

Fewer deaths on roads in '09

Halton Regional Police Service's three-pronged approach of education, engineering and enforcement, in co-operation with Halton Region and local community partners, has helped to reduce fatalities on area roads by more than 40 per cent in 2009.

Last year 10 people died in collisions in Halton, compared to 17 in 2008.

A disturbing factor remains, however, out of the 17 deaths in 2008 it was found that alcohol was contributing factor in four of them, while not wearing a seatbelt was a contributing factor in two of the deaths. In 2009 alcohol played a role in three deaths and wearing a seatbelt was a contributing factor in four deaths.

"Responsible drivers have as powerful an influence on improving road safety as do police or engineers," said Chief Gary Crowell. "Buckle up, slow down, don't drink and drive and don't be a distracted driver. These are simple, easy ways you can help ensure you arrive safely at your destination."

Motorists are reminded that the cost of careless driving in Ontario is going

up in 2010 for several serious traffic violations.

- Following a fire truck too closely \$400.
- Fail to stop at red light \$260
- Fail to wear a seat belt \$200
- Fail to move into another lane for emergency vehicle—if safe to do so—\$400.

Unfortunately the human cost of careless driving is not enough of a deterrence for some motorists, so the Province of Ontario is increasing the fines associated with these offences under the Highway Traffic Act. The increases will not affect any driver who operates his or her vehicle within the speed limits and laws as set out in the Highway Traffic Act, which police are responsible for enforcing.

Also, effective February 1, 2010, drivers who text, type, email, dial or chat using a hand-held device could be fined up to \$500 under Ontario's new distracted driver laws. 911 calls are exempt.

Police encourage the public to help do their part in improving road safety by driving to arrive alive.



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SPECIALS FROM: Jan. 13th to Jan. 31st., 2010

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