

ACTON BOWL



853-0470

R.I.D.E. program starts in earnest today

By Oksana Buhel
Impaired drivers who have previously escaped detection will find it harder to do so during the Halton Regional Police Services R.I.D.E. program, which begins today (Wednesday). The Halton Hills R.I.D.E. program (Reduce Impaired Drivers Everywhere) pro-

gram will run consecutively with a similar regional program during the month of December and into the new year. Six constables from the regional Traffic and Marine Unit will spend four days a week in each municipality, focusing solely on spot checks. "You have to realize this is a substantial

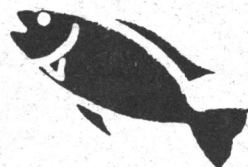
number, considering entitled time off, social contract days and the like," pointed out Unit Sergeant Tom Chapman. "But I want this program run properly." Four of the days have been paid for by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.), who donated \$2,550 at the end of

September to the Police Services Board for the program. In the municipalities, police officers will use all available time, seven days a week, for spot checks. "With our checks and district checks, there will be at least one spot check every day from Dec. 1 to Dec. 31," Chapman said. "I promise you that."

Last December, 15,600 cars were stopped and 85 of those drivers were tested for impaired driving. Of the stopped drivers, 15 were given a 12-hour suspension and 17 were charged with impaired driving offenses. "That's still too many," insisted Chapman, adding the number of impaired drivers in Halton Region has remained steady.



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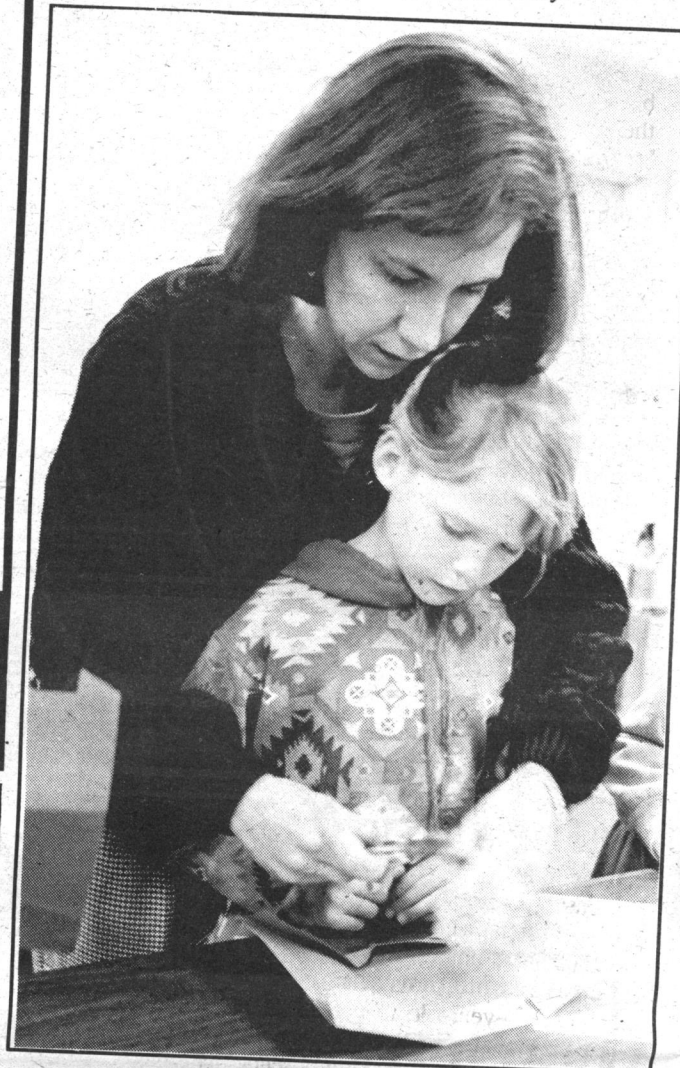
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Children's librarian Marie Vickery instructs 7-year-old Shannon Williamson on the art of Christmas card making during the Acton Branch of Halton Hills Public Libraries' Seasonal Sponge Painting Day last Friday. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

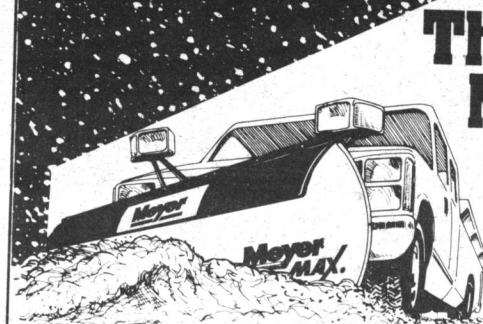


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