



Community Coalition for Leeds, Grenville & Lanark Counties

Contact:

Rebecca Kavanagh, Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit (613-283-2740)

A team effort to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Racing Against Drugs is a community – based drug/alcohol awareness and injury prevention program for grade 4/5 students. It was originally developed in 1994 through a partnership of the London RCMP, the Ford Motor Company and the former London Board of Education.

Each Racing Against Drugs event provides up to 30 different learning opportunities or “pit stops” from Police, Fire, Ambulance, Public Health, Addictions agencies and many other community partners. These pit stops will help to demonstrate the link between healthy choices and risk taking through various sports/activities with zero tolerance for drug use.

Pit Stops tell students the anti-drug, smart risk-taking story.

The primary objective of this drug education initiative is to utilize the exciting and high – profile sport of auto racing to capture the attention of young people. It delivers the message that in this sport there is no room for error or impairment. At one pit stop the event may present the reasons why drinking interferes with one’s ability to succeed in a certain sport, at another students will learn the effects of alcohol on an unborn child, while at another an RCMP officer will question the students about common street drugs. Experience shows that the racing environment captures and holds the attention of young people. They listen and absorb the anti-drug message.

Racing Against Drugs will be coming to Smiths Falls on May 30 – June 1, 2006 (see page 2 for the agenda) and will take place at the Smiths Falls Youth Arena. Over 1800 students from the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark areas will take part in this exciting and innovative program.

An event such as this takes a lot of support from the community to make it a success. The Racing Against Drugs Community Coalition for Leeds, Grenville & Lanark is proud to have sponsorship from the following organizations:

Brockville Police Services
CP Rail
Kanata Dive
Leeds County Community Policing
Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit
Lanark County Ambulance
Lanark Dairy Association
Ontario Provincial Police S.A.V.E. Team
Open Doors/Child and Youth Wellness
Perth Pool
RCMP
Skills and Initiatives
Smiths Falls FOCUS Community Coalition
Smiths Falls Police Service
Smiths Falls Youth Centre
3M
TriCounty Addiction Services
Upper Canada District School Board

Dignitaries for each sponsoring organization and the media are invited to attend the opening ceremonies, which will take place Tuesday May 30, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. See the agenda below for more detailed information.

- 12:30 p.m. The session begins. Students will arrive and begin participating in 7 minute long pit stops.
- 1:30 p.m. Dignitaries and the media are invited to attend the event to observe the last few pit stops sessions.
- 1:45 p.m. A brief presentation will occur that will formally begin the event.
- 1:50 p.m. THE FINAL RACE. This will have teachers from the participating schools race remote control cars on the big oval track. The winning teacher and their class will receive special prizes.