



The Little Paper That Makes A Big Difference



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Seeing Is Believing



Photo: Dario Laurenti reacts to finding his daughter Emily, a casualty of the mock accident portrayed at Espanola High School last week.

By Chloe Kneer - Students were brought to the back parking lot of Espanola High School after lunch last week to see a mock accident demonstration aimed at raising awareness of the dangers of texting and/or drinking and driving. Two smashed up vehicles set the scene and several students had volunteered to play victims in the accident, donning gruesome make up and fake blood to simulate injuries that could be sustained in a horrific car crash. One student was outside the vehicles on the pavement,

Seeing Is Believing



Photo: Espanola volunteer firefighters use the “jaws of life” to gain access to accident victims.



Photo: EMS personnel extract a victim from one of the cars.

fatally injured. Once students had gathered around, a 9-1-1 call was placed and Espanola Police arrived. After that, members of the Espanola Volunteer Fire Department were dispatched to begin assessing damage and preparing the “jaws of life” to rescue two victims who were not able to be removed from one of the cars otherwise. EMS rounded out the complement of first responders and treated the mock up as if it were a real life accident. For more than

an hour, emergency personnel assisted victims, conducted an investigation of how the accident happened, interacted with distraught parents and even arrested the perpetrator, a drunk driver. At the end, Bourcier Funeral Home’s hearse pulled up to retrieve the body of the fatally injured young girl and then Dan’s Towing removed the totalled vehicles. Just like in real life. The mock tragedy didn’t overlook a detail, including the parents’ emotional reaction

to seeing their daughter lying dead on the pavement, thanks to the preparation and collaboration of the many organizations who took part. It was evident from students’ reactions that the scene had hit a nerve. Overseeing the project was Deputy Chief of EMS Glen Clifford. After the exercise concluded, students attended a presentation in the gymnasium that further conveyed to them the dangers of distracted or impaired driving.



Photo: Constable Ed Stortz arrests the drunk driver of one of the vehicles.

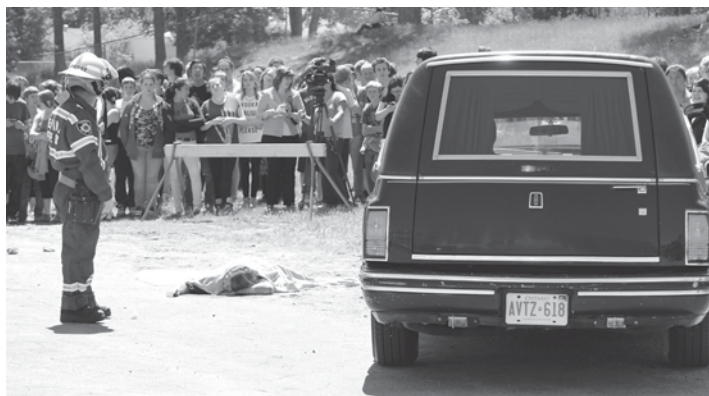


Photo: Hearse retrieves fatally injured student “Emily.”