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# Halton cops ordered to get driver training after rash of accidents

So many Halton police cruisers have been involved in crashes that the force has instituted mandatory driving training for its officers.

In the first six months of this year, police cars were involved in 70 accidents, at a cost of \$158,780 in damage to the cruisers— including four write-offs. Accidents are up 18 per cent from the same period in 2010 and 23 per cent over 2009.

Most of this year's crashes, 41 of the 70, were classified as preventable.

"I don't know if embarrassment is the term," Sgt. Dave Cross said of the police service's response. "Certainly, it has caused us to institute this online driving course in an effort to curb that (crash numbers). Any collision is certainly a concern to us as a service."

He stressed that the number of preventable crashes is down 5 per cent from last year.

The main reason cited was police drivers hitting something while reversing, often out of a mall parking spot. Others included going too fast for the conditions, following too close to other vehicles and making improper turns.

None of the collisions occurred when cruisers travelled through red lights with their emergency lights on.

Cross said officers can be issued tickets for offences such as improper turns, though he said he didn't know if any of the officers in these crashes were ticketed. A supervisor has to attend and investigate all accidents involving police vehicles, Cross said.

"If they are deemed to be at fault

In the first six months of this year, police cars were involved in 70 accidents, at a cost of \$158,780 in damage to the cruisers— including four write-offs.

and there is a charge to be laid, in fact a charge would be laid."

Four vehicles had to be written off— three Crown Victoria police interceptors and one plain car. In two of those cases, the cruisers were going too fast for the conditions.

The mandatory online training course, which takes about 90 minutes to complete, focuses on managing distraction and improving self-awareness to more easily identify and avoid hazards while driving.

This fall, training sessions will also consider safety at traffic stops. In two recent cases, patrol cars were rear-ended while officers were investigating a traffic violation.

Driver training at the Ontario Police College is part of the training officers receive when they join Halton police. This includes experience driving on a simulator.

—Torstar News Service

## Public Notice

### CITY OF BRAMPTON OPEN HOUSE PROPOSED NORVAL QUARRY

The City of Brampton is hosting an open house to obtain feedback on a proposal to develop a quarry by Brampton Brick Ltd.

**DATE:** Monday, October 17, 2011

**TIME:** 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
Open House  
(presentation by City staff to start at 7:00 pm)

**PLACE:** Peel Regional Association Meeting Hall  
10675 Mississauga Road, Brampton  
(2 km north of Bovaird Drive)

Brampton Brick Ltd. has submitted an application to the City to re-zone lands to permit the extraction of shale and related uses. The 34.9-hectare (97-acre) site is located on the east side of Winston Churchill Boulevard, north of Old Pine Crest Road (see map). An associated application for a quarry licence has been submitted by Brampton Brick to the Provincial Ministry of Natural Resources, under the Aggregate Resources Act.


The purpose of the open house is for the City to obtain input from the public on the proposal by Brampton Brick Ltd. for use in a future staff recommendation to City Council, and to present the results of peer reviews undertaken by the City on the Applicant's technical submissions.

The City has retained Hardy Stevenson Associates to undertake a social impact assessment to better understand how area residents and businesses may be affected by the proposed quarry development. Representatives of Hardy Stevenson and Associates will also be in attendance at the open house.

If you are unable to attend the open house, we invite you to visit the project webpage <http://www.brampton.ca/en/Business/planning-development/projects-studies/Pages/Norval-Quarry-Re-Zoning.aspx> to view the peer review reports and other information related to this application.

For more information, please contact Natasha D'Souza, Policy Planner, City of Brampton at 905.874.3681 or [natasha.d'souza@brampton.ca](mailto:natasha.d'souza@brampton.ca)

Information will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

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[brampton.ca](http://brampton.ca)

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Featuring: 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

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- Baked Ham
- Dessert Table
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