

Students learned impaired consequences

BY TREVOR McNALLY

CAMPBELLTON ▶ Sirens wailed as those involved in an accident awaited help last week in Campbellton. When all was said and done, one 17-year-old girl was dead, three others injured, including one seriously, and one male in Grade 12 was under arrest for impaired driving causing death.

Statistics show that every day in Canada, more than three people are killed as a result of an accident involving drugs or alcohol, but that number increases in the summer to close to five.

Last week, a PARTY (Preventing Alcohol and Risk related Trauma in Youth) was held in Campbellton to educate students in Grades 9 and 12 about the dangers of impaired driving.

This exercise was put on by the Restigouche-Chaleur RCMP in conjunction with other emergency services organizations and personnel at the Regional Memorial Civic Centre May 26. The next day, the entire process was repeated for students from the two Francophone high schools in the area.

While the accident scene was staged, actors portraying victims played their roles well, with emergency services crews doing what they would normally do in the event of an accident. Ian Comeau of the Campbellton Fire Department, when telling the assembled students the role of the department at an accident scene, said that "every time a call comes in dealing with an accident, we collectively hold our breaths that young people and alcohol are not involved."

The driver was arrested, the dead girl taken away in a hearse and the other victims taken to the hospital (in this case the convention centre upstairs) for treatment. While there, doctors showed the students what would be done in the case of a real emergency.

After the accident scenario was over, students were given the chance to take part in other sem-



Firefighters used the Jaws of Life to free the trapped victim while other passengers who were in the car wait in the background. The one fatality in the accident remains on the hood of the car under a tarp.

inars, where they learned about things like alcohol poisoning, before getting hands on experience in what impaired driving might be like. They were fitted with "impaired goggles" and then put in an accident simulator which the RCMP uses to show young people what it's like to be in a roll-over accident.

"The goal of this is to make sure our children know that drinking and driving don't mix," said Const. Richard Mercier of the RCMP. "If we can prevent just one accident from happening then this was all worth the time and effort."

Photos by Trevor McNally/Tribune



The girl was checked over in the ambulance before being rushed to hospital with what was determined to be serious injuries.



Once freed, the victim was put secured to a stretcher and taken to a nearby ambulance.



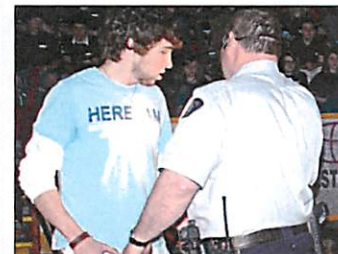
At the ER, the victim was put through a serious of tests to determine what her injuries were.



The mother of the girl who was riding the scooter that was hit by the impaired driver was overcome with emotion after being told her daughter was dead.



The injured passenger was removed from the car and sent to the ER for assessment.



The driver was arrested for impaired driving causing death.