan can be activated in a timely manner."

"We are encouraging people to really assess the situation before they call police to report an unidentified substance. There are significant resource implications when police are called to respond to incidents that are unlikely to be linked to a criminal act," said Halton Police Chief Ean Algar. "We do not want people to take any unnecessary risks but we also want people to be certain that there is a legitimate concern."

And since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Halton's Emergency Planning Committee has only stepped up its activities.

Marshall said a meeting with representatives from emergency services, health and public works departments, utilities, hospitals and school boards was held Thursday to ensure all emergency plans were in sync and to discuss bioterrorism.

He added police won't tolerate any public pranks or racially motivated crime.

"Obviously that changed the way we think in general," added Marshall, who stresses the public should take comfort in the knowledge that everything which can be done in advance has been done.

Halton Region Health Department staff have been working closely with Halton's Emergency Planning Co-ordinator to ensure the emergency plans include contingencies for bioterrorism.

Anyone who notices a suspicious package at work or at home should call 911. For more information call 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866).

"All the intelligence we could ever require is here in Halton. All the professionals are at the table thinking."

"There's no reason to believe today anything could occur we couldn't handle locally or on a region-wide basis," said Halton Hills Fire Chief Bob Meads.

Both the region's and town's emergency plans have been in place for many years and both are tested and updated often. The town is currently in the process of updating its plan.

The Committee itself has met three times since last month's atrocities, said Marshall, while individual members—such as he and Halton Regional Police Chief Ean Algar—speak on a daily basis.

"We have a really sound footing in place," said Marshall. "The structure is there."

Marshall is quick to point out that so far there is no evidence of any real threat of anthrax, for example, anywhere in the country.

The first incidents of suspicious substances in Halton were reported last Tuesday — one at Milton Mall and the other in the parking lot at Oakville Place.

## Firefighters' boot drive raises \$22,000

**L**ocal firefighters took to the streets in Georgetown Saturday with their boots in hand and collected more than \$22,000 from the community for the families of New York firefighters killed during the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre.


raised through the efforts of the Casey School of Highland Dancing. Many people returned a second, and even a third time to donate money.

Fund-raiser organizer Scott Kozar said the generosity of the community was obvious first thing Saturday morning when one firefighter was met by a young boy who dumped his piggy bank into the firefighter's boot. Another firefighter received an envelope containing \$250,

"We want to say thank you to all those people who helped make this boot drive a tremendous success. At the end of the day \$22,462.81 was collected," said Acting Captain Kozar. "The support of the whole community was incredible. It just goes to show you that community spirit is alive and well here in Georgetown," he added.

The money will be sent to the New York Firefighters 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund.

### Tooth Chatter



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## The Royal Canadian Legion

# GEORGETOWN POPPY FUND

Dear Citizen:  
 November 1st to November 11th

The time of year when the Royal Canadian Legion asks that you wear a poppy in remembrance of those who gave their lives and those who were grievously injured during the two World Wars, the Korean War and the Peacekeeping Operations.

Your generosity in giving to the Poppy Campaign will enable the Legion to carry out the basic purpose and obligations of the Poppy Trust Fund which are:

- To give assistance to Canadian ex-service personnel and Canadian Merchant Navy personnel and their dependents, who are in need of such assistance.
- Ex-service personnel of Commonwealth and allied Countries who are resident in Canada.
- Purchasing medical equipment and appliances for community health facilities.
- Paying for medical research and training.
- Paying for bursaries for needy students.
- Ex-service personnel of Commonwealth or Allied countries and their dependents who are resident outside of Canada and are in need.

The Remembrance parades will be held on Nov. 8th and a special service on November 11th at the Cenotaph, Remembrance Park, Georgetown. Service commences at 10:45 a.m. with the silence at 11:00 a.m.

Please plan to attend at least one of these events and support the Poppy Campaign; your involvement is very much appreciated.

**GEORGETOWN - Sunday November 11th, form up at the Legion 10:00 a.m., service at Remembrance Park 11:00 a.m.**  
**GLEN WILLIAMS - Sunday November 11th, form up at the School, 1:00 p.m., service at the Cenotaph 1:30 p.m.**

Marion Carney  
 Poppy Committee Chair

Income from 2000/01 Campaign	
from all sources	\$22,312.98
Expenses:	
Campaign	\$6,881.50
Welfare	14,299.43
	-21,180.93
Fund reduced by:	1,132.05

Marion Carney  
 Chair, Poppy Committee

Harr Archer  
 President Br. 120

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