

ACTON FREE PRESS

Acton students shine at provincial skills event

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Youth celebrate International Youth Week

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FRIDAY...

The annual Mito March: Kure for Kirkland is fast approaching. See details in Friday's edition of *The Independent & Free Press*.

For breaking news go to: www.independentfreepress.com



Plenty of plants

Darla Nadeau (left) has her hands full as she walks to her car at the annual plant sale hosted by the Acton Horticultural Society at the olde Hide House Saturday morning. Helping her load up the car is horticultural society president Audree Lee and volunteer Richard Labelle.

Photo by Sabrina Byrnes

Police cracking down on bad drivers this week

Aggressive drivers will be the target of Canada Road Safety Week that kicked off yesterday (Tuesday) and runs through next Monday.

Throughout the week Halton Police will be joining other forces across the country cracking down on all aspects of aggressive driving, however, Halton will be focusing on community specific initiatives addressing areas requiring attention.

Halton's traffic enforcement teams will be performing impaired driving and seat-belt spot checks, running radar and an initiative launched by Halton Police in which they take roadside screening devices into local bars to

allow patrons to voluntarily test their sobriety.

Sgt. Chris Clarke said the initiative has proven to be an excellent educational tool for the public.

"They know what they have consumed and how they feel. After checking their blood alcohol on an official police instrument many choose to take taxis home," said Clarke.

"By focusing on the needs of our community, we can ensure that our citizens' concerns are addressed while we participate in the overall provincial effort."

Each community now has a District Response Team that has been set up permanently to ensure that quality of life and traffic

issues specific to that city or town are identified and addressed appropriately.

On a region-wide basis collisions that resulted in property damage were up 16 per cent last year compared to 2005. There were 6,270 property damage collisions in 2005 compared to 7,275 last year.

Fatal collisions were up 10 per cent from 10 in 2005 to 11 in 2006.

Also up were injury collisions by nearly 1 per cent, from 1,343 in 2005 to 1,355 last year.

Impaired driving charges dropped approximately 17 per cent from 341 to 282 and 12-hour suspensions were down 22 per cent from 523 from 2005 to 406 in 2006.

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