

Local drivers getting worse

Making it onto a top five list is often a good thing, but not this time.

Georgetown has landed on Allstate Canada's list of the top five communities with the largest increase in collisions between 2009-2011 and 2011-2013— coming in third place with a 10.21 per cent increase.

Milton topped the list with a 21.51 per cent increase, followed by Kingston with 17.12. Hamilton took the fourth spot with an 8.77 per cent jump, followed by Kitchener that had an 8.66 per cent increase.

The statistics were released last week by the insurance company in the results of its fifth annual Safe Driving Study, which ranks 50 Canadian communities by the frequency of collisions per 100 cars insured by Allstate. Overall, Georgetown ranked 14th in the study, down from third in 2011.

As well, the study shows that nationally Thursday and Fridays had the highest collision rates (16 per cent and 17 per cent respectively) of any day of the week.

Sunday drivers are the safest on the road, with only 9.8 per cent of collisions happening that day.

While Thursday and Friday see the most collisions, the study found that Canadian roads have in fact become a little bit safer overall in the past two years.

Allstate Canada customers has a 5.3 per cent fewer collisions from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013, than in the previous 24-month period, while Ontario's collision frequency dropped by 4.1 per cent in this period.

For more detailed results of the study as well as breakdowns by city and region visit: <http://bit.ly/SafeDrivingStudyENG>.

• For full story visit www.theifp.ca

Trudeau mingles at meet and greet

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He said cynicism is increasing, but people are "really tired" about being cynical about politics.

He was encouraged by the by-elections last week.

While he said nothing much changed on the surface—the Liberals and Conservatives each retained their two seats—he said underneath, the Liberals increased their vote margin in all four ridings.

"Most importantly we saw thousands upon thousands of people come together to work on the ground for these campaigns in each riding," said Trudeau. "It shows that people are hopeful and open to being engaged into politics in a different way than we have in the past."

Pointing to the Senate scandal, Trudeau said the Conservative government is one "that's consistently choosing spin, obfuscation, secrecy and cover-up."

We have a government that does not want to share the full story with Canadians because it doesn't trust us," he said. "We have a government that has forgotten if it ever

knew, what it means to be in the service of Canadians."

He said the Liberals can "once again be the party that is at the service of this great country."

Trudeau took a few questions from the crowd, before mingling and posing for photos.

One woman said she was very worried about the "attack machine" of the Conservatives.

"It scares me. They seem to be very successful at it," she said.

Trudeau said he has heard some Liberals say it was the attack machine against former party leaders Stephane Dion and Michael Ignatieff that brought down the Liberals.

"But that's not true. The Liberal party lost its way because it got more focused in on itself and its own survival than on the success of



Former Halton Liberal MP Julian Reed and current leader Justin Trudeau at Monday's event.

Photo by Ted Brown

Canada."

He said the party turned away from Canadians.

Trudeau said the Liberals raised millions of dollars from Canadians following the release of attack ads after he became leader because they were fed up with that approach.

"This doesn't mean I won't respond strongly when the time comes, but there's a way to be strong and not negative, to be strong while uplifting."

He was asked about Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong's private member's bill he introduced that would give party caucuses significant power, including the ability to vote out their leader.

Trudeau said he was open to what Chong is proposing, calling him an "earnest fellow."

"But he had an opportunity to stand up and express the will that I know the vast majority of constituents had in wanting the Prime Minister to actually come clean and talk openly and honestly about what had happened in the Senate scandal, but he chose to vote to continue the cover-up."

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