

Police Beat

Lost control

A vehicle driven by a Georgetown man skidded through a stop sign and into a No Parking sign Tuesday when the man lost control of his car on the wet road, police say. The man was travelling southbound on Duncan drive near Moultriey Court in Halton Hills at about 4:30 p.m. when his car slid through the stop sign. The driver overcorrected and the car ended up on the west side curb. The No Parking sign was bent back but there were no injuries and no charges laid.

Hit and run

A Georgetown woman came back to her parked car on Nov. 16

to find the side had been scraped by an unknown vehicle which had fled the scene, police report. There were no injuries and no charges laid in the incident, which happened at 6:30 p.m. on Guelph Street in Halton Hills.

Rolled-vehicle

A Georgetown man who swerved his car to miss a rabbit that ran out in front of the vehicle on the 8th Line in Halton Hills, skidded and rolled his car into a ditch last Sunday. He was travelling southbound on the 8th Line near the 22nd Sideroad. There were no injuries and no charges laid in the incident, which happened at 12:50 a.m.

Parked car struck

A vehicle parked on Prince Charles Street in Georgetown was struck by another vehicle on Nov. 19 at about 9 p.m. The driver of the vehicle that hit the parked car, fled the scene.

Fire Calls

Fuel spill

Halton Hills Firemen were called out to a fuel spill Tuesday at 11:13 p.m. on Main Street and Ontario. There was no sign of fire but the Hazardous Materials Team was called to the scene. No injuries were reported by the Fire Department.

Impaired driving forum opens in Toronto

TORONTO - Countermeasures '90, the sixth annual provincial forum on impaired driving, opens next week at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

Scheduled for December 3 and 4, the conference provides two days of information and resource sharing sessions for community organizations and prominent legal, law enforcement, health and educational professionals active in the crusade against drinking and driving.

This year two plenary sessions and more than 15 workshops will offer the 500 delegates and the media the most current information available on the issue. Attorney General Howard Hampton and Solicitor General Mike Farnan will speak at the event.

This year the conference presents a more national focus as representatives from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and the federal government will share their countermeasures' experiences with delegates.

"We look forward to learning about the programs other jurisdictions have implemented to reduce the incidence of impaired driving and what their successes have been," said Attorney General Howard Hampton.

Highlights of the conference will include:

Countermeasures in the '90s: Where do we go from here. Community programs and government campaigns against drinking and driving were launched over a decade ago. Plenary speaker, Dr. Herb Simpson, executive director of the Traffic Injury Research Foundation, will review successes of these initiatives and indicate where delegates should be focusing their attention for the next decade.

Being sued can ruin a good party. Noted Canadian alcohol and drug expert, Dr. Bob Solomon, will update delegates on the civil liabilities of home entertainers and licensed establishments. He will examine the risks a host can face from a lawsuit caused by a drinking driver leaving the premises.

Administrative licence suspensions. Twenty-seven U.S. states have implemented legislation where impaired drivers can have their licences revoked immediately upon refusing to provide a breath sample or by providing a sample over the legal limit. This measure has shown to reduce the incidence of impaired driving by 40 per cent. A similar law was introduced in Manitoba in November 1989 and a Manitoba official will be on hand to review the first year of operation. A Canadian legal perspective will be provided in view of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Innovative countermeasures from different jurisdictions. In the past five years other provinces and those at the community level have initiated innovative countermeasures programs. Representatives from Alberta, B.C., and Ontario will detail these programs.

Other workshops will provide forums for student and community group delegates to review past programs and plan future actions. Road and safety issues will be presented by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police and PRIDE Ontario will present two sessions addressing victims issues.

Say: "I saw it in The Herald"

Truck crash closes 401

Highway 401 was closed on Thursday morning between Highway 25 and Kelo Road after a transport truck hit the centre bridge support of Regional Road 22, causing severe damage.

At about 6:45 a.m., the truck lost a coil of steel it was carrying, causing the truck to swerve into the bridge support and roll on its side. The overturned vehicle blocked traffic in the east bound lane. Another coil of steel rolled into the westbound lane.

Traffic was backed up for miles as a result of the accident. At press time, police would not say if there were any injuries or charges.

Local GST seminar disappointing

By LIZ GALVIN
The Herald

A group of local business people gathered at North Halton Golf and Country Club Wednesday morning to learn more about the impending GST. Overall, they were pretty disappointed.

"Those two guys were trying to sell us the GST - and it cost \$10 a person," said Damian Nikic, a real estate broker and owner of Royal City Halton Limited in Acton.

The "two guys" he referred to were Brian Shackleton, Director of GST Consultations with Revenue Canada Customs and Excise Office, and Joel Weiner, Director of Consultants and Public Affairs, GST Communications Group.

The two civil servants used overheads and examples to try and make the GST more clear to the group of business people, many of whom contract out their real estate selling skills.

Mr. Shackleton and Mr. Weiner has been conducting similar seminars across the country for the past several months. In November alone, they hosted 440 presentations, and about 4,000 in total across Canada, the Revenue Canada representatives said.

To his surprise, Canadians are still asking a lot of basic questions about the tax, he commented. When asked why he thought that was, he answered, "because they have tried to ignore it for so long."

Mr. Shackleton insisted that government has provided ample information for several months for businesses.

Monica Southon, who stayed

for the duration of the meeting, commented, "It has not been as informative" as I thought it would be, "that's why I stayed to ask questions."

Gary Brand, a broker with NRS Brand Realty in Georgetown, asked the two presenters several questions during the seminar and admitted later, "I knew the answer to every one of them."

He has been to "a number" of GST seminars, he said, and called Wednesday's meeting "a poor one."

"If you've got a bad tax, at least get someone to present it

well," he suggested. The information, he said, was presented in a very general non-specific way and "they didn't answer our questions very well."

About the GST in general, he commented, "(The federal government's) timing is not very good, in light of the recession."

The two federal civil servants covered a lot of ground in their one-and-a-half hour presentation. Probably the best information they gave was the numbers to call for more information. In Toronto, call 973-1000 or from Halton Hills, 1-800-461-1082.

Provincial government introduces rent control bill

Minister of Housing Dave Cooke has introduced legislation which will limit rent increases while the government develops a new system of rent control.

Mr. Cooke tabled the necessary amendments to the Residential Rent Regulation Act in the legislature Wednesday.

"The moratorium will enable us to protect tenants over the next two years, while we turn our full attention to public consultations on a permanent rent control system," Mr. Cooke said.

He said the moratorium is a temporary measure to protect tenants from high rent increases allowed under the current rent review system. The moratorium rules will apply to rent increases taking effect from Oct. 1, 1990 and will continue until new rent control legislation is passed.

Under the moratorium, most rent increases will be limited to

the guideline amount set by the Ministry each year. In 1990, the guideline is 4.6 per cent; in 1991, it is 5.4 per cent.

Tenants will no longer be required to pay rent increases related to luxury renovations and the flipping of apartment buildings. As well, tenants will not face rent increases arising from capital expenditures.

Landlords will be allowed to seek moderate rent increases above the guideline to help cover some cost increases which are beyond their control.

These are limited to significant increases in municipal taxes, heating, hydro, water, cable, insurance and changes in interest rates on mortgage renewal.

Mr. Cooke said, "We encourage everyone in Ontario to take part in the consultations across the province on a new system of rent control."

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