

Grocery shoppers at Georgetown's Real Canadian Superstore helped Halton Police officers to "Cram a Cruiser" Saturday. Santa stopped by to observe the proceedings.

Halton Police photo

Annual Cram a Cruiser brings in 13,500 lbs of food

The fifth-annual Cram a Cruiser hosted by the Halton Regional Police was a success.

On Dec. 5, members of the Halton Police were positioned at the Georgetown Superstore collecting nonperishable food items to be donated to the Georgetown Breadbasket. Between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., local residents donated more than 13,500 pounds of food and \$1,350 cash.

Cst. Naresh Dabas, who did most of the organizing, was very pleased with the turnout and invites Halton Hills residents to look for its return next year.

"It shows the community came out and supported the food drive in great numbers."

Halton Police launch holiday RIDE program

By David Lea

Metroland Media Group

Halton police will be out in force for the next few weeks as they search for impaired drivers during their annual Holiday RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere)

Officers announced the launch of this year's campaign Monday (Dec. 7).

Spot checks will be set up across Halton at different hours of the day and night to combat impaired driving from both alcohol and drugs.

Police said the traffic stops would also provide an opportunity for educating the public on the dangers of driving impaired.

Part of the campaign will see this message conveyed in Halton classrooms where High School Liaison Officers will provide students with an opportunity to wear "goggles," which simulate what it is like to be intoxicated.

Other initiatives undertaken during the campaign include Project Juno, which will see officers target locations with a high frequency of impaired driving such as identified licensed establishments and beer/

liquor stores.

Project Happy Hour will see officers carry out RIDE checks at the Oakville commuter lots on weekday evenings to catch impaired drivers arriving from Christmas festivities out-of-town.

In Burlington, police will also give some restaurant patrons the opportunity to blow into an alcohol screening device (ASD) so they can learn how alcohol affects every individual differently and how no amount of alcohol consumption is safe when getting behind the wheel.

Despite the efforts of police, there are still plenty of people not getting the message about the dangers of impaired driving.

Just last week, Halton police arrested nine drivers and laid 13 impaired driving charges (three in Milton/Halton Hills, two in Oakville and four in Burlington).

So far in 2015, there have been 414 drivers arrested and charged with impaired driving.

The total was similar in 2014 before the Holiday RIDE campaign, which yielded an additional 56 arrests.

Police emphasized they have highlytrained Drug Recognition Officers, who are experts in determining if a driver is impaired by a drug as opposed to alcohol.

Citizen helps police nab impaired driver

A Brampton man faces impaired driving charges after an alert citizen helped Halton Regional Police track down an erratic driver Saturday night.

At around 8 p.m., a complaint was called in by a driver in Norval who reported that a vehicle in the area of Winston Churchill Blvd. and Adamson St. was being driven erratically.

The citizen followed the suspect vehicle along Guelph St. into Georgetown and provided updates to the HRPS dispatcher.

Officers then located the vehicle in the Georgetown Market Place parking lot in front of the LCBO outlet and spoke with the suspect as he exited his vehicle.

Charged with impaired driving and exceeding the blood/alcohol limit is 65-year-old Marek Argiriu. He was released on a promise to appear in Milton Provincial Court Jan. 4.



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