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# MADD calls for tougher drunk driving rules

With progress on reducing impaired driving fatalities having stalled since 1999, the Canadians are increasingly concerned about the mounting human carnage on our roads and are looking to federal and provincial governments to introduce stronger countermeasures such as ignition interlocks, random breath testing, and lower blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limits to combat the crime.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada) says the Canadian public is far more forward-looking than its elected officials, and calls for a comprehensive review of federal and provincial governments'

impaired driving laws that will consider both proven technologies and effective countermeasures.

"This is a real wake-up call for our legislators," says Margaret Miller, MADD Canada president, commenting on the 2007 impaired driving survey report, released Tuesday by Transport Canada. "This report clearly signals that federal and provincial governments must step up their efforts to eliminate impaired driving. There is strong public support for governments to strengthen countermeasures that will enhance detection and apprehension, stop repeat offenders, and ensure greater police enforcement of

impaired driving laws."

Ninety-one per cent of Canadians view impaired driving as the country's greatest road safety concern and one that governments need to deal with as a priority issue. Almost 90 per cent also overwhelmingly support countermeasures to eliminate the crime, like vehicle confiscation, zero BAC for drivers under the legal drinking age, and mandatory breath testing at fatality crash scenes.

Other key findings in the report reveal Canadians want governments to re-think their approach and look to new countermeasures.

Two-thirds of Canadians think police should be

allowed to randomly breath test, while 83 per cent want alcohol ignition interlocks installed in the vehicles of convicted impaired drivers.

Fifty-six per cent want alcohol ignition interlocks installed in all new cars and are willing to pay extra for this to happen, while a strong majority of focus group participants favoured lowering the BAC limit to .05 per cent when it was explained that police routinely charge at no less than .1 per cent BAC and that this limit allows a 'surprisingly large' amount of alcohol consumption.

"It is unacceptable that our governments are not embracing the accepted international research and

the legislative and technological solutions available to us today," said MADD Canada's CEO Andrew Murie says. "For example, there're proven alcohol interlock technologies, effective roadside licence suspension and vehicle impoundment programs. There's the international experience with random breath testing that shows this is a very effective way to reduce impaired driving.

"The public wholly supports implementing a whole range of countermeasures and this report is a call for governments to begin introducing more effective, more comprehensive

impaired driving laws. What we need now is a federal-provincial review of our impaired driving laws. We need governments to re-invigorate the fight, to enact new laws, and to reach to meet Canadians' challenge of eliminating this preventable crime in our society."

The 2007 impaired driving report was commissioned by Transport Canada and MADD Canada. It includes both public opinion surveys as well as focus group findings conducted by EKOS Research Associates.

Both the full report and a summary of its key findings can be found on www.madd.ca.

# Driver flees collision scene

## South Simcoe Police

### Man arrested after domestic dispute

On Saturday, police attended a residence in Innisfil after receiving a report that a domestic dispute had occurred there

earlier in the day. Upon arrival, the officers spoke to the victim who told them that she had been assaulted by her boyfriend during an altercation several hours earlier. The boyfriend had left the residence for work and could not be located.

Later that evening, he surrendered himself to police and was charged with two counts of assault. He was released from custody and will appear in court in January to answer to the charges.

### Driver wanted after fleeing crash scene

Police are seeking assistance in locating the driver of a burgundy four door Chevrolet Cavalier that was involved in a fail to remain accident on Dec. 6, at the intersection of the 8th Concession and the 10th Sideroad of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

At that time, the Cavalier collided with a white van and both drivers exited their vehicle to speak to one another. The Cavalier driver then got back in his vehicle and fled the scene. Police

believe the Cavalier sustained heavy damage to the driver's side that extended to the rear of the vehicle. The driver is described as being a white man, 18 plus years of age, five-foot, seven-inches in height with a skinny build.

Anyone with information on this occurrence is asked to call police at 905-775-3311 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

### Cocaine found on driver

On Dec. 9, police were called to a single motor vehicle collision in Innisfil.

During the investigation, a quantity of cocaine was discovered in the motor vehicle and on the driver.

The driver, a Pembroke man, was charged with impaired driving by drug in the operation of his motor vehicle, and possession of a controlled substance.

He was held pending a bail hearing on Dec. 10.

### Break and enter discovered

Police are investigating a break and enter to a business on Bridge Street in Bradford West Gwillimbury.

The entry was discovered in the early morning hours of Dec. 3. A small window was damaged, and no property appears to have

been taken from the business.

### Bradford man charged with impaired driving

Police have charged a 30-year-old Bradford man with impaired driving and driving while over 80 milligrams, after responding to a single motor vehicle collision in the municipality.

The man's car was observed by police to have struck a snow bank. As a result of an investigation, the man was arrested and taken to the North Division station for an Intoxilyzer test which, revealed his blood alcohol concentration to be over the legal limit. He will be appearing in a Bradford court in January.

### Beer store patron already drunk

Police have charged a 52-year-old Bradford man with impaired driving and driving while over 80 milligrams after he was observed by police in the parking lot of a local beer store. As a result of an investigation, the man was arrested and taken to the North Division station for an Intoxilyzer test, which revealed his blood alcohol concentration to be over double the legal limit. His licence was also under suspension.

# Innisfil man dies after snowmobile collision

South Simcoe Police are investigating a fatal snowmobile collision which was reported at approximately 3:15 a.m. Thursday.

A 34-year-old Innisfil man was killed when his snowmobile, travelling on Leonard Street in the town, struck a parked vehicle. The traffic unit closed the road for several hours while they reconstructed the collision scene.

The crash is still being investigated. Police are seeking public assistance in identifying any witnesses that may have seen or heard anything about this event. The victim may have been snowmobiling with others prior to the collision.

The deceased was travelling northbound on Leonard and failed to negotiate a turn in the roadway. The snowmobile then struck two parked cars in a residential driveway.

The victim was transported from the scene by ambulance to hospital but succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead. The man's identity has not been released at the request of family.

# Robbery suspects wanted

On Sept. 2, three suspects entered the Pioneer gas station on Bridge Street in Bradford, armed with a handgun.

The main suspect jumped the counter and pointed the handgun at the clerk's head and ordered them to the floor. The suspects removed a large quantity of cigarettes, and cash from the register. All three men left the scene in a white car. The same persons are also believed to be involved in similar robberies in Durham and York regions. All three men are described as being around 20 years of age and believed to live in the Newmarket and Aurora area.

Police are requesting the public's assistance in identifying the people responsible. Anyone with information can contact Durham police at 905-579-1520, South Simcoe police at 905-775-3311, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (tips).

  
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