

Road Watch program allows residents to target bad drivers

Many motorists feel frustrated when they witness another driver who shows a flagrant disregard for traffic laws and the safety of others on the road. Today I would like to tell you about a volunteer-run program called Road Watch.

You may have seen the signs posted in the rural areas. They let motorists know that residents are watching the roads and making note of poor driving habits in order to make our Halton roads as safe as possible.

The program was started in 1995 in Caledon by the OPP and

a group of concerned citizens. We have had the program in Halton Hills since 1996. It is run by a volunteer, in conjunction with the Halton Regional Police Service. Since its inception, more than 1,300 warning letters have been sent out.

So, ask yourself, what will Road Watch do for me?

If you see, or are affected by, a driver who runs a stop sign, a red light, follows too closely, changes lanes unsafely, passes unsafely, speeds or is driving aggressively, you can obtain a Road Watch form. You fill it in with as many details as possible and submit it to any Halton



Regional Police station. You can also fax it to 905-873-9623. In order to submit it to the Halton Regional Police Service, the offence must have occurred in the Region of Halton.

Once the police receive the


form, the licence plate is run to obtain the name of the registered owner (RO). A letter is then generated by the volunteer outlining the offence. She then gives the letter to me. I review it, sign it and mail it to the RO. A copy of the letter is retained at the police station. No record of the offence goes on the RO's record.

If the same licence plate receives a second complaint, I phone the RO and speak to them about it. If a third complaint is received I will visit the registered owner. At that point, I will consider laying charges, but the complainant must be willing to go to court in order to proceed.

You can get Road Watch forms at any Halton police station or by going to the Town of Halton Hills Web site at www.town.halton-hills.on.ca. Once there, go to the "Happenings" link on the left side. It will give you an explanation of the program and the opportunity to download the form.


If you have any questions about the Road Watch program, or other police issues, contact me at laurel.barnett@hrps.on.ca or 905-878-5511 ext 2120.

—Const. Laurel Barnett is the Community Support Officer for District 1.



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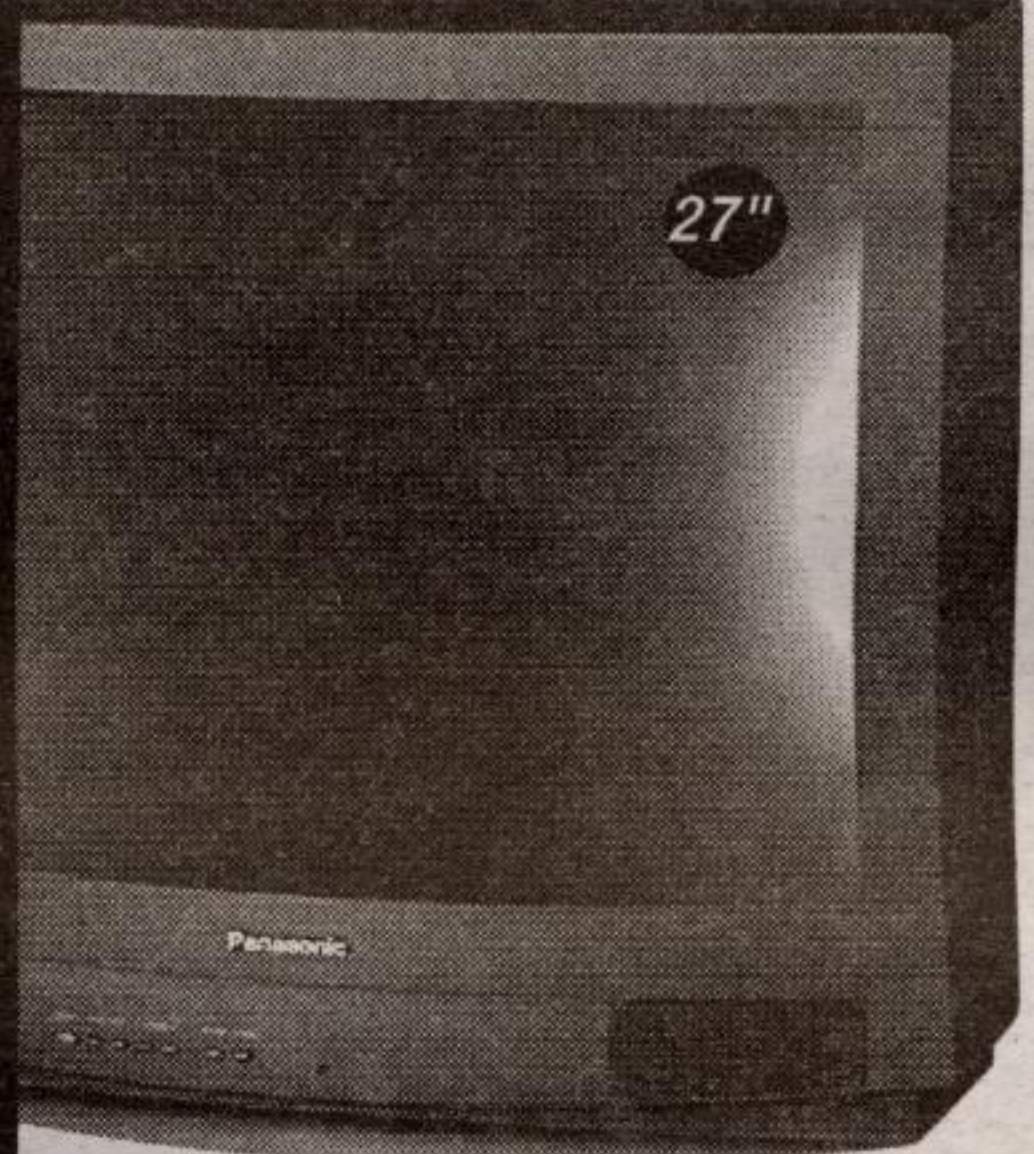
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