

Don't Drink and Drive - R.I.D.E.

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

If a police officer catches even a whiff of alcohol on a driver's breath during a roadside stop, it triggers a series of events that could

lead to a criminal record, jail time, or a long walk home.

If you are stopped in Halton's RIDE (Reduced Impaired Driving Everywhere) program this holiday season, and you have not been drinking, the experience should be

short and pleasant.

If the officer smells alcohol, the experience will be very different, according to Halton Sergeant Trevor Hay, beginning with a decision whether to give a roadside breath test.

"There are three results on that device - a fail, a warn or a pass," Hay said on Monday, adding a pass allows the driver to go, a warn results in a 12-hour licence suspension, and a fail means the arrest of the driver on suspicion of having over 80-millilitres of alcohol in his/her blood.

If the officer stops a vehicle that was weaving or operating unsafely and there is evidence the driver has been drinking, a charge of impaired driving could be laid. The driver would then be taken to a police station for two additional breath sample tests with failure resulting in a charge of operating a motor vehicle with more than 100-millilitres of alcohol in 100-milligrams of blood.

Last year, Halton police charged seven motorists - almost double in 2001 - and laid six charges of impaired driving, five of over 80 and two with refusing to provide a breath sample.

"Drinking and driving still remains an on-going concern of the Police Service," Hay said, adding younger drivers appear to be getting the message not to drink and drive. "It's the older - you

know, anywhere from 30-to-50 - that we seem to be having an ongoing problem with...very rarely do we get a young person charged with drinking and driving in Halton, it's just older people," Hay said, adding police have also noticed that more women are being charged with drinking and driving. Last year Halton police stopped 34,344 vehicles in RIDE spot checks, almost two thousand more vehicles than in 2001.

Two hundred and forty-six roadside screening tests were administered, compared with 190 in 2001, and 63 12-hour suspensions were issued compared with 41 the previous year. A conviction for drinking and driving results in a criminal record, a one-year driving suspension and a fine of not less than \$600. Before a driver can apply to get his licence back, he must complete an education program. Subsequent convictions result in escalating fines and possible jail time. In Halton this holiday season, there will be six to eight officers with the Regional Traffic Unit operating RIDE spot checks on a rotating basis through Halton until the end of the month. In addition, each district platoon will run RIDE programs throughout December.

SENIORS' RECREATION CENTRE

By ENA GIBSON

Muriel Dzierla, Mae Milton and Frances Hogenbirk had mooners at Bid Euchre on Thursday afternoon. Plans are being made for the next trip to Rama on Wednesday, January 28/04. Call Ruth at 853-5124 for more information.

Christmas is the time for entertaining and what better way to increase your skills than to attend the cooking demonstration by Deborah Palmer on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For \$4, you may learn new ideas and taste the snacks and dips.

Have you entered our weekly 50/50 draw this week? It hasn't been won for four weeks now, so the winner will certainly receive an amount useful for Christmas shopping!

Luncheon on Friday, Dec. 5 is potluck, so come and enjoy a social time and a variety of food. Thursday, Dec. 18 is the seniors' Tour of Christmas Lights in Acton and vicinity followed

by a snack at the Centre. If you are interested in this very enjoyable activity, call the Centre and register for pickup at the Centre, or Birchway, Elizabeth, Church or Maria Street apartments. This evening is free for all seniors and is sponsored by Tylers and the Seniors' Centre.

Our Centre will be closed from Dec. 22 to Jan. 2 but will welcome everyone back on Jan. 5.

Planned trips for January are: -

Jan. 7 - Niagara Casino. Sign up before Christmas!

Jan. 15 - Niagara wineries, supper at Betty's in Chippawa and a tour of the Niagara's "Festival of Christmas Lights."

Jan. 27 - Toronto for a stop at St. Lawrence market, lunch at Seigreids, and a visit to the exhibition celebrating the life and work of Princess Diana. We'll view Diana's Royal wedding gown, 28 dresses, original paintings and jewels from the Spencer Collection.



PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING THE PASSING OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SIGN BY-LAW 2003-0065 UNDER THE MUNICIPAL ACT

The Town of Halton Hills is proposing to pass amendments to the Sign By-law with respect to portable signs in accordance with the new Municipal Act.

Council at its meeting of November 24th, 2003 reviewed the proposed amendments to the Sign By-law. Council at its meeting to be held on December 15, 2003 will be voting on the proposed By-law to amend By-law No. 2003-0065..

Copies of the staff report that will go before Council on December 15, 2003 will be available at the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's website (www.haltonhills.ca) on December 12, 2003.

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