

Educators respond to Halton ARF drug report

Halton educators are taking some Addiction Research Foundation (ARF) advice after a recent study shows that a quarter of the region's students are at times in class under the influence of alcohol, tobacco or drugs.

Halton Board of Education director of education Em Lavender said that even if the board does everything it can, the drug-alcohol problem will remain because schools can not compete with liquor and beer life style advertisements and rock music.

"Schools can do some things and we will try," Lavender told a press conference at Oakville-Trafalgar High School Monday.

"The disturbing result is that experimental use of cannabis and alcohol is in grades seven and eight," Lavender said. He added that the board's curriculum

in the subject of health needs to be examined in Grades five, six, seven and eight. A review may be taken in grades nine and ten.

Other steps the board will undertake include giving to principals and parents information concerning drugs. "Hope we can present, from ARF, some fact sheets based on the best research," said Lavender.

Halton ARF Director Peter Marks, an Acton resident, said the board is being offered free training of teachers and consulting service.

ARF also puts the onus on the board to lead in the battle against drug and alcohol abuse. The approximately \$3,500 report recommends the board "share its resources and expertise and take the initiative in developing community awareness, concern and participation in a co-operative community effort to

meet the drug education needs of Halton youth." ARF was not laying at the feet of educators all the problems related to drug and alcohol abuse.

"The school will play a key role only if parents and the electorate are responsive," Marks said. "Parents, I don't think, can afford to sit back and let school boards make decisions," he said.

The study which ARF carried out in Oakville produced results which confirmed trends across the province.

Teachers would find the results surprising, said teacher Bob Richardson.

According to the survey's results, teachers would be the last adults students would ask for information about alcohol or drugs. The order of preference concerning who to ask about alcohol started with

ARF and went on to the library, friends, another user, parents, a doctor and then the teacher.

ARF carried out the survey at Oakville-Trafalgar High School at the request of school authorities. On November 20, a self-report questionnaire was given to 1,310 students. There was no warning to students, however, all parents were advised of the survey.

Much of the results of the OTHS test match those obtained in a recent provincial-wide survey which was also performed by ARF.

"There is no reason to believe that similar results would not be obtained by repeating the survey at another local high school with a general student population," states the report.

Halton ARF chairman Marks is urging the Halton Board of Education to make health class a credit

course. "Then we've to do homework with the ministry (of education) to make it compulsory."

According to Marks the current board guideline for having drug and alcohol education in health classes is for five lessons from grades nine to 13.

And because health is not a compulsory course, only about 65 per cent of the students enroll. In contrast the body of knowledge on drug education suggests that a compulsory curriculum of at least 50 periods a year be related to the subject. That would last from Grades 4 to 12.

The current classes on alcohol and drugs take place in Grade 10, however, according to the ARF survey boys between grades five and eight are experimenting with cannabis. And the girls are not too far behind in their first try with the drug.

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Decoration Day revived

The color party of the Branch 197 of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Acton Citizens' Band stand at attention during Sunday's Decoration Day ceremonies at Fairview Cemetery. A few hundred members of the Legion, Salvation Army, Acton Firefighters, clergy and public showed up for the parade, service and

laying of flowers to commemorate the lives lost in the Second World War. It was one of the largest turnouts in several years.

Photo by DIANA WALTSMANN

Plan included theatre

Mall proposal down the drain

by Gord Murray

Any plans for a major commercial development at the east end of downtown Acton on the site of the old Force Electric plant and the present AB Foodland supermarket are dead, according to one of the developers.

In addition a proposal for a partially enclosed mall containing a movie theatre, 25,000 square foot supermarket, drug store, convenience store, a restaurant, bowling lanes and other shops has gone down the drain.

The saga of the collapse of the various planned developments at the east end of

the downtown area is confusing and the situation is complicated by conflicting statements from town officials and the developer.

There is still the chance some kind of commercial development there could be revived in the future, but for now it is on the back burner.

Neil McLaughlin, a developer and real estate agent with Christie and Woods, operating out of Milton and Burlington, is working with Rosart Properties of Oakville to develop the site.

McLaughlin said in a lengthy interview Tuesday "I would have to say the deal is dead." Earlier this year council rezoned the Force Electric site for commercial use, subject to site plan approval, and

(Continued on page 3)

Market value assessment to be aired at meeting

The advantages and disadvantages of market value assessment will be aired during a public meeting slated for June 16 at the Acton High School.

