

## LOCAL NEWS



### On Our Way Home Society will be having their Annual General Meeting on July 6th at 3 pm

**Location: Warm Hearts Dog Grooming**  
Everyone in the community is welcome to attend. We will be electing our board of directors at this meeting, so anyone who is interested in joining our team, please come!  
Phone: 250-874-8744

### Hungry for your Ideas

A community meal voting for community ideas.

**Supper**  
**Sunday, June 23, 6:00 pm**  
**\$ 5.00 per person**

Purchase advance tickets or at the door.

**Soup, salad, dessert and a vote!**

Meal prepared by the Chetwynd Internet Bistro  
At the Chetwynd Public Library

**Project ideas presented**  
**by community members and groups.**  
**Vote is made by you.**

**Choose one project that promotes healthy**  
**lifestyle choices in Chetwynd and/or the**  
**surrounding area.**

For more information, or tickets, contact:  
Marcie at 250-788-2685  
Northern Health IMAGINE Grant

**Everyone welcome!**

Left, Forest Ohneck discusses what the car can do on the racetrack with two local RCMP officers. Right, Cst. Gordon Buck shows students from Ecole Windrem Elementary the ins and outs of the RCMP's fastest car on the force.  
Photos by Mike Carter

## RCMP's Y.I.E.L.D Association tours the Peace Region

*Group engages youth while promoting responsible driving*

BY MIKE CARTER  
Chetwynd Echo Reporter

CHETWYND- Students in various schools throughout the Peace region got to experience a different side of the RCMP last week when the fuzz rolled up in a 2000 Chevrolet Camaro complete with the familiar red, yellow, white and blue colours, and the lights and sirens that come standard on all patrol cars.

With its 454 engine, bored and stroked out to

489, the vehicle sits with 630-horsepower and is capable of doing the quarter mile in 10.29 seconds at 123 miles an hour.

Constable Gord Buck, president of the Youth Initiatives & Education in Lifestyles and Driving (YIELD) association based out of Spruce Grove and Stony Plain, Alberta, says he is happy to show off the car to school aged kids. With a laugh he adds that his job isn't half bad.

The car was scheduled to run at the Northern Lights Raceway in Fort St. John last weekend for the Father's day race.

The Camaro on display last week is originally from Washington State, but Buck says the RCMP in BC and Alberta used similar models as highway patrolcars in the mid-'90s and early 2000s.

YIELD is a made up of

law enforcement, fire and ambulance personnel. The group uses the retired highway patrol car as a way to engage youth with the goal of promoting education, responsible driving and healthy lifestyle choices.

"The RCMP have formally partnered with the YIELD association on the education programs that we present. We go to schools, community events, and parades talking about road safety, lifestyle choices, impaired driving, distracted driving - the whole gamut. Members here [in Chetwynd] did the footwork and we just come out and do the presentations. As you can see the car is pretty popular with the kids."

"The car helps us break down any barriers between the police and the

school kids. They don't look at us as being police here talking. To them, [we're] the guys with the really loud car," says Buck.

For Buck's racing partner, Forest Ohneck, the YIELD association gave him an opportunity to turn his life around.

"I was actually an ex-street racer," he said. "[I] went through the Alberta court system through an alternative measures program with the RCMP and after 250 hours, I was able to be sitting in the front seat as opposed to the backseat."

Out of the four drivers the association runs in the car, including Buck, Ohneck consistently has the fastest times.

"He was caught racing on the street between Spruce Grove and Stony

Please see "OHNECK," page 12

# Ohneck decided to remain on with the program

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Plain by one of the provincial sheriffs and given 250 hours community service which he served with the YIELD program," Buck said. "Then he elected to stay on with the program after his service was done and the second year after he elected to stay on, we put him in behind the drivers seat."

Ohneck seems to genuinely enjoy his job, as evidenced by the expression on the tattooed 26-year olds face when he sparked the ignition and let the car roar, hamming it up for the group of 20 or so young kids from Windrem elementary who immediately raised their hands to there cars and pressed hard to block out

the thunderous noise.

The jaws of some young boys nearly hit the pavement as Ohneck revved the engine for one final flare before shutting it off and letting students take their turn sitting in the drivers seat.

YIELD has had a racecar out of Stony Plain since 2003. Before the Camaro, they raced a four-door Chevrolet Caprice with the stock engine. They ended up doing some modifications on the car after some time, and in the process, twisted the frame from the increased horsepower they were able to obtain. That's when they found the Camaro.

Buck says members of the RCMP in Maple Ridge are working towards setting up a BC wing of the YIELD Association.

Link: [http://issuu.com/chetwyndecho/docs/issue\\_25\\_june\\_21\\_2013](http://issuu.com/chetwyndecho/docs/issue_25_june_21_2013)