

# Zero tolerance on Acton streets



TOP BRASS: Halton police Acting Inspector Nisha Duraiappah helped with traffic safety on Tuesday morning at the corner of Acton Boulevard and Peel Street as part of the Safe Start program that educates and encourages motorists to obey the laws and watch for children. — Frances Niblock photo

Several Acton motorists were charged with speeding and using a cell phone as they drove on streets near McKenzie-Smith Bennett School early Tuesday morning—they were nabbed during Halton police's annual Traffic Safety and Awareness Day.

The "All Hands on Deck" for project Safe Start included high ranking officers manning high traffic areas to remind drivers that children have returned to school and that they need to

slow down in school zones and watch for pedestrians.

"The focus here is the stop sign," Acting Inspector Nisha Duraiappah said on Tuesday morning as he stood at the corner of Peel Street and Acton Boulevard as a steady stream of traffic passed by, avoiding construction on Queen Street.

"There were two or three speeding charges laid on Churchill (Road)," Acting Inspector Duraiappah said, adding its human nature for drivers to relax into

complacency, and programs like Safe Smart, underscore the need for education, awareness and enforcement to alter driver behaviour.

Acting Inspector Duraiappah said the week prior to school police manned the same locations looking for the same offences, but gave warnings and an opportunity to correct their behaviour. "This week we have a zero tolerance approach to it, and everybody that we encounter that has an infraction, will be issued an offence notice,"

he said, adding Acton motorists, on the whole, are very compliant. "Seatbelts are on, there are full stops at the stop sign, speeds are reasonable and there are very few hands-free infractions—has gone fairly well," Acting Inspector Duraiappah said.

District response units, uniform patrol officers, education services officers and senior command officers took part in Safe Start across Halton Region before and after school on Tuesday.

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CLOGGED STREETS: A Halton officer, who did not want to be identified, stopped bumper-to-bumper traffic on Peel Street early Tuesday morning to allow a dump truck to turn from Acton Boulevard. The heavy police presence in Acton, and throughout the Region before and after school, was part of project Safe Start, the annual Traffic Safety and Awareness Day. — Frances Niblock photo



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