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ACTON ROTARY
Wishes Everyone a Happy & Safe Christmas and a Prosperous 2013

One sad story

On March 26, 2010, 17 year-old Matthew McGregor attended a party with friends. That night, Matthew made many good decisions. He had been drinking and made the right choice by deciding to stay the night.

When he woke up a few hours later, he walked home. Upon arrival, he realized that he needed something at the store. Because it was just around the corner, he decided to drive.

Matthew was dead by 5:30 a.m. on March 27th. He was killed in the single-vehicle collision, less than three minutes from home.

If you are drinking, make sure you take the time to sober up before you even consider driving. People often assume they are okay to drive after a few hours when, in fact, they are still under the influence.

Please consider Matthew's story before you get into a car either as a passenger or a driver. You have a responsibility to yourself, your friends and your family to be safe.

- Impaired driving remains Canada's number one criminal cause of death with four Canadians killed and 200 injured in alcohol-related crashes every day.
- In 2011, Halton Regional Police issued 447 temporary license suspensions and laid 383 impaired driving charges
- Statistics Canada reports that impaired driving have increased for the fourth time in the past five years.

- 2011 - 90,300 incidents impaired driving across Canada
- 2010 - 84,397 incidents impaired driving across Canada
- 2005 - 78,370 incidents impaired driving across Canada

- 2000 - 79,225 incidents impaired driving across Canada

- Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse reports that 36.7 per cent of fatally injured drivers in Canada tested positive for impairing drugs - that's more than one in three fatalities where drugs played a role (2008).
- Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse reports that 40.8 per cent of fatally injured drivers in Canada tested positive for alcohol.
- Every December, Halton Region Police Service (HRPS) carries out its Holiday R.I.D.E (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) campaign

- 17,396 vehicles were stopped between December 1-31, 2011
- 564 roadside breath tests were administered
- 37 arrests were made for impaired driving

Halton Police caution about personal safety measures

The injury of a young Burlington woman who was assaulted at knife point last Wednesday prompted Halton Police to remind the public of measures they can take to protect themselves from being the victim of a street robbery.

Robbery and assault are serious

crimes with money often being the motivator. The basic rules of prevention include staying in groups, walking in well-lit areas and being alert to your surroundings.

If someone attempts to rob you, do not resist. No piece of property is worth serious injury or death. Report the crime to police forthwith and attempt to describe those responsible accurately.

Additional safety and security tips can be found on our website under the 'Community Policing' tab.

In the Burlington incident, five people, ages 17-20 years, were walking when approached

by two suspects, one brandishing a knife who threatened the group, demanding valuables. The victims resisted and during the confrontation one victim was punched and fell to the ground, suffering minor injuries. The victims were chased by the suspects, but got away.

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