

Spring/Summer 2001

MADD

MATTERS

**MADD
Canada's
Mission:
To
Stop
Impaired
Driving
And
To
Support
Victims
Of
This
Violent
Crime.**

Sharing our thoughts and concerns *The 2001 Victims' Weekend and National Candlelight Vigil*

On May 4th to 6th, over 200 families from across Canada gathered in Winnipeg, Manitoba, for MADD Canada's 2001 Annual Victims' Weekend, which included the National Candlelight Vigil of Hope and Remembrance. For the first time in MADD Canada's history, this significant weekend and candlelight ceremony was held in Western Canada, hosted by the MADD-Winnipeg Chapter.

As is the case every year, MADD Canada brings together hundreds of Canadians who are victims of impaired driving to share the memories of their loved ones who were killed or injured. At this special weekend, people were able to participate in workshops and presentations on areas related to grief, bereavement and coping with injury.

"This is an annual highlight for our membership, a time when we are able to meet and, as victims, search in proactive ways to find good and comfort in the aftermath of personal tragedies," commented Carolyn Swinson, National President. "MADD Canada provides a series of informative seminars and workshops for victims to better understand how to manage and cope with the long-

term grief of losing a loved one in such a senseless way as an impaired driving crash."

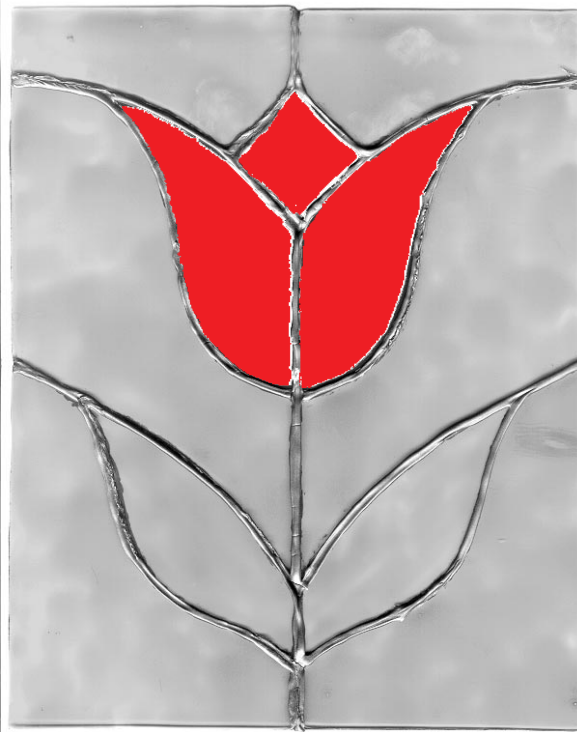
"It is a memorable opportunity to learn, reflect, and share your thoughts and feelings with others who understand what you and your family are going through."

The subject matter of the weekend sessions was varied, from a session on *Grief, What Does it Mean to Grieve the Loss of a Loved One?* to

sessions dealing with *Helping Bereaved Youth, Men's Grief* and *Bereaved Parents*. For the first time, the conference included a session led by Native Elders dealing with *The Seven Teachings of the Sacred Pipe*.

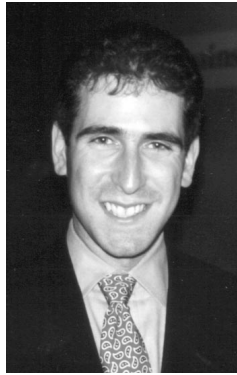
On Saturday evening, the National Candlelight Vigil Service was presided over by Father Gerry Ward of St. Timothy Parish. It was a most memorable service. Family members were present to have photos shown and tributes read while candles were lit in memory of loved ones, or to acknowledge injuries. There were over 300 people in attendance at

the ceremony, which also involved personnel from numerous police services, emergency rescue units and cadets from across Manitoba.



(Continued on page 2)

Chair's message: Chapters are the heart of MADD Canada and contribute a great deal to their communities



The MADD Canada organization has become stronger in this past year by virtue of the start up of eight additional Chapters. We now have 46 Chapters, spanning from Avalon, Newfoundland to North Island, B.C. In the last year, MADD Canada has welcomed: from Ontario – St. Thomas, Chatham-Kent, Durham Region, and Begetekong and Area Chapters, Cold Lake Region, Medicine Hat, Lakeland Area, and Edmonton and Area Chapters in Alberta, and North Island Chapter in B.C. We also have a Community Leader in Mary's Harbour, Newfoundland.

