



The Regional Municipality of Durham Health Department

MEDIA ADVISORY

Like it Fast . . . Take it to the Track

WHITBY, ON, May 3, 2007 – MaNick at School is a new local initiative being piloted by the Durham Youth Road Safety Coalition in an effort to provide information to students about the dangers of street racing and other driving hazards. The program is launching during the Ministry of Transportation's designated Road Safety Challenge in May and June. Based on the evaluations from the pilots, the program will be offered to all area high schools in September.

"Using the exciting world of motor sport racing, Team MaNick will be spreading the message of road safety and risky road use behaviour to young novice drivers, pre-drivers, and passengers at local high schools," explained Janet Vendrig, a public health nurse with Durham Region Health Department.

As Canada's youngest rally team, Team MaNick, along with their converted school bus and rally car will be visiting local high schools to have peers speak with peers about their experiences in rally racing and the risks of street racing and other high risk driving.

The race team and a police officer will speak to students about street racing, laws and penalties for driving offenses, young driver statistics, aggressive driving, seatbelt use and more information related to safe driving. Teachers will receive a road safety resource package to continue the discussion on road safety and risk taking after the event.

SCHEDULE

Dennis O'Connor High School, Ajax

Thursday, May 10

Format: Presentation to combined Law and Auto Class

Brock High School, Cannington

Friday, May 11

Healthy Lifestyles Fair (for students, teachers, parents)

Format: Indoor Interactive display

Courtice High School, Courtice

Date to be Confirmed

Format: Open Lunch hour presentation

Whitby Community Safety Day

Fire Department Headquarters, 111 McKinney Drive, Whitby

Saturday June 9, 2007 10:00 – 3:00

Format: Outdoor Interactive Display

The Durham Youth Road Safety coalition is made up of members including Team MaNicK, Durham Region Health Department, Durham Regional Police, Ontario Provincial Police, Ministry of Transportation and the Head Injury Association.

For more information, call Durham Health Connection Line at 905-666-6241 or 1-800-841-2729.

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Media inquiries:

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM

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