

Drunk drivers receive AIDE

If convicted drunk drivers know more about alcohol the chance of them repeating the offence could be decreased.

This is the theory behind an education program which represents the latest weapon in the war against impaired driving. Added to the arsenal of fines, license suspensions and jail terms is a seven-session program called Alcohol Impaired Drivers Education (AIDE).

Although the program received funding from the Ministry of Correctional Services in October, the first class won't begin until Wednesday, Jan. 16. As this is a relatively new direction in dealing with convicted impaired drivers, preliminary footwork has been extensive for program co-ordinator Carol Stoveken.

She was hired for six months by ADAPT, an agency which provides counseling for those addicted to drugs or alcohol. AIDE is a sister program to ADAPT and although future funding has not been guaranteed, Mrs. Stoveken is optimistic it will continue past the end of March when the grant expires.

After finding Halton judges and the crown attorney were open to the idea, Mrs. Stoveken has been a front-row observer during court proceedings involving impaired drivers. Burlington is the first area of Halton to have the program and already eight convicted impaired drivers have enrolled.

Participation is optional as the judge will explain. Those who agree to take part will face a reduced fine and minimum license suspension. First offenders could be fined up to \$2,000 and have their license suspended for from three months to two years.

Optional participation

Before a person consents to take the course, Mrs. Stoveken describes the program. Once a commitment is made, participants must follow through or be prepared to be back in court.

The co-ordinator of the program has been attempting to establish it here for more than a year. She conducted courses for impaired drivers in Massachusetts, a state with a 10-year history in this type of treatment.

"I was relieved to find out there was a precedent for it," she said.

In neighbouring Peel Region a similar program has been in place since 1981 and according to Mrs. Stoveken the recidivism for impaired drivers has decreased as a result. In Alberta, 28,000 people went through a mandatory seven-hour program in 1983.

If education programs for convicted impaired drivers become mandatory in Ontario, as Mrs. Stoveken hopes, students would be plentiful. In 1983, more than 800 people were convicted of impaired driving in Halton.

There is a hitch in this approach which Mrs. Stoveken is experiencing in Burlington already. Several of those convicted in that city are commuters, simply passing through. Unless programs are offered in these drivers' home towns, it would be impossible to request they travel many miles to participate.

She is already attempting to establish a reciprocal agreement with Peel in regard to commuters convicted outside their own region.

A second snag Mrs. Stoveken has encountered is the tendency for lawyers to advise clients not to take part in the program. This advice is based on the fact participants must adhere to a reporting order for 12 months and report to a volunteer probation officer during that period. Then there are the drunk drivers themselves who feel they don't have a problem and therefore don't need the program.

A sobering course

It is generally understood that half of first-time offenders are problem drinkers and those up for their third offence are alcoholics. Mrs. Stoveken guesses drivers charged a second time are also likely to have a problem with alcohol abuse.

"Who would go through the humiliation and expense a second time?" she asks.

She admits someone with a drinking problem may not be able to complete the course or satisfy the requirements of the reporting order. All seven sessions must be attended and participation in classes is necessary. Participants must arrive on time and in a sober state.

Prior to the first session, participants are interviewed by Mrs. Stoveken to provide background information and further describe the program. The course begins with a questionnaire which Mrs. Stoveken predicts will reveal how little the average person knows about alcohol and its effects.

As part of the "group building process"



earlier on intervention is made, the greater a person's chances are," explained Mrs. Stoveken.

She realizes educating convicted impaired drivers alone will not solve the problem of drinking and driving. Children must be the target of anti-drunk driving campaigns. The result will be the same as those now being realized through preventative dentistry, according to Mrs. Stoveken.

"It's the same degree of problem as smoking was 20 years ago," she said.

As a member of the Mayor's Community Action Group on Drinking and Driving, Mrs. Stoveken is part of the movement she parallels with the one which expanded the ranks of non-smokers and the fitness conscious. This group was responsible for a recent display at Milton Mall promoting sober driving.

One of the stumbling blocks marring such campaigns is the existence of lifestyle advertising, according to Mrs. Stoveken. Educating doctors about the physical symptoms of alcohol abuse, expanded driver-education programs which would cover the effects of drinking and driving and changing attitudes toward the offence are steps which should be taken, she said.

Providing funding for the program is extended. Mrs. Stoveken expects Miltonians will have the option of enrolling in AIDE beginning in April.

participants will tell the story of their arrests. According to Mrs. Stoveken few convicted impaired drivers actually have done this before requested to during the program.

Short and long-term effects of alcohol use are explored, myths are "exploded" and even the way alcohol products are advertised is covered in the course.

"Hopefully by the end of the program some will realize alcohol has interfered with other aspects of their lives," she said.

Mrs. Stoveken has already referred some of those interviewed for the program to agencies which deal with people with alcohol-related problems.

