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## Health Department needles residents to get flu shot

**H**alton Region Health Department launched its 2004 Universal Influenza Immunization Campaign this week aiming for a 90 per cent immunization rate for those at high risk for complications from the flu.

High risk residents includes, anyone over the age of 65, those with chronic medical conditions such as heart or lung problems, those with weak immune systems, and healthy children aged six to 23 months.

The Health Dept. is also striving for improvement in immunization rates for those at increased risk of transmitting the virus to high risk groups, which includes health care workers, emergency services personnel (police, fire, ambulance) and volunteers in community, acute care, long-term care and retirement home settings, and a 60 per cent immunization rate for the general public.

Unlike the United States, where vaccines are being rationed, there is plenty of flu vaccine available for residents here. The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care provides funding for health departments across the province to administer free influenza immunization to all eligible Ontario residents over the age of six months.

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**Halton Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline receives her annual flu shot from Public Health Nurse Ann Kubacki.**

Photo by Halton Region

## Policing is a top concern expressed at rural community forum

**S**ervice by Halton Police, road improvements and the need for stoplights were among the concerns raised by area residents at a Rural Community Forum hosted by Police Chief Ean Algar and Halton Region Chair Joyce Savoline Tuesday evening.

Allen Kirouac of Young St. in Acton, believed the meeting held at Halton Region Museum was for all north Halton residents, not specifically rural residents. He said he had suffered thousands of dollars worth of vandal-

ism at his home and was frustrated because he has been trying to find out what police were doing about the incidents.

He said he filed a Freedom of Information request 10 weeks ago to get a copy of the police report, but hadn't received anything yet.

"All I see is a lot of emphasis on speeding and drunk driving," said Kirouac, who added those are not big concerns of his.

Recently he said he saw three police

cruisers at Acton Tim Hortons at one time.

"Three police officers sitting at Tim Hortons doesn't mean your community is not being protected," said Savoline. "We don't have a police service sitting on their hands looking for the next Timbit."

Algar said he wasn't a proponent of three cruisers sitting in one place, and added a new computer system that the service is getting next month will tell supervisors where every car is located. It

will also provide "second to none" crime analysis. Algar said an officer would speak with Kirouac about his concerns.

"A senior supervisor has been assigned to contact Mr. Kirouac and look into his issues," said Superintendent Mike Kingston Thursday.

At the forum, Staff Sgt. Sue Delaney suggested that police could send someone to Kirouac's home to give him tips on crime prevention through environmental design.

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