

# Local bar patrons receive information on AIDS prevention

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
The Herald

It was safe sex night with a Christmas theme Thursday at O'Tooles in Georgetown as Halton Region Public Health nurses handed out condoms in traditional season colors - red and green.

It's all part of the Halton Health Department's new program to teach young adults about Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

"The idea is to reach the group of people who typically haven't had any AIDS education in the school system," said public health nurse Anne Todd who's been making the rounds at bars throughout Halton Region with fellow nurse Julia Arnold.

"People in the 25 to 45 age group aren't reached in the school system and that's where 75 per cent of Canada's AIDS cases are," she said. "We wondered where could we reach them."

What better place than a bar, which is typically populated by men

and women in that age group who are at risk of catching the Human Immunodeficiency virus, (HIV) if unprotected while having sexual intercourse.

HIV causes AIDS. Georgetown O'Tooles owner, Glen Allen, thinks it's a great idea.

"We have the venue, so why not use it," said Mr. Allen, who's also used his bar to discourage drinking and driving with Halton Hills Anti-Drinking and Driving Association (HHADDA).

He believes a bar provides a good opportunity to reach young people and is pleased to be a part of the program.

Many patrons of O'Tooles interviewed Thursday night also supported the program's premise.

"It's a great idea. What better place than here," said Wanda LeMay of Terra Cotta. "This is where spontaneous things often happen."

Bar patron James Denny of Acton said, "it's a start" and then made his way over to the nurses to discuss the issue.

# Drinking and driving still holiday problem

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
The Herald

It's that time of year again when many people drink and drive and Halton Regional Police crack down on them.

Halton Regional Police Services' year-long Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere, (RIDE) program has been stepped up since Dec. 1 and officers will continue to patrol in strength into the New Year, said Sergeant Ken Bonham of the services' Traffic and Marine Unit.

"I've taken many of the traffic-marine patrolling officers who usually work days and put them on nights specifically to do RIDE," said Sgt. Bonham. "That's about 10 to 12 officers who are covering the entire Region."

That's not counting what the districts are doing with their officers.

And the officers have been cracking down. Since Dec. 1, 8,230 vehicles have been stopped Region-wide. (The department doesn't keep statistics on each district).

Of the vehicles stopped, 44 drivers were given road-side

breathalyzer tests, resulting in seven, 12-hour suspensions, three impaired and over 80 mg. per 100 ml blood charges, and one charge of blood content over 80 mg.

As well, an additional 96 charges were laid under the Highway Traffic Act and Liquor Control Act including seat belt and open liquor fines.

These statistics are significantly lower than those taken at the same time last year, which resulted in 20,637 cars stopped, 11 impaired driving charges being laid and 47, 12-hour-driving suspensions being handed out.

Sgt. Bonham said he is pleased with the lower rate, but he'd be more happy if there were no impaired driving or 12-hour-suspensions that needed to be laid.

"For some reason, some people still aren't getting the message not to drink and drive," he said.

But it isn't the youths who aren't getting the message he said, it's the adults.

"The anti-drinking and driving groups are having an effect on the young people," he said. "The young people are more responsible than older people."

He believes that's because the older people established their drinking habits when they were young and are carrying on with these habits.

Whereas today, the young people have it drilled into them not to drink and drive, so they develop more responsible habits.

"We now need to target the 25-50 age group about drinking and driving," said Sgt. Bonham. "Because that's where we're getting the non-compliance."

# Good neighbors

The local Good Neighbors group will be delivering food baskets (Christmas hampers) to the less fortunate in Halton Hills Saturday, Dec. 21 beginning at 9 a.m.

These food baskets will not be left unattended, so the group requests that those receiving the hampers make arrangements for someone to be home at the time of delivery.

# the HERALD

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## Coloring contest winners

It's no doubt when the winners of the Georgetown Business Improvement Area Christmas coloring contest met Santa Claus Saturday at the McGibbon Hotel during the BIA sponsored Breakfast with Santa, they all asked for coloring supplies. The coloring contest winners include David Cavin and Louis Archambault, both sitting on Santa's knee, and Melissa Ying, standing behind Santa. Saturday's BIA's Breakfast marked the 7th Annual Christmas breakfast hosted by McGibbon owners George and Nick Markou. (Herald Photo).

## Quote of the Week

"The minute a man is convinced that he is interesting, he isn't."  
Stephen Leacock  
HUMOUR, ITS THEORY AND TECHNIQUE (1935)

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