

Drury Park community launches Neighbourhood Watch program

By Joanna Phillips
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

The residents of Drury Park are the eyes and ears of each other, now that a Neighbourhood Watch program has been introduced there.

The citizenship initiative was launched in Drury Park — an adult lifestyle community comprising 196 detached bungalows behind E.C. Drury High School — earlier this summer.

According to chair of the Milton Policing Committee Tony Lambert, it's a matter of "keeping their community safe."

"It's the sharing of information and co-ordinating of the neighbourhood," said Lambert.

Lambert is the area leader in Milton's Hawthorne Village, where a Neighbourhood Watch program has been in place since last fall.

Just like in Hawthorne

Village, residents in Drury Park keep watch over the community and look for the first sign of trouble. There are 16 deputy block captains and block captains in Drury Park who relay information to area leader and chair of the steering committee, Stella Michaud.

Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, guided by the eight-person Steering Committee, cooperate with police services to prevent crime.

"It's neighbours watching neighbours basically," said Michaud.

The results have been significant in Hawthorne Village, said Lambert. A case of harassment was dealt with before it escalated, and the program has also helped to decrease speeding on area roadways.

Though this year it's been "reasonably quiet" in Michaud's neck of the woods, the general consensus is that it's always better to be prepared.

Michaud cited a forested area behind some of the homes as an allure during the summer for teenagers — who party there — as being something that's concerned residents.

Vandals have also upset the mood recently. On one particular night in August, several acts of vandalism occurred in the area, said Michaud.

She has since brought the issue up at an open house forum hosted by Milton Community Policing Committee, of which she's a member.

The Milton Community Policing Committee provides its members with the means to communicate concerns regarding public safety to all levels of government, and to take an active part in devising community-based strategies.

In addition to local residents, meetings are open to members of the Halton Regional Police Service.

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