

Editorial

Get MADD

It's tragic, and disheartening, to think that four people in Halton could, and should, be alive today had they simply followed the message behind Mothers Against Drunk Driving's (MADD) Red Ribbon campaign.

Don't drink and drive.

According to statistics from Halton Police, of the 10 fatal accidents in Halton this year, four involved alcohol.

Four lives lost. Four families shattered.

The annual MADD campaign kicked off earlier this week and while there is no disputing this campaign and other anti-drinking and driving programs have helped reduce the number of impaired drivers on our roads, there is still more to be done.

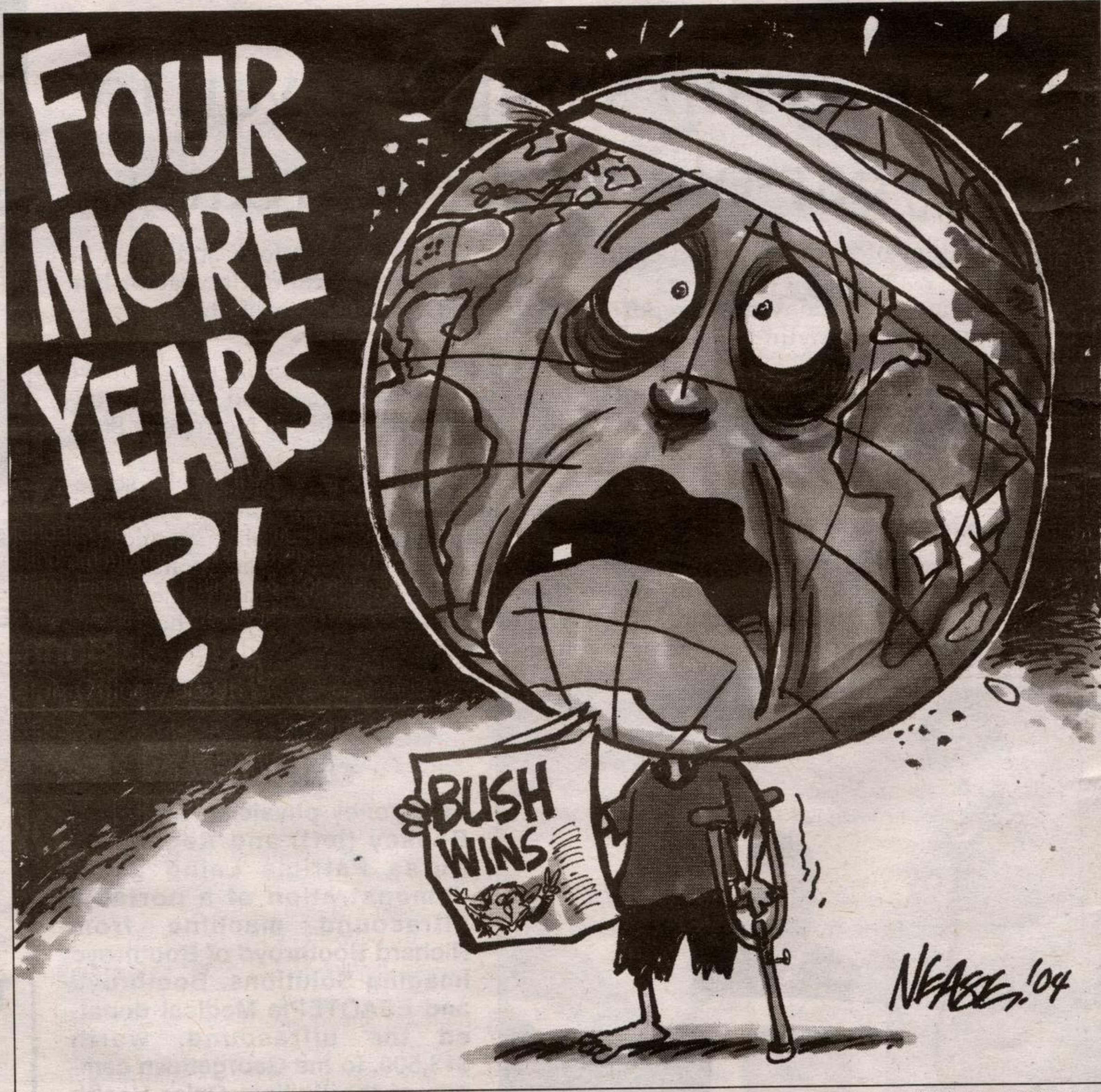
As Andrew Murie, CEO of MADD Canada, pointed out, Canada must change the rules surrounding how much a person can drink and still drive legally. Under current legislation, Murie said, a 200-lb. man can drink seven beers on an empty stomach over a two-hour period yet face only a 12-hour licence suspension. Murie believes lower blood alcohol levels should be introduced.

