

# Party fun doesn't always mean booze, say teens

By DAVE COUPE

Special to The Champion

High school students were mixing their drinks at Milton Mall last week.

But the age-old caution against blending various forms of alco-

hol consumption during one sitting didn't apply. None of the drinks had quite that kick.

At the Ultimate Mix Taster event, students from the four Milton high schools (Bishop Reding, Milton District, the deaf and public arms of E.C. Drury) were pouring their best non-alcoholic cocktails to promote responsible drinking.

Each Milton high school, between March 3 and 7, held a competitive Ultimate Mix event at their respective schools. Groups of up to three students were required to make a non-alcoholic drink and present it in a creative fashion.

The four winning teams (one from each school) met at the mall last week to showcase their creations. The event was organized by the youth subcommittee of the Milton Community Group to Prevent Substance Abuse, commonly known as PREVENT. More than 50 people were on hand to sample the concoctions.

"It went really, really well," said Jana Proctor, chair of the sub-

committee. "I didn't expect this many people to show up. I think we really did get the message across." That message, said Jana, is that alcohol is not needed to have a good time.

Many community representatives, including Mayor Gord Krantz, Fire Chief Harold Penson, and councilors Ron Furik and Colin Best were on hand to sample the libations.

While the event served to publicly acknowledge the efforts of the winners and spread a message of safe party celebration, the organizers are hoping more was achieved.

"We want to make the public aware that teenagers can have fun without alcohol," said Jana.

The four teams will next meet on Tuesday, April 29 in Burlington at the Halton Ultimate Mix. This event, hosted by the Canadian Automobile Association, will pit the four Milton groups against teams from across Halton. The winners of the regional event go on to the provincial competition later this year in Hamilton.

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## Halton students plan walk against violence

Halton students along with the general public will step over male violence as they walk more than eight kilometres in town Friday, May 2.

The Walk Against Male Violence will start from E.C. Drury High School at about 12:30 p.m. and make its way around town to Milton District High School.

The event was created by the non-profit group Men Walking Against Male

Violence. People of either gender or age are invited to take part in the fundraiser.

About 500 Halton students alone will take part, estimated Greg Murray, an E.C. Drury High School teacher who is helping organize the event. Students from Oakville and Burlington will be transported to the walk by bus, he said.

Participants obtain pledges before the walk to raise money. Seventy per-cent of

proceeds will be donated to Halton Women's Place and the rest will go to Men Walking Against Male Violence.

Walkers, many carrying posters, will travel from E.C. Drury north on Ontario Street to Steeles Avenue and west to Martin Street. The route will continue south to Main Street, west to Bronte Street, south to Derry Road, east to Commercial Street and south to Milton District.

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