MADD Canada Chapters serve as an extremely important link to the public in the fulfillment of our Mission. Chapters are the tangible link to communities and bring our organization's goals closer to Canadians. Chapter volunteers are the faces people in a community envision when speaking of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and thinking about our key message, "don't drink and drive." They also serve their respective communities well, making significant contributions to many different local volunteer and health and safety related activities.

Chapters are very important in another way. The grassroots presence in a community gives MADD Canada an open channel for **two-way communications**. Today, via the National Office and programs such as *Rating the Provinces*, our messages are delivered across Canada – and into every region of the country. However, we have learned that our best conduit for effecting change is when our messages are delivered locally – and MADD Canada Chapters do a great job getting the messages out at events they are involved with. Also, Chapters are able to keep the National Office informed of news and input from the communities – input that goes into making decisions about MADD Canada policies, priorities and the direction of the organization.

The National Board of Directors is committed to

expanding our base and influence, by supporting new Chapter growth. We have recently placed a manager in the Atlantic Provinces to nurture new Chapter development, and we expect to expand further in Western Canada shortly. It is important to note that our desire is not growth for growth's sake. Rather, we want to grow to become more effective and to ultimately succeed in our Mission: to stop impaired driving and to support victims of this violent crime.

New Chapters bring with them growing numbers of volunteers. This means there are more people directly involved with MADD Canada's mission, and therefore more is being done within communities across the country. MADD Canada Chapters are the driving force behind our organization's successful awareness campaigns such as the Project Red Ribbon Campaign, the messages delivered by the Signs of Summer Campaign, and Sobriety Checkpoint programs. And, in thinking about the second half of our mission, more volunteers translates into greater support for the victims, their families and friends.

Last month, MADD Canada welcomed the Edmonton group, People Against Impaired Driving, to join with us in launching a new Edmonton Chapter. This is noteworthy for development in the West, for not only does it place the organization in a Provincial Capital with the ear of the Alberta Government, it also places it at the centre of the media hub for the West. We are extremely happy to have a new Chapter in Edmonton (*read more about the launch in the Chapter Corner insert*).

I have reserved my final comments to show appreciation to the thousands of MADD Canada volunteers from coast to coast. Our healthy Chapters, and their community work, would not be possible without the commitment and participation of each and every one of our volunteers. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of those who have been killed and injured, and your efforts to save future Canadians from having to experience an impaired driving tragedy.

It has been largely through the efforts of our Chapters that our organization has gained momentum in the past three years. With our goals clearly in sight, we look forward to the further growth of Chapters, so that we fulfill our Mission and see an end to drinking and driving fatalities and injuries. Keep up the good work! Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Tanenbaum".

Ken Tanenbaum

The 2001 Victims' Weekend and National Candlelight Vigil

(Continued from page 1)

It takes a full year to plan for the Victims' Weekend, and the National Staff and MADD-Winnipeg Chapter volunteers did a great job in ensuring

the weekend events ran smoothly. It should be noted that this Winnipeg weekend was the last Board meeting and conference for Victim Services Manager Joanne Jarvis, who has moved from the Mississauga area and left the National Office (*she will be*

greatly missed!).

Next year's Victims' Weekend and National Candlelight Vigil will be an international event, coordinated with MADD U.S. and held in Toronto on the April 26-28, 2002 weekend.

MADD Canada makes advances in Central Canada

This is the third of three updates of MADD Canada's quest to spur new impaired driving legislation within the country's provincial and territorial jurisdictions. MADD Canada launched its *Rating the Provinces* initiative in June 2000. Since then, national and local representatives have been meeting with provincial Justice Ministers and their officials to follow-through on pro-active legislative agendas that fight the crime of impaired driving and help to prevent the tragic consequences of drinking and driving.

MADD Canada's efforts in the central provinces and northern territories in following up on the study *Rating the Provinces* have had tangible results. National President, Carolyn Swinson, states that the *Rating the Provinces* study has been received very well by the senior people in the respective Governments: "Our meetings, throughout the country, have been very progressive. The information and statistics in our documentation have Ministers and officials rethinking policy issues relating to impaired driving. We have begun some important and productive working relationships as a result of the *Rating the Provinces* initiative."

One piece of legislation that is a huge step forward for keeping offenders from re-offending is Ontario's new ignition interlock law (see *MADD Matters Winter 2001 cover story*). The significant part of this law is the mandatory installation of the interlock device upon a first offence. The advantage of the ignition interlock device is that it alters a person's behaviour – and to be able to apply this tool upon the first offence will help drinking drivers form new attitudes about this criminal activity.

MADD Canada's work in central and northern Canada has contributed to: new legislation in Ontario; proposed legislative changes in Quebec; new legislation as well as the potential for a new Chapter in Yukon; and proposed legislation to be unveiled in the Fall session of the NWT Parliament as well as the possibility of a new Chapter forming in Yellowknife.

