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Region, hospitals to say thanks to area physicians this week

The Region and local hospitals will recognize physicians for their contributions to the health and well-being of local residents during the sixth annual Halton Physician Appreciation Week that began yesterday (Tuesday).

Several events have been planned to pay tribute to the dedication and support of the physicians working throughout Halton. Each hospital will host a morning coffee event with the mayor of their respective municipality. Georgetown Hospital's event is slated for tomorrow (Thursday) morning.

The Region will also hold a networking event for physicians on Thursday.

"Access to good medical care is critical to the health and well-being of our community," said Regional Chair Gary Carr. "Each year during Halton Physician Appreciation Week we encourage residents to join us in reflecting on how much we value the doctors who practise within Halton's medical community."

The Halton Physician Recruitment Initiative was established in 2003 to address the region's shortage of family physicians. To date, more than 60 new family doctors have set up shop in Halton.

The initiative is a collaborative effort between the Region, local municipalities, physicians, senior area hospital staff and the community.

"Halton Physician Recruitment Week was designated to recognize the fact that retention is just as important as recruitment in maintaining an adequate physician base in Halton," said Angela Sugden Praysner, Halton's physician recruitment co-ordinator. "Like everyone else, doctors appreciate knowing that their efforts are recognized. We want them to spread the word to their colleagues that Halton Region is a welcoming and rewarding place to live and to practise medicine."

To find out about family physicians who are taking on patients in Halton call 211 or visit www.211halton.ca.

For more information on Halton Physician Appreciation Week or the physician recruitment program contact Sugden Praysner at (905) 825-6000, ext. 7929 or visit www.haltondoctors.ca or www.halton.ca.

Police urge residents to be wary of home maintenance companies

Halton Regional Police Service is encouraging residents to be cautious of home/property maintenance companies canvassing their neighbourhoods offering their services.

Police say at this time of year senior citizens may fall prey to over-inflated and unnecessary repairs or maintenance to their homes and property.

Police encourage people to refrain from agreeing to services on impulse.

Police say:

1. It is rarely necessary to act immediately on these offers and almost all reputable companies will allow the customer to reflect and purchase the service at a later date for the same price quote.

2. Obtain comparison quotes in writing or consult with a trusted, knowledgeable third party.

3. Spend a few minutes researching the company and its reputation, get references and check warranties and guarantees.

4. Never pay in full until the work is complete. Ten percent of the total estimate is a fair down payment.

For further information call Halton Regional Police Const. Jackie Brennan, Elder Services Co-ordinator at 905-878-5511 ext. 5064.

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