

Two truck safety blitzes uncover high failure rates

By Eamonn Maher
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Nearly half the trucks inspected were taken off the road and towed away Monday as the Ministry of Transportation and the Halton Regional Police Service conducted its Truck Safety Blitz in the Mold-Masters SportsPlex parking lot.

Three officers from the MTO and two more from HRPS got down and dirty but worked in much warmer conditions than during many of their recent regular inspections throughout the region.

Thirty vehicles in total were inspected, with 13 having to be towed away for repairs, resulting in a 43 per cent fail rate. A total of 33 Highway Traffic Act charges were laid for various violations and one set of licence plates was removed from one of the vehicles. Among the vehicles removed from the roadway included a pickup truck with a snow plow attached.

Another safety blitz was conducted Tuesday in Acton with an even worse fail rate than in Georgetown. Out of 21 inspections, 10 trucks were yanked from the road for repairs and 18 charges under the HTA were laid with two sets



Officer Jennifer Grabar of the Ministry of Transportation and Halton Regional Police Const. Pat Martin discovered some no-nos underneath this delivery truck Monday afternoon in Georgetown during a commercial vehicle inspection, including front breaks that weren't working properly. Photo by Eamonn Maher

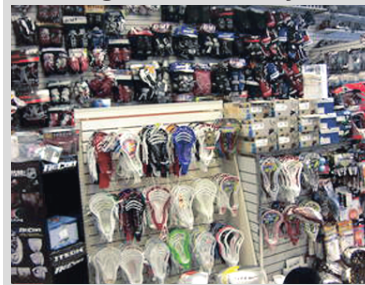
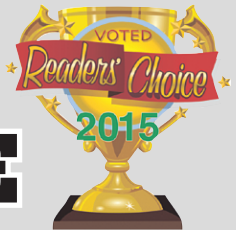
of plates removed.

HRPS Const. Pat Martin of the Commercial Vehicle Unit said that the five most common infractions the inspectors see are weight issues, secure loads, brakes, tires and documentation such as improperly kept log books.

"The Ministry keeps statistics on these types of things and unfortunately the bell curve is rising," said Const. Martin.



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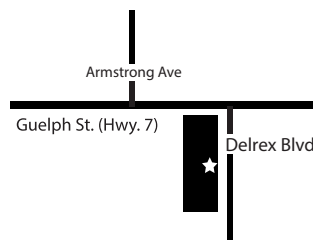
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