

Police warn citizens about suspicious door canvassers

By ANGELA BLACKBURN

Special to The Champion

Halton residents should be wary about who knocks on their door asking for cash, police say.

Last week, Halton police issued a consumer alert after receiving numerous complaints from residents suspicious about door-to-door canvassers in Oakville.

Police don't want to warn people off legitimate charities, but they want residents to be careful.

This is Kidney Month and the Kidney Foundation of Canada has volunteers going door-to-door.

It's also Easter Seal Society Awareness Month, but this involves fundraising events, direct mail donations and coin boxes at LCBO stores, no door-to-door campaign, said spokesperson from the organization Diana Andonovski.

The Canadian Cancer Society is gearing up for its annual residential campaign, which starts April 1 and continues to April 30, said Oakville unit manager Kellie Kay.

No one should be asking for money at the door for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, since that charity's residential campaign wound up February 28, said Halton chapter area manager David Cravero.

Legitimate charities, like the

"Unfortunately, on occasion, unscrupulous individuals will also use this time of year to canvass residential neighbourhoods under the guise of conducting fundraising on behalf of some fictitious or illegitimate organization."

SGT. LARRY BRASSARD

Kidney Foundation and Canadian Cancer Society also ensure their volunteers are easily identified.

They wear buttons bearing the charity's logo and carry official receipt books with the same logo.

"Our volunteers will be carrying a kit or booklet that contains all the information and a receipt book. Those are strictly controlled," said Ms Kay, adding, "If there are any concerns, residents can always call the unit."

The Canadian Cancer Society also recruits local residents to canvass their own neighbourhood.

"The good part with us is that people usually say 'Oh, it's Joe coming again, we better hide,'" joked Ms Kay.

The major charities that go door-to-door also provide self-addressed envelopes in which residents can mail in their contribution rather than paying at the door — to avoid pressuring anyone.

"Residents are encouraged to verify the legitimacy of the canvassers before making any cash donation," said Halton police spokesman Sgt. Larry Brassard.

Residents who're suspicious can do several things, including:

- Mail in a donation
- Call the Charities Directorate of the Canada Customs And Revenue Agency to verify a group's charitable status at 1-800-267-2384
- Phone the local charity or its head office
- Contact police at 878-5511

Police recognize the importance of supporting charities, but want people to be careful, Det. Brassard said. "Unfortunately, on occasion, unscrupulous individuals will also use this time of year to canvass residential neighbourhoods under the guise of conducting fundraising on behalf of some fictitious or illegitimate organization."



A COUNTRY MILE

YOU ARE INVITED . . .
TO OUR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!!

Friday, March 23rd - Saturday March 31st

Inventory Clearance
25% Off Selected Floor Models
Daily Door Prizes
Enter our Draw for a \$100 Shopping Spree
Free Gift with purchases over \$25

We are Celebrating our 5th year in Milton
& our 1st year in Burlington
Please Come and Help Us Celebrate!

265 Main St., Milton • 878-1070
518 Brant St., Burlington • 631-9885

Wallace

PONTIAC • BUICK • CADILLAC

1.9% FINANCING JUST ANNOUNCED ON 3 OF OUR BEST SELLING VEHICLES

2001 PONTIAC GRAND AM SE

1.9%
36 months financing



OR 36 months lease for \$268 + taxes

OR CASH PRICE
\$19,998
+ Frt + taxes

- 2.4 L, 4 cyl. • Automatic
- ABS brakes • Air cond.
- C/D • Bucket seats
- Power locks • Spoiler

2001 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT



1.9%
48 months financing

- 3.8 L, V6 • C/D
- Keyless entry • Alloy rims
- Auto • Air • Power locks
- Power windows/mirrors
- Traction control • Tilt • Cruise

Buy for
\$27,448
+ Frt + taxes

2001 BUICK CENTURY

1.9%
48 months financing



Buy for
\$25,498
+ Frt + taxes

- 3.1 L, V6 • Auto • Air
- Air bags • ABS brakes
- Keyless remote
- Power windows
- Power Locks & mirrors • Tilt
- Cruise • AM/FM Cass.

Lease on Grand Am is for 3 yr./60,000 km., \$3,045 down is req'd to be at \$268.00 + taxes/month. All taxes, 1st month pay'l, sec. deposit, lic. & gas due on del. OAC. NOTE: 3.9% for 60 months available on Grand Prix and Century. 4.9% for 60 months available on Grand Am.

Wallace
PONTIAC • BUICK • CADILLAC
878-2355

New Address
801 MAIN ST. E. MILTON
MON. - THURS.
9:00 AM - 8:00 PM
FRI. & SAT.
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Toll Free 1-888-878-2354

• PONTIAC • BUICK • CADILLAC • GMC • PONTIAC • BUICK •