

For a safe New Year's Eve

First a friend, then a host

The holiday season is upon us with its usual round of celebrations and social gatherings. For those planning or attending such parties, the Hamilton Automobile Club has a program that reminds us all the friends don't let friends drive drunk.

BE FIRST A FRIEND, THEN A HOST
As a host during this festive season, you accept a responsibility to your guests that extends far beyond entertainment. Your primary goal should be to see that your friends and relatives arrive home safely after the party's over. When a guest leaves your party in a

drunken state, the odds increase seven times that he or she will be involved in a traffic accident. Considerate hosts de-emphasize alcohol during gatherings.

SERVE FOOD THROUGHOUT THE GATHERING
Offer your guests alternatives to the bar with an attractive array of rich, starchy snack crackers and high protein foods such as meat and cheeses. For variety add hard-boiled, pickled, or deviled eggs and a tray of crisp, raw vegetables with a cream cheese or sour cream dip. Serve enough food throughout the party so that guests will be encouraged to eat rather than drink. These tasty treats will reduce the rate at which alcohol is absorbed into the bloodstream.

OFFER NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Non-alcoholic drinks have recently gained in popularity as many peo-

ple opt away from the consumption of alcohol for health and safety reasons. Be considerate to non-drinkers by stocking a supply of zero-proof beverages such as fruit juices and punch, soft drinks, and coffee. Don't put guests in the position of having to request a non-alcoholic drink. Display these beverages prominently and many guests will quietly, and gratefully, choose them.

LET GUESTS DO THEIR OWN MIXING
Set up a self-service bar for the evening. Guests tend to make less potent drinks when serving themselves. Keep several jiggers handy for measuring so that guests don't have to guess at the "right amount" to pour.

AVOID CARBONATED MIXERS
Whether you're serving a punch bowl or mixed drinks, avoid mixing

alcohol with carbonated drinks such as ginger ale or cola. Carbonated beverages speed up the body's absorption of alcohol. Stick to water or juices for cocktail mixers and use juices or tea for your punch base.

WATCH FOR OVER-INDULGERS
Try to divert attention from the bar with dancing, games, or conversation. If you notice a guest drinking excessively, engage him in conversation or offer food to slow down the rate of alcohol consumption. Offer coffee or mix his next drink for him, going very light on the alcohol.

WIND DOWN WITH COFFEE
About an hour before the party is due to end, serve hot coffee with a special snack such as pizza or pastries. Although coffee will not sober anyone up, it will stop additional alcohol consumption and allow time for excess alcohol to

clear out of the bloodstream. Substituting coffee for "one for the road" will increase your guests' chances for a safe journey home.

WHEN THE PARTY'S OVER
Even the best host may be faced with an intoxicated guest at the end of the party. If so, be a true friend and don't let him or her drive. The following are some options for how to handle a drunk guest:
Before the party, encourage guests to arrange for designated drivers within their groups, especially if a particular person habitually over-indulges.
When you first notice that a guest might be drinking too much, arrange for someone to drive him or her home, just in case. If both of you

encourage him or her to give up the keys at the same time, you will be doubly convincing.

Prepare overnight sleeping facilities ahead of time, and let guests know that they are available. Encourage anyone who is unfit to drive to spend the night.

If a drunk guest is unwilling to stay, call a taxi or, if necessary, drive the guest home yourself. His or her life is far more important than avoiding a slight inconvenience.

The holidays are meant to be enjoyed, but not at the expense of human lives. The Hamilton Automobile Club reminds everyone that no tactic is too extreme to keep a drunk driver off the road.

NOTICE

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Woods, Water and Wildlife

Concern mounts over water fowl population

By MARION STREIBIG
For The Federation
of Ontario Naturalists

Late in November I visited the Niagara River. Large rafts of Red-breasted Mergansers floated off the river mouth, and flocks of Oldsquaw flew low over the river. Farther up towards the Falls small flocks of Common Goldeneye popped up and down. Above the Falls a large raft of Canvasback rested, heads tucked so that their distinctive sloping profile was concealed. A veteran observer who has been making the trip to the River for many years shook his head over the size of the canvasback flock. "It's way down", he said.

Recently disturbing statistics have been accumulating about a drastic drop in waterfowl populations. This year's drought, which limited nesting success, has certainly reduced the size of flocks of Can-

vasbacks and Pintails migrating through Ontario. At the same time North American wildlife officials find that the populations of many species of ducks are at or near all-time lows. The duck population has dropped 60 per cent from what it was in the 1940's, and there exists in both Canada and the United States more habitat than there are ducks to fill it. There is even an initiative in the United States in which hunters are being asked to let duck populations recover by refraining from hunting for a year or two.

Despite this alarming situation, spokesmen for Ontario hunters, whose interests would appear to be best served by serious attempts at protecting breeding stock, insist that no place in Ontario should be closed to sport hunting, including national and provincial parks. The largest association of hunters in the province resolutely opposes the new

provincial parks policy which would ban sport hunting in provincial parks classed as wilderness and nature reserve.