Halton Hills council is shifting the place of its regular meeting from the Trafalgar Road offices to Acton because of the public response to the issue of market value assessment.

Councillors last week voted not to switch to market value assessment in Halton Hills unless the province pushes the matter.

Under market value assessment some residents would pay more than they do now for taxes while others would pay less.

Market value assessment would mean that out of 1,815 properties in Acton, 823 owners would be paying more taxes, 638 would pay less while 296 would not be changed.

Rosemary Road resident Pat Smith is in favor of anything that will bring about equity in residential

taxes. At the councillor's drop-in Friday she spoke mainly in favor of market value assessment.

The first step, however, said Mrs. Smith is to understand the process.

"Why should I pay \$905 when the guy down the street is paying \$145? Why should I be penalized for coming late? If you keep adding ten per cent (in taxes) a year, I'm going to have to move someplace else," Mrs. Smith told councillors Ross Knechtel, Terry Grubbe and Ed Wood.

"We're willing to pay. But we're not willing to support everyone else," said the Rosemary Road resident.

Mrs. Smith drew up a list of town properties and from the tax rolls determined the rates for most of the homes.

Research by Mrs. Smith shows two homes on Rosemary road which she identifies as the same type of house, are valued to different amounts: one

is at \$6,655 and the other, four numbers away, is at \$6,845.

The chart opened up more questions than it answered, said Mrs. Smith. "No one can tell me when the last general assessment was done. No one remembers. It was that long ago."

The June 16 meeting will start at 7 p.m. with a regular council meeting. After regular business is finished the public portion, concerning the market value assessment, will start at about 8 p.m.

Halton Hills Clerk-Administrator Ken Richardson said the treasurer, engineer and parks and recreation director are likely to attend the meeting and give presentations as are someone from the region's finance department and the school board.

Halton Hills is setting up a committee of staff and councillors plus citizens to find out more information concerning market value assessment.

Car care guide

Bad rad a summer motoring worry

by Diana Waltmann

Now that winter is behind us, motorists look forward to the carefree summer holidays.

But summer isn't as carefree for your car.

"You have to look after your car in the summer time as you would in the winter," says Les Pelitis, owner of Achilles Motors. "The heat can affect a car like the cold."

Overheating is the major problem for most car owners in the summertime. Area mechanics such as Pelitis, Gord Ramsden of L and L Ford and Earl Redfern says the first thing on the list of a summer tune-up is checking the radiator.

Look inside. Is it rusty? That's from water. Salt

and sand also plug up the rad so chances are it should be flushed, especially if the car is an older model.

Ramsden said he recommends using anti-freeze year round. It has a higher boiling point and keeps the engine cooler than water in summer.

Or you could add a 50-50 mixture of water and anti-freeze. If the car has air conditioning however, you must use anti-freeze year round.

Since the cooling system of most cars is designed to operate under pressure, check the radiator cap. A cap that holds 12 to 15 pounds of pressure and 50 per cent anti-freeze raises the boiling point to more than 265 degrees Fahrenheit.

The thermostat should be checked as well, but doesn't necessarily have to be changed to a summer unit. A summer thermostat keeps the engine running at cooler temperatures.

Also check water hoses for cracks and bubbles, the water pump and look for holes in the rad itself. Small stones bouncing from the road cause holes, so it would be a good idea to get a screen.

Pelitis said drivers should check carefully for gas leaks because gasoline explodes at high temperatures. Leaks can occur in gas lines, gas tank, the carburetor diaphragms and in the fuel pump.

Check the tires. Are they cracked, lumpy, worn, worn on only one side? The pattern of wear will show whether the car needs an alignment.

Again, says Pelitis, check the air pressure. Heat expands air in tires which might cause a blowout.

Ramsden said wheels should be balanced or tires will wear out faster and the ride will be less smooth.

Brakes are another important mechanism that must be under constant surveillance.

"In the summer, a man likes to take his children out for a pleasure drive," states Pelitis. "But his concentration is lax, he's not paying as much attention to the road and other cars. His kids are telling him to look here and there and meanwhile the car in front stops."

"His brakes must be in perfect working condition for him to also stop safely, because he has to jam them on."

Is the brake pedal spongy? Do you have to pump the brakes twice to get pressure? Does it take longer to stop? Hear any squeaks? Does the car veer to one side when you apply breaks?

Redfern says the moment you feel something is wrong with the brakes, it should be repaired, not only because it's safer that way, but also because it's cheaper.