Our Central and Northern Canada Focus

ONTARIO

MADD Canada has established solid working relationships and on-going exchanges with Ontario's key Ministers – the Deputy Premier and Finance Minister, the Minister of Transport, and the Attorney General and Justice Minister. The Ontario Government is very aware of impaired driving issues. Currently, MADD Canada is pushing for enactment and quicker implementation of the new ignition interlock law. MADD Canada's legislative initiatives for Ontario are: greater police authority to detect and charge impaired drivers; the increase of 12-hour roadside suspensions to 24-hour suspensions for persons 'unfit to drive'; provide long-term consequences for drivers who accumulate roadside suspensions; provide more guaranteed rights for victims of impaired driving; and, increase the minimum third-party liability coverage.

*"We have begun some important and productive working relationships as a result of the *Rating the Provinces* initiative."*

QUEBEC

The Quebec Government, responding to a public outcry over a number of impaired driving crashes and fatalities, has recently made public commitments to toughen impaired driving legislation. Through this last year, the MADD-Montreal Chapter has been in contact with Ministers and officials, and will likely make appearances in Quebec City during the up-coming Session of the National Assembly. MADD Canada's legislative initiatives for Quebec are to: give police the authority to use passive alcohol sensors and demand breath samples from drivers involved in crashes; introduce short-term roadside licence suspensions; and, among other things, increase ALS to 90 days, increase look-back period for *Criminal Code* offences to 10 years, and include impaired driving victims for available government-funded compensation.

YUKON

There have been excellent meetings with Yukon Ministers and officials and an open channel of communications has been established. Good news: a new vehicle impoundment and new interlock program will be implemented this June. MADD Canada's legislative initiatives for Yukon are to: implement a graduated licensing program; provide greater police authority to detect and charge impaired drivers; establish a mandatory remedial program for all impaired driving offenders; provide more guaranteed rights for victims of impaired driving, including introducing a criminal compensation program; and, increasing the minimum third-party liability coverage.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Meetings in March with Government officials held great promise. New impaired driving legislation will be introduced within the next two months and will be before the NWT Parliament this

Fall Session, at which time the legislation is expected to pass into law.

MADD Canada's legislative initiatives for the NWT are to: implement a graduated licensing program; provide greater police authority to detect and charge impaired drivers; introduce ALS and mandatory licence suspensions for federal *Criminal Code* offences; and, among other items, introduce a comprehensive interlock program, vehicle impoundment program, and mandatory remedial program.

NUNAVUT

MADD Canada has begun to establish links with Canada's newest territorial jurisdiction. (When the *Rating the Provinces* document was researched and launched, Nunavut was just born as an independent territory.)

*This completes our jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction review of MADD Canada's *Rating the Provinces* activities. On an annual basis, in late June, MADD Canada will release an update on its 2000 Report Card for the Provinces.*

MADD CANADA: CHAPTER CORNER

WELCOME TO OUR MADD CANADA FAMILY

We would like to welcome **MADD-North Island Chapter** to the MADD Canada family as of January 27, 2001. Sandra Dyer and friends of the Labatt family worked closely in establishing the 5th Chapter in the province of British Columbia. The MADD-North Island Chapter can be contacted at 250-949-7789 or via email at madd_ni@island.net. Welcome aboard!

As of April 2, 2001, the **MADD-Cold Lake and District Chapter** in Alberta has been actively involved in educating their community about the dangers of drinking and driving and supporting victims. Special thanks to Corporal Colleen Journey, Cold Lake RCMP and all those other individuals who made this Chapter a possibility. Christine Anderson, President, MADD-Cold Lake and District Chapter can be reached at 780-639-4579 or via email at scaling1@telusplanet.net.

With dedication and commitment the **MADD-Chatham-Kent Chapter** in Ontario became an official MADD Canada Chapter on April 23, 2001. Geri Young, President, was instrumental in organizing this group of committed individuals interested in making a dif-



ference in their community. The MADD-Chatham-Kent Chapter can be contacted at 519-355-1431 or via e-mail at y_geri@hotmail.com.

On April 2, 2001 MADD Canada welcomed its first MADD Canada **Community Leader**. Jackie Rumbolt of **Mary's Harbour**, Newfoundland contacted MADD Canada because Mary's Harbour is in the process of being linked by the Trans Labrador Highway. She is concerned that the issue of drinking and driving will only

increase once this happens. Jackie can be reached at 709-921-6939 or via email at jackierumbolt@hotmail.com.

