



KFADD Newsletter

Kiwans Family Against Drunk Driving

Roger Barbour - Chair, email: barbourpole@adns.net

News from around the Barbourpole



December 2005, Issue #17

The following are excerpts from several e-mails received from Doreen Negrich, Past Lt. Gov. from Victoria, BC, and Alvin Pederson, KFADD Representative from Whitehorse, Yukon Territory:

A. Senator LeBreton presented legislation on .05% BAC:

A Bill to set a new 0.05% BAC legal limit for drinking and driving was introduced today by Senator Marjory LeBreton, who believes this measure will 'significantly reduce the numbers of Canadians being killed and injured in impaired driving crashes.'

The new 0.05% BAC offence would complement existing Criminal Code impaired driving offences, yet it would differ from the current 0.08% BAC offence. The legislation establishes a ticket offence at 0.05% BAC, punishable by a \$300 fine and a 45-day federal driving prohibition. Subsequent offences would be subject to escalating fines and prohibitions. The proposed offence would be subject to special provisions whereby a person's charge would be removed from his/her record after a clean two-year driving period.

Senator Marjory LeBreton states the Bill will get drivers off the road at less impaired levels. "This will reduce the amount a person can currently drink and then legally drive. It doesn't stop people from having a drink with their meal, but it provides police with a further option for getting that person who has had too much to drink off the road and out of harm's way."

"The proposed .05% BAC offence is designed to deter impaired driving without being unduly punitive, or creating greater burdens on the police and the courts," Senator LeBreton adds, "The ticket option of pleading guilty without having to go to court may discourage accused persons from needlessly challenging the charges."

"This is a very reasonable approach to making our roads safer from impaired driving crashes," says Senator LeBreton. "A 0.05% BAC level is the appropriate legal limit when considering the risk impaired drivers pose to all motorists who must share the roads with them."

According to a poll conducted by SES and released today by MADD Canada, Canadians seem to agree with the Senator's assessment. In the November survey, 73 % of Canadians believe that current legal drinking limits should be reduced. When the proposed lower drinking limit was explained, 84% of Canadians felt this level was 'about right' or should be even lower.

If the Government is defeated and a General Election is called, Senator LeBreton plans to re-introduce her legislation in the new Parliament. "I've watched with interest in the last few weeks as the federal Justice Minister and provincial Attorneys General punt this issue back and forth like it was a political football. Reducing the legal limit is the right thing to do in our country. This measure will make our roads safer and greatly reduce the numbers of Canadians being killed

and injured by impaired drivers. I strongly believe, with all due respect to Mr. Cotler and our provincial ministers, that the initiative should be introduced at the federal level where we can have a law uniformly introduced and implemented across our country."

B. "Maclean's" Critical of Canada's .05% BAC Policy:

In the Maclean's issue on the newsstands this week, reporter Nancy MacDonald has written an unbalanced and unfair criticism of MADD Canada's policy push to see new 0.05% BAC laws established. In an article 'Science? Or MADD as a hatter?', the Maclean's article muddles facts and leads with a blatantly incorrect statement that a 0.05% BAC law would ban 'small women' from drinking.

This is the stuff we expected from ignorant people who don't know the facts, or those opponents who want to misrepresent the facts. We did not expect this type of critical statement from a Maclean's journalist.

MADD Canada representatives are responding to the article. We ask that you support the national effort by writing a letter to the editor of Maclean's to let them know your dissatisfaction with the magazine's treatment of this serious policy issue.

C. Support for .05% BAC Legislation and facts showing proof of why MADD Canada is behind this legislation.

A 0.05% BAC is a responsible level to set our laws. There is a ton of empirical evidence that shows our current laws are not appropriate (use any combination - not all -- of the following points):

1. Based on this real-world threshold for criminal charges, an average 200 lb. man can drink over six bottles of regular beer (12 ounces at 5% alcohol by volume) or over a bottle of wine (26 ounces at 12% alcohol by volume) in a two-hour period and then drive without exceeding the real-world threshold for criminal charges.
2. An average 130 lb. woman can drink over three bottles of regular beer (12 ounces at 5% alcohol by volume) in a two-hour period and then drive without exceeding the real-world threshold for criminal charges.
3. Studies in laboratories, on driving simulators and on closed access roadways have established that significant impairment of critical driving skills, including vision, psychomotor tasks, reaction time, vigilance, information processing, and divided attention tasks, begins at levels well below 0.08% BAC.
4. The authors of a comprehensive study published by the American National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2000 stated that the 'major conclusion of this study is that a majority of the driving population is impaired in some important measures at BACs as low as 0.02%.'
5. As early as 1960, the British Medical Association stated that "a concentration of 50 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood while driving a motor vehicle is the highest that can be accepted as entirely consistent with the safety of other road users."
6. The impairment of driving-related skills is reflected in the research on the relative risk of crash. Canadian research relates that drivers with BACs in the 0.051% to 0.080% range are 7.2 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than drivers with a zero BAC.
7. The international trend has been to reduce legal BAC limits. The following countries already have a BAC limit of 0.05% BAC or lower: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany,

Greece, Hungary, Japan, Macedonia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden and Turkey.

