

Community

Concerned citizens form a committee to combat drinking and driving

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

Some came because of personal tragedy, others because of related work in the area. But they all came for one reason: to help prevent drinking and driving. Monday night, six Halton Hills residents met with Constable Scott Mason of the Halton Regional Police Traffic Bureau to establish the new Halton Hills Anti-Drinking and Driving Association (HHADDA). "The best way to fight drinking

and driving is through education," said Constable Mason to the group. Staff Inspector Richard Kivell told the group the police can't be successful in the fight against drinking and driving if they do it themselves. "Two heads are better than one," he said indicating police are one head and the community the other. Constable Mason said the committee will help raise the issue of drinking and driving as a moral issue. "We want people not to drink and drive because it is

morally wrong, not because they're scared of getting caught," he said. The focus of Monday night's meeting was for members to meet and get to know each other. Subsequent meetings of HHADDA will see the committee choose their executive and develop plans and strategies to bring the issue of drinking and driving more forcefully to the public. Members of the committee are: - Randy Wismer, Acton: Mr. Wismer is an insurance agent

with Safeco Insurance in Mississauga. He joined the committee because he sees the aftermath of drinking and driving accidents and wants to help prevent the damage and loss of life drinking and driving can cause. - Stan Ashby, Ballinafad: Mr. Ashby works with Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto and will be teaching a course on substance abuse at Sheridan College this fall and hopes to learn more about drinking and driving and helping to prevent it. - Sheila Lightle, Acton: Miss Lightle is a student at Acton High School and a member of her school's group against drinking and driving. She wanted to be a part of her communities anti-drinking and driving group as well. - Shawn Mark, Georgetown: Mr. Mark is an employee with the Public Works Department in Halton Hills and was interested in the drinking and driving issue and wanted to help his community through this committee. - Rose Brown, Georgetown: Ms. Brown's son, Gary McDonald, was killed on March 9, 1990 by a local man who has been charged with impaired driving causing death. Because of her personal loss, she wanted to join this group and help prevent something like this happening to other people. The case against the accused is still before the courts. Elizabeth Diaz, Georgetown: Ms. Diaz's son was also involved in an accident where the other person involved has been charged with an alcohol-related offence. Her son is physically able but mentally handicapped. What her son and her family has gone through led her to the meeting last night. The establishment of HHADDA is the first time in five years Halton Hills has had its own drinking and driving community committee. All the other communities within Halton have their own committees.



Concerned residents want drinking and driving to stop in Halton Hills and to this end, a meeting was held Monday night to form the Halton Hills Anti-Drinking and Driving Association (HHADDA) to educate people about the adverse effects of drinking and driving. The new committee members are

(back row, left to right) Randy Wismer of Acton, Shawn Mark of Georgetown, Constable Scott Mason of the Halton Regional Police, Stan Ashby of Ballinafad, (front row, left to right) Sheila Lightle of Acton, Rose Brown of Georgetown and Elizabeth Diaz of Georgetown. (Herald photo)

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