



Operation Melon Continues in the Fall

Perth District
Health Unit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Perth County — The Perth District Health Unit in partnership with the Stratford Police are pleased to announce that Bryce Lee, a grade 2 student from Bedford Public School, is the latest draw winner in the Operation Melon program. In the summer and fall, youth who were seen wearing a helmet while riding their bikes, and making good decisions while riding or walking their bikes, were given a draw ticket for a \$200 gift certificate to Totally Spoke'd.

“This year we decided to run Operation Melon twice,” said Velma Hansford, Public Health Nurse with the Perth District Health Unit. “We want to encourage helmet use throughout the biking season, not just in the spring when kids are excited to get out and riding.”

Approximately 80 draw tickets were given out by police officers over the summer and fall months. Constable Rob Viani of the Stratford Police said, “Most of the kids we see are wearing their helmets, but a handful of kids are still not getting the message that helmets are both important for their safety and required by law for kids under 18 years. So we decided to start enforcing the law a little more this year.”

Warnings were issued to youth riding bikes without helmets. Excuses ranged from not having a helmet to forgetting to put it on. Kids were given the opportunity to come back to the police station with proof of a helmet to avoid getting a fine. “Most kids that were given a chance to avoid the fine were happy to bring in a helmet,” said Viani.

Under the Highway Traffic Act, children under 18 years of age are required to wear a helmet while biking and tickets can be given if they are not compliant.

“You only have one head and one brain. One hard crash can change your life forever,” said Hansford.

For more information visit our website at www.pdhu.on.ca, or call Health Line at 519-271-7600 ext 267. Listowel area residents call 1-877-271-7348 ext 267.

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