

Make this Halloween a safe and fun night

As Halloween is quickly approaching, Caledon OPP wishes to remind all parents and children to practice safety precautions to make the evening a memorable one.

Halloween safety tips

For parents

- ? Discourage the use of masks for children. Masks make it hard for children to see what is around them, including vehicles. Make-up is a better alternative.
- ? Costumes should fit properly to prevent trips and falls. Avoid oversized shoes, high heels, long dresses or capes. Select costumes with bright colors to increase the child's visibility. Add on reflective tape to costumes if possible.
- ? Children younger than 10 should be accompanied by an adult. By the age of 10, some children are ready to go trick-or-treating with a group of friends.
- ? Provide children with a flashlight. A cell phone is a good idea if one is available.
- ? Draw a map outlining the route they should follow and set a curfew.
- ? Tell children not to eat anything until they get home.
- ? Let children draw the faces on pumpkins with a marker and leave the carving to parents.
- ? Start trick-or-treating early, before it gets too dark.

For children and youth

- ? Carry a white bag or pillowcase for candy, or add some reflective tape.
- ? Bring a cell phone in case in the event that an emergency phone call has to be made.
- ? Always travel in groups. Be sure there are at least three of you at all times.
- ? Do not visit houses that are not well lit. Never go inside a stranger's home.
- ? Walk on the sidewalk whenever possible. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the side of the road facing traffic. Do not criss-cross back and forth across the street. Never cross between parked cars, instead use crosswalks, street corners or intersections.
- ? Do not eat treats before arriving home. When home, ask your parents to look through the treats with you to make sure everything is okay.

For homeowners

- ? Turn on outdoor lights and replace burnt-out bulbs.
- ? Remove items from the yard or porch that might trip a child.
- ? Sweep wet leaves from the steps and sidewalk.
- ? Use alternatives to candles in pumpkins, such as a flashlight or battery-operated candle. If you do use a candle, never leave it unattended.

For drivers

- ? Drive slowly in residential areas where children are more likely to be trick or treating.
- ? Watch out for children, many of whom may be wearing costumes with masks that make it difficult for them to see. Children are excited; they may dart out in traffic.
- ? Remember that costumes can limit a child's vision and they may not be able to see your vehicle.
- ? Reduce your distractions and stay alert.
- ? Remember to enter and exit driveways slowly and carefully. Proceed with caution.
- ? Never drink and drive.

Remember that safety is everyone's priority. If you observe suspicious activity, call 1-888-310-1122.