MADD would also like to see drivers 21 years old and younger be required to maintain a zero per cent blood alcohol level as part of graduated licensing.

As well, Murie says drivers who have their licences suspended for impaired driving, and don't enrol in programs necessary to have their licences returned, should face tougher penalties.

While progress has been made in getting the message through to younger drivers about the perils of drinking and driving, those in the 30-40-plus group have become the new "target group" according to Halton Police Sgt. Trevor Hay.

MADD's message is a simple one. And one every driver should follow.



Letters to the editor...

Hockey tournament was a rousing success

Dear editor,

This past Thanksgiving weekend's Best Of The Best Hockey Challenge was a huge success.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

Mail or drop off

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At this celebration of minor hockey, we saw Georgetown's hospitality shine through in a big way.

Most Valuable Puck takes great pride in making sure that win, lose, or draw, it's all about the kids having fun with their families in a great hockey environment. All the planning and dedication from MVP were obvious throughout the entire weekend.

As with any event, volunteers are a critical element in the overall success—many of whom go the extra mile with their personal sacrifices. We would like to thank most notably Jan Murphy, Tina Sykes, Diane Kessel, Brian Muirhead, and the entire Sprayson family for their endless support, and lack of sleep during the weekend. Prizes and products were made possible with the efforts of Jim Kardash and Gil Nieuwendyk. Thanks to Bronko Krivec for donating his barbecue barrel for use throughout the weekend.

Additionally, we thank the spon-

sors for having the foresight by getting involved supporting this winning event, before anyone knew it would be such an enormous success. In particular our major sponsors Mr. Kevin Woods of Georgetown Toyota and Mr. Paul Auty of Georgetown Chrysler—two gentlemen who never stop giving back to their community. Other sponsors are Adam Bennett Hockey Fundamentals, McDonalds, Shoeless Joe's, Boston Pizza, Emerald Isle, Smitty's Family Restaurant, M&M Pro Sports, Raintree Design, Soft Water Plus, McMillan Entertainment (Glenn Sprayson), BMK Benchmark, Barber Towne Pub, and Bracky's.

We would also like to thank the Town of Halton Hills, *The Independent & Free Press*, Bob Dezeeuw and his team of referees, and John Archibald along with his entire arena staff.

**Steve Kessel,
Most Valuable Puck Inc.
Georgetown Minor Hockey
Tournament Director**

Hooters say thanks

Dear editor,

On the weekend of Sept. 11-12, the Hungry Hollow Hooters took part, along with more than 4,500 others, in a 60-kilometre walk to end breast cancer.

Thanks to the generosity and support of many individuals and local businesses, our team raised more than \$44,600, adding to the grand total of \$14.7 million raised for Princess Margaret Hospital's work toward breast cancer research, treatment and survivor care.

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to *The Independent & Free Press* for your extensive coverage of our efforts, along with those of many other local teams that participated. Heartfelt thanks also go to Pinecone Music, McMaster's Meats, Barrager's Cleaners and Raves Hair Salon who collaborated in fund-raising events. To the many other local businesses that donated silent auction items and food and beverages to sell at our events, thanks for your caring and generosity.

We were also encouraged by the many people who honked and waved as we trekked around the streets of Georgetown and environs for six months training for the big event.

We couldn't have done it without you. We love you Georgetown! We'll be back next year.

**Joanne Daquano, Jeannine d'Entremont-Farrar
on behalf of the Hungry Hollow Hooters**

The Independent & Free Press

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