



The passenger with a broken femur is removed from the car by paramedics after the roof is removed by firefighters using the Jaws of Life. (Mary Cameron/Tribune)



Const. Daniel Dessureault checks the pulse of the driver of the four-wheeler who was then pronounced dead. (Mary Cameron/Tribune)



The student pronounced dead is loaded into a hearse by the coroner. (Mary Cameron/Tribune)

Students taught grim reality

BY MARY CAMERON

RESTIGOUCHE ▶ The fourth edition of the P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) program was held on Wednesday and Thursday at the Campbellton Regional Memorial Civic Centre. The program brought together high school students from the area in Grades 9 and 12 to inform them about the dangers of drinking and driving, driving without a seat belt, and not wearing a bike helmet.

The program lasted from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and consisted of mock scenarios and information sessions. During the English edition of P.A.R.T.Y. held Wednesday, members of the Teens Against Drunk Driving group from Sugarloaf Senior High School participated as the actors for these scenes.

A mock emergency extrication set the foundation for the day's activities. The storyline began with a group of students at a party who, out of beer, decided to drive to the liquor store after having been drinking. When the lights went up in the rink they revealed an accident involving a car and a four-wheeler. As the police were called to the scene, followed by paramedics and firefighters, the fates of those involved in the accident were revealed. The driver of the four-wheeler (who was not wearing a helmet) was

pronounced dead, placed in a body bag and driven away in a hearse. The drunk driver was arrested, and an injured passenger with a broken femur was transferred to an ambulance by paramedics after the roof of the car was removed by firefighters using the Jaws of Life.

The scenes that followed took the audience into the emergency room with the injured teen and through her recovery.

There were also sessions during the P.A.R.T.Y. presentation led by health professionals who demonstrated the rehabilitation of people who have lost their abilities to move, communicate, eat, and participate in social and recreational activities. Sessions also addressed the medical and nursing needs of people following an accident, as well as the results of alcohol poisoning. During a presentation to students by Const. Daniel Dessureault of the RCMP the students experienced an accident simulator.

The P.A.R.T.Y. program is targeted at Grade 9 students, but Dessureault said the organizing committee chooses to include the Grade 12 students for the mock emergency extrication scene.

"The committee felt that it's good just

before the parties for grad, just for a nice reminder for the twelfth graders," he said.

Chelsey Dempsey, a senior from Dalhousie Regional High School and student council president, agreed that it's beneficial for Grade 12 students to attend the presentation, even though they are invited in Grade 9.

"Graduation is coming up, and we all go out and party, it's a reality. So I guess it's a good heads-up to make sure we don't take advantage of the opportunities we do have," she said. "We went to it in Grade 9, so we already knew what was going to happen, but going to it again, I think it gave us another wake up call, just a reminder."

Dessureault has been involved with the P.A.R.T.Y. program for the past three years and described it as an "eye opener" to the students that allows them to pick up all sorts of information. He said that police are still seeing alcohol and drug related trauma, as well as injury due to not wearing a seat belt or helmet. He hopes the presentations will cause students to think twice about their actions.

"You always have those crazy accidents that are avoidable. It basically comes down to kids making the right choices. And maybe with exposure to what we're doing here, it might influence a few to maybe take a second guess about what they're doing."



The "injured" passenger in the mock accident suffered a broken femur. (Mary Cameron/Tribune)