

Stats show Halton Hills drivers buckling up less in the spring

Whether there are reasons for it or it's just a statistical anomaly, Halton drivers generally appear to be more vigilant about buckling up in the fall than in the spring, but Halton Hills drivers seem to be the least conscious of the issue.

The results of the Halton Regional Police Service's recent Fall Provincial Seat-belt campaign (Sept. 25 to Oct. 3) indicate the seat-belt compliance rate was higher than during the spring campaign, where one ticket was issued per 42 cars stopped compared to this fall's ratio of one ticket per 48 cars.

The pattern was the same last year. The fall 2003 campaign figures translated to one in every 49 drivers stopped being issued a ticket for a seat-belt infraction (417 charges/20,343 vehicles) while the spring '03 campaign resulted in one in every 37 vehicles' drivers (544/19,995) being ticketed.

In the most recent seat-belt check blitz, Halton Hills had the worst ratio by far, with one in 10.5 drivers being ticketed and 32 warnings issued. However, its sample size of 243 vehicles stopped was far less than that of the other municipalities and therefore the results more prone to being skewed.

Milton had the best compliance of Halton's four municipalities with one driver in 114 being ticketed. A total of 1,026 vehicles were stopped; 11 drivers were given warnings. Burlington had the next best compliance ratio with one in 63 drivers ticketed (32 charges from 2,017 vehicles stopped); 49 drivers were warned.

Oakville's seat-belt compliance rate was one in 48 drivers (103/4,979) with 140 warnings issued.

'Seat-belts save lives. Until we get 100 per cent compliance throughout the region, we will continue to be vigilant.'
—Sgt. Jeff Corey



"We're having a look at it. We will see if it becomes a trend," Halton police public affairs Sgt. Jeff Corey said of Halton Hills' much lower compliance rate.

"Seat-belts save lives. Until we get 100 per cent compliance throughout the region, we will continue to be vigilant," he said.

When asked if perhaps drivers in north Halton might not be buckling up as much as their south Halton counterparts because they feel there are fewer officers watching them or less traffic to worry about, Corey couldn't offer a firm explanation but did make an observation.

"I don't have an answer for that but I've been to some horrific crash scenes on rural roads and it happened in light traffic. The weather conditions can change quickly in those areas," Corey noted.

Under the Highway Traffic Act there is a fine of \$110 and two licence demerit points upon conviction for a seat-belt infraction. Everyone 16 and older is responsible for wearing a seat-belt; anyone under 16 is the responsibility of the driver.

—By Tim Whitnell, special

Board seeks public input Oct. 18 on its gifted education programs

The Halton District School Board is seeking input on its gifted education programs.

The meeting will be held Monday, October 18 from 7-8 p.m. at the Percy Merry Education Centre, 263 Britannia Road (at Trafalgar, across from Terra Nurseries). The meeting will allow community members to share their views, experiences and expertise.

Community members are encouraged to make presentations on behalf of groups of individuals in order to accommodate as many views as possible.

A written copy of the presentation must be submitted prior to the meeting. Presenters are asked to prepare a three-minute presentation outlining key points and a two-minute question period will follow each presentation.

Written submissions from groups not wishing to make presentations or who are unable to attend the meeting may also be accepted.

For further information contact Steve Saunders (Task Force co-chair), Halton District School Board, 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington, ON, L7R 3Z2.

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Sunday	9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Monetary donations to purchase the items listed may be dropped off at Georgetown Christian Fellowship payable to: GCF - Haiti Fund. Tax receipts will be issued.

Come on Halton Hills let's show that this community knows how to give - with love!

Georgetown Christian Fellowship

13619 Hwy. 7 West
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