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Getting MADD over snowmobiles

In a united effort towards eliminating alcohol as a contributing factor in snowmobiling fatalities and injuries, the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations and MADD Canada held a national Zero Tolerance Awareness Day Sunday.

This second annual joint ride will be the anchor event of the International Snowmobile Safety Week

which is held the second week of January every year.

Under the slogan Zero Tolerance I Say, Until I am Done for the Day, the two not-for-profit associations are focusing their efforts to remind snowmobilers that a blood alcohol content level of zero is the only acceptable number while operating a snowmobile.

MADD Canada is appealing to its local

chapters across Canada and to media to raise the issue of impaired snowmobiling. The snowmobile council is mobilizing its provincial and territorial associations to enlist participation from Canada's 868 snowmobile clubs.

"For several years, the CCSO has endorsed the position that a .08 per cent (alcohol level) is not good enough while engaged in

snowmobiling," said CCSO executive director Dennis Burns.

"Alcohol affects your judgment and your reflexes and our zero tolerance position calls for total abstinence from alcohol while operating a snowmobile until you are finished riding for the day. We challenge other motorized recreation organizations to adopt this

approach."

MADD Canada's director of programs Wanda Kristensen says the zero tolerance approach is certainly an ideal target.

MADD Canada is currently asking the federal government to lower the Criminal Code blood alcohol level from .08 per cent to .05.

In addition, MADD Canada wants the provincial

governments to enact new legislation which will help to increase the powers and resources required for police forces to help eliminate drinking and driving across Canada.

"We don't need any needless deaths or injuries on the snow," said Kristensen. "We're saying have fun while snowmobiling this winter and drive sober."

Scooter driver killed in collision

An 81-year-old Barrie man died following a collision on the 5th Sideroad last Wednesday evening.

South Simcoe Police were called to the scene of a vehicle collision at the 5th Sideroad and Salem Road intersection Jan. 9. Police say a Chevrolet Venture minivan was travelling north on the sideroad. It collided with a personal mobility scooter travelling in the same direction.

The scooter driver, identified as Arthur Wickstead, was transported to hospital where he was pronounced dead.

None of the minivan occupants were injured in the collision.

The sideroad was closed for nearly six hours while police reconstructed the collision.

Four taken to hospital after crash

On Jan. 7, a serious two vehicle personal injury collision occurred at the intersection of the 7th Line and Yonge Street in Innisfil.

A westbound motor vehicle travelling on the 7th Line failed to stop for a stop

sign and continued through the intersection. The westbound vehicle struck a southbound vehicle.

The driver of the southbound vehicle and two passengers were removed from the vehicle by Innisfil

Fire and Rescue Service members and transported to hospital by ambulance with serious but non life threatening injuries. The other driver was also transported by ambulance with non life threatening

injuries.

All people involved were from the Innisfil area.

Mild temperatures and fog were contributing factors to the collision.

Police are continuing their investigation.

RIDE blitzes aid in over 30 charges

The South Simcoe Police recently completed their holiday RIDE program in Innisfil and Bradford West Gwillimbury.

Between Nov. 28 and Jan. 2, 5,760 vehicles were checked, while 33 roadside tests were administered and 10 12-hour suspensions were issued.

Overall, 44 Highway Traffic Act, nine controlled drug and substance, eight impaired (alcohol), six excess alcohol, five Liquor Licence Act, three impaired (drugs), three suspended driver and two dangerous driving charges were laid.

The program will continue throughout 2008, with enforcement planned on local roadways, snowmobile trails and watersheds.

Assault, breach of probation and a man out of control

South Simcoe Police

Woman allegedly assaulted

In the early morning hours of Jan. 11, South Simcoe Police received a call from a woman reporting that she was being accosted by another woman.

Police located the complainant and, as a result of information gained, charged the complainant with assault on the other woman and breach of recognizance.

The victim in this matter received scratches and no serious injuries. The 23-year-old Bradford woman was held in custody pending a bail hearing in Barrie court.

Man and woman shouldn't be seeing each other

On Jan. 9, police responded to a 911 call

concerning a domestic dispute at a Bradford residence.

Upon arrival, officers discovered a man and woman were living together in breach of their probation orders that indicated they were to refrain from associating and communicating with each other.

Both were arrested and transported to a police station where they were charged with breach of probation. They were later released from custody with a future court date and conditions that they live apart and refrain from associating or communicating with each other.

Impaired driver stripped of licence

On Jan. 8, police stopped

a vehicle on Maplegrove Avenue in Bradford for erratic driving.

Officers spoke to the driver and determined he was impaired. He was subsequently arrested and transported to the police station in Bradford where he provided two breath samples that were over the legal limit.

A 41-year-old Bradford man was charged with impaired operation and over 80 milligrams. He was released from custody on a promise to appear and received a 90 day licence suspension.

OPP arrest man wanted in South Simcoe

On Jan. 8, police received a call from the Nottawasaga OPP concerning a man they had arrested on an outstanding warrant held by South Simcoe.

The man had failed to appear for a previous court date and a warrant had been issued for his arrest.

South Simcoe officers returned the man to Bradford where he was charged with failing to appear and held for a bail hearing on Jan. 9 in Barrie.

Man makes holy door

On Jan. 9, police responded to a Bradford residence for a report of a man who was out of control.

Upon arrival, police discovered that a man had become enraged while arguing with his parents and punched a hole in a door. He also threatened to damage more property in the residence.

The man was arrested and transported to the police station where further investigation revealed he was on probation with a condition to keep the peace and be of good behaviour.

A 21-year-old Bradford man was charged with mischief under \$5,000, uttering threats and breach of probation. He was held for a bail hearing.