

# TV V-chip 'can reduce youth violence'

From page 1.

company, DGP Marketing Concepts, is helping CAYRE launch the parental TV monitoring system.

Mr. Pegg said the feature is an invaluable tool and one that will provide parents peace of mind over the types of TV shows their children are watching.

"(Parents) can't always be there ... If they're going out for the night and the babysitter is with them, they don't

have to worry how they're going to control (their children's) viewing because the (V-chip) would be in place," he explained. "It's not the answer, but it's a tool."

Along with other CAYRE initiatives, such as the "put the brakes on bullying" program and the CAYRE bus, chairperson Robert McCulloch believes having the V-chip system in the home may reduce the incidence of youth violence.

"A lot of research has

proven media influences what we see and has the potential of influencing our actions," said the former public school board superintendent, adding the V-chip decoder enforces the anti-bullying messages students receive at school. "If we can do our bit to curb violent acts (through this) it's a good thing."

Although a majority of new TV sets have built-in V-chips, Mr. McCulloch said parents should still consider

buying the patented chip.

"What happens when you get new TV sets? The old TVs usually go to the basement where the kids watch TV," he said.

"It's a practical tool with fairly simple applications," Mr. McCulloch added. "You can use it with children in varying age groups because it's flexible."

For more information, call your local school or visit [www.canadavchip.ca](http://www.canadavchip.ca)

# Drunk-driving fighter awarded scholarship

A nineteen year old student at Brother Andre High School student was recently awarded the 2002 Provincial OSAID (Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving) Scholarship Award.

Emily Heuts is the president of her Markham school's OSAID chapter and works with 30 other students to bring awareness about the consequences of impaired driving to the community. To win the award, Emily had to prepare a report explaining what she has done to help her community and why she stands out from all other Ontario students competing for the scholarship.

"I was completely surprised. I didn't expect this at all," says Ms Heuts, who will be graduating this year.

Emily was presented with the award and \$1000 scholarship at the national Canadian Youth Against Impaired Driving Conference held March 21-23.

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