

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Unit Launches Medicine Cleanout Campaign to Keep Local Youth Safe

Residents Encouraged to Return Leftover Medications to Pharmacies from April 17-30

Monday, April 12, 2010, Peterborough



The Peterborough County-City Health Unit and Peterborough-Lakefield Community Police Service teamed up today to launch the Medicine Cleanout Campaign from April 17-30 to help reduce the supply of prescription medications in our community.

“The misuse of prescription narcotics is a growing health concern in our community, especially for our youth,” said Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Medical Officer of Health for the Health Unit, who noted that medications are also the most common cause of poisoning in young children. “People are often

surprised to learn that most youth who misuse these medications are accessing them from home. Many people don’t realize prescription drugs can be just as dangerous as street drugs, and that someone who would never try street drugs might feel safe misusing prescription drugs.”

A 2009 study showed that one in five Ontario students in grades 7 to 12 have used prescription opioids non-medically, and that 74% of them reported that they acquired these drugs from home. Increasingly people are taking risks with medications as indicated by the increase in treatment admissions for prescription pain relievers, and that in 2008, there were 20 drug overdose deaths in the City of Peterborough.

The goal of the Medicine Cleanout Campaign is to encourage adults to safely dispose of any unused or expired medications by returning them to participating pharmacies. This year the campaign involves 27 local pharmacies as compared to only 19 during the last Medicine Cleanout Campaign in 2006. Residents are also asked for their help in reducing opportunities

Communications Office

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for diversion and poisoning by taking the following three steps:

1. Secure any medications you are still taking
2. Keep track of quantities
3. Clean out unused, leftover medications

For a list of where you can take your old or leftover pills, visit www.pcchu.ca/pills or call the Peterborough County-City Health Unit at 743-1000, ext. 223. Medications are hazardous waste so they should not be flushed or thrown out.

City of Peterborough:

- Burnham Medical Pharmacy, 380 Burnham St.
- Drugsmart Pharmacy, 102-849 Alexander Court
- Fadhil Pharmacy, 184 Marina Blvd.
- Kashyaps Pharmacy, 1040 Lansdowne St. W
- Lakeview Pharmacy, 191 Simcoe St.
- Mather & Bell Pharmacy, 769 Park St. S.
- Medical Centre Pharmacy, 707 Charlotte St.
- Medical Pharmacy, 555 George St. N
- Peterborough Clinic Pharmacy, 26 Hospital Dr.
- PRHC Pharmacy, 1 Hospital Dr.
- Rexall Drug Store, 1154 Chemong Rd. and 85 George St. N.
- Shoppers Drug Mart Pharmacy, 225 Charlotte St., 971 Chemong Rd., 741 Lansdowne St. W. and 1840 Lansdowne St. W.
- Shoppers Simply Pharmacy, 361 George St.
- Sullivan's Pharmacy, 71 Hunter St. E.
- Wal-Mart Pharmacy, 1154 Chemong Rd.
- Westmount Pharmacy, 1293 Clonsilla Ave.

County of Peterborough:

- Apsley Pharmacy
- Bridgenorth Guardian Pharmacy
- Buckhorn Pharmacy
- Centennial Pharmacy, Norwood
- Havelock Pharmacy
- Kinmount Pharmacy
- Lakefield IDA Pharmacy
- Millbrook Pharmacy

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For further information, please contact:

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