Liar, obliviousness, among reasons for traffic violations

By Tim Whitnell Metroland Media Group

Have you ever had the nerve, some might say stupidity, to tell a police officer that he or she is a liar, with a qualifying swear word adjective added?

Halton Regional Police said it happened to one of its officers during last week's enforcement endeavour, Project Viator, where traffic officers were on particular lookout for drivers exhibiting the Big 4 driving behaviours considered the greatest cause of concern for road users within the region distracted driving, impaired driving, aggressive driving and lack of seatbelt use.

More than a dozen officers were deployed within each police division in Halton.

The project ran over a three-day period starting Aug. 8 in Georgetown, followed by Oakville on Aug. 9 and concluding in Burlington on Aug. 10.

Officers targeted subdivisions that had been identified through police analytics as having the highest number of complaints and traffic-related occurrences.

Over the three days, 371 traffic stops were made for Highway Traffic Act violations with 238 Provincial Offence Notices issued.

Police say the goal of the project was to allow officers to have meaningful conversations with drivers and encourage them to drive safely.

The number of charges laid demonstrates that officers used considerable discretion and only charged drivers when they felt that it was prudent to do so, stated a Halton police press release.

Officers were asked to note the excuses drivers offered in response to being stopped. Halton police provided some of the comments.

Surely, none of these reasons are serious enough to risk getting involved in a collision with a neighbour walking down the street, a child riding their bike or family heading out for dinner, added the press release.

The following are some of the reasons given by drivers for alleged infractions such as going through a stop sign, speeding, cellphone use and impairment:

- "You're a F@#&*%\$ liar."
- . "Oh, there's a stop sign there?"
- "Just let me drive home. I just live around the corner a few blocks, I can make it. (The driver failed a roadside breath screening test and his licence was suspended.)
- "I guess there isn't enough crime to keep you busy.
- "But I was just involved in a car accident the other day.
- "I'm speeding because I have an infection and I'm on my way to Shoppers to pick up the medication.
- "Really.... I'm usually the first person to complain about that.

Suspect sought in theft, fraud in Halton Hills

Halton Regional Police are looking for a suspect who is alleged to have stolen a wallet from a Georgetown parking garage and used a debit card to commit several fraudulent retail transactions.

On Monday, Aug. 8, the suspect entered an underground parking garage at 60 Park Ave. at approximately 5:50 a.m.

He gained entry to one vehicle, stealing the wallet, and attempted to enter another vehicle, removing a tool box before fleeing the location.

The victim's debit card was then used at multiple locations at Toronto Premium Outlets at Steeles Ave. and Trafalgar Rd. in Halton Hills.

The suspect is described as male white, 25-30 years old, 6 feet tall with a medium build, brown hair, sores on his face, sunglasses, wearing a plaid DC hooded sweater, red t-shirt, blue jeans, black shoes and a white cast on his right arm.

Anyone with information is asked to call Det. Const. Barkhouse at 905-878-5511 ext. 2112.

- . "I was just holding it for directions."
- · "Please, we are very late for the train."
- "I've phoned and complained about the traffic on this street.
- "Sorry, officer, I'm on my way to get my nails done.

Halton police say they receive numerous complaints about aggressive driving and will continue to conduct rigorous



Video surveillance footage of a man suspected of stealing a wallet from a Park Ave. parking garage and using a debt card to make purchases at several retail stores.

Photo courtesy of Halton Police

enforcement where it is required.

To report an individual driver's behaviour, residents can complete a Road Watch complaint at http://bit. ly/2b9AR0E.

Road Watch is a community driven program encouraging anonymous reporting of incidents involving dangerous and/or aggressive driving.

