

Every day on the job is different for paramedics

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be lights and sirens on the way back (to the hospital)," he said.

Medical procedures administered by ACPs include intubation (to assist in airway management), chest tubes, chest needle decompression, I.V., various medications and resuscitative drugs and the use of manual defibrillators.

ACPs also have additional skills and training to manage a greater variety of pediatric conditions.

Both Mr. Williams and Mr. Carter added that Halton Region has provided additional funding to enhance the skills of PCPs as well, and they are now able to start I.V.s, for example.

But paramedics can also administer advanced life support skills using standing orders pre-established by the base hospital medical director.

Occasionally, paramedics will contact an emergency physician at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington to obtain additional orders for further care while at a scene or on route to a hospital.

"We'll describe (to the doctor) a patient's condition, for example, if it's a collapsed lung, and the doctor will authorize the paramedics to insert a needle in the chest to assist the patient's breathing," Mr. Williams said.

But completing medical procedures on the scene or in the ambulance is slightly different than in a hospital room.

"It's not a controlled environment, sometimes you're doing these things in blizzard conditions," Mr. Williams said.

As for the paramedic profession itself, the two said that each 12-hour shift is unlike any other.

"When you're in this type of work, there's always an adrenaline rush and high stress levels," said Mr. Williams. "Everyday is different, every call is different. You never get used to it. Just when you think you are, something happens that catches you off guard."

As for life-threatening calls, Mr. Williams said part of the job is to try to keep one's emotions from interfering.

"You try to keep it separate. It doesn't stop us from caring, but you have a certain amount of detachment so you can do your job," he said.

Despite the stress that comes with the profession, however, both said the career is rewarding.

"Just being able to help someone, if someone is dying or has been maimed and you get them to the hospital, and then the person goes on from there, it's a good feeling," said Mr. Williams.

They both also noted that the public's perception of paramedics has changed.

"September 11 has given a heightened awareness to this type of thing," Mr. Williams said. "There's an old perception that we were just the transport guys. But that's changed."

Finally, both Mr. Williams and Mr. Carter said that since EMS became part of Halton Region, significant strides have been made in reducing response times.

"We've got more ambulances, more emergency vehicles and more staff," said Mr. Carter.

"We more than meet the Region's (response time) requirements," Mr. Williams added, lending further proof to the notion that with paramedics like Mr. Williams and Mr. Carter, along with support from the Region, Halton residents are in very good hands.

Dateline

Dateline is a free listing of coming events only. The column is available to local community groups to assist in promoting their future events. Only charitable or non-profit community groups may use this service. We can only guarantee one issue of publicity closest to the date of the occurrence although more insertions are possible if demand is low.

Notices for Dateline should be handed in at the office of The Champion, 191 Main St. E., mailed to P.O. Box 248, Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9, faxed to (905) 878-4943, or e-mailed to miltoned@haltonsearch.com. The final deadline is noon Friday for Tuesday's edition and noon Wednesday for Friday's edition. Dateline items will not be accepted by telephone.

Tuesday July 23

Do you have a new baby? **Calling New Parents**, a free program for parents and babies aged 6 months and younger, meets with a public health nurse to discuss parenting and infant care. The group meets at the Milton Community Resource Centre, 917 Nipissing Rd., from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For information, call (905) 693-4242, ext. 7899.

Help for Parents, a parent support group, meets at Pinelands Presbyterian Church, 5270 New St., in Burlington at 7:30 p.m. The non-denominational self-support group helps parents of children who are in trouble at home, at school or with the law or who are abusive or taking drugs. For information, call (416) 251-0233 (days) or (905) 842-1729 (evenings).

Wednesday July 24

The Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., holds the **Evening Euchre Party** at 7:30 p.m. Admission costs \$2. For information, call (905) 875-1681.

Thursday July 25

The Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., holds **Seniors' Cinemas** at 1:30 p.m. Admission costs \$1. For feature film or information, call (905) 875-1681.

VON Alzheimer Services welcomes new caregivers to the Milton area support group. The group meets in the Community Room at Loblaws from 2 to 3:30 p.m. If you're caregiving for a relative with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder and are interested in meeting other caregivers, call (905) 847-9559.

RAIL (Residents Affected by Intermodal Lines) holds a public information meeting at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., at 7:30 p.m. The group discusses concerns relating to the proposed CN intermodal terminal to be built in town.

Friday July 26

The Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., holds a **barbecue** from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The lunch costs \$5 and includes a hamburger or sausage, salad, dessert and a beverage. For information, call (905) 875-1681.

The Milton Human Resource Centre of Canada for Students (HRCC-S) hosts its second annual **Softball Challenge** at the Lion's Park south diamond. Summer employment officers, employers and students, along with Mayor Gord Krantz, network while playing a friendly game of ball. Everyone is welcome.

Saturday July 27

The Halton Region Museum Foundation and The Wave 94.7 FM presents an **evening of jazz** featuring Blue Willow Trio at the Halton Region Museum. Doors open at 6 p.m., followed by a buffet at 7 p.m. Entertainment begins at 8 p.m. Tickets costs \$35. For information, call (905) 875-2200, ext. 0.

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