



Keep the change

Debbie Luck and Donna Chalmers of the Georgetown Lionessess happily accept the change donation from Marjorie and Richard Webster at the Halton Hills Village A&P. The change was going to the recent Kilometre of Koins fundraiser for Georgetown Hospital.

Photo by Jon Borgstrom

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**Sgt.
Derek
Davis**



Impaired driving is a killer—literally.

Make no mistake, getting behind the wheel intoxicated by drugs or alcohol is a criminal offence that puts people's lives at risk. A driver who wants to gamble with their own life is one thing but unfortunately as soon as they get behind that wheel, they gamble with our lives as well.

This year Halton police in Milton and Halton Hills have charged more than 40 people with impaired driving offences. Of those, several were involved in accidents, and some were already charged previously for the same offence. Keep in mind that those are only the ones who were caught!

Others are still out there, weaving in and out of traffic, driving the same roads as our families do. The police are working hard to arrest impaired drivers but we need your help.

Do you see an impaired driver on the road? Immediately call 9-1-1 and report it. If you can safely follow the vehicle within the rules of the road, keep us updated with a location until officers can arrive.

How do you know if a person is an impaired driver? Good question.

A rule to remember is that a person's physical and mental abilities are "impaired". They react poorly to changing situations, are forgetful and have difficulty multi-tasking (such as maintaining a constant speed AND staying in their own lane).

Some other cues to look for include:

- Extremely wide turns
- Uncontrolled speeds (either too fast or too slow)
- Not driving in their own lane (straddling the line, weaving or using the shoulder)
- Stopping inappropriately (green lights, on through streets, crosswalks with people crossing)

- Braking erratically
- Following too closely or driving too closely to objects (like curbs, signs, other vehicles)
- Driving without headlights or improper signaling

Do you know someone who habitually drinks and drives? Report them and save their life (and maybe even your own). I know many people wish they had done just that when our officers knock on the door at 3 a.m. to tell them someone they cared about just died.

Wouldn't you rather drive them to a probation appointment than drive to their funeral?

If you want to report the person in anonymity, call Halton's Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). If you can, try to provide the person's name and address, the plate number of the vehicle they drive, when they drive and where they go.

Impaired drivers kill innocent people. We all have choices. The impaired driver chooses to drive, chooses to risk other drivers' lives and therefore chooses to accept the consequences when caught. Report them, they earned it.

—Sgt. Derek Davis is the supervisor of the 1 District Response Unit, focusing on traffic enforcement within the communities of Halton Hills and Milton.

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