

TRIO RECOGNIZED FOR GETTING IMPAIRED DRIVER OFF THE ROAD

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Three people who helped guide Halton police to an impaired driver, as the vehicle sped toward a busy Burlington event, have been recognized for their potentially life-saving actions.

Ashley Pimentel, Michael Carvalho and Damien Decker-Vieira attended Halton police headquarters recently where they were presented with the MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Halton Region Citizens of the Year Award.

Sgt. Ryan Snow said last summer the trio was travelling on the QEW near Burlington when they noticed a motorist swerving all over the highway.

"Instead of thinking, 'it's not my problem' these three individuals took action," said Snow.

"Ashley called 911 while Michael focused on driving and Damien kept an eye on the suspect vehicle. They obtained the license plate of the suspect vehicle, relayed updated information to the police on the suspect's location as it left the QEW and entered Brant Street, and kept describing what they were seeing as the vehicle ran a red light."

The vehicle approached a Burlington community event and a pay duty officer who had been alerted to what was happening.



MADD photo

MADD Halton Region President Lucienne Croghan (left) stands with Ashley Pimentel, Michael Carvalho and Damien Decker-Vieira and Halton Police Sgt. Ryan Snow. Pimentel, Carvalho and Decker-Vieira were recognized with the MADD Halton Region Citizens of the Year Award.

Halton impaired driving offences



Torstar graphic

Snow said the suspect vehicle crashed into a row of pylons and came to a stop.

Police quickly converged on the scene and made an arrest.

Snow said the driver was found to have twice the legal limit of alcohol in his system.

He ultimately pleaded guilty to impaired operation of a motor vehicle and driv-

ing with a blood-alcohol level greater than 80 mgs.

"Ashley, Michael and Damien demonstrated commendable social responsibility that night-protecting others they didn't even know- and preventing a bad situation from becoming worse," said Snow.

"They did exactly what MADD educates our community on- via their Cam-

paign 911 efforts- call police and report any driving activity that places you or other road users at risk."

During the event MADD Halton Region also recognized Const. Michael Wheeler as the 2019 MADD Halton Officer of the Year.

Snow noted that during 2018, Wheeler conducted 34 impaired driving investigations and 149 roadside tests,

which ultimately removed 70 drivers from area roadways through criminal charges or provincial sanctions.

All this was done while balancing a myriad of other policing demands.

MADD Halton Region also recognized Halton police 2 District, which covers Oakville, as the 2019 District of the Year.

The district, led by Superintendent Nick Milnovich and Inspector Dave Stewart, carried out more than 1,000 roadside tests in 2018 with more than 170 people removed from Oakville's streets for various criminal impaired offences.

"While we can never quantify a negative statistic, rest assured that your efforts have alleviated untold suffering and saved the lives of community members that otherwise may have paid the ultimate price as a result of someone's choice to drive after drinking," said Snow.

"The Town of Oakville owes you a debt of gratitude."

Officers reported that throughout Halton a total of 593 motorists were arrested for impaired driving offences in 2018.

That's a 7 per cent jump over impaired driving arrests in 2017.

Halton police did 20 per cent more roadside tests than in 2017, with the 2018 total reaching 3,116.

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