



Police share driver excuses after day-long traffic blitz in Halton Hills

By Graeme Frisque
gfrisque@metroland.com

The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) held a day-long traffic blitz on March 29 in Halton Hills and Milton, targeting the most common violations - speeding, distracted driving, aggressive or impaired driving and not wearing seat belts.

Police said the initiative, dubbed Project Safe Commute 2017, was devised in response to a number of complaints and concerns levied by Halton residents regarding aggressive driving, particularly during the morning and afternoon commutes.

Officers set up shop at 13 locations, dedicating a total of 76 combined hours of enforcement in areas deemed high-risk zones in both Milton and Halton Hills.

From those events a total of 90 charges were laid. The charges ranged from distracted driving, speeding, interfering with traffic and impaired operation of a motor vehicle, wrote police in a release Tuesday (April 4).

As part Project Safe Commute 2017, officers were asked to note quotes from drivers as they tried to explain away their poor driving behaviours in hopes of avoiding a ticket.

This was done for two reasons, firstly to highlight that none of the reasons were urgent and warranted the drivers placing

themselves and other road users at greater risk, and secondly to encourage a dialogue that might change driver behaviour to improve safety and the safety of the wider community, said Sgt. Paul Rudall of the 1 District Response Unit.

What follows are some of the explanations officers noted that day:

Speeding OK let me explain, I was out on a test drive and yeah I pushed the gas.

Distracted Driving My phone rang three times and I didn't answer it. I answered it when it rang again and told her I was driving and she was going to get me arrested. Three seconds later you were knocking on my window.

School Bus Violation/Speeding I was following a truck so I didn't even see the school, all these school buses and the children. What is the speed limit anyway?

Speeding in a Construction zone with workers present I'm late for a dentist appointment, my husband's out of the country. Isn't there anything you can do?

Speeding It's a rental goes much faster than my own car.

Speeding I was having a leg cramp and was trying to stretch it out so it caused me to accelerate.

Project Safe Commute 2017 will next make its way to Oakville at a date yet to be determined before wrapping things up in Burlington sometime in the summer.



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