

The Acton Free Press

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Second Section.

.08 now magic number for DRINKING DRIVERS

Drinking drivers better keep .08 in mind if they don't want to end up with a large fine or up to six months in jail—or both.

As of Monday, Dec. 1, it is a criminal offence to be in the care or control of a motor vehicle if you have consumed enough alcohol to register more than point zero eight (.08) on a breath test. That is if you have more than 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.

And you can't take the fifth amendment—as they say in the U.S. on the grounds it might incriminate you—because it is also a criminal offence now to refuse to take a breath test when requested to do so by a police officer.

If you fail the test you could be prohibited from driving anywhere in Canada for up to three years as well as landing behind bars with the big fine.

The Acton detachment of the O.P.P., although they don't have a breathalyzer machine here, will use the services of the Milton O.P.P. machine. There are three breathalyzer units in Halton County, in Burlington, Oakville as well as Milton. They are the property of the Attorney General's office and are in use all across Canada.

Halton Crown Attorney Doug Latimer, commenting on the new tests said that the carnage on the roads has to be stopped and this stricter legislation was brought in for this purpose.

Corporal Larry Kneale of the Milton detachment of the O.P.P. is one of the four officers at the detachment trained to use their unit and he explained how they go about testing a person on the breathalyzer.

"The original offence is based on the officer's observations at the scene of the infraction. He looks for the manner in which a person is driving and if it is erratic to his judgment, he will pull the car over," he explained. "He will ask the driver to accompany him to the local police station or O.P.P. detachment and once there, will ask him to take the test. If he refuses he may then be charged with failing to take the breathalyzer test," said the corporal.

"We ask him to perform physical tests which are done in front of another impartial witness, usually the officer who operates the breathalyzer. These tests include touching the tip of his nose with his finger while his eyes are closed and I've seen

minutes to let the liquor traces leave his mouth.

"He blows through a tube in the machine and this air sample, while in the machine, is passed through a chemical solution which is sensitive to alcohol. This solution changes color and this change is measured by a photo cell in the machine. The more the color changes, the more alcohol there is present in the person's blood stream.

"The reading we use as a basic unit is .08 and if a person has a reading of .08 or over, then we can charge him with failing the test. This .08 means the person has 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood in his bloodstream.

"A man who weighs 100 pounds, for example, reaches the .08 reading after he has had about two pints of beer, or a 250 pound man could have the same .08 reading after consuming four and three quarter pints of beer."

The corporal emphasized that these amounts are in the bloodstream at the time of testing, but the subject would have consumed more alcohol before he was picked up. He stated the liver rids one ounce of liquor per hour from the body and so the person could have consumed much more liquor, although the traces of it might not show up in the test.

He also said that even if the reading on the breathalyzer is low, the subject can still be charged with impaired driving by the officer if he considers the physical symptoms of the person warrant the charge.

Cpl. Kneale, who has taken a two week course at the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto to learn how to operate the machine, says compulsory breathalyzer tests in England have lowered their accident fatality rate considerably. He said the highest reading he had seen register from a person was .3 which is the equivalent to the person having consumed 20 ounces of liquor, probably even more since the body can get rid of the one ounce per hour through the liver.

Cpl. Don Bell and Constables Carmen Wright and Doug Ormsby are the other three officers at the Milton detachment who are trained to use the breathalyzer.



Drivers who show signs of intoxication can now be made to take a compulsory breath test. In Ontario, the Breathalyzer is the machine used to determine blood-alcohol content. The maximum permissible level has been set at .08 percent—80 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood.

Terra Cotta's beauty could be scarred by road improvements

Residents of Terra Cotta are circulating petitions as part of a campaign to save their village from Peel County's plans for improvement.

Villagers are looking averse at a scheme to reconstruct their winding, paved road to highway specifications.

The county calls it progress. The villagers say it will erase the rustic charm of the village which is becoming a veritable artistic paradise.

They claim the proposed improvements will also spoil one of the most scenic drives in this part of the province, destroy some irreplaceable landmarks, including some homes.

