

MADD launches Halton Red Ribbon campaign

By KIM ARNOTT

Special to The Champion

More than four million red ribbons will be tied onto Canadian vehicles this month, as proof of the commitment drivers across the country are making to staying sober behind the wheel.

That commitment signals significant progress in the battle against impaired driving — a battle that's made the term 'designated driver' as common as the old "one for the road" expression once was.

In 1980, alcohol was involved in about 60 per cent of the deaths on Canadian highways. Nowadays, it's only a factor in about 37 per cent of fatalities.

Still, Andrew Murie, CEO of MADD Canada, believes there's more that can be done.

At the kick-off for this year's MADD Halton-Peel regional Red Ribbon campaign, Mr. Murie said Canada must change the rules around how much someone can drink and still drive legally.

Under the current legislation regarding blood-alcohol levels, Mr. Murie said, a 200-pound man can drink seven beers on an empty stomach over a two-hour period and face only a 12-hour licence suspension if caught driving.

He said MADD, along with many Canadians, believe that lower blood-alcohol levels should be required for drivers.

Mr. Murie said that the organization, dedicated to stopping impaired driving, would also like to



Photo by RON KUZYK

MADD Canada CEO Andrew Murie says the fight continues against impaired driving.

see drivers age 21 or younger be required to maintain zero per cent blood-alcohol levels, as part of graduated licencing.

He noted that 18 and 19-year-old males are suffering the vast majority of deaths and serious injuries in alcohol-related collisions, and

described the mixture of a full licence and the legal right to drink as "a lethal combination."

Finally, Mr. Murie added, MADD wants to see more done about the problem of suspended drivers who don't show up for rehabilitation programs and often simply drive without a valid

licence and insurance.

An Ontario study of drivers who had their licences suspended for impaired driving found that only 50 per cent of first-time offenders were enrolling in the programs they needed to have their licences returned.

Similarly, about 28,000 drivers are currently eligible to drive if they install an alcohol interlock technology in their vehicle, but only 2,000 drivers are currently using it.

Gary Crowell — deputy chief of the Halton Regional Police — told Tuesday morning's Red Ribbon campaign launch-goers that he's concerned about the proliferation of alcohol in society, as well as the glossy advertising campaigns that encourage the concept of drinking to have fun.

Deputy Chief Crowell also expressed concern about the message the federal government may be sending to young people with its plans to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana.

"While alcohol is certainly contributing to the deaths on our roads, so are drugs, so let's not forget that," he said.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz said that he believes MADD has been quite successful in its education of young people.

"People from my era — I don't think we were as responsible as the young people of today," he said.

MILTON THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON
 TTY: 905-878-1657 905-878-7252
Milton Online www.milton.ca

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING PROPOSED BUSINESS LICENSING BY-LAW

As required by the Municipal Act, 2001, the Town of Milton will hold a public meeting to outline and receive input on the proposed business licensing by-law on Monday, November 15, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Town Hall.

The Town proposes to license the following businesses:

- Personal service businesses including acupuncture, hair cutting, manicure and nail treatments, electrolysis, aesthetics, tattooing and micro-pigmentation, body piercing, and ear piercing
- Pawnbrokers
- Transient traders including day sales, seasonal sales, door to door sales, antique/collectible shows, craft shows, manufacturing shows, and flea markets
- Commercial refreshment vehicles including catering trucks, ice cream trucks and bikes, yoghurt and juice carts, hot dog carts and chip trucks
- Auctioneers
- Salvage yards
- Second hand dealers
- Food sales
- Kennels

The draft by-law is available on line at www.milton.ca, or at the Clerk's Office, Town of Milton, 43 Brown Street, Milton. If you have any questions please contact Selena Campbell, Licensing Administrator, at 878-7252 ext. 2133.

NOTICE OF SURPLUS LAND

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Milton intends to declare the western portion of 147 Mary Street as surplus to the Town's needs for the purpose of consolidation of the Town's holdings on 147 Mary Street, and to clarify access rights on this property.

This notice is provided pursuant to Section 268(3) of The Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, and in accordance with Town of Milton Property Disposal By-law No. 34-95.

Further information with respect to the aforementioned Notice may be obtained from the Deputy Clerk, Town of Milton, 43 Brown Street, Milton, Ontario (905) 878-7252, extension 2109.

Dated at the Town of Milton this 5th day of November 2004.

Troy McHarg, Town Clerk
 Town of Milton

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So, if you're tempted to start, ask yourself, "What's the point?"

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