## -People's Forum-

# Teenage drinking discussed

To the Editor,

Drinking and driving is one of the most difficult issues in the relationship between parents and teenagers. It is an issue that is often fought over. The teenager is invited to a birthday paty or a graduation banquet. The parents have a number of questions which they want answered in order that they can be reassured that their child will be safe. One question is, "Will there be drinking?" or "How much drinking will there be?" "Who will be supervising the party?" "Who will be driving?" "What time will you be home?" These are all important and fair questions to be asked with a spirit of trust and concern. Let me illustrate my concern with a personal story.

A few years ago, my wife and I received a telephone call from our oldest son who was a teenager at the time. He was very excited as his high school football team had just won their semifinal game and would be now advancing to the city final. He requested permission to invite a few friends back to the house for a celebration. We said that the house was open for his friends and as it was Friday night we would be going shopping but would be home around nine o'clock.

When we drove down our street after nine o'clock and approached our house we were stunned by the number of cars parked near our place, at least twenty-five. My wife and I looked at each

other in disbelief. "He said 'a few friends!" When we entered our home we were greeted by a mass of teenage humanity, talking, dancing, with some drinking. Many of them greeted us warmly with smiles and handshakes, including our son who maintained that he and his close friends could control the party as they were football players.

More people arrived. Guests started to move on to the neighbor's lawns.' My wife and I became concerned for the preservation of our modest home in addition to the well being of the teens present.

Eventually around midnight the party ended and the people left. When we reflected on this party, many feelings surfaced. One was anger at the beer companies for targeting teenagers in their advertising campaigns. As parents we felt helpless. A second emotion was annoyance at ourselves for not being knowledgeable about managing teenage parties in our home.

Afer consultation with a number of people, including a beer company executive, we learned to identify a number of isses that needed to be clarified before the next party.

One is that the owner of the house is legally responsible for the consumption of alcohol on his/her property. No one else but the owner of the house should be allowed to serve drinks. Guests should not be permitted to bring alcohol to the house themselves and serve themselves. If the parents do not act as bartender they should have someone they trust in that role.

The owner has responsibility for the number of drinks served and should be aware of the behavior of guests and be prepared to stop serving drinks. Non-alcoholic drinks should be readily available. The police should be notified of a party. The legal age for drinking should be enforced.

You may find it valuable to discuss these issues with your parents or teenagers. Even though parents care about the safety of their teenagers, we know that risk and adventure are part of growing up. As a community of parents and teenagers our concern is that we learn to manage parties where drinking is involved in order to celebrate life and ensure a future for those involved.

> Thomas M. S. Kingston Rector, St. George's Anglican Church Georgetown

### Marty Powers thanked

To the Editor:

Thank you Marty Powers.

A young Georgetown woman, who prefers to remain anonymous would like to express her deepest thanks to Marty Powers of Halton Regional Police Force for his immediate response to her crisis.

At approx. 3 p.m. Thursday, May 2, the young woman had parked momentarily at the Delrex Plaza to pick up an item, accidently, she locked her keys in the car, along with her 2-week-old infant son.

In a panic, she and others tried unsuccessfully to open the lock with a coathanger and decided to call police.

Within minutes, Marty Powers of Halton Regional Police responded and successfully unlockd the car door.

The relieved woman expresses her deepest thanks to Marty. "It's nice to know you can still find a police officer when you really need one."

Appreciative husband, Name and address withheld by request.

### P.O.W.E.R. wants mass demonstration

To the Editor:

Will the Town of Halton Hills close down on May 15th to demonstrate to Queen's Park?

That is what should happen. It is important enough to the future of the town. Politicians, seniors, everyone who can call in sick or spare a couple of hours on Wednesday, May 15th, will be at Queen's Park. Check the ad in today's paper for details. Read what the mayor said.

This is your last chance to influence Ruth Grier to stop this proposal or at the very least NOT TO ACCEPT the Environmental Assessment document.

Even if you have never demonstrated in your life, now is the time to stand up and be counted. You will suffer if this ' company goes ahead with their plan for a dump.

See you there? Barbara Halsall President of P.O.W.E.R.

### Write us a letter!

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6.

All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification. The Herald reserves the right to edit letters due to space limitations.

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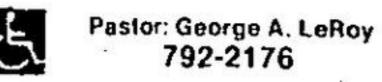
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### Special recognition for caring man

To the Editor:

On the occasion of our hospital's 30th anniversary I would like to acknowledge here with deepest gratitude the contribution of Augustos Sales (Gus) who since 1972 has cared for our hospital grounds and gardens.

Gus has created and cared for our community, a retreat from the noisey world, a place to find a measure of peace, both unexpected dividends. Some things in life are not meaurable. There is a time when nothing matters but the feel of sunshine, the joy of

flowers and the sound of hummingbirds.

We are so obsessed with

technology we forget people who work with their hearts, head and hands.

The gardens and flowers Gus tends for us all to enjoy gives us all a quality of peace that has a very positive influence in the healing of patients and visitors to our hospital.

Thank you Gus for 19 years of care to our community.

Sincerely Dr. Esne A Ball Georgetown

### Students urged to fight dump

To the Editor:

Are you a student and less than thrilled with the shape of the world the older generation is leaving you? Then start now and do something positive to protect your own future.

Right now the Niagara Escarpment Plan is under review. The Commission here in Halton Hills wants your input.

At present, this cuesta contains trees older than Chaucer's Canterbury Tales and is the source of some of our drinking water. It is being drained by quarries and more are proposed.

A mega dump has been proposed and even the proponents admit it will leak poisons into the ground.

Tell the Commission what you want for your future. Do it as an individual or a group. You can contact them at: Plan Review; Niagara Escarpment Commission, 232 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 4B1.

If you want to get the point across, tell their boss also: Ruth Grier, Minister of the Environment or her boss Bob Rae, at Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A2.

Kit Woode, Acton.

