



AMHERST POLICE DEPARTMENT

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As part of Police Week 2014 activities, the Amherst Police Department and the Cumberland RCMP will be taking part in the **National Prescription Drug Drop-Off Day** scheduled for **Saturday May 10th, 2014 from 10 a.m to 3 p.m.** The goal of this program is to reduce the unused and expired prescription medications that are in people's homes by offering a safe and convenient way of disposal.

The misuse of prescription drugs is a problem in communities across Canada. Statistics show that 75% of youths that misuse prescription drugs get them from home. The illegal use whether it be the abuse of pills or the trafficking in pills can lead to higher crime rates in our community.

Opioid drugs are the most commonly used of all the prescription drugs. Oxycodone prescriptions (known by brand names Oxycontin & Percocet) have increased 850% in 10 years and is the most well known and most misused of all opioid drugs. Tolerance to the drug can develop very easily and can lead to mental and physical issues. Oxycodone is usually widely prescribed to control moderate and severe pain but is also extremely addictive.

Canada also has a high rate of abuse of injecting drug users. Injecting drugs would include heroin, hydromorphone and morphine. Our country is considered to be one of the heaviest users of psychotropic (medications affecting the mind) medications in the world. The Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse reported that Canada is the fourth highest per-capita user of prescription narcotics and the second highest user of sedative-hypnotic prescription drugs in the world.

Prescription medications that are improperly disposed of can also cause environmental problems as well. Flushed medications can dissolve into the water supply and prescriptions can break down and contaminate our soil. We are recommending that people use the drop off so that the medications that are clogging up medicine cabinets throughout the town will then be disposed of in an environmentally conscious way.

When dropping off your medications, people are encouraged to remove any labels or use a marker to black out any personal information. Our Department will also do this as well in case people forget to do so when they arrive at the disposal site. This event is free and we will take any prescription

medications no questions asked.

Residents can bring their unused or expired prescription medications to the old Town Hall at **5 Ratchford Street on May 10th**. Cst. Tom Wood of the Amherst Police Department, members of the Cumberland R.C.M. Police and a pharmacy technician from Lawton's Drugs will be on hand to properly dispose of the drugs.