

# NEWS

## Do you know the new driver rules when encountering pedestrians crossing the road?

If drivers don't allow that pedestrian to fully cross certain roadways, they could be fined.

Under the Making Ontario's Roads Safer Act, a new law requires drivers to be more patient and alert when driving through busy pedestrian intersections.

As of Jan. 1, 2016, drivers in Ontario have to wait until a pedestrian has reached the other side of a designated school crossing or pedestrian crossover or face a possible fine of \$150-\$500 and three licence demerit points.

Fines are doubled in designated Community Safety Zones.

Drivers now have to yield the entire width of the road to pedestrians instead of half the road, as was previously the case.

Cyclists must follow the same rules as drivers under the Highway Traffic Act; they must stop and wait for the pedestrian to cross or face the same fine.

The new rule applies to pedestrian crossings identified with specific signs, road markings and lights. It does not apply to pedestrian crosswalks at intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, unless a school crossing guard is present.

"It is everyone's responsibility to ensure our roads are the safest they can be. Drivers, cyclists and pedestrians must share the road and look out for each other," stated a Halton Police press release.

*Photo by Graham Paine*

Speeding, aggressive and distracted driving are the top complaints by residents in Halton Region, say police.

For more information, visit <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca>.



**New rules took effect at crosswalks in hopes to enhance pedestrian safety. Allow that pedestrian to cross the road or face a fine.**

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