

LOCAL

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Blitz includes dangerous driving charge

Niagara police have charged a man with dangerous driving after he failed to stop at a roadside check and struck a police officer.

The man, who fled after the incident but was nabbed a short distance away, was also charged with failing to stop.

The officer who was hit was not injured, police said.

The charge was one of dozens laid during the blitz on Friday and Saturday. The joint initiative between the Niagara police and OPP coincided with the final days of the Niagara Wine Festival.

During the two days, police stopped more than 1,800 vehicles and arrested more than 20 people for impaired driving or driving over the legal limit. Nineteen drivers were hit with 12-hour licence suspensions and 27 others received various tickets.

Police also charged one driver with "stunting," which results in an automatic seven-day licence suspension and vehicle seizure, along with a minimum \$2,000 fine.

— The Hamilton Spectator

Man charged in \$1 million heroin bust

BURLINGTON ♦ A 44-year-old Burlington man has been arrested for allegedly importing 3.5 kilograms of heroin into Canada.

The drugs are worth an estimated \$1,050,000.

Officials said the arrest was made last Wednesday after a joint investigation between Halton police, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Greater Toronto Area Drug Section and Canada Border Services Agency.

The Greater Toronto Area Drug Section seeks to identify, disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations that are having the most significant impact in Canada.

As a result of the investigation, a residence on Glendor Avenue in Burlington was searched. Officials have not released any details of how the drugs were allegedly smuggled into the country.

— The Hamilton Spectator

Public asked to comment on transit plan

Halton region is looking for public input on the Metrolinx draft regional transportation plan that would dramatically transform rapid transit in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

A Metrolinx open house and public meeting will take place at the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Rd., in Oakville, on Oct. 29. The open house, from 6 to 7 p.m., will be followed by a public meeting from 7 to 9 p.m.

The proposed transit enhancements for the Halton area over the next 15 years include rapid transit lines between Highway 403 and Waterdown and along Trafalgar Road, between Highway 407 and midtown Oakville. An express rail service between Hamilton and Union Station would go through Halton.

Draft documents for the transportation plan can be found at metrolinx.com. The website has a link to leave comments.

— Hamilton Spectator staff

Autistic boy found

Amber Alert helps locate Ancaster 13-year-old in B.C.

BY ELISABETH JOHNS

A B.C. campground co-owner is being credited with helping police locate a 13-year-old autistic boy from Ancaster, who had been missing with his father for nearly a week.

The two were found by the RCMP in Port Edward, a community about 15 kilometres east of Prince Rupert, B.C., following a call from the campground co-owner.

The youngster was unharmed and taken to the RCMP detachment in Prince Rupert, police said.

The father was apprehended, questioned and later released by police. Police are working with the Ministry of the Attorney General to

decide whether child abduction charges should be laid in the case, said acting Detective Sergeant Chris Kiriakopoulos, of the Hamilton Police.

The boy is being looked after by B.C.'s Ministry for Children and Families until Wednesday, when he will be flown home to his mother and two older brothers, Kiriakopoulos said. Police say the mother was emotional when she heard her son had been found.

Hamilton Police issued an Amber Alert for the boy last Monday after he and his dad did not return home from a scheduled fishing trip in the North Bay area.

The mother who had custody of boy — and police — were concerned

because the boy only had three days worth of medication.

Police believe the father drove almost non-stop the nearly 5,000 kilometres from Ontario to B.C.

They also believe he switched vehicles at some point, from a white 1999 GMC Sierra truck to a blue truck with Ontario licence plates. The second vehicle was not reported as being stolen, Kiriakopoulos confirmed.

The father booked a month's stay at the Kinnikinnick Campground and RV Park in Port Edward, but he began to act strangely in the morning, which tipped off the campground worker, Kiriakopoulos said.

The campground co-owner, who did not want to give her name, told

the Spectator she felt uncomfortable by the man's actions and decided to check the Amber Alert website.

"Sure enough, there was his picture, along with his father's," the woman said.

She called police and within 20 minutes RCMP officers arrived at the campground.

Kiriakopoulos and the RCMP praised her astute reaction and resourcefulness.

"We saw how quick somebody can disappear across the country. We are grateful the witness out there was as alert as she was."

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Raccoon disease boy battles blindness

BY JON WELLS

A toddler suffering from raccoon roundworm disease has battled blindness and other neurological effects of the parasite in McMaster Children's Hospital for the past two weeks.

The boy's parents, Danielle and Josh, called The Spectator with an update on his condition but asked that their last names and the name of their son not be published.

They say their 14-month-old seems to be gaining some strength from treatment at Mac, but he is still completely blind and cannot sit up on his own.

The disease can be contracted by ingesting roundworm eggs found in raccoon feces. It's potentially fatal.

"It's very difficult seeing him like this," said Josh. "He's fighting and is in better spirits than he was ... the treatment they have him on is keeping it at bay — keeping it from killing him."

Josh had a message for parents: Keep your garbage in tightly sealed containers to deter raccoons from coming around your home.

He said the city's public health department found 30 to 35 samples of raccoon feces in their back yard. Josh purchased garbage containers after his son's illness. Prior to that he had used regular garbage bags on their back porch.

Roundworm is commonly found in raccoon feces in up to 80 per cent of the animal's population, although infection rarely causes symptoms in the raccoons themselves. What is much less common is the rate of infection in people.

Fewer than 25 cases have been reported in the United States and Canada since the first case was documented in 1984. A Canadian boy was diagnosed with it last year.

Anyone with close exposure to raccoon feces is at risk, but young kids with a history of eating dirt are most at risk. People can also become infected if ingesting the roundworm eggs in anything contaminated by raccoon feces, such as water or other objects.

