

Mock Accident Staged by Lashburn SADD Group

May 6, 2009

It began very simply: a ‘Wellness Walk’ for the students in the high school. The students headed out and down the road until they came to an apparent accident. Two vehicles, multiple injuries. They knew that it had been staged and initially, as they looked at the two cars and the police vehicle with the lights flashing, they reacted as normal kids would, with curiosity and comments and the occasional giggle.

Then the car door opened and the driver fell out vomiting. And the screaming started. And the crowd got quieter.

Two first responders arrived and immediately began to assess the degrees of injury. Sirens were heard in the distance and a fire-truck arrived on scene. As the first responders began to apply first aid the firemen assisted in extricating victims from the twisted wreckage. Just as accidents happen unimaginably quickly, the events after unfold unbearably slowly and an air of absolute reality took hold.

The crowd of young people watched in silence as the work progressed, then turned their heads to watch as an ambulance arrived on the scene. They watched as one by one the victims were helped away. Or comforted. Or strapped to backboards. They watched as the bottles of oxygen and the first aid kits were packed up and they watched as the driver was arrested, and their friend was covered up by a sheet.

The mock accident was staged by the SADD group (Students Against Destructive Decisions) at the high school in Lashburn as part of a day devoted to making students aware of the dangers of drinking and driving.

“The accident was staged,” said Tara Mardian, “because our group felt that it was important to establish an awareness of the consequences in the minds of the student body. It creates an impact that works in a small town setting, where everyone knows everyone else and the students watching know the kids in the vehicles.”

“It was also important,” Mardian said, “for the students to get a sense of the roles played by all of the people who arrived to help: the first responders, police, firemen, and EMIs, and to know too that if they have first aid training that they too can play a role.”

Following the staged accident the student body, joined by SADD groups from Maidstone High School and Marengo High School listened as the EMIs and First Responders fielded questions. Later they watched presentations from the Marengo SADD group and a speaker from SGI. Much later that evening the Lashburn high SADD group were able to observe a check-stop jointly run by the RCMP and the R.M. of Wilton police.

“ We’d like to thank all of the people who made this amazing event possible,” said Mardian. “The Lashburn Fire Department, the town of Lashburn, the R.M. of Wilton Police, the RCMP, the Maidstone Ambulance, first responders Brenda Skinner and Mike Donald, Karen Bullock and Down to Earth towing service, and the students from the Lashburn and Marengo SADD groups. They did a phenomenal job.”



Photos submitted by
Gordon Rook