While actual widening and other work on the road will not likely start for another two years, immediate plans call for construction of a new bridge near the junction of 27 Sideroad with the 4th Line West. The village road is 27 Sideroad.

Residents aren't convinced a new bridge is really needed as the present structure is not condemned. There have been few complaints about the Terra Cotta road but it is high on the list of the county's road priorities because of drainage problems, narrowness, understructure, etc.

Fact is that the Terra Cotta village road carries heavy traffic in the summer en route to Credit Valley Conservation Authority Park. Faced with the need to improve the road Peel County realized that to qualify for government subsidy the road must be built to standards laid down by the province.

Such standards do not take into account the aesthetic qualities of winding wooded roads or scenery or old landmarks.

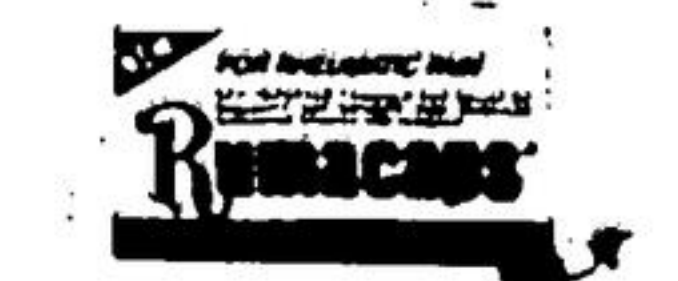
Terra Cotta residents fear that if they can't stop the plans they will be left with a community

badly scarred from road surgery. Gone will be The Old Forge, home of the famed sculptress Rebecca Sider, next or all of Terra Cotta Inn, a number of homes and most of the scenery which lures artists and photographers.

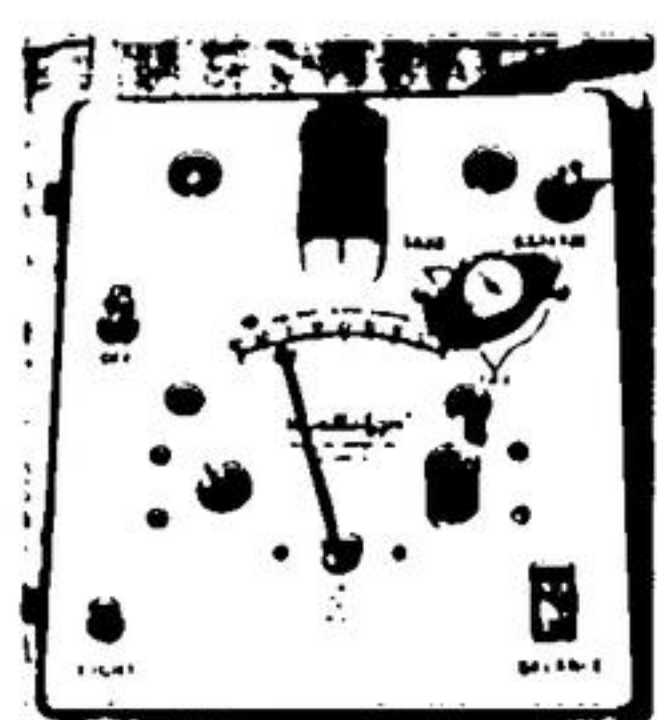
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The Breathalyzer registers point zero eight—the maximum permissible level of blood alcohol content.

some poor aims while this test is being carried on," he said.

"The subject is then given the test on the breathalyzer after being in the company of the testing officer for at least 15

First Acton test made

The first compulsory breathalyzer test was administered for Acton O.P.P. on Saturday evening.

Cons. Roy Wood followed a car which he'd seen being driven erratically and located a member of the armed forces from Camp Borden who was visiting in town. He took the man to Milton for the first official use of the new equipment. His blood-alcohol content was not deemed high enough to warrant a charge, but he was charged with careless driving and consuming liquor under age.

Other drinkers were charged by Acton O.P.P. during the week but the breathalyzer equipment was not used.



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