

D.A.R.E.

D.A.R.E. (which stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a non-profit universal prevention program that originated in Los Angeles in 1983. This program is a cooperative effort between police, the school and the community, which aims to provide students with the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, and violence. Through the community policing model, the D.A.R.E. program also incorporates the following goals:

- "Humanizing" police, to promote young people in beginning to relate to officers as people;
- Permitting students to see officers in a helping role, as opposed to simply in an enforcement role;
- Opening the lines of communication between law enforcement and youth;
- Opening dialogue between the school, police, and parents to deal with a variety of issues.

D.A.R.E. has lessons for all students; however the County of Wellington O.P.P. currently implements the Grade 6 curriculum. The lessons are taught by trained police officers who receive two weeks of preparatory instruction at the Ontario Police College. Presently, there are three qualified D.A.R.E. instructors on the Wellington O.P.P. force. The program is ten weeks in duration, and focuses on the effects of marijuana, alcohol, tobacco, and inhalants. Students learn about refusal strategies, communication skills, friendships, peer pressure, decision making skills, and confidence.

In Wellington County, the D.A.R.E. program began in the Town of Erin in 2006 and is continually expanding in popularity. It is a collaborative effort between the County of Wellington Police Services Board, Wellington Catholic District School Board, the Upper Grand District School Board, the Ontario Provincial Police and many local service clubs.

The current D.A.R.E. Schools and their sponsors are;

- Aberfoyle P.S. - Puslinch Optimists
- Alma P.S. - Alma Optimists
- Arthur P.S. - Arthur Optimists
- Brisbane P.S. - Erin Optimists
- Elora P.S.- Elora Optimists
- Eramosa P.S. – Agricultural Adaptation Council
- Erin P.S. - Erin Optimists
- James McQueen P.S. - Centre Wellington Optimists
- JD Hogarth P.S. - Centre Wellington Optimists
- John Black P.S. – Centre Wellington Optimists
- Kenilworth P.S. - Arthur Optimists

- Minto-Clifford P.S. - Minto Optimists
- Moorefield P.S. - Moorefield Optimists
- Palmerston P.S. - Minto Optimists
- Rockwood Centennial P.S. - Agricultural Adaptation Council
- Ross R. MacKay P.S. - Erin Optimists
- St. Joseph Catholic School - Centre Wellington Optimists
- St. John Catholic School - Arthur Optimists
- St. John Brebeuf Catholic School - Erin Optimists
- St. Mary Catholic School – Elora Optimists
- St. Mary Catholic School – Mount Forest Optimists
- Victoria Cross P.S. – Mount Forest Optimists
- Victoria Terrace P.S – Elora Optimists