

Students meet to take action against impaired driving

By Greg Huneault
the News

Students who attended the first meeting of the local chapter of Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) are confident the local chapter will generate much interest and participation.

Three students of Lake Superior Secondary School met with Constable Wes Fenton of the Terrace Bay Police Department last Monday to discuss the local goals of the SADD group and to watch Contract for Life: The SADD Story. The 40 minute video explained the history of SADD.

Students Pam Metcalf, Darren Anderson and Wayne Slawson said the introduction of the Superior SADD Chapter should help to better educate local students about the dangers of drinking and driving.

They noted society's attitude toward drunk driving has changed. Pam said society is not as tolerant as it was in the past, and this is a positive stance.

"People were getting away with (drunk driving) before, but society is not going to stand for it. They won't let them get away with it anymore," she told the News.

The chapter has yet to set up an executive or plan detailed events, but they say they hope to have open houses among other public activities.

The group would like to see parents and businesses becoming involved to make this program a community-wide concern.

Bill Houston, vice principle of Lake Superior Secondary School and a Terrace Bay Township councillor, attended part of the meeting. He said the local chapter could play a big part in educating the public and students.

"SADD has done some good things, but there's still lot of people out there driving and drinking." Houston added that spot checks and the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere police program are helping.

The students explained that the

many pressures of high school can sometimes be overwhelming. Peer pressure, says Grade 9 student Derek Anderson, is something which must be balanced with responsibility.

"The elementary students hear stories about high school parties and dances. There will be people who put pressure on you to drink and drive and you'll have to confront drinking. It's not worth the consequences," Derek stated.

He proposes educating elementary students about the peer pressure associated with drinking. He said the students will be better prepared when they begin their secondary school education.

Wayne Slawson, who is the president of the high school's student council, told the News attitudes of local students vary when it comes to drinking and driving.

He told the News of almost being "beaten up" at a house party when he tried to take the keys from a driver who had been drinking.

He added, however, that he attended one party where a driver declined to take the car home after admitting to being impaired.

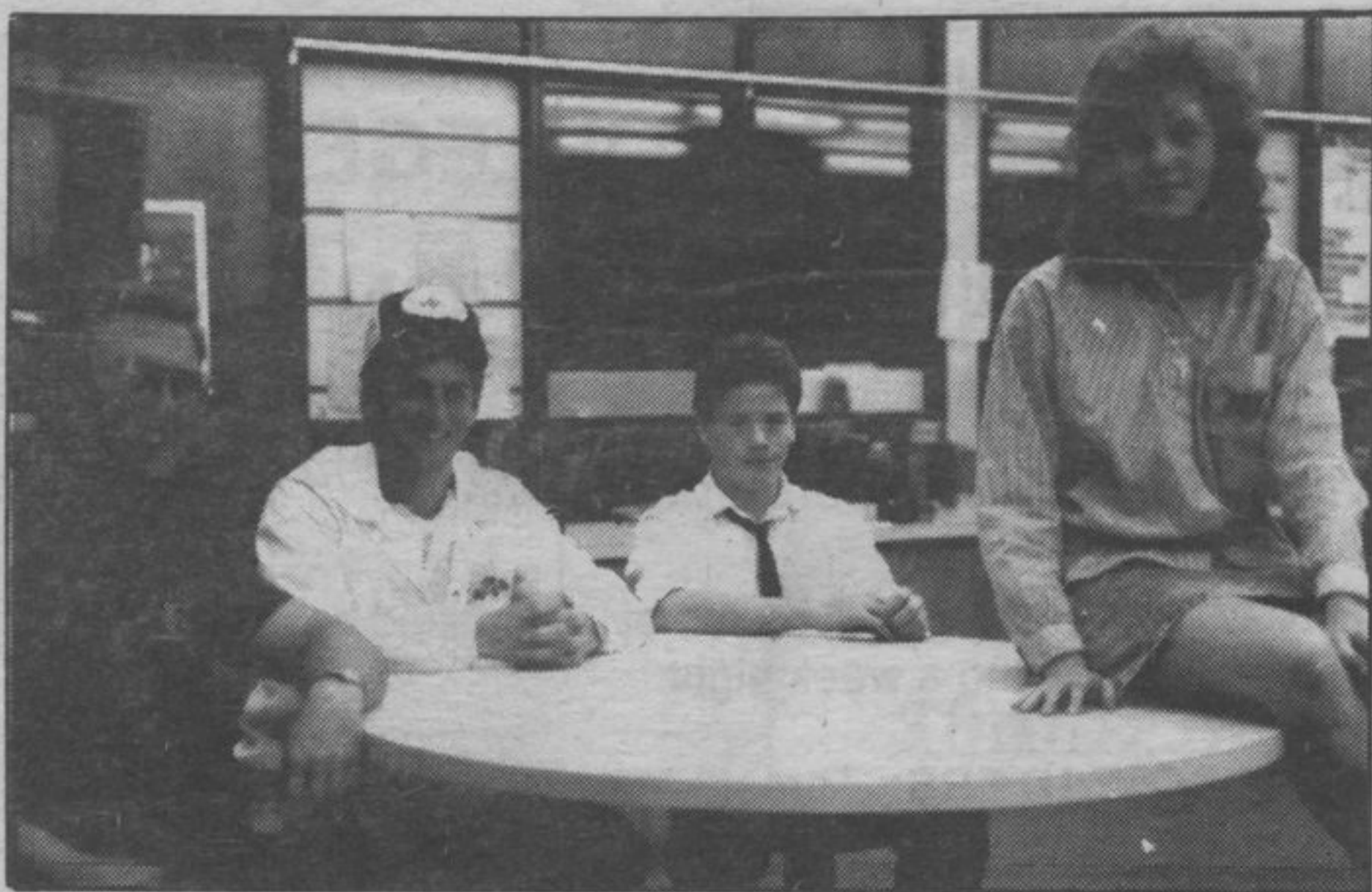
Constable Fenton noted that interest in the aims of the SADD program have been spreading. The Thunder SADD Chapter of Thunder Bay had representatives attend an open house in Terrace Bay last year.

Const. Fenton hopes to organize a local open house shortly to inform parents and interested residents.

"We're interested to hear input from parents, and we're hoping that they will want to come out."

If the chapter is to become established, parents might play a direct role. One aspect of the SADD program is the Contract for Life. Parents who sign the contract with their children agree to pick up the child if he/she has been drinking.

The parents agree to discuss the matter at a later time and is also committed to ask for a ride or to take a taxi if he/she has been drinking.



Superior SADD — (l-r) Constable Wes Fenton, Wayne Slawson, Darren Anderson and Pam Metcalf.

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A bumpy landing



Despite a rough welcome, the two occupants of this plane landed unhurt at the Terrace Bay Airport last Thursday. The two, who have been flying from British Columbia, said they were travelling about 20 miles per

hour after landing when a strong cross-wind pushed the plane off the runway.

There was little damage done to the plane, and Department of Transportation officials are investigating the incident.

Attention candidates — During the upcoming municipal election, The News will be preparing a full review of all the races: for area councils and the Boards of Education. To complete this task, we are inviting all candidates to stop by the News' office in the Simcoe Plaza for a photo. Also, each candidate will be allotted space for a campaign message no longer than 150 words.

All-candidates meeting — the public is invited to attend an all-candidates meeting for Terrace Bay Council on Monday, Nov. 1 beginning at 7.00 p.m. in the Terrace Bay High School gymnasium. The meeting is sponsored by the Aquasabon Chamber of Commerce.



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