

Cops checking seat belt usage in April

BY SHANNON WALTER
Special

April is Occupant Safety Awareness Month, and York Regional Police and York Region Health Services are using it to encourage seat belt usage.

That encouragement comes in the form of the Occupant Safety Check Stop, where officers randomly pull over cars to see if passengers are properly belted up.

The checks are scheduled to happen four times at three locations.

Another initiative, Tether Watch, will have officers, the police auxiliary and nurses identifying parked vehicles containing forward-facing car seats that are not tethered in place. Caution notes will be left on the vehicles.

For further information, contact Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653.

Markham High Toastmaster students graduate

On Thursday, March 29, a group of Markham District High School students celebrate completing the Toastmasters Youth Leadership Training.

Led by Cindy Stradling and Sharad Katakhar (representatives from the Markham branch of Toastmasters International), students developed qualities for cultivating positive attributes, including respect, responsibility, initiative, perseverance, integrity, courage and optimism.

The ceremony, which begins 7 p.m. at MDHS, allows students to demonstrate to their family and friends what they have learned.

Markham CAO co-chairs York Region United Way campaign

United Way of York Region has named Doug Cummings and John Lively co-chairs of the 2001 fundraising campaign.

Cummings is currently vice-president of the software firm Changeoint Corp.


Lively is no stranger to the United Way, having served as the public service division chair for the 1999 campaign and co-chair of the 2000 campaign. His other job is chief administrative officer for the Town of Markham.

"We not only met our 2000 goal, we exceeded it by 14 per cent," Lively noted. "We've established a strong standard and I'm looking forward to building on that success in 2001."

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"Add some natural elements like flagstone, boulders or a natural stone wall," says Charles Martin, who has operated Artistic Impressions Landscaping since 1986. "Small backyard ponds and waterfalls create another dimension to the garden. Also consider building wooden or metal features like pergolas, arbours or decorative screens."

Tina Martin, garden designer, recommends using larger trees to provide immediate shade, impact and value. Evergreen and flowering shrubs are important elements to consider when planning a garden. "Mass plantings of perennials add colour and texture without the yearly expense of annual flowers," says Tina.

Mature landscapes and pools can be renovated with newly designed hard surfaces and the removal of selected plants.

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