

Halton officials take pledge against distracted driving

Regional chair and police chief put their commitment to Drive SAFE program in writing

By Dominik Kurek
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The people in charge of community safety and services in Halton Region have taken a stand against distracted driving and are asking residents to do the same.

Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr and Halton Regional Police Service Chief Stephen Tanner have signed the pledge against distracted driving, which is part of the Region's and police department's Drive SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone) program.

Ontario driving laws prohibit drivers from talking, texting, typing, dialing or emailing using cell phones or other hand-held communications or entertainment devices. Drivers are also prohibited from viewing laptops, DVD players or display screens that are unrelated to driving.

Yet, drivers continue to do this, which can lead to some catastrophic results. According to Allstate Canada, distracted driving is involved in 80 per cent of collisions.

"You're 23 times more likely to be in an accident if you're texting while driving," said Tanner, referring to a CAA report.



Halton Regional Police Chief Stephen Tanner (right) and Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr sign pledges against distracted driving, which studies have shown can be as dangerous as impaired driving. Police are running an enforcement blitz this week. *Graham Paine / Canadian Champion (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)*

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