

Halton Our Kids Network recognized as a champion

In honour of the 60th anniversary of the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), new awards of recognition have been created by the association to recognize the innovation and leadership of social service agencies and partnerships across Ontario. Halton's Our Kids Network has been recognized as a 2010 OMSSA Champion for its commitment to planning, managing and delivering quality services for children and families in Halton through integration, collaboration and evidence based practices.

"The Our Kids Network has been recognized at provincial, national and international levels as a leader in the areas of research, evaluation and service integration," said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr. "The success of the network demonstrates the value of strategic partnerships in the community. There are many partners involved in the Our Kids Network and their dedication and hard work is improving the quality of life for children and families in Halton."

Since their formation in 2004, the Our Kids Network has had a number of notable achievements including:

- The development of key research resources that are used as planning tools by municipal and non-profit service providers including A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card 2004, A Vision for School Years in Halton Background 2004, Kindergarten Parent Survey, Youth Survey for Grades 7-10, A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card 2008, Special Needs Parent Survey, and the Hub Development Toolkit.

- The creation of the Halton 7 - seven key population results that help measure the progress of child and youth development in Halton. Collectively we want children who are healthy, children who are learning, children who are positively connected, children who are safe, families that are strong and stable, schools that are connected to the community, and neighbourhoods where we

can live, work and play.

- The establishment of three neighbourhood hubs located in schools in Aldershot, Milton and Acton, at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School.

- The introduction of EvenStart - a summer program for children starting kindergarten who have not attended a licensed children's program.

- Involvement in a national conference co-hosted with Hamilton in 2007 called "Putting it all Together".

- Participation in the planning for the Best Start Network in Halton and the Ontario Early Years Centres in Halton.

- Seeing our Voices - an engaging photography and storytelling project involving youth and a group of mothers of young children (photovoice).

- Awards recognition - winner of the International Community Innovation Award presented by Community Indicators Consortium in 2008 and recognized in 2010 by the Ontario Education Research Panel (OERP), in partnership with the Education Research and Evaluation Strategy Branch as one of the leading community partnerships in Ontario for its strength and achievements as a community partnership.

- The coordination of Results Based Accountability training for the community in 2009.

The Our Kids Network is a community network of partners including Halton Region, Halton Regional Police Services, Halton District School Board, Halton Catholic District School Board, Halton Children's Aid Society and Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK). The vision of the network is that "all children thrive!" Partners in the Our Kids Network work toward to promote healthy development, security and safety of children, youth and families through neighbourhood collaboration, service integration and measuring results. To learn more about the Our Kids Network visit www.ourkidsnetwork.ca

Technology helps hikers

Earlier this month, four hikers set out in the early afternoon in the area of Hilton Falls Conservation Area in Halton Hills. While walking the trails in the area the four girls and a dog became disoriented and lost their bearings.

One of the girls contacted their uncle by cell phone to get help. The uncle called the Halton Police and the search for the girls began.

Officers worked with the communication centre to triangulate the cell-phone signal from the lost girl's phone and officers were able to pin point an approximate their location.

As night fall and rain

set in, the officers increased the intensity of their search. Another cell-phone conversation with the girls revealed they were getting scared and cold; in an attempt to calm the girl's police activated their emergency lights and siren on one of their vehicles. The fact that the girls could hear the siren seemed to put their minds at rest and gave them the assurance that help was close at hand.

The six hour ordeal had a happy ending as the four hikers and the dog were located unharmed. In a letter to the officers who had rescued the girls, one

girl wrote, "Words cannot describe how happy I was when I heard the sirens and saw the officer's flashlight."

Police have some safety tips for hikers:

- Taking a partner along with you can have many advantages, especially if that partner is an experienced hiker

- Let somebody know where you're going

- Take basic equipment like a lighter, first aid items and a flashlight

- Take basic provisions like water or a sport drink

- Use your common sense, and

- A cell-phone is a must.



MARKET MUNCHIES: Acton's Phillip McLeod of Candelight Designs took time from his booth at the Farmers' Market last Thursday to check out the tasty treats at Silvia's Bakery with staffers Matus Baran and Veronica Huserkova.

— Frances Niblock photo

POLICE BEAT

Ram sinks

An unlocked 1999 Dodge Ram pickup truck stolen from a Mill Street residence early Saturday

morning was found in a pond in Brant County later that day.

Theft from car

An iPod Nano and a Bel-

kin FM transmitter valued at \$240 were stolen from a vehicle on Coles Court on June 24. There was no sign of forced entry.

The Regional Municipality of Halton
www.halton.ca

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