

Stopping red light runners

Have you seen someone run a red light?

If so, you're in the company of 40 per cent of Halton drivers who reported seeing someone run a red light at least once a week and 62 per cent who say they've witnessed a near-miss accident due to someone running a red.

Clearly this is unacceptable. Halton Region and Halton Regional Police Services work hard to earn the distinction of being named the safest place to live in the GTA and the Safest Municipality in Canada—the fact that half of Halton drivers worry about getting into an accident when driving through an intersection shows we need to do more to increase intersection safety in the region.

To improve road safety we joined the provincial Red Light Camera Program. With two cameras already installed—one in the City of Burlington and one in the Town of Oakville—we're currently planning where to put the next 10 cameras to discourage people from running red lights.

Red light cameras are about saving lives. With at least one accident every week in Halton Region attributed to someone running a red light, it's important to remember that running red lights is not only dangerous, it's also illegal.

Gary Carr



Red light cameras are only a piece of the puzzle to reduce aggressive driving on our roads. You too can do something about aggressive driving—report it!

If you see a driver demonstrating unsafe driving behaviour, you can submit a Citizen Report Form through the Halton Community Road Watch program. The police then send an information letter to the registered vehicle owner explaining that their vehicle was observed being operated in an unsafe manner at a specific time and location and asking for voluntary compliance. For more information, visit www.halton-roadwatch.ca.

Working together, we can make our roads safer for everyone. For more information on red light cameras, dial 311 or visit <http://www.halton.ca/stoponred>.

—Gary Carr is the chair of Halton Region

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IFP's Brown wins OCNA writing award

Independent & Free Press photographer/writer Ted Brown captured first place in the Best Rural Reporting category at the annual Ontario Community Newspapers Association awards dinner at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto Friday.

Brown took first place for his story last summer on road rage that local farmers face while driving their slow-moving farm vehicles.

Brown's story (www.theifp.ca/news/road-rage-lo

cal-farmers-face-wrath-of-impatient-drivers/) beat out other finalists from Ottawa Region and The Burlington Post.

The judge's comments read: "The story scored perfect marks in all grading categories: quality of writing, effective use of photography, clarity, interest and display. The story was clear, easy to understand, packed with memorable quotes and had some clearly illustrative photos."



OCNA First Vice-President Maureen Keeler presents IFP staffer Ted Brown with his award Friday.

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