Dogs may become infected if they eat a smaller animal that has been infected.

Danielle and Josh said they didn't actually see their son eat dirt or feces. They believe the city should take steps to crack down on the raccoon population in the city.

Symptoms of the disease in people can take a week to develop. Early symptoms are weakness, deteriorating speech and behavioural changes and irritability.

For more information go to this link at the Centres for Disease Control: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/baylisascaris/factsheet_baylisascaris.htm

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Stabbing victim 'good person, good guy'

Continued from A1

Kayla Duvall, who was standing in front of the building when she heard the fight break out, said Bouwhuis ran out in front of the building shortly before 9:30 p.m. holding a broken beer bottle.

Police would not confirm what type of sharp object Bouwhuis was stabbed with. It is believed he was stabbed in the stomach.

After being injured, Bouwhuis stumbled onto Ford Street and away from his building, before collapsing on the lawn of a home at the corner of Ford and Grove streets.

"I heard him saying, 'I got stabbed, I got stabbed,'" said neighbour Jesse McFadzean.

"When I got a good look at him, I saw ... his one pant leg looked like it was dipped in red paint, it was covered in blood."

Bouwhuis was talking to 911 on his cellphone and handed it to McFadzean, who helped him onto the ground and waited with him until an ambulance arrived.

The news about the murder was still sinking in yesterday around the neighbourhood, which some say has been plagued by problems.

Sarah Lima, 21, who lives in the complex, said had people paid at-



DAVID RITCHIE, SPECIAL TO THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Police and paramedics watch as a suspect in the stabbing gets onto an ambulance stretcher Saturday night.

tention to the noise, he might be alive today. "He (was) such a good person," she said.

Siliezar described her son's partner as very friendly, "a good guy" who'd have turned 23 in November.

Siliezar was with Bouwhuis, who was on a respirator, and his family at Hamilton General Hospital before he died.

"I was just hugging him and thinking about him," she said.

Bouwhuis was enrolled in school and was to start a new job at Tim Hortons tomorrow, Siliezar said. He told a neighbour he was going to college to become a social worker.

Paul Bouwhuis said his cousin leaves behind his mother, father and a younger sister.

Police don't believe it was hate-motivated, but are not ruling it out. They are still seeking witnesses to the city's fifth homicide of the year.

Anyone with information can call Det. Kelly Rees at 905-546-3859.

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Join our roundtable poverty discussion

Starting today a community panel will begin a community conversation on tackling poverty in Hamilton on The Spectator's website.

The Spectator is re-launching its poverty blog, No Excuses, as a forum where more than a dozen contributing writers will share information and ideas on how to eradicate poverty in Steeltown.

This community-driven blog is one of the first of its kind in the country undertaken by a newspaper, said Howard Elliott, The Spectator's managing editor of its website and Go section.

"It's back and I think it's in even better form because the blog is

community owned," Elliott said.

This is a part of the Spectator's three-year anti-poverty commitment. "This allows us to maintain our important goal in making Hamilton the best place to raise a young child."

Reporter Bill Dunphy created the blog as a part of his poverty beat, but as he took on training and technology related responsibilities, his role in the blog ended and he proposed and brought together the community group to continue the online discussion.

"It's a pretty ambitious and innovative development in the blog for us," Dunphy said. "I don't know

of any other newspaper that's turned over an existing and successful blog to the community."

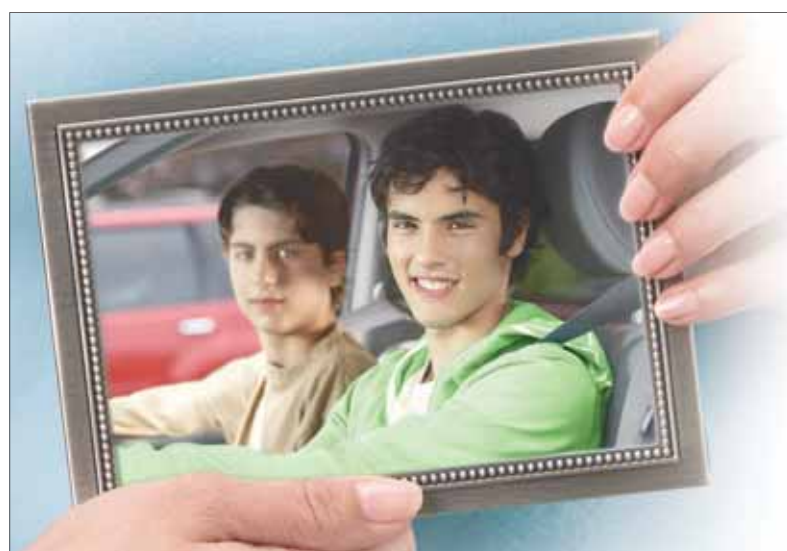
At <http://poverty.thespec.com> today, you can read food drive organizer Sharon Cruikshanks argument for both Band-Aids and long term poverty solutions and community development co-ordinator Tom Cooper's post on what the province is doing with its poverty strategy. Liz Weaver of the Roundtable on Poverty Reduction issues a call to federal candidates to commit to a poverty strategy and Patricia Reid of the McQueen Community Planning Team looks at building community to tackle poverty. The

team of writers range from professionals to community activists to people living in poverty, said Cooper, who works at McQueen Legal and Community Services.

The ideas that come out of this blog will "not just generate useful discussion, but useful ideas that can be applied," said Bill Johnston, features editor with the Spectator and blog moderator.

And while this team starts the discussion, the whole community is invited to join with their constructive comments to deepen and broaden the debate on poverty.

— The Hamilton Spectator



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