

Police zero in on road safety

Milton motorists may notice a heightened police presence on area roads this week.

Starting today, the Halton Regional Police Service will join its provincial counterparts in Canada Road Safety Week efforts — designed to curb all aspects of aggressive driving and minimize the damage it causes.

Halton's traffic enforcement teams will be performing impaired driving and seatbelt spot checks, as well as running radar in areas known for speeding.

They'll also continue a program in which officers take

road-side screening devices into local bars and restaurants to allow patrons to voluntarily test their sobriety.

"This initiative has proven to be an excellent educational tool for the public," said Sergeant Chris Clarke of the findings of officers participating in this program.

"They know what they have consumed and how they feel. After checking their blood alcohol on an official police instrument many choose to take taxis home."

This may be attributed to the decline in impairing driving

charges and 12-hour suspensions administered in Halton between last year and 2005 — which dropped 17.3 and 22.4 per cent respectively.

On a less encouraging note, Transport Canada's most recent statistics reveal that 2,923 people were killed in collisions on Canadian highways in 2005, while another 17,529 were seriously injured.

Canada's Road Safety Vision 2010 aims to bring those numbers down to under 2,100 and 13,000 respectively with the next two-and-a-half years.

Region to participate in MOE emissions advisory committee

The Region has thrown its support behind the Ministry of the Environment's (MOE) efforts to improve air quality in the Clarkson Airshed area in south Halton.

A motion to that effect was approved by regional council at its meeting Wednesday in response to a staff report that revealed air pollution levels exceeding Canada-wide standards were recently detected by monitoring stations in Oakville.

The results come from the MOE's Clarkson Airshed Study, which looked at six air monitoring stations spread

throughout southeast Oakville and Mississauga.

The MOE has several things planned to continue monitoring the airshed, such as assessing the contribution of various emission sources to the area, establishing an advisory committee and focusing on abatement needed to reduce emissions.

Council supported having the Region participate in the committee.

A report regarding the Region's next steps on air monitoring is expected to go before the planning and public works committee May 24.

Board to hire 60 more teachers

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Every school board in Ontario must meet new PCS parameters. By September, boards must ensure 90 per cent of their primary classes (JK to grade 3) have 20 students or less with the remaining 10 per cent of classes having no more than 23 students.

PCS also applies to other grades. Junior and intermediate (grades 4 to 8) must have an average of no more than 25 students per class.

Education director Wayne Joudrie has reminded trustees and his senior staff on several occasions that if they don't meet the mandated PCS class size

ratio they will lose ministry funding for the teacher in that situation, but will still be required to offer that class and pay the teacher.

The board will be hiring around 60 teaching staff to meet the PCS requirements, for which they will receive ministry funding. More than 130 extra classrooms will be needed.

Space is a big concern for board administrators as a reorganization of classroom facilities will be necessary to accommodate more classes with fewer students. The board says this may require occupying classes that are currently used for art, music and core French,

although those programs would continue to be taught "within the regular classroom structure of a school".

More portables will have to be used in the short-term. The board has an excess of portables but may have to shuffle them where needed.

The board is going to analyse existing school boundaries and may develop alternative ones for September 2008 to meet the PCS mandate, which may affect optional attendance choices for some students.

The board says permanent additions to schools may be the longer-term solution to smaller class sizes.



Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee - CHAIR Expressions of Interest

The Halton-Hamilton Source Water Protection is seeking expressions of interest for the position of Chair of the Source Protection Committee (SPC).

Persons wishing to express an interest in the position of Chair must submit an expression of interest in the form of a letter, which must be received by Conservation Halton by 4:30 p.m., June 1, 2007. The letter may be mailed in printed letter format or be sent via email in electronic letter format or faxed to:

Ken Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer
Conservation Halton
2596 Britannia Road West
RR2 Milton ON L9T 2X6
Email sourceprotection@hrca.on.ca or fax 905-854-9220

The letter must include contact information, background information and specific details describing your qualifications for the position of Chair.

Interested groups or persons may also nominate a candidate for consideration. Nominations must include a letter expressing an interest in the position of Chair from the individual being nominated.

For more information on this program and on this position, please visit www.protectingwater.ca or contact Rebecca Hull, SWP Communications Specialist at r.hull@hrca.on.ca or 905-854-9229 x221.

MILTON GOOD NEIGHBOURS COMMUNITY DAY SATURDAY MAY 5th, 2007

Many thanks to the businesses and organizations that supported a successful good neighbours community day.



RCMP



Halton Regional Police



The Rotary Club of Milton



Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.



7163 5th Line, Milton, Ontario L9T 2X8



A special thanks to the many individuals and organizations who volunteered to assist those who are unable to perform household tasks and who cleaned up the various sites and along the riverbanks. The people of the Town of Milton are very appreciative of your valuable contribution.

The 16th Annual Milton Good Neighbours Community Day is Saturday May 3/2008