

Firefighters called to blaze at ex-tannery guardhouse

Halton Hills firefighters were called to the guardhouse at the former Beardmore Tannery entrance gates on Frederick St. in Acton last Wednesday afternoon. When they arrived, firefighters found the small building engulfed in flames. The fire was quickly brought under control. Fire crews spoke with many onlookers, however, no information about the fire was available. A fire department spokesperson says the cause of the blaze is undetermined.



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Educate your child about stranger danger

Two weeks ago, a 12-year-old boy in Georgetown had to deal with a situation that he should never have been put in.

A stranger, driving a van, approached him and motioned the boy over. Very sensibly, the young fellow ran to a neighbour's house. The neighbour phoned 911 and the police attended. It was determined that the driver of the van was a cable repairman, and he did, indeed, have a work order for the house where the boy lived.

After the fact, the repairman realized that he should not have approached the boy, and actually commended the boy for taking the action that he did. All was well in the end.

I often talk to groups of kids about street-proofing. When I get to the "stranger danger" portion of the talk, I tell kids to do exactly what our young fellow did. I tell them that it is not appropriate for adults to ask children for directions. They should approach other adults. Maybe I should give talks to adults too, and tell them the rules.

Parents should talk to their children about these issues.

What would your child do if an adult approached your child and said that you had been injured, and that adult was supposed to drive your child to the hospital? Would they know how deal with that? If your child walks with other children, they are less likely to be approached by a

911/
411



Const. Laurel Barnett

stranger. See if you can organize a walking group with other neighbourhood children.

Don't forget that it is not only strangers who can pose a threat to a child. Tell your children that they should not take a ride with anyone, even if they are known to them. Have a password that just your family or designated friends will know. That way if there is an emergency and a friend has to pick them up, they can use that code word.

Talk, talk, talk to your children, and then listen to them!

If you have any questions about this or other police issues, contact me at 905-878-5511 or laurel.barnett@hrps.on.ca

—Const. Laurel Barnett is the community support officer for 1 Division

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