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Happy 80th Birthday Fred

Love from family & friends

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AHS students get anti-drinking and driving message

It is looked upon as the official beginning of summer—the Victoria Day weekend. For many of those who have the dates circled on the calendar it's better known as the May two-four weekend, a time to get together with friends and cut loose.

With that in mind, Acton High School held a week of activities hoping that students would think twice about the decisions they make.

"There are students who choose to (drink alcohol or do drugs) and those who choose not to," said Acton High School vice-principal Bill Taylor. "There's still a lot in between who will be tempted and we're hoping to have an impact on them to make better decisions."

Monday, public health nurse Laura Bainbridge was in the school with a blood/alcohol computer. Using the person's weight and number of drinks consumed, the computer calculates how long it would take them to get below the legal limit.

"It was so much of an eye-opener," said Dawn Vanderstarren, an OAC student who was a member of the steering committee who helped put the week's activities together. "A lot of people think their limit is



Amy Crocker and Dawn Vanderstarren look at the shattered windshield of a car involved in an accident. The two OAC students were members of a committee that put together week-long activities about drinking and driving and drug use. Photo by Herb Garbutt

when they start to feel a buzz but it's not. It's way before that."

Bainbridge was back in the school Thursday with vision goggles that simulate a person's perception when impaired. Taylor said the challenges people face should make them reconsider driving if they've been drinking.

"People wear them and try to do a simple task like catching and throwing a ball and have trouble with it. Well, driving is a simple task, too."

Other events held during the week were The Ultimate Mix Contest, a student contest to create the best non-alcoholic drink.

Tuesday night Patricia Morgan spoke to parents about effective parenting, drawing from her own experiences and her daughter's battles with addiction. There was also a

drug dog demonstration.

On Wednesday, MADD Canada presented 180, a high-impact video about changing attitudes.

Amy Crocker, a student member of the steering committee, said the visual presentations have much more impact with teenagers.

"You can't just have a speaker up there talking," she said. "Students won't listen."

Although the week's activities took place at the high school, there was a much wider audience in mind.

"We didn't want this to be just a high school initiative," said Taylor. "The more people you get involved—staff, parents, the community—the better chance you have of getting your message out. These are societal issues, not just high school issues."


—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY MOM & DAD



Luv Kris & Joel

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Is someone Fiddling around?

Happy 35th Birthday!

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The Georgetown Skating Club will be holding their Annual General Meeting and Awards Presentation on May 22, 2002 at 6:30 pm in the Alcott Hall (upstairs)

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