

# Halton cops frustrated with drinking drivers

## *Drunk driver attempts to elude Acton spot check*

By Frances Niblock

A 44-year-old Milton man who tried to slip past a Halton Police R.I.D.E. spot check on Young Street near Peel Street on Tuesday night spoiled Acton's zero drunk driver record this holiday season.

The driver made an obvious turn onto a side street and when police pulled him over nearby they found he'd been drinking. The man failed a roadside Breathalyzer test and a second test at the Georgetown station.

This year, Halton police have a Regional and local approach to sobriety spot checks. Officers with District Response Units and each of Acton's four platoons are manning R.I.D.E (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot checks - and warning motorists

in advance that areas including Glen Lawson Road, Main Street and Kingham Road and Highway 7 and Guelph Street are R.I.D.E hot spots.

Halton Sargent Rob Andrew said the Acton platoons are also checking local bars to ensure compliance with their liquor licences.

"We're putting the onus back on the bartender and servers to do what they are really supposed to do anyway - not over-serving, calling a cab - so far, it's gone pretty well and there have been no violations," Andrew said.

If a motorist has not been drinking, their sobriety spot check experience will be quick and easy and they might get a gift of a windshield scraper or calendar. If the officer detects al-

cohol or some other impairment, the driver is questioned and could be asked to provide a roadside breath sample.

"The portable device gives us a reading of al-

**"We recently had somebody blow over 400. According to the medical doctor he should have been dead, but alcoholics develop a tolerance. That's a bizarre reading. We had to take him to Georgetown Hospital for medical clearance."**

**- Halton Sergeant Rob Andrew**

cohol in blood and if you blow into the machine and get a reading from zero to 49, that's fine. If you're 50 to 99, then it is a warning and your licence will be auto-

matically suspended for three days," Williams said.

If someone blows a fail, they would be arrested and charged with having more than

comes with an automatic 90-day licence suspension.

Sergeant Andrew said it is frustrating that despite all of the education and media attention, people still drink and drive. Between January and April this year, Halton police laid 140 impaired driving charges, a 61 per cent increase over the same period the year before. Warning licence suspensions were up 69 per cent in the same year-over-year period.

"We recently had somebody blow over 400. According to the medical doctor he should have been dead, but alcoholics develop a tolerance. That's a bizarre reading. We had to take him to Georgetown Hospital for medical clearance," Sergeant Andrew said, adding

within a day they had another Halton Hills driver who blew over 300.

A conviction for drunk driving has a number of ramifications, including a Criminal record, which can impact employment opportunities and travel outside the country, fines of \$1,000 or more and driving prohibitions. A convicted impaired driver could be required to install an Ignition Control device in any motor vehicle they operate for 12 months (cost approximately \$125 per month) and may be required to complete the Back on Track course program (cost approximately \$500). Insurance rates could increase by five times the current rate and all penalties become more severe for subsequent offences, including mandatory jail time.



## 10 WEEK PROGRAMS

### Winter Programmes:

**Tip Toe Toddlers (2 1/2 to 4 years):** This class focuses on creative movement and enjoyment of music. It is a great introduction to dance for young children. Students will present a production for parents during the last class.  
**SATURDAY, JAN 9/10 - MARCH 13/10 - 9:00 - 9:30AM - \$70 per session.**

**Hip Hop Hooray (5 to 8 years):** Cheerleading drills and hip hop dance are combined and practiced in this class. Students experience great enjoyment while exercising "moves" in Hip Hop Hooray! They will present a production during the last class.  
**SATURDAY, JAN 9/10 - MARCH 13/10 - 12:15AM - 12:45PM - \$70 per session**

**Intro To Dance (4 to 6 years):** This class is an introduction to jazz and ballet. Basic dance technique is creatively taught in a fun environment. Students will present a production for parents during their last class.  
**WEDNESDAY, JAN 6/10 - MARCH 10/10 - 5:45PM - 6:15PM - \$70 per session.**

**Belly Dance (Adult):** The art of belly dance is a fun and exciting way to improve your self-confidence, posture, flexibility and grace. This class offers a high energy work-out while focusing on spiritual awareness.  
**FRIDAY, JAN 8/10 - MARCH 12/10 - 8:30 TO 9:30PM - \$140 per session.**

*NOTE: All prices include GST.*

**Apparel for classes: Comfortable clothing, bare feet or dance shoes.**

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