All that day I spent along the Niagara River I never escaped the sound of shotguns popping. There was no respite for migrating ducks here. Earlier in November on a visit to Presqu'ile, a provincial park famous as a gathering place for migrating waterfowl, hunters in blinds occupied a favourite beach. "Well", you say, "at least there's still Point Pelee." Wrong! Even here hunting is permitted.

In the May 17, 1988 cabinet decision about permitted activities in new provincial parks, all exploitive activities such as hunting, trapping, mineral exploration, mining and hydroelectric development were specifically excluded from two of the six classes of parks - wilderness and nature reserve. To prove that they are hard done by, the hunters point to the Ministry's statement that 80 per cent of the total land and water base within the parks system will be pure wilderness or nature reserve parks. They fail to acknowledge two facts. One is that a single huge wilderness park, Polar Bear on the shore of Hudson Bay, makes up more than 40 per cent of the whole area of the parks system. Secondly, a 1980 Gallup Poll done for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources found 86 per cent of those surveyed across the province were opposed to sport hunting in provincial parks. I suspect that the figure is even higher today.

Since more than 70 per cent of Ontario is Crown Land to which hunters do have access, it seems only prudent management to set aside these limited areas of the province as sanctuaries in which visitors can still experience a world much as it was before European settlement. As development of all sorts relentlessly gobble land across the province, it makes good sense to give full protection to some of the most beautiful and biologically interesting areas in the province.

In 1988 the Canadian Wildlife Service released an analysis of how

Canadians viewed wildlife: 13.4 million Canadians enjoyed nature in non-consumptive activities such as hunting, hiking, canoeing or simply observing nature, while 1.8 million hunted. The same study revealed that only 10 per cent of hunters are female, while the non-consumptive users are almost evenly split between males and females. Therefore, special consideration for hunters in our provincial parks would constitute a sexual bias in parks policy.

Those of us who worry about dwindling wildlife and enjoy the outdoors in a non-exploitive way have our work cut out for us to make sure the provincial government abides by its decision of May 17 and keeps wilderness and nature reserve parks as sanctuaries for wildlife. In fact, even in these parks hunters are not totally excluded. Native people may hunt here, and anyone with a native guide may still hunt in wilderness or nature reserve parks.

If you believe that there should be places in our province where you can enjoy nature undisturbed, better speak up now before the "sportsmen" convince the government that no place in Ontario should be closed to their activities. Write immediately to the Minister of Natural Resources, Vincent Kerrio, 6th Floor, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley St. West, Toronto, M7A 1W3, and send a copy to your local M.P.P. Remember that hunters who represent only 7 per cent of the population of Ontario want to dictate how wilderness areas should be used by all of us.

Legion members invited to join US celebration

Legion Lines
J.T. Hayes
Branch 120 PRO

Georgetown Branch 120 of the Royal Canadian Legion has received an invitation to attend the Massachusetts State Convention of The American Legion, to be held from June 14 through June 17, 1989.

The letter giving details has been posted for the attention of interested members. In the near future, a meeting will be called of those wishing to attend. For more details contact Comrade Norm Ward.

Car club winners in the Dec. 22 draw were: 1 - Joan Brown; 152 - Brian Hicks; 70 - Rita Doernbach; 27

Many activities planned

A large line-up of activities is scheduled this winter at conservation areas in the Toronto region, including husky dog competitions and family cross-country ski races.

Husky dogs return to Cold Creek Conservation Area this winter with several weekends of competition. The dogs compete in time trials in three and six-dog teams over and eight kilometre course. Spectators are welcome to meet the sled-drivers and their dogs. The competitions will be held Jan. 14-15, Jan. 21, Jan. 29, Feb. 4-5, and Feb. 11-12.

Meanwhile, National Ski Week is scheduled for the week of Jan. 21-29. Free cross-country ski lessons will be offered on two consecutive Saturdays, Jan. 21 and 28, at Albion Hills and Bruce's Mill Conservation Areas.

Albion Hills will also host the 6K Challenge on Sunday, Jan. 22. This is a ski tour for everyone from the novice to the serious skier. Registration will be held at 8 a.m. on the day of the event, with the race starting at 9:30 a.m.

Also, the Valentine's Day Fun Race will be held on Sunday, Feb. 12, at Albion Hills. Each participant will receive a gift, with prizes awarded

to the top finishers. Join in anytime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
For more information about events and conditions, call The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority at (416) 661-6600.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

TAKE NOTICE THAT a Public Meeting of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario will be held at the MASONIC HALL, 910 MAIN STREET, EAST, HAMILTON, ONTARIO on TUESDAY, JANUARY 17th, 1989 at the hour of 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, at which time the Board will hear an application in accordance with the Liquor Licence Act, and Regulations thereunder.

The following establishment has applied for a licence of the class indicated, and the application will be entertained at the aforementioned location and time.

Application For New Licence
Riviera Centre
530 Guelph St., Town of Halton Hills, Norval
Dining Lounge Licence and a Patio Licence

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that any person who is resident in the municipality and who wishes to make representation relative to the application, shall make their submission to the Board in writing prior to the date of the hearing, or in person at the time and place of the hearing. (Copies of written submissions will be forwarded to the applicant.)

Liquor Licence Board of Ontario
55 Lakeshore Boulevard East
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