

# Health Unit Media Release



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## **Health Unit wishes to recognize local pharmacies for their contribution to poison prevention.**

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit thanks our local pharmacies for their significant contribution to the prevention of poisoning in the tri-county area.

Our pharmacies accept, free of charge, out-dated, expired and no-longer-required medicines for safe disposal. Every medication returned reduces the potential for injuries to everyone, especially our children, seniors, and the environment.

The Health Unit will present to every participating pharmacy a plaque to recognize their contribution to poison prevention.

For the past three years, during the month of November, the Health Unit has run an information campaign urging residents:

- Return out-dated, expired and no-longer-required medicines to their pharmacy for proper disposal.
- Medicines are hazardous waste and should not be thrown out in the garbage or flushed.
- Medicines can lead to injury. Households are protected if medicines are locked and kept away from children.

“The message is clear”, says Lois Dewey, Public Health Nurse, “Old medicines should never be kept ‘just-in-case’. Keeping, taking or sharing medicines can lead to serious injury such as falls and poisoning of seniors and children. Disposing of medications safely ensures that they do not harm your family or the environment.”

To find a pharmacy in your area which will accept no longer required medicines, watch for the plaque thanking the pharmacy for their participation in Medicine Clean Out or call 1-800-660-5853 or 345-5685 or visit [www.healthunit.org](http://www.healthunit.org).

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