

Curbing cruiser crashes

Just seven of the 70 accidents involving Halton police vehicles in the first six months of the year were in 11 Division, which includes Acton and Georgetown. Four of the local accidents were deemed preventable, and three were non-preventable, or totally beyond the officer's control.

The 18 per cent increase in accidents prompted Halton police to order all officers and civilians who drive police vehicles to take a 90-minute, simulated driving course, focusing on managing distractions and improving self-awareness so driving hazards can be identified and avoided.

Sergeant Dave Cross, who has taken the driver training offered by "drive for life", said it involves five or six units focusing on risk management techniques to manage distraction and more easily avoid hazards while driving. He said the components

include question and answer quizzes, driving simulations, and while there's no pass or fail, it shows how you did.

The drive for life website says over 80 per cent of drivers believe they are a better driver than the other guy, and that over 80 per cent of collisions are the result of a bad decision. Sergeant Cross said while the number of accidents is up 18 per cent from the same January to June period last year, the non-preventable accidents are the cause of that increase.

"Our preventable accidents are actually down five per cent...to 41 from 43 in 2010, and the non-preventables went from 16 in 2010 to 29 this year - they almost doubled," he said. Four of the vehicles involved in accidents had to be written off.

Officers involved in crashes can be charged under the Highway Traffic Act, but Sergeant Dave Cross had no information

about any charges in connection with this year's accidents.

The Ontario Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is investigating a collision involving a marked police cruiser and two civilian vehicles at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, on Steeles Avenue between Trafalgar Road and the Sixth Line. The SIU is called into cases where there's been a serious injury, death or allegation of sexual assault.

On Tuesday, SIU spokesperson Monica Hudon said the cruiser was westbound when it collided with a GMC Safari van that was turning left into a driveway. A third vehicle was also involved in the crash. A male passenger in the cruiser, who was in custody, was taken to Milton Hospital, transferred to Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto and released. The officer was also treated and released from Milton Hospital. The investigation continues.

Winter season survival tips that are simple and Eco-friendly

The winter season is right around the corner, soon to usher in cold temperatures, snow and ice for many people across the country. There are plenty of people who revel in the idea of frolicking over snow-capped hills or skating on a frozen pond, but many others hope winter passes them by quickly.

Much of the focus each winter is on staying warm and surviving this often harsh season at whatever the cost. But there are ways to survive winter while helping the environment.

Lighting

Thanks to daylight savings time, many areas of the country experience nightfall around 5 p.m. during the winter months. That means people are more likely to turn on artificial lighting to illuminate homes and surroundings. If you must use nighttime lighting, select a low-wattage bulb and point it downward.

Reconsider winter traction techniques

Before you throw down chemical ice melt products, think about safer alternatives. Regular table salt will melt ice and may not be as harmful to the surrounding environment. Sand can offer improved traction when scattered on walkways and it's nontoxic.

Keep houseplants thriving

Houseplants serve as natural air deodorizers and provide fresh oxygen inside of a home. The EPA and its Science Advisory Board have consistently ranked indoor air pollution among the top five environmental risks to public health. Considering most people spend the majority of their time indoors when the weather is cold, breathing poor air can result in illness. Houseplants are an all-natural way to filter out offensive air without relying on powered air purifiers or chemical air fresheners.

Weatherproof the home

Do yourself - and the environment - a favour by weatherproofing your home. Add a storm door, check weatherstripping or caulking for drafts, seal entry points for cable, phone and water lines with foam insulation, and also be sure attic and other spaces of the home are thoroughly insulated. This will keep from wasting energy on heating, which is harmful to your budget and the environment.

Don't warm up the car

Many cars can do a cold-start and get on the road without the need for idling in the driveway. Instead of wasting gasoline and pouring engine emissions into the air unnecessarily, just get in and drive. If you're sensitive to a cold car, try to park it in the garage during the cold weather months.

Surviving the winter in an environmentally friendly way really isn't that difficult when you employ some simple strategies.

YOUTH Need...

For the past year YNS has been gathering your thoughts, feedback and comments. The data has been tabulated and the results are in!

COME OUT TO THE YNS OPEN HOUSES AND WEIGH IN ON THE FINDINGS...

PLUS, great prizes (including the ipod), food, drinks, music and more!

<p>NOVEMBER 2, 2011 5:30 - 8:30 pm Acton District High School 21 Cedar Rd., Acton</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 3, 2011 6:30 - 8:30 pm Halton Hills Civic Centre 1 Halton Hills Dr., Georgetown</p>
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Transportation is available. Please contact youth@haltonhills.ca or 905.873.2601 x.2276

haltonhills.ca/youth ★ youth@haltonhills.ca ★ [facebook/youth](https://www.facebook.com/youthnshalton)

The Regional Municipality of Halton

www.halton.ca

2011 Seasonal Influenza (flu) Immunization Clinics at Seniors' Centre Locations

The Halton Region Health Department is offering free seasonal flu immunization clinics to Ontarians **six months of age and over** at the following times and locations. No appointments necessary.

Visit www.halton.ca/flu for the most up-to-date clinic information and to learn more about the seasonal flu.

Date	Time	Location
Monday, October 24	10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Georgetown Seniors' Centre Indoor Mall, Unit 9 318 Guelph Street Georgetown
Wednesday, October 26	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Acton Seniors' Recreation Centre Acton Arena, Community Hall 415 Queen Street East Acton

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.

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