

# Local RCMP member takes an unconventional approach to deterring drag racing

By April Hudson, Spruce Grove Examiner/Stony Plain Reporter  
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Cst. Gord Buck works with YIELD to curb street racing, speeding and other unsafe driving practices. The group travels all over Western Canada, presenting in schools and educating Alberta's youths on the dangers of reckless driving. - Photo Supplied

Almost every Friday, Cst. Gord Buck from the Spruce Grove and Stony Plain RCMP heads on up to Castrol Raceway to deter young people from street racing.

Buck uses the term "young people" very loosely — thrill-seekers can be all the way up to their 70s and beyond — and his methods are just as unconventional.

As part of the Youth Initiatives and Education in Lifestyles and Driving (YIELD) Association, racing only makes up about 20 per cent of what Buck and the organization do — but that acts as the "hook" he and his fellow group members use to get the word out about unsafe driving practices.

"Drag racing is epidemic throughout Canada. Even the small communities have a racing problem and statistically somebody is dying every weekend from a race in Canada," Buck said.

YIELD doesn't race competitively. However, they do race against youths regularly at Castrol, with their competition earning a T-shirt at the end.

A spoof on Metric's Monster Hospital, the T-shirt either reads, "I raced the law and I won," or "I raced the law and the law won," depending on the outcome of the race.

"Our primary goal is just to educate the public and the youths about the hazards of racing on the street," Buck said.

"It's not just the racers putting themselves in danger; they're putting the public in danger as well."

Aside from their race car, a 2000 Camaro with full drag race suspension and 630 horsepower, most of what YIELD does takes place outside the track. They're heavily involved in schools, community events, parades and fairs, spreading the word wherever possible that safe driving practices just make sense.

YIELD also takes a proactive approach to reckless driving; when two racers were caught at double the speed limit on Highway 16A between Spruce Grove and Stony Plain, Buck helped convince the courts to send the two to YIELD instead, where they worked the equivalent hours to a \$2,000 fine. One of them is still with the group to this day.

"The results that we're getting are actually spectacular," Buck said.

"I can say without a doubt that we're saving lives."

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