

Drivers urged to pay attention to school crossing guards

In the Town of Halton Hills we are fortunate to have approximately 40 municipally-employed school crossing guards who work approximately two hours a day in the rain, snow or shine, for the sole purpose of safely directing the movement of our children across our roads.

There are 23 intersections or crosswalks in our town that have been assigned school crossing guard control.

From driving through our community in my fully marked police minivan I know for a fact that people are not stopping for the normal stop signs, let alone the smaller, hand-held stop signs used by our school crossing guards.

Also, while endangering the safety of our crossing guards and our children, I have received reports that some offenders take the time to shout profanities when they are given a disapproving look, or while their information is being written down onto a Community Road Watch form. Some offenders also choose to educate their children in the fine art and use of hand gestures.

Const. Chris Borak



Sometimes the offenders are stressed parents who, through their actions, teach their own children that it is okay to break laws, drive aggressively, and to put other people at risk.

If you choose to disobey the direction of a school crossing guard you are entitled to my personal autograph, on a \$110 piece of paper.

Please pay extra attention to school

areas, crossing guards and children near or on our roadways. Nobody wants to get a \$110 ticket. NOBODY wants to take a child away from their family.

On behalf of the Halton Regional Police Service I would like to thank our school crossing guards for their continued contributions to community safety.

Contact me personally for crime prevention tips, or information regarding community concerns through 905 878 5511 extension 2470, or by e-mailing chris.borak@hrps.on.ca. Please reserve the 911 system for emergency calls only.

—Const. Chris Borak is the community support officer for District 1

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Peter Love
Chief Energy Conservation Officer of Ontario

My role as Chief Energy Conservation Officer is to ensure that conservation and energy efficiency play a vital role in Ontario's ongoing energy strategy.

The Conservation Bureau is currently running programs to reduce your energy costs with coupons for discounts on compact fluorescent light bulbs, timers, programmable thermostats and ceiling fans. Details are available at retailers or on our website at www.conservationbureau.on.ca.

It's cheaper to save energy than to make it. My last column outlined my favourite "no cost" ways to save energy. Here are some of my favourite "low cost" ways to save electricity.

Peter Love's TOP TEN "Low Cost" Ways to Save Energy

1. Replace or clean your furnace and central air conditioning filter regularly. Dirty filters raise your energy bill by blocking air flow through your cooling (and heating) systems.
2. Install energy efficient low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators to reduce hot water use.
3. Air conditioning costs money. Seal and weatherstrip around windows and doors to stop cool air from escaping.
4. Insulate your water hot tank. The cost of a wrap can be recouped in just a few months. Install pipe insulation on the first 1.5 metres of the pipe leading from your tank to save energy and reduce moisture in your basement.
5. Consider using floor and ceiling fans instead of air conditioning when possible.
6. Use timers, motion detectors and dimmers to automatically turn indoor/outdoor lighting on and off. Dimmers start at just \$10.
7. Install a programmable thermostat (\$40 and up) to regulate home heating and cooling.
8. Balance the air flow from your central air conditioning by adjusting vents and ducts to drive cool air up and evenly distribute cooling effects around your home.
9. Replace regular light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs – they use 75 per cent less energy and last up to ten times longer.
10. When purchasing a window A/C unit, make sure it has an Energy Star rating (EER 10.8 or higher).

Imagine the effect if all Ontarians put their minds to saving energy every day using these simple suggestions. Every kilowatt counts.

The Conservation Bureau develops and delivers programs to help Ontario residents conserve energy and save money. Please visit: www.conservationbureau.com

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