



984 Gorham Street, Newmarket, ON L3Y 1L8

Administration: 905-895-9222

Emergency: 9-1-1

P.A.R.T.Y. Smart

NEWMARKET, Ontario, May 19, 2016 – On Thursday, May 19, the annual York Region P.A.R.T.Y. (Preventing Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) Program offered in partnership with Southlake Regional Health Centre, Central York Fire Services (CYFS), York Regional Police (YRP), The Regional Municipality of York Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Taylor Funeral Home, hosted a day long awareness event which highlighted the devastating effects that can result from unsafe driving behaviours such as distracted driving and driving under the influence through a mock trauma.

The York Region P.A.R.T.Y. Program invited students from different York Region high schools to witness how a mock emergency trauma case is managed. They started in Southlake's Emergency Department, toured the Intensive Care Unit, discussed the consequences of the life-changing decisions with YRP, York EMS, emergency and ICU nurses and rehabilitation professionals, heard first-hand from young victims whose lives have been impacted by unsafe driving practices and witnessed a mock demonstration by first responders reporting to a scene of a collision scenario and the repercussions.



First responders attending to a scene of an accident as part of the P.A.R.T.Y. Programs mock trauma exercise catered to high school students.

“This is a great program that educates people of all ages on the reality and dangers of impaired and distracted driving,” says CYFS Chief Ian Laing. “At the end of today, our goal is for students to reassess their actions and think about the consequences when answering a call or text while driving or getting behind the wheel while impaired.”

According to YRP:

- Distracted driving is now considered one of the “Big 4 Killers” on our roadway. Research shows you are four times more likely to be in a collision if you are using a mobile device
- Interacting with kids or passengers, playing with the stereo or GPS, eating, drinking and grooming are all examples of distracted driving
- In 2014, YRP charged 4,680 drivers with distracted driving (using a handheld electronic device)
- Impaired driving remains one of the top road safety concerns for YRP. The organization implemented the R.I.D.E. program to combat impaired driving year-long
- Drug-impaired driving, through illicit or prescription drugs, is an emerging concern for YRP
- In 2014, there were 5,613 calls to 9-1-1 from citizens reporting possible impaired drivers. YRP laid more than 1,300 impaired driving-related charges. This includes 867 impaired-related motor vehicle collisions. 284 of those collisions involved personal injuries and two were fatal. 933 drivers were arrested, charged and immediately removed from our roads.

About the P.A.R.T.Y. Program

The P.A.R.T.Y. Program was founded at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in 1986 after they recognized the need to educate teens on the perils of risk-taking behaviour. In response to suggestions made by teens, the P.A.R.T.Y. Program was created. It was introduced at Southlake Regional Health Centre in 2009 to continue educating high-school students on the consequences of their behaviours.

To learn more about the P.A.R.T.Y. Program, email program coordinators Sarah Thorne at sthorne@southlakeregional.org or Leya Bennett at lbennett@southlakeregional.org or call 905-895-4521, ext. 6230.

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Media Contact:

Philip Zambito

Communications Coordinator | Town of Newmarket

Phone: 905-953-5300 ext. 2044

Email: pzambito@newmarket.ca