

Halton Police say local drivers are forgetting rules barring use of cell phones

Some drivers still haven't got the message about the cell phone driving ban say Halton Police.

With the grace period for the Distracted Driving Law ended on Jan. 31st police made a concentrated effort to see if drivers were adhering to the new law, and found that some drivers still were not.

On Feb. 4 police saw a driver on his cell phone in a pickup truck on Trafalgar Rd. in Oakville.

Officers pulled in behind the man and activated their emergency lights. The driver was oblivious to the officers behind him and continued to proceed.

The driver was finally forced to stop at a red light, still not reacting to the officers behind him.

The officers drove up beside the driver, with their lights still on, and sitting right beside the vehicle, the driver still failed to acknowledge the police.

A loud blast of the siren finally got the driver's attention, he rolled down the window, still on the phone, and of-

ficers asked him if he would hang up so they could pull him over.

A ticket for \$155 was issued.

To date Halton Police have issued 70 provincial offence notices under the Distracted Driver Legislation.

Police stress distracted drivers are a safety risk to themselves and others. They urge drivers that before people set their vehicles in motion, to hang up and buckle up.

Commonly asked questions about the law are:

Q. Can I use my hand held cell phone in an emergency?

A. Yes. Drivers may place emergency calls to the police, fire department and emergency medical services. If possible, drivers should pull off the road before making the emergency call.

Q. Can I use my hand-held cell phone or device while I'm stopped in traffic or at a red light?

A. No, your vehicle must be off the roadway or lawfully parked on a roadway. It can't be in motion and must not impede traffic.

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