

Event attendees learn a lot about Internet safety

By **ROBIN DOWNTON-POIRIER**
Special to *The Champion*

Nassagaweya residents received some staggering statistics regarding Internet safety from the Halton Regional Police Service at the Safe Living Series event held in Campbellville last Tuesday.

The second event co-ordinated by the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee (NCCC) was held at the Campbellville Lions Hall and was attended by about 50 residents who learned their children could be in danger while on the computer.

"On average, 65 per cent of kids have had sexual conversations in chatrooms (on the Internet)," said Halton police Const. Wendy Moraghan. "Sexual predators lurk in chatrooms and kids are their biggest targets."

Const. Moraghan offered many tips to parents on how to manage the Internet use in their homes including putting the computer in a high-traffic area, having an Internet contract with children and encouraging open dialogue about what kids see on the Net.

She also brought to light a few things residents may not have thought of previously.

"Do not sell an old computer until you've taken it to a professional to have all personal information stripped from the hard drive," she said. "As well, if you have a Webcam, cover it up when you're not using it or turn it toward the wall. Webcams can be turned on from an outside source and people can spy on you."

In addition to the Internet safety presentation, other guest speakers included Don Thorne from Milton Hydro discussing the energy crisis in Ontario and future plans to help balance supply and demand; Bill Galloway of Dufferin Aggregates discussing the rehabilitation of the Milton Quarry and that "through proper rehabilitation planning, we can have a natural heritage system with both wildlife and recre-

ational value;" and Paul Cripps, director of engineering for the Town of Milton discussing the sanding, salting, and clearing of Halton roads this winter.

There were many booths set up around the perimeter of the room for local businesses and organizations such as Halton EMS, the Co-operators, Halton Region Health Department, Water Depot, CrimeStoppers, and both the Canadian Champion and the Halton Compass newspapers.

Although attendance was less than the previous event held in March of this year, this Safe Living Series presentation was very informative and successful, said NCCC Chair Stu Johnston.

"The attendance (was) a little disappointing as we were expecting considerably more people but I believe it was a success nonetheless," he stated.



Halton Regional Police Const. Laurel Barnett talks with Jan Chaffay of a Burlington Community Consultation Committee (CCC) during the Safe Living Series held in Campbellville last Tuesday. It was the second such event hosted by the Nassagaweya CCC.

Lighthouse Program needs volunteers

For seven years now, a unique program has been serving Halton children and teens who have lost someone close to them.

Through support groups at the Lighthouse Program for Grieving Children, youths are able to relax and be amongst people who know what they're going through.

The Oakville-based program is currently looking for volunteers — group facilitators and support companions — to ensure none of its programming suffers.

Volunteers must be able to attend every group for the school year.

It's also inviting kids and teens who would benefit from the program to check it out.

Any child or teen who has lost a parent, sibling, relative or close friend is welcome to join free of charge.

The support groups run from September to June, meeting every other week for about two hours.

The program is located at 82 Wilson St., near Kerr Street and Lakeshore Boulevard.

For more information, call (905) 337-2333.

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