

Parents must know what their kids are doing

Every parent likes to think that their child (no matter what their age) is mature and responsible.

They hope that when that young person is without parental supervision that they will uphold the good family name and act in a way that will not bring embarrassment (or police) down on them.

The fact of the matter is that your child behaves differently when you are not around. Your normally respectful offspring may take on another personality. It is their way of coping with growing up, and peer pressure. Most of the time the changes are fairly harmless, but many parents have been surprised by phone calls from police because little Johnny, or Mary, has been caught shoplifting, or drinking, etc.

Some of their negative behaviour may stem from hanging out with other kids, and needing to put on a front, or fit in. It can take a lot for a teen to stand up to a group and not engage in anti-social activities. Parents need to support their kids, but they also need to be realistic about their behaviour.

It is very important to keep the lines of communication open. You should know whom your kids are hanging out with. It is also important to know the parents of their friends.

If your child comes home with property, such as a bike, or Walkman, that you don't recognize, you need to ask questions about where it came from. If they

911/
411



Const. Laurel Barnett

don't have a part-time job, those items may be stolen. It is also an offence to possess stolen property, even if they didn't steal it themselves.

If they are under 19 years of age and you smell the odour of an alcoholic beverage on their breath you need to find out how they got it. It is not unknown for parents of friends to supply alcohol at their homes. You should not be supplying their friends either. There is no set fine under the Liquor Licence Act for supplying a minor with liquor. It can get expensive.

Lastly, know where your children are. Does your 12 or 13-year-old need to be out late at night? Are they safe, and on the right path?

If you have any questions about this or any other police topic contact me at 905-878-5511 ext. 2120 or laurel.barnett@hrps.on.ca

—Const. Laurel Barnett is the community support officer for 1 Division

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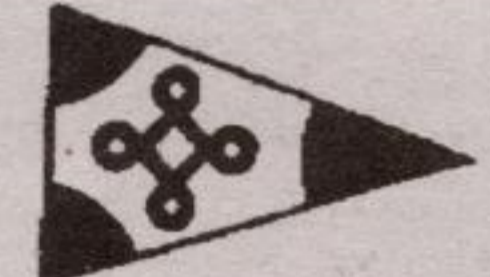
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Boat Pro (Operators Card)	Oct.		7-9pm	3 wks
VHF License	Spring 2004			

REGISTRATION
Georgetown Market Place Mall
Wed. Sept. 17 & Thurs. Sept. 18, 2003
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For additional boating courses & information call:
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Knox Presbyterian Church
Georgetown, 116 Main Street South.
Invitational Banquet Thursday, September 18, at 7 pm.
Course starting Thursday, September 25 at 7 pm.
For more information and registration call
Hank van Goch 905-877-1523

Bethel Christian Reformed Church
365 Queen Street East (Highway 7), Acton
Information night Wednesday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m.
Course starting Wednesday, September 24 at 6:30 p.m.
For more information and registration call
Diane Leferink at 519-853-4493

Georgetown Alliance Church
290 Main Street South
Invitational Banquet Thursday, October 9 at 6:30 p.m.
Morning Course starting Tuesday, October 14 at 10:00 a.m.
Evening Course starting Thursday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m.
For more information and registration call
Audrey McDonald at 905-873-0249

Trinity United Church
70 Mill St. East, Acton
Dessert and Information Tuesday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m.
Course starting Tuesday, September 23rd
For more info call church office 519-853-2090
or Elly 519-853-3896
trinityuc@aztec-net.com

**The Salvation Army
Community Church**
271 Mountainview Road South, Georgetown

Dates of Invitational Banquet and start of course
will be announced later.
For more information call the Church at 905-877-1374