

# ONTARIO IS THE HARDEST ON REPEAT OFFENDERS

Continued from page 13

as likely to use their phone while driving.

"I'll watch them at a light, and I'm expecting them to put it down, but then I watch them take off and they're still using their phone."

Even if you think putting your phone down after sending a text at a stoplight is going to spare you a ticket, you're wrong.

"The reason I tell them is, if you've got your head buried in your phone and a child is crossing the street and drops something, you haven't seen that kid crouch down," said the 11-year veteran of Halton police. "You look up and start driving and that child is under your vehicle."

In 2017, the OPP reported 82 people were killed in accidents on Ontario high-

ways where distracted driving was a contributing factor.

That was almost double the 42 deaths caused by impaired driving. It was the fifth straight year distracted driving had contributed to the most deaths on highways patrolled by the OPP.

In 2018, that number fell to 55, the lowest total in a decade. It was also surpassed by speed as the leading contributor to fatal accidents.

Ontario introduced distracted driving laws in 2009. Fines have been increased a few times, to the point that only Manitoba has harsher penalties (\$672 fine, three-day suspension and five demerit points).

Ontario is the hardest on repeat offenders, though. Maximum fines increase to \$2,000 and

\$3,000 with subsequent convictions. Demerit points rise to six for repeat offenders and licence suspensions increase to seven days for a second offence and 30 days for a third.

Taraso recently issued a driver her fourth distracted driving ticket.

But if you think it is young drivers that are the problem, you would be wrong. Taraso said it's the 30-50-year-old age range that he encounters the most.

"The youngest drivers, the teens, are the most responsible. They've grown up in an age where it's always been illegal. It's something the new crop of drivers have always had," he said.

"It's kind of like seatbelts. People who have always had the seatbelt law wouldn't think of getting in a car without putting it on. For those who were driving before (distracted driving laws), it's a matter of breaking a habit and changing their behaviour."

## castle LEATHERTOWN LUMBER.ca

**LEATHERTOWN LUMBER IS THE CONTRACTOR'S CHOICE FOR BUILDING MATERIAL**



**HOT BUY**

**\$99.99** WAS: \$129.99

**6-Cu. Ft. Wheelbarrow**  
Heavy steel tray, steel handles with non slip grips, heavy duty undercarriage with stabilizer and 16" flat free tire. 6991897

**SERVICE AND QUALITY YOU CAN BUILD ON**

**\$8.99** WAS: \$13.99

**1-3/4-In. x 12-1/2-In. Pry Bar**  
Forged, high-carbon steel, contoured bar. Beveled nail slot at both ends. 6475362



**\$89.99** WAS: \$119.99

**12-In. Construction Blades Combo Pk.**  
For table saws and miter saws. Includes 12" 32 teeth and 12" 80 teeth blades. 4029732

LIMITED QUANTITY ON SALE ITEMS. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.



264 Main St. N., Acton  
**519-853-1970**  
**416-601-1259**



**WE DIG DEEPER ON THE ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU.**



VISIT [THEIFP.CA](http://THEIFP.CA) TO READ CURRENT AND PAST INVESTIGATIONS

**CREATING GREAT SMILES**

New Patients Welcome  
Family and Cosmetic Dentistry



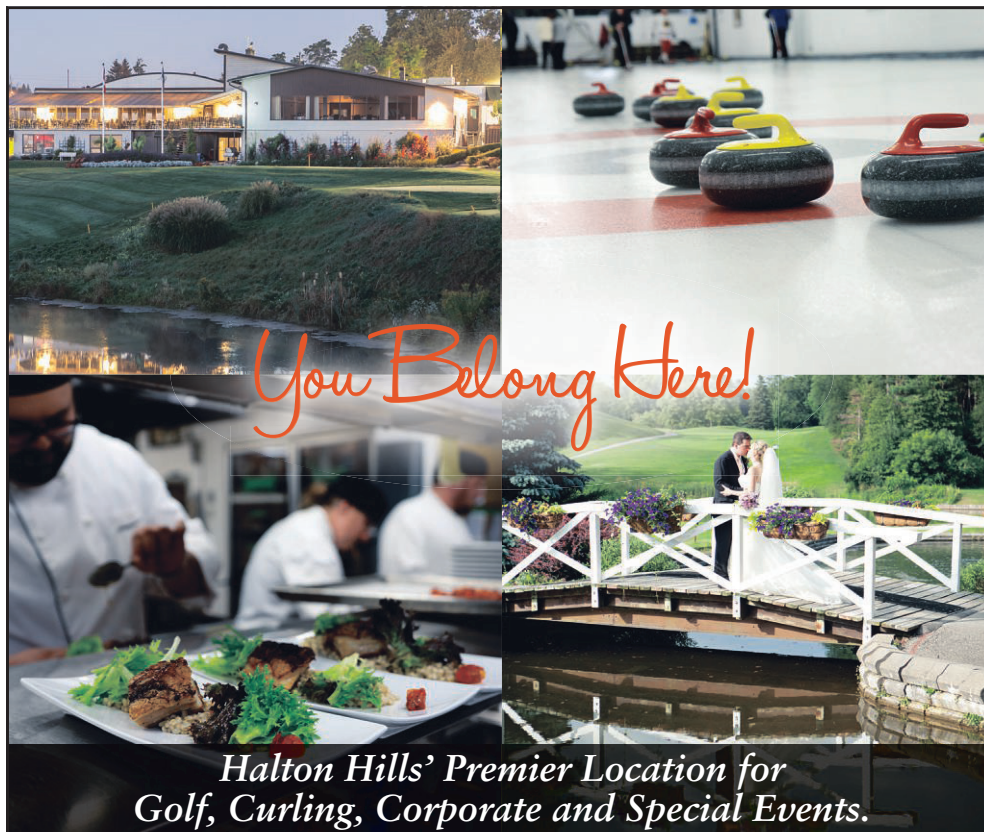
Marketplace Dental Centre 877-CARE (2273)



**Marketplace Dental Centre**  
Georgetown Marketplace Mall

905-877-CARE (2273) • [www.georgetowndental.com](http://www.georgetowndental.com)  
Proudly Serving Georgetown Since 1994.

HOURS: Monday & Wednesday 8:00am - 8:00pm • Tuesday & Thursday 8:00am - 6:00pm • Saturday 8:00am - 3:00pm



*You Belong Here!*

*Halton Hills' Premier Location for Golf, Curling, Corporate and Special Events.*

905.877.5236  
[web@nhgcc.ca](http://web@nhgcc.ca) | [www.nhgcc.ca](http://www.nhgcc.ca)



**THE CLUB AT NORTH HALTON**