



Norbert Georget talks to students Nichole Stuckless and Michelle Godbout after his presentation at AHS Tuesday afternoon on drinking and driving.

Drinking and driving:

Local students get straight facts

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

Ambulance attendant Norbert Georget didn't waste any time getting to the facts when he gave a presentation to Acton High School Students Tuesday afternoon about drunk driving.

"I see someone die in front of me practically every day I work," he said. "I used to watch what I said when I went to high schools...Not today, not anymore. I don't hide the facts, I don't hide my feelings, because you only see it in the horror movies, not in real life."

Georget used some very graphic photographs of car crashes as he spoke to an attentive audience, which was spellbound by the humor and the stark message.

Georget has been speaking to students across Canada for several years, showing them what happens when drunk teens get behind the wheel of a car.

Georget showed photographs of a Toyota Corolla which had been struck by a drunk driver on July 1, 1991, killing a 19-year-old aerobics instructor. Norbert went to see her parents, and found out that her family had been devastated by the

death, especially her mother.

"When I first met her, she couldn't talk to me. She was so upset two months (after the accident) that she had a stroke and lost her speech. One side was paralyzed," he said.

The drunk driver was a 17-year-old who was charged under the Young Offenders Act and sentenced to three years, the maximum. Georget was encouraged by the girl's father to go see the drunk driver and find out if he regretted what he had done.

"He said to tell him you killed my daughter, but you might as well have killed the rest of my family," Georget said. "I was expecting to see some sort of a dirty bum. But he was a tall, good-looking guy. He told me he wanted students across the country to hear his side of the story."

The young offender had been invited to an Ontario Hockey League camp, and may have been drafted into the league, if he hadn't gone to jail. He said it had been difficult to be isolated from his friends, family and school and never know if he would have made it into professional hockey.

"Believe me, it's not easy living your life knowing what you've done," he told Georget. "I might as well have killed my parents as well." Ironically, the boy's father was a chief engineer, whose job was to make sure Manitoba's highways are safe. He showed photographs not only of the crashes and dead people, but also of this young offender, the young woman he killed and her family, before and after the accident.

Georget brought out a body bag and said over 50 of the students who have heard his presentation have ended up in a body bag.

"I hope you don't choose to drink and drive or get into a car with someone who has been drinking. But if you do, there's three things I want you to do first: one, put on the porch light, so the police can find your house when they come to tell your parents what happened. Two, fill out the donor cards on your licence. And three, kiss your mom before you leave," he said.

Georget is from Winnipeg and has turned his presentations into a full-time job. He tours the country making presentations to students. That evening he spoke to parents at Acton High School.

Technical triumphs

By JAY McNEIL

Special to The Independent/Free Press

Georgetown District High School (GDHS) earned a handful of medals at the 1994 Halton Technical Olympics.

The Olympics, held on April 23 at Blakelock Highschool in Oakville, hosted 34 GDHS students. Out of the 34, Georgetown had 10 winners in a variety of categories.

The winners were, Byron Luff and Joel Glaude who received bronze in the carpentry/individual category, and Jim Norton and Andrew Crabbe received a bronze in the carpentry/team category. Steven Clark and Ryan Hutchins received a bronze for the construction/BB team category, Colin Mountain received bronze and Tim Grant received silver in the computer technology category, and Scott Thompson scored a silver in electronics. Finally, Vince Pellett got a bronze in the welding category.

Other GDHS students participating in the Olympics were Jeff Burrill, Mike Olsen, Mike Downes, Lisa Sealock, Jason Diachok, Scott Tanner, Eric Gee, Sasha Stupar, Adam Bond, Larry Sikema, Mike Toyne, Brad Crane, Ralph Kimber, Phil Shaw, Chris Carpenter, Bill Politi, Steve Walsh, Carolyn Jefferies, Sarah Hiseman, and Marion Page.

Hutchins will compete in the Provincial competition on May 16 and 17 at Copps Coliseum.



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