

Remember to Drive SAFE this fall

In Halton Region, we are fortunate to have a beautiful natural environment with the Niagara Escarpment, Lake Ontario and an abundance of creeks, rolling hills, open spaces, and trails. Many people like to get outside and enjoy nature by hiking or cycling.

As we enter the Labour Day weekend, which signals back to school for Halton students, Halton Region would like to remind everyone to share the road while traveling throughout Halton. The roads and neighbourhoods in our community will be busier with children walking, bicycling, or taking the bus to and from school. Be safe, be aware and be courteous. Leave enough room on your right to pass cyclists safely and watch for pedestrians crossing the road.

We would also like to remind all motorists that when driving your vehicle, be aware of the speed limit at all times, particularly in school zones. Remember when approaching a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing, vehicles travelling in **both directions must stop** except where a centre median exists.

Drive SAFE

To help lower the number of speeding and aggressive drivers on Halton roads, Halton Region and Halton Regional Police Service have teamed up for an innovative road safety campaign, Drive SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone).

The aim of the Drive SAFE campaign is to make speeding and aggressive driving less socially acceptable, while reminding drivers to be aware of their surroundings when driving. To highlight these issues, Halton Region and the Halton Regional Police Service created the "Speeding Costs" road signs, reminding drivers entering Halton of the costs associated with speeding and the "Safe Roads...Your Call" road signs, which



encourages motorists to call 9-1-1 when witnessing an impaired driver travelling on the roadway. Halton Region and the Halton Regional Police Service also developed three 30-second public service announcements. Working with Halton Region Emergency Medical Services, one video highlights the proper steps to take when an emergency vehicle is approaching while you are driving. The other two videos were created with the Regional Cycling Committee to help raise awareness of bicycle and driver safety in Halton Region. All of our public service announcement videos can be viewed on Halton's website at www.halton.ca/transportation.

Road Safety Action Plan

Halton Region has also created the Road Safety Action Plan to improve safety on Regional Roads. The Road Safety Action Plan uses three equal approaches - Engineering, Education and Enforcement.

Engineering

- Every year, Halton's Transportation Services department screens intersections and sections of roads to identify areas where safety improvements could be made.
- Based on safety assessments, areas for improvement are identified and recommended changes are made to Regional Council.
- To ensure the highest level of safety on Regional roads, Halton carries out road safety audits for all new roadway designs, as well as for major road improvement projects.

Education

- To educate the public about road safety, the Drive SAFE campaign was created.

Enforcement

- The Halton Regional Police Service is out in the community enforcing the speed limits in high-speed locations and Community Safety Zones, as well as monitoring drivers on all roads, to help ensure Halton's roads stay safe.

To find out more about road safety within Halton, dial 311 or visit www.halton.ca/transportation.



Driving Tips

- Leave two seconds between yourself and the vehicle in front.
- Remember to signal before changing lanes.
- If you can't see the mirrors of a truck, they can't see you.
- Be courteous and allow people to merge into traffic.
- Treat people the way you would like to be treated.
- Share the road.
- Watch out for pedestrians and cyclists.

If you are confronted by an aggressive driver:

- First and foremost, make every attempt to get out of their way.
- Breathe. Stay calm and relaxed. Remember that reaching your destination safely is your goal.
- Put your pride in the back seat. Do not challenge them by speeding up or attempting to "hold-your-own".
- Avoid eye contact - some people take eye contact as a challenge and will use it as an excuse to escalate their aggressive behaviour.
- Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.

Halton Regional Meeting Schedule

Sep 6		Offices Closed for Labour Day
Sep 7	9:30 a.m.	Health & Social Services Cte
Sep 8	9:30 a.m.	Planning & Public Works Cte
Sep 15	9:30 a.m.	Regional Council Meeting

Meetings can be viewed at www.halton.ca

Please let us know as soon as possible if you will have an accessibility or accommodation need at a Halton Region hosted event or meeting.