Program terrific, say participants

 from REGION'S on page A14 (HDSB) teachers.

The HDSB has been a key partner in the success of the program, providing the site locations and academic components, according to Carr.

"I want to reaffirm our commitment to continued partnership and another 20 years of success," said David Boag, principal of Gary Allan, who received a plaque as a representative of the HDSB.

On Track's 20 years of achievements are measured by the success of its graduates. At the event, two of its former participants, John Budworth and Heather Scullion, told their story on how On Track changed their lives.

Budworth joined On Track in September 2007. He had been without a job for two years, weighed 220 pounds, was crippled by an injury and faced many other hardships along the

"Let's just say employers weren't knocking on my door with job opportunities," said Budworth.

Within the last year-and-a-half, he has gone through two surgeries for his leg because of a car accident. Budworth was scared, but "asked for help."

On Track helped him face his fears and integrate back into the community.

After graduating, as soon as he was physically able, Budworth found a job at Budd's BMW. He is at the dealership's customer service department, but plans to apply for sales every six months. On Track made Budworth realize "there were people in the community that did want to help."

"It was a miracle," he said.

It's an opinion shared by Scullion, who was in the On Track program in June 2007. Nearly two years ago, she was a 40-year-old woman divorcing her husband, alone and starting a new life.

Scullion didn't think she could learn or deal with school — On Track changed that; she took a math test and got 100 per cent.

"That test changed my life. I realized I could learn," said Scullion in tears.

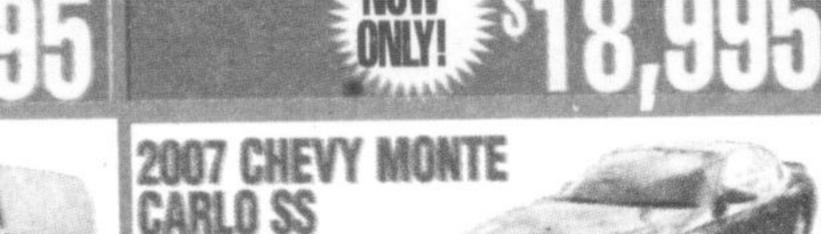
She credits her teachers, who supported her along the way. Now Scullion is working at The Village of Tansley Woods, helping the community.

"I know I wouldn't have gone this far if it wasn't for On Track," said Scullion. "It gave me a life I always wanted and never thought I would have."

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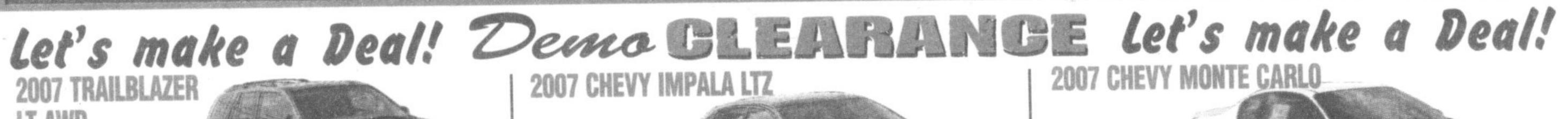
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