## 'Raising Molly' campaign succeeds, but moose abuse continues

It took just 15 hours for vandals to renew attacks on Molly the Moose – the plaster/fibreglass mascot of Sweet Molly's – whose vandalism earlier this summer sparked a civic pride fundraising campaign to repair or replace Molly.

On Tuesday morning, before Sweet Molly's owner Carrie-Anne Bennie accepted proceeds from the "Raising Molly" campaign, she showed new video footage of vandalism just before 3 a.m. on Sunday. A male violently shakes Molly and does a chin-up on its ear, and sits astride the life-size moose.

Bennie is sickened, frustrated and annoyed the attacks continue, but realizes police can't concentrate on "moose abuse." "I had no intention of putting her back up until this campaign – but it bothers me to watch (the surveillance video) over and over again," Bennie said.

She is running the good-quality sur-

veillance footage at her all-things UK store at Mill and Wilbur Streets in hopes someone will recognize those involved, and will supply police with still photographs from the video on a regular basis.

Molly's base has already been raised and bolted down, and 40 hours of restoration work reinforced all parts. Bennie said they would plant prickly bushes along the base to discourage people from getting too close.

Bennie received a \$1,200 cheque, raided through public donations and gift basket raffles staged by "Raising Molly" organizer Monica Galway of Profile Beauty Salon, which covered all but \$25 of the repair bill. Later in the day, Galway delivered an additional \$454 to Bennie, for a total of \$1,654.

"The community wanted Molly back and here she is." Bennie said, urging people to report any suspicious activity around Molly.



MOOSE REHABBED: Thanks to the "Raising Molly" fundraising campaign, a total of \$1,642 was donated to help repair and return Molly the Moose – the mascot of Sweet Molly's – to its place at the corner of Mill and Wilbur Streets. On Tuesday, Sweet Molly's owner, Carrie-Anne Bennie (third from right) accepted a cheque for part of the proceeds from BIA treasurer Heather Wedlake (left) BIA manager Josey Bonnette, BIA member Dr. Dana Selby, and moose repair artist Matthew Galliford. – Frances Learment photo

### Project F.A.R.M.S. underway

The fall harvest season includes a Halton police road safety initiative for safer movement of vehicles around large farm vehicles and equipment.

In a press release issued Wednesday, Sergeant Paul Davies with Traffic Services said, "We recognize that the residents of Halton are fortunate enough to enjoy vibrant rural communities and a productive agricultural industry in all four municipalities."

With help of the Grain

Farmers of Ontario and the Workplace Safety and Prevention Services, this week Halton police launched Project "F.A.R.M.S." (Farmers and Road-Users Moving Safely) week.

#### Drivers:

- Slow down when approaching farm equipment

   the closing distance between you and the farm equipment can increase by five times.
- Don't assume the farmer can see you.

 Ensure you know the length and width of the equipment and that it is safe before you pass.

 Be patient. Farmers are only on the roadway for short distances.

From September 23 to October 4, Halton police Service will operate a high visibility enforcement project targeting aggressive driving, speeding and unsafe passing by motor vehicles around farm equipment. Farm vehicles will also be checked for proper slow moving vehicle signs, lighting and safety equipment.

# Project Safe Start = 1,900-plus charges

As Halton Police wrapped up Project Safe Start for another year, they continued to remind the public to take extra care in and around School Zones and Community Safety Zones.

As a result of targeted enforcement in School and Community Safety Zones during this year's campaign, Halton officers have laid 1,908 charges. These include:

Speeding: 1,152, Seatbelts: 142, Stop Signs: always be paramount 158, Other: 456 (including at least 28 Distracted when police hold spe-

Driving charges). During the enforcement phase, several suspended drivers were taken off the road, two commercial vehicles taken out of service for severe mechanical defects and at least one person was charged with Stunt Driving. Keep in mind that all of these charges occurred within School Zones and Com-

Zones. Vigilance and due

munity Safety



cial campaigns such as



Proceeds to the kitchen renovation fund &

The Churchill Community Church



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