

ChampionCountry

Take steps to be safe: police

By Robin Downton-Poirier
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Keeping you and your family from harm was the focus of the Safe Living Series meeting last Tuesday at the Nassagaweya Community Centre.

Hosted by the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee (NCCC), the meeting was attended by about 60 residents including Ward 3 councillors Jan Mowbray and Cindy Lunau.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), a Halton Regional Police program geared to 'reduce the risk and fear of crime', was the theme of the night.

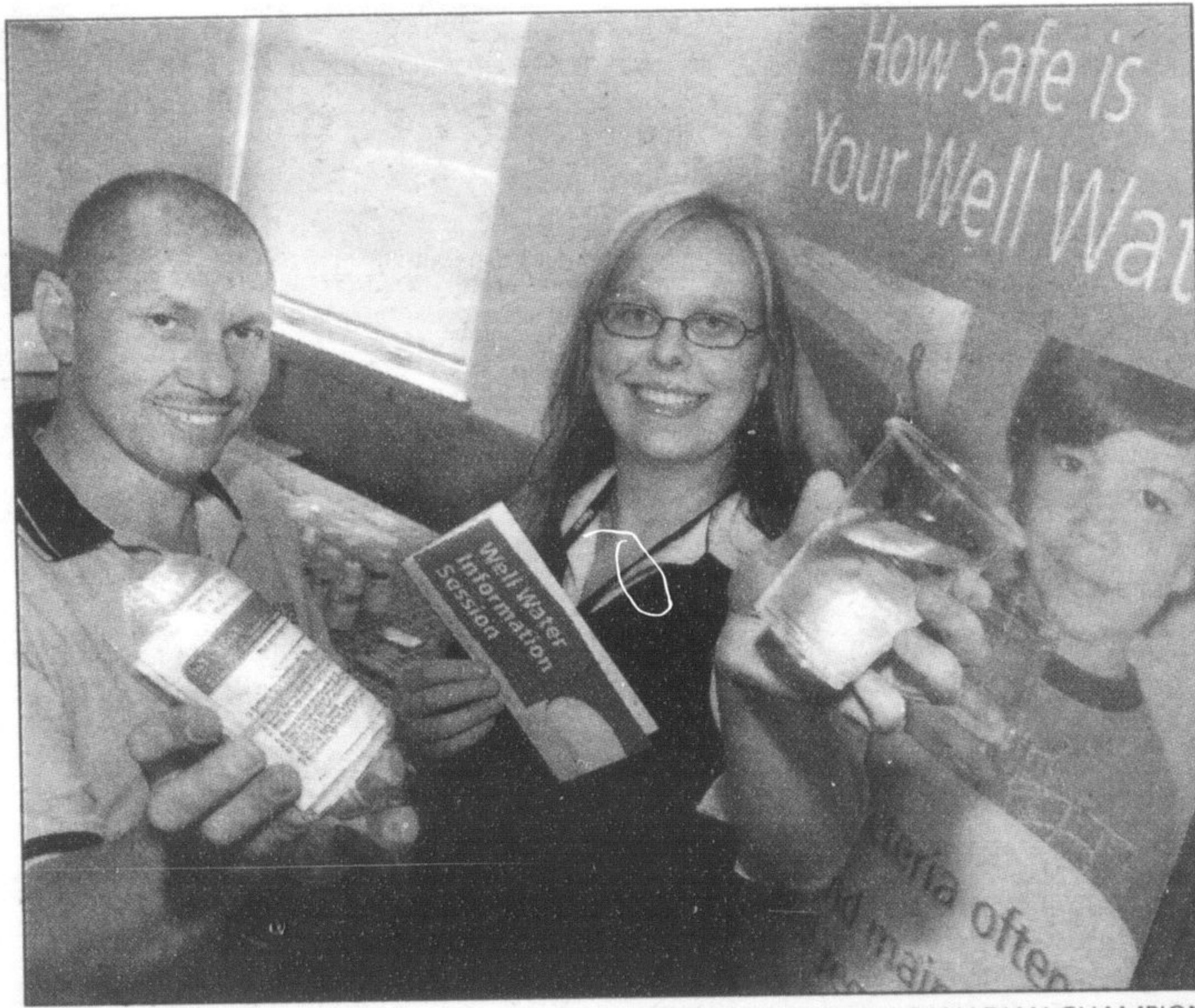
Halton police Superintendent Joe Taylor spoke to the audience about using light timers and motion sensors, keeping well-defined pathways, fencing and shrubbery, and keeping trees and bushes away from windows, to help keep homes safe.

"CPTED is an effective and inexpensive way of preventing crime. By increasing the natural surveillance of our homes, it reduces the comfort level of the criminal. They will likely not commit a crime if they feel they will get caught," said Taylor.

Staff Sgt. Susan Delaney addressed the audience about the importance of calling the police when they see something or someone suspicious.

She said many times residents are reluctant to call for fear of inconveniencing police. But that's never the case, she said, as a call, no matter how small it seems, may assist in the arrest of a criminal.

She added that it's best when residents provide their name, address, and phone number so police can apprise them of the



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Halton public health inspectors Roderick Thompson and Kristina Le Ber promote well water testing at the meeting.

situation after investigating. If residents would like to maintain anonymity, the police will do everything they can to protect that.

"As police officers, we are conscious of a citizen's need for privacy and we try to balance their need for anonymity with our need for information," stated Delaney.

"We are a team when it comes to the detection and prevention of crime and we hope to continue a strong positive relationship with the community we serve."

Milton Fire Chief Larry Brassard modified the theme of the evening to 'Community Protection Through Environmental Design' and discussed ways residents can prevent fires and assist the fire department should a blaze break out.

"A fire is a life-changing event for you and your family. You must do everything you can to prevent fires before they start," he said.

"Have fire detectors and

extinguishers in your home, plan an escape route, and keep dead grass and brush away from your home and buildings (in case of a brush fire). Make sure your home number is displayed properly at the end of your driveway and have the driveway clear and accessible. Should a fire start, we will be able to get to you easier and faster."

The Halton Region Health Department gave a presentation on well water testing and stated that residents should test their water at least three times a year. The 2006 Well Water Survey showed that 54 per cent of rural Halton residents never test their well water, an unsafe practice as there are contaminants in well water that often need to be treated.

Overall, the meeting was another success for the NCCC, said Chair Jean Woods.

She stated that the turnout was good and, after speaking with most of the guests, believed everyone "took away something useful from the meeting."

Easter fun at Mountsberg Sat.

Mountsberg Conservation Area will offer Easter activities for the whole family this Saturday.

The Easter Egg Celebration will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with egg hunts throughout the day for kids up to 14 years old. The day will also include a scavenger hunt and bingo.

Animal lovers might want to visit the farm animals at the Cameron Barn

or check out the birds of prey demonstrations. The sugar bush is also open with demonstrations, samples, pancakes and wagon rides.

Park entry costs \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors and kids aged five to 14 and free for children aged four and younger. A nominal fee for wagon rides applies. For more information, call (905) 854-2276.

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