May 1, 2001 marked the launch of **MADD-Edmonton and Area Chapter** in Alberta. Formerly known as P.A.I.D. (People Against Impaired Driving) the MADD-Edmonton and Area Chapter will be building on the past achievements of P.A.I.D. and local pioneers, including Gladys Armstrong, in the fight against impaired driving. Eloise Leckie, President, MADD-Edmonton and Area Chapter can be contacted at 780-462-2426.

LIST OF UP-COMING EVENTS

National Chapter Leadership Conference – “The Power of One”
Sept. 28-30, 2001
Toronto, ON

B.C. Regional Conference
Kelowna, B.C.
Oct. 20, 2001

National Project Red Ribbon – Tie One On for Safety Campaign
Nov 1, 2001

Victim Advocate Training (Level I)
Nov. 23-25, 2001
Toronto, ON

Fundraising Training
Nov. 23-25, 2001
Toronto, ON

National Committee and Board Meetings
January 2002
Toronto, ON

Victim Advocate Training (Level II)
March 2002
Toronto, ON

President's Training
March 2002
Toronto, ON

International Candlelight Vigil of Hope and Remembrance and Victims' Weekend
April 26-28, 2002
Toronto, ON

National Chapter Leadership Conference
September 2002
Toronto, ON



S.A.A.D. students from Medicine Hat travelled four hours to Edmonton's Chapter launch (top photo) to present Justice Minister David Hancock with letters and a video on impaired driving (middle photo). Alberta Solicitor General Heather Forsyth joins Loise Knox and Eloise Leckie, MADD Edmonton Chapter President, in tying a red ribbon (bottom photo).

Still no justice – and no comment from the P.M.

For months, MADD Canada has urged Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Justice Minister Anne McLellan to speak out on impaired driving, and the untimely death of Catherine MacLean. Since the January 27th impaired driving tragedy, in which a Russian diplomat killed a Canadian and seriously injured another Canadian, MADD Canada has called on these Government Leaders to give the crime of impaired driving their utmost attention.

Yet in spite of our awareness campaign, to date, there has been no public statement on the severity of impaired driving, as *Canada's number one criminal cause of death*, by the Prime Minister or Justice Minister.

Carolyn Swinson, MADD Canada's National President states: "MADD Canada supporters are extremely disappointed that the Prime Minister and Justice Minister have chosen to stay silent on this matter. Canadians want our Government Leaders to be clear on the crime of impaired driving."

It has been over 4 months since the tragic crash that killed a Canadian and seriously injured another. Media reports reveal that it could take a year before Canadians know whether Russian officials will even lay charges against their former Russian diplomat. It is unclear what charge or sentence Mr. Knyazev will serve under Russian law (the maximum penalty is five years). The sentence is much less than he would have had, if he been tried within the Canadian justice system.

In May, there was an exchange in the Senate between Senator Marjory LeBreton and the Government Leader in the Senate, Sharon Carstairs. In response to a question on what further actions the Prime Minister would take on ensuring justice was served, Senator Carstairs made the disturbing observation: "As the honourable senator knows, the case is in the hands of the Russian justice authorities. It is up to them to determine whether the evidence, as it has evolved and developed, warrants the laying of charges. It is no longer, if I may be so bold, a

Canadian authority issue. It is a Russian authority issue."

In response to this exchange, Mrs. Swinson said, "The Knyazev crash is a crime and much more than a question of diplomatic immunity. Prime Minister Chrétien and the Justice Minister should find no solace in hiding behind the absurd rationalization that, because there is a Russian diplomat involved, it is not a matter concerning Canadian justice."

"Their continuing silence on this matter is sending the wrong message to Russia – and to Canadians – that Canada does not consider the crime of impaired driving causing death and serious injury a serious crime."

Mrs. Swinson also feels that the manner in which the Government is dealing with the Knyazev crash is reflective of its perceptions of the crime. "To have the incident relegated to Foreign Affairs officials and our Prime Minister and Justice Minister to remain uninvolved is a clear indication of how they view the crime of impaired driving. It is symptomatic of this Government's overall lack of action regarding the crime of impaired driving."

MADD Canada has received hundreds of comments via e-mail and through the mail on this issue. From the first week of February, the organization and its supporters have been vocal in calling for

action. In early June, letters were sent to the Prime Minister and Justice Minister with a bundle of messages of support for MADD Canada's awareness campaign. To review the public campaign dealing with the January crash that MADD Canada has spearheaded, visit the Hot Issues section of the website: www.madd.ca

At press time, Russian officials had just completed a week-long visit to Canada. They have returned to Moscow to continue their investigation and will announce shortly whether there will be charges laid against the former diplomat.

It was revealed that Canadians paid for the Russian authorities' visit, to expedite the criminal investigation and, partly, because it was felt that Russia would not have pursued the investigation due to the costs.



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