Chances are the shoes just need replacing, a relatively minor repair job. But if let go, the wheel cylinder might seize, the rotors might need replacing or on disc brakes, the calipers could seize.

While you have the wheels off to check the brakes, check for wear on the steering parts.

The battery provides most of your headcaches during the winter, but it's a good idea to check corrosion and water level. Clean the terminals and add water.

Terminals can be cleaned with a wire brush, but if they are badly corroded, just saw off, cut off an inch of insulation from the end of the wire and clamp on a



Monday night Halton Hills council honored staff and firefighters who have given 25 or more years service. Left to right, Bern Van Fleet, Mick Holmes, Leo Synnott, Harold Townsley, Ace Bailey, Wayne Kelley, Red Roshier, Sam Tennant, Bob Lindsay and Alf Duby.

Town honors service

Ten men who have given nearly 300 years of combined service to the Acton, Georgetown, Esqueping and Halton Hills works departments or the Acton and Georgetown Volunteer Firefighters were honored Monday night at Halton Hills council.

Recently the town unveiled a policy for honoring employees who are retiring, leaving for another job or have given long years of service to the municipality or any of the three former municipalities.

Monday night those who have given 25 years or more service were honored with the presentations of beer steins and they will receive scrolls later.

Four of the men, Bob Lindsay, Red Roshier, Sam Tennant and Alf Duby were recognized for their service in works departments while Mick Holmes, Bern Van Fleet, Leo Synnott, Wayne Kelley, Harold Townsley and Ace Bailey were honored for their many years of work as firefighters.

Following is a brief resume of the career of each of the men honored:

MICK HOLMES—He has given 33 years service to the fire department in Acton and later the town of Halton Hills. Holmes became assistant fire chief in about 1956 and chief in 1961. In 1974 he became Acton's first full-time fire chief and later assumed the post of chief for all of Halton Hills. Holmes was awarded the 30 year service medal in 1977 by the Ontario Fire College.

HAROLD TOWNSLEY—He has given 27 years of service to the Acton fire department and is the chairman of the Area One Firefighters' Association. An active sportsman, Townsley has been involved in fire department promotional activities and also served the town as arena manager for the past 13 years.

LEO SYNNOTT—He has served the fire department for 27 years performing many chores around the hall and has been dedicated to service.

WAYNE KELLEY—He has given 27 years service to the fire department and his work with both Acton and Oakville Hydro Commissions has

made him a valuable member of the volunteers. A pump operator, he was captain of the brigade for a time.

ALF DUBY—He has given 29 years of service to Acton and Halton Hills. Duby began his career in 1951 working for the old Acton Public Utilities Commission's water and sewer section rising to the post of Superintendent of Sewers two years later. When the water and sewers section came under Acton municipal control in 1960 Duby became Public Works Superintendent and is now the Assistant Public Works Superintendent for Halton Hills. He also served 23 years as a volunteer firefighter and was a District Deputy Chief.

SAM TENNANT—He has worked for the town works department for 26 years, starting employment with Acton in 1954. He recently retired from the Acton firefighters after 35 years service. He is a former chief of the brigade and served on all branches of the executive.

RED ROSHIER—He started working for the Esqueping works department in 1946 and has now given 34 years service to the municipality. He acted on occasion as Esqueping Road Superintendent and was Assistant Road Superintendent. Roshier, a grader operator, served as a Georgetown Firefighter for 24 years.

BOB LINDSAY—He has given 33 years service to the town, starting with Esqueping in 1947. Lindsay is noted for his skill as a heavy equipment operator and after Roshier retires he will have the most seniority among town staff.

BERN VAN FLEET—He has given 23 years service as a Georgetown firefighter. Van Fleet has served as captain, assistant chief and District Chief. He has also served as chief of the Beardmore Fire Department and worked there as a steamfitter for about 30 years.

ACE BAILEY—He has given 25 years service to the Georgetown Fire Department. Bailey has held the posts of lieutenant, captain and deputy district chief and worked many years for Smith and Stone. He is the oldest member of the Fire Area Two brigade and once served on the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service.

inside

A problem, garbage behind the cemetery, raised at a recent ward one councillors' drop-in still hasn't been remedied and one resident is tired of waiting for town action. Story on page 5.

Eden Mills is planning a three day bash the end of this month to celebrate 50 years as a Police Village. Details on page 10.

Students from a private boys' school in Elora toured Keates Organ's Monday. See photos on page 7.

You'll find Profiles on page 2, News Digest is on page 3, editorials and columns are on page 4 and Rockwood Digest is on page 18.