8. Every jurisdiction that has lowered its BAC limit has experienced some traffic safety benefits, such as reduction in drinking and driving, and decrease in alcohol-related crashes, injuries and deaths.

(Editors note: I want to personally thank Dodie and Alvin for their overwhelming dedication to MADD Canada's efforts to stop Drinking and Driving. I am 100% behind this great effort to lower BAC to .05% and I wish that everyone would take note and see what a great effort MADD Canada is doing.)

I applaud you all, Roger Barbour, KFADD Chair & Editor

CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE AGAIN

Thanksgiving has come and gone and I gave thanks for all the blessings of friends and loved ones as we feasted around a great meal with many leftovers. My mailbox is full of catalogs from everywhere promoting everything and anything a person could want.

As a custom in my immediate family, we draw names for each other and purchase a gift for that person. But you know? What do I need? What do I want? I can think of many things I want but, do I need them? My conclusion is - "NO!!"

I have been blessed by God with a great family, a great life and great friends. What more do I need. So, this Christmas I have decided to ask the person who draws my name to donate whatever they would spend on my gift to the charity of their choice in my name and simply give me a card for thought.

Governor Steve has a great project to help burn survivors enjoy a week at camp and/or give a lap blanket for them to keep. What a great way to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Roger



Received from Nancy Klotz and forwarded from Sylvester Neal:

Dear Sylvester,

These are some of the photos of the Aristocrat flowering pear tree that is planted at the south corner of the new CWU music building in memory of Erin. The stone plaque to be placed in concrete in front of the tree did not arrive in time for the event, but a print out of what it will have engraved on it is in one of the photos.

The Concert of Musical Memories, Remembering Erin Klotz, was held in the CWU recital hall at 2 PM. We will scan the program in another e-mail. At 4 PM was a faculty concert (Remembrances), and one of the pieces, November Song, was dedicated to Erin. It was played by Hal Ott, her flute professor and mentor, his wife, Gay Ott, and danced beautiful by a young woman who is in high school and is a student of Gay's.

It was a beautiful event, remembering Erin's life and her love of music.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Sincerely, Nancy Klotz

HOLIDAY SEASON IS HERE

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Takata, the world's largest manufacturer of seat belts, today launched the 2005 Tie One On For Safety holiday ribbon campaign. "The holiday season is a busy time on our nation's roads with a high incidence of alcohol-related fatalities," said MADD national president, Glynn R. Birch. "Drunk driving crashes are the most frequently committed violent crime in America, yet they can be prevented if the public would simply remember the three keys to safety before they head out the door to their holiday destinations: drive safe, drive sober and buckle up."

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) celebrates its 25th anniversary, there is a lot to celebrate. According to the MADD/Nationwide Insurance Survey Conducted by Gallup, Americans continue to show overwhelming support for high-visibility crackdowns, such as sobriety checkpoints, to rid the roadways of drunk drivers. Additionally, Americans continue to support many of the research-based solutions MADD advocates for such as tougher penalties for high-risk drunk drivers and enforcement of primary seat belt laws. Most Americans agree the issue must be tackled. Almost everyone surveyed mentioned DUI as the worst highway safety problem among a laundry list of items.

(From MADD E-Newsletter for November, 2005)

FACES OF METH

(From Lynn Chiotti, MADD/KFADD)

The high school here in St. Helens had an assembly on Monday, 11/14/05, with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. They are the ones who originally put together the "Faces of Meth" Program.

There is a video available from Washington County Sheriff's Department called "Crystal Misery" that is excellent! It shows teens who are going through recovery as well as the end results of a teen who murdered someone under the influence of meth just to steal video

games to sell. It is approximately 20 minutes long and the teens who saw it as part of our MIP program were sitting in stony silence at the end. Powerful.

Lynn

(Note: Roger plans to purchase several of these videos and have available at the Mid-Winter Conference in Richmond.)

The new 25th year anniversary MADD Ribbons are out.

Many MADD chapters and Kiwanis clubs are setting up times and places to “Tie One On For Safety”.

Saturday, Dec. 3, Columbia County MADD Chapter, St. Helens Daybreaker Kiwanis Club, and St. Helens Key Club set up a drive-by at the Emmert Chevrolet Dealership in St. Helens, OR.

We offered free coffee as well as “Tied On” 25th year ribbons on many cars.

Thanks go out to all chapters and clubs who participated in similar events.

I hope all clubs will try to honor MADD’s request to help get the word out to “Don’t Drink & Drive”.

TO ALL KFADD COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALL MADD CHAPTERS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

(Please advise any upcoming events you have scheduled for the next couple of months, and I will list them here in the next newsletter).

NEWS ITEMS:

(I need your help to put out an informative and interesting news letter. Please send me stories or news flashes that can be reproduced in the news letter. Your help will be greatly appreciated.)

e-mail to: barbourpole@ados.com

Thank you,
Roger Barbour
Chair
KFADD PNW Division

