

It's time to dispose of some child care products

By KAREN SMITH

Milton is taking part in a national awareness program to help reduce the number of accidents causing deaths and injuries to children.

In the program called Kidscare, products not meeting current safety standards and are a risk to children can be dropped off next week at the Milton Fire Department's central station, 405 Steeles Ave.

Developed by Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada, Kidscare also tries to change public attitudes and behaviour regarding the safety of children. Accidents leading to injury and death are the biggest single threat to the well-being of children. More than 250,000 children are treated for accidental injuries in Canadian hospitals every year.

Cribs, baby walkers and accordion-style expandable baby gates are the products of focus in the program. When parents turn in one of these items, they will be eligible to participate in a national draw for prizes totalling more than \$10,000. More details are available at the fire station.

Baby walkers have been associated with many accidents and injuries to

children. Walkers give them greater mobility and expose them to dangers normally out of reach. Open stairways present the greatest danger. Other hazards are faulty wheels, lack of a lap belt, poor seat support, large leg openings which may entrap small children and cracked plastic.

Keeping a crib safe requires careful attention when it is being used and periodic examination and maintenance. Hazards include crib slats spaced wider than six centimetres, corner posts higher than three millimetres, mattress support that can be released with an upward or downward push, split or cracked wood and exposed sharp edges within a child's reach.

Certain accordion-style gates have been banned by Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada and therefore should not be used at all. They include ones with large v-shaped openings at the top and along the upper edge and large diamond-shaped openings when expanded across a doorway or passage.

Items should be dropped off next Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Halton blames feds

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ment is "slowly dismantling the social safety net.

"Limiting the growth in federal (social assistance subsidies) is the latest in a series of regressive measures which indicate that the federal government is lessening its financial responsibility for social welfare in Canada.

"The predictable effect of these national fiscal and economic policies is poverty."

Mayor Bird, however, supported his position by passing around a quote from Abraham Lincoln:

"You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves."

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