

NEWS

Driver's distraction not always cell phone

“What could happen in two to three seconds? You could go off the road, you could go through a red light, a stop sign,” said Davies.

The distraction doesn't always come in the form of a cell phone, with Davies recalling one fatality where a driver had been looking at a flock of birds when he left the road.

Police are attacking the problem of distracted driving through numerous initiatives.

One campaign, which ran from April 15 to 19, saw Halton police issue 835 provincial offence notices for distracted driving.

Davies listed people who roll through stop signs, make right turns on red lights without stopping and who otherwise don't obey the rules of the road as another cause of Halton's traffic collisions.


“People who do things like rush an amber light, those are dangerous operators. That's dangerous driving,” he said.

“It's the complacency. The mindset that 'I'm a great driver and nothing will ever happen to me.' Those people, in that mindset, combined with not obeying the laws to the letter of the law of the Highway Traffic Act, that's the catalyst for a collision.”

While Halton officers ticket speeders and those who run red lights throughout the year, enforcement is stepped up in certain areas at certain times.

Halton police concluded Project Safe Start, which targeted people speeding, running stop signs, not wearing seat belts and practising other unsafe driving behaviour near schools. The project, which focused on education as well as enforcement, resulted in 1,908 tickets during the first two weeks of the school year.

Impaired driving also continues to be an issue in Halton with Davies stating the number of impaired driving arrests and collisions rises and falls from year to year for no clear reason. In late August, Davies said impaired driving was a factor in a Burlington traffic fatality.

Davies said Halton police try to combat impaired driving through active enforcement via the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) 

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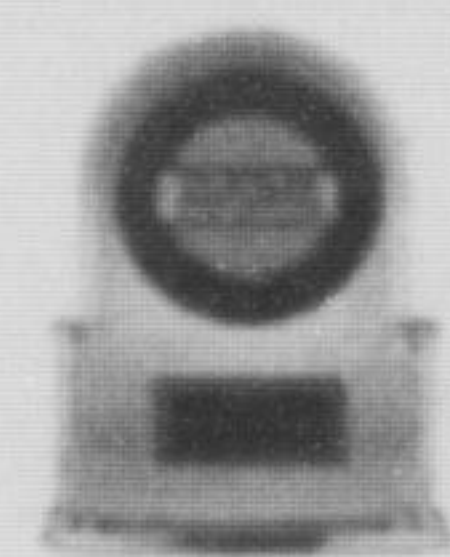
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