

# Stop sign campaign under way

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN  
Staff Writer

So you think you stopped at that stop sign?  
A full stop?

What if there were video evidence proving you didn't stop? Would you change your thinking? Would you change your driving?

That's what York Regional Police hope drivers will learn this month as they crack down on stop sign infractions at problem intersections region-wide.

"We're going to concentrate on intersections citizens have identified to us as high-complaint areas, ones that have caused them concern," Insp. Chris Barratt said.

In 1999, five people were killed and another 46 required hospitalization due to stop sign infractions across the region.

"To put it in perspective, you got your driver's licence before graduating high school. You've forgotten a lot of things you learned in high school and forgotten a lot of things you learned to get your licence. There is no imposed education (update) until you turn 80 years old — and people pick up a lot of bad habits in that time. We want to correct those bad habits," Barratt said.

Drivers got an initial break — March 7 and 8 were awareness and education days. Police asked people running stop signs to view the video tape of their offence.

Shaw Cable recorded three drivers running a Vaughan stop sign Tuesday.



STAFF PHOTOS/JOERD WITTEVEEN

This motorist was caught over-running a stop line last week and was given a warning. The police want the public to know their campaign will be happening all over York Region during March.

One man laughed with surprise when he saw his car speeding through the intersection and said he'd pay more attention next time. A woman also seemed taken aback by the video tape, but said she, too, would concentrate more on the road when driving.

A third woman didn't believe the tape at all.

"I don't know what happened, but I know I stopped," she insisted.

"It can be very frustrating at court," said Const. Bill Russell. "She's convinced she stopped. Those people can be very convincing in court because they believe it themselves."

If you're caught now be prepared for a \$105 ticket and three demerit points.

"That's a hefty fine, three points when you're only allowed 15, and there are insurance ramifications as well," Barratt said. "Not to mention if you happen to run over a little kid."

## YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE!

That's what disobeying stop signs may cost you.

Your money: The fine for disobeying a stop sign is \$105.

Three demerit points.

Your insurance rates may rise.

Your life: Last year in York Region, 46 people were sent to hospital as a result of collisions involving stop sign infractions.

Five people died.

Did you know?

There is no such thing as a rolling stop. You must come to a complete stop, every time.

You must stop at the stop line marked on the pavement.

If there is no stop line, stop at the crosswalk, marked or not.

If there is no crosswalk, stop at the edge of the sidewalk.

If there is no sidewalk, stop at the edge of the intersection.

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