

# Fewer retailers selling tobacco to minors, study shows

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Special to The IFF

It seems some local retailers are getting the message from the Halton Region Health Department— don't sell tobacco to minors.

Figures presented at the Region's health and social services committee meeting recently showed of the 109 warnings issued to Halton retailers in 2005 for failing health department compliance checks— meaning they sold tobacco to test shoppers aged 15 to 17— only 10 re-offended and were charged.

"That (the low number of re-offenders) is a good thing," said Halton Environmental Health Manager Tony Amalfa. "The intent is that we get the message across."

After a business fails a compliance check, it receives a warning. Health department staff then follow up with them within three weeks with an enforcement check.

At this point, retailers who once again sell tobacco to a test shopper are charged.

A report from Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal presented to the committee revealed in other years where 10 charges were laid against retailers for selling tobacco to minors, lower numbers of warnings were initially issued, meaning a high percentage were re-offending.

For example, in 2002, 26 warnings were issued and then 10 charges were laid, so almost half of

the retailers checked were re-offending.

Nosal's report outlined the other findings from last year's round of local tobacco compliance checks.

A total of 762 checks were completed in 2005, which is up from the average of 240 checks per year. The increase is due to provincial funding the Region received, allowing it to ramp up its tobacco monitoring program.

"By doing it this way we can get a really good handle on the ones that aren't complying," noted Amalfa.

Of the 184 gas bar visits conducted by test shoppers, 18 per cent were willing to sell tobacco to minors. This is up slightly from 2004, when 84 gas bars were checked and 16 per cent sold tobacco to the test shoppers.

At convenience stores throughout Halton, 398 checks were done, with 13 per cent ready to sell cigarettes to youths. In 2004, 10 per cent of the 145 compliance checks carried out at convenience stores failed.

Health department staff also conducted 45 checks at supermarkets and 135 at restaurants, with the non-compliance rates for those being 20 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

In 2004, only a handful of visits were done for restaurants and supermarkets, with none willing to sell tobacco to minors.

Amalfa noted that fewer and

fewer restaurants are selling tobacco, and the ones that still do are mostly bars.

In each local municipality, the health department also broke down the numbers and compared variety store non-compliance rates.

Milton and Burlington both saw increases from year to year, going from five per cent to 13 per cent and nine per cent to 13 per cent

respectively. Oakville stayed the same at 14 per cent, while Halton Hills actually went down to eight per cent from 10 per cent.

The health department is also now posting the names and locations of retail outlets that have been found guilty in the last six months of selling tobacco to a person under 19 on its Web site, [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca).



## The Regional Municipality of Halton

### NOTICE OF STUDY UPDATE

#### Trafalgar Road (Regional Road 3) Improvements 10 Side Road (Regional Road 10) to Highway 7 Town of Halton Hills Class Environmental Assessment

The Regional Municipality of Halton is carrying out a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider a wide range of options to satisfy future travel demands on Trafalgar Road (Regional Road 3) from 10 Side Road (Regional Road 10) to Highway 7 (see map below). In order to best address operational deficiencies along the Trafalgar Road corridor, a number of road improvement alternatives are currently being examined as part of the study; these include widening of the roadway, new road alignments, railway grade separations, cross-sectional elements, intersection improvements, over-all traffic operations, as well as the impact of such improvements on the social and natural environments. The study is being conducted in compliance with Schedule C of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (June 2000), which is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act.

The first Public Information Centre was held in May 2005 to present the study approach and process, data collection, identification of the problem, alternative planning solutions considered, preliminary evaluation criteria and the preferred Alternative Planning Solution which consisted of the widening of Trafalgar Road in combination with railway grade separations, safety improvements, traffic operational improvements, localized intersection improvements, improved transit and Transportation Demand Management.

Thereafter, in light of the comments received, Halton Region confirmed the identification of the preferred Alternative Planning Solution, and undertook detailed field investigations with respect to the natural environmental features as well as social and cultural (i.e. built heritage and archaeological) environmental features in order to have a complete understanding of the issues and constraints within the Study Area. Next, the Region's project team began developing a wide variety of alternative design concepts within the study area including alignment options along the existing Trafalgar Road corridor and bypass options around Stewarttown. However, given the complexity of the project and potential impacts to the surrounding community, the development of alternative design concepts is still on-going. As a result, the Region will continue with the detailed investigation of alternative design concepts and their evaluation to determine a preliminary preferred design that minimizes the overall impact on the environment and community, as well as continuing to explore possibilities for overall network enhancements before presenting this information to the public for comments. The next steps are as follows:

- Continue to develop alternative design concepts.
- Evaluate the alternative design concepts.
- Determine a preliminary preferred design before meeting with stakeholders, agencies and the public.
- Meet with Stakeholders and Technical Agencies (late Winter 2007).
- Hold Public Information Centre # 2 (Spring 2007).
- Complete the Environmental Study Report and 30 day public review period (Fall 2007).

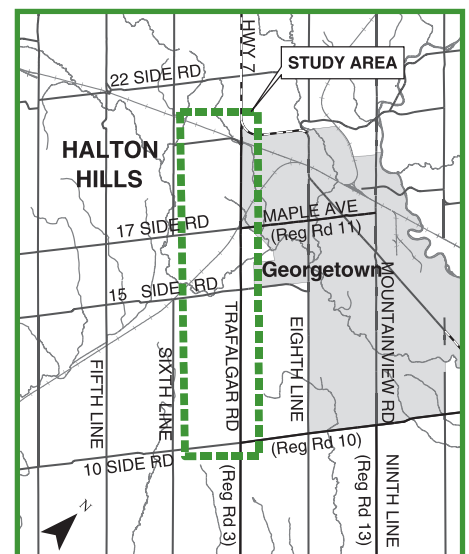
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This Notice first issued on April 27, 2006.  
[www.halton.ca/currentEAprojects](http://www.halton.ca/currentEAprojects)

The map below shows the approximate limits of the study area.



We get it.



## THE NORTHERN GROUP'S "BLOW-OUT" SAMPLE SALE

### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC CLOTHING SAMPLE SALE

Saturday, April 29th, 2006

8:30am – 2:30pm

Northern Group Retail Ltd.

505 Industrial Drive, Milton

Entrance Location: Front Door

CASH, CREDIT CARD (AMEX, VISA, MASTER CARD)

PLUS APPLICABLE TAXES

SORRY NO CHEQUES

NORTHERN FRIENDS PROGRAM NOT APPLICABLE

ALL SALES ARE FINAL!

NO FITTING ROOMS AVAILABLE

COME CHECK OUR GREAT LOW PRICES

FROM \$3.00 TO \$25.00

ON WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S CLOTHING