"Alcoholism is a progressive illness - the

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PUBLIC LECTURE

Wednesday, January 23

Subject:

RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLANS

- ★ Why invest in an RRSP
- ★ The magic of compounding
- ★ Avoiding common mistakes
- ★ How to set your goals
- ★ How to achieve your goals
- ★ The follow-through that counts

Date: Wednesday, January 23rd
Time: 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Place: Herigate Inn, Milton
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 Main St. at James St. Rev. E.T. Jack Birch 878-8895
 Sunday, January 13, 1985
 10:30 a.m. - Gathering Time
 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
 SERMON: How well do you discern God's voice.
 Nursery Available
 Sunday School

CHURCH OF CHRIST
 1412 Britannia Rd. West
 Sunday, January 13, 1985
 10:00 a.m. Bible School Class for all ages
 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship and the Lord's Supper.
 7:30 p.m. - Preaching of the Gospel.
 For information and transportation call 878-2733

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
 Robert Baldwin Public School, 180 Wilson Dr.
 Rev. Thomas Prachar. 878-2562
 Sunday, January 13, 1985
 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. - Family Worship
 Listen to 'The Lutheran Hour' on Sundays
 8:00 a.m. - CKOC 1150
 'Come and Grow With Us!'

MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH
 Pastor: Kelvin F. Mitter 878-0035
 Sunday, January 13, 1985
 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service
 5th Anniversary Service
 11:10 a.m. - Sunday School for the Whole Family
 Nursery Available
 Location: Auditorium of The Halton Centennial Manor.
 Affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Ontario & Quebec.

GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
 Independent-Fundamental
 Pastor: Walter H. Isaak 878-2298
 Sunday, January 13, 1985
 We welcome you to meet with us at:
 United Steelworkers Centre
 407 Pine Street
 Next to Milton Library
 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
 6:30 p.m. - Evening Service
 Nursery Provided
 'The End of Your Search for a Bible Church.'

GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH
 317 Main St. 878-2411
 Rector: The Rev. Robert Lennox
 January 13, 1985
 EPHAPHANY I
 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 10:30 a.m. - Church School & Nursery

NEW LIFE PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP
 878-5913
 Affiliated with P.A.O.C.
 Morning Services at E.W. Foster Public School
 320 Cox Ave. (between Laurier & Childs Dr.)
 Sunday, January 13, 1985
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
 6:00 p.m. Sunday Service and 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Bible Study at 92 Lorne Scots Dr.
 All Are Invited

MILTON GOSPEL HALL
 308 Ontario St. S.
 878-2022
 Christians Gathered in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ
 Sunday, January 13, 1985
 10:00 a.m. Breaking Bread
 11:45 a.m. - Sunday School
 7:00 p.m. - Gospel Service
 Wednesday
 7:30 p.m. - Prayer and Bible Reading
 All Are Welcome to these Services
 'For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; John 3:17'

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
 246 Commercial St.
 Milton, Ontario, L9T 2J3
 Lord's Day Services
 Sunday, January 13, 1985
 9:45 a.m. - FAMILY BIBLE HOUR - classes for all ages
 11:00 a.m. - FAMILY WORSHIP HOUR
 6:30 p.m. - LIBERATION - a service of song & salvation
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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX, MILTON
 (170 Main St. E. 878-6066)
 The Rev. T.J. Lewis
 Christian Education Director - Mrs. T. Smit
 Organist/Choir Director - Mr. D. Van Baveris
 Sunday, January 13, 1985
 9:45 A.M. - Senior Church School
 Young Adults' Bible Class
 11:00 A.M. - Morning Worship
 Junior & Intermediate Church Schools
 Adult Supervised Nursery
 MID-WEEK ACTIVITIES
 Wed., Jan. 9/85 - 4:30 p.m. - Religion in Life Class
 Thurs., Jan. 10/85 - 7:00 p.m. - Instrument Practice
 8:00 p.m. - Senior Choir
 Tues., Jan. 15/85 - 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
 Wed., Jan. 16/85 - 1:30 p.m. - Knox Church Ladies Mtg.

MILTON ALLIANCE CHURCH
 Sam Sherratt Public School
 Pastor: Errol Rempel 878-9584
 Sunday, January 13, 1985
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School For the Whole Family
 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
 6:30 p.m. - Evening Service
 Everyone Welcome
 Nursery Facilities at all Services
 Christ Our Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer and Coming King

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
 P.O. Box 596, Burlington
 4272 Appleby Line
 Rev. W.E. PAYNE 634-4879
 Sunday, January 13/85
 9:45 a.m. - Bible School Classes for all ages
 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
 7:00 p.m. - Evening Service. Followed by a Fellowship Hour.
 Tues. 7:00 p.m. - Trinity Boys & Girls Club
 Wed. 7:45 p.m. - Regional Prayer Meetings

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