

ST Mothers Against Drunk Driving forms in York Region

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

As a victim of an impaired driver, Judy Gerrard-Simmons knows first hand the lasting pain of losing family and friends in a preventable accident.

Since the loss of her daughter and husband to a drunk driver in 1986, the Markham woman has devoted time to teaching others that impaired driving can and must be stopped.

Gerrard-Simmons formed an organization called Movement Against Impaired Motorists where she strived to educate the public on the consequences of drinking and driving as well as helping others deal with the aftermath of a fatal crash caused by a drunk driver.

She has now dissolved MAIM as the official launch of the York Region chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving nears.

MADD is a group that started in the United States, just recently moving into Canada, that provides the same type of support offered through MAIM.

Instead of focusing efforts on lobbying for law changes, MADD aims to convince people, especially the hard core drinkers, that impaired driving is not acceptable.

Gerrard-Simmons is president of the York Region chapter. Also involved are area residents Marg Murphy, Joan Perry, Blaire Sealy, and Vernon Boal whose son was

run down by a drunk driver in Markham last September.

Residents are invited to attend the MADD kick off at 7:30 p.m. this Monday (April 19) in Hall Three of the Newmarket Community Centre, 221 Cedar Ave.. Guests will include

Markham Deputy Mayor Fred Cox, Deputy Police Chief Bob Wilson and guest speaker Rin Van Hemert of Newmarket who also lost family to a drunk driver.

Regular MADD meetings

will be held in the community room of the Markham police station at McCowan Rd. and Carleton Rd..

For more information about MADD, or to join, call Gerrard-Simmons at 477-4253.



JUDY GERRARD-SIMMONS

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