

# Figures reveal an increase in deer-vehicle collisions on York Region rural roads



Mike Hayakawa

It's that time of the year when drivers venturing in rural areas should keep a close eye on the road for more than just other drivers and pedestrians.

The arrival of fall also signals a time when deer populations converge on roadside areas.

In recent years, the Ministry of Natural Resources' Aurora District office detect a rise in the numbers of vehicle-deer collisions in York Region.

John Almand, senior fish and wildlife technician at the ministry's Aurora District office, notes that in 1997 there were approximately 250 incidents reported in York Region and the City of Toronto as compared with 165 in 1988.

He believes the increase in accidents can be attributed to a correlation with increasing deer populations in the area. This is especially the case, he said, in areas where there's a mixture of agricultural lands and forests and where there's no gun season.

The boundaries of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Markham, King, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Newmarket and Aurora fit this description.

"If there's more deer out there, the chances are more will get hit," Almand says.

With evening temperatures these days hovering near the freezing mark and the reduced photolight period, this marks the start of the mating period for deer populations.

Almand pointed out that yearling bucks tend to do a lot of moving around in an effort to keep away from more dominant bucks.

Older bucks, however, will also move around and travel lengthy distances to breed with numerous does.

In doing this, a buck might be forced to negotiate a roadway.

While the mating season is a primary factor in deer-vehicle collisions, Almand said deer at this is the time of the year also travel whatever distances necessary to search out sources of high-energy food like corn, beans or apples before the arrival of winter.

When deer-vehicle collisions take place, vehicles can incur substantial body damage while deer are usually killed upon impact.

To prevent accidents from taking place, Almand says drivers should pay extra close attention during periods of dawn, dusk and even evening periods.

"Most movement of deer takes place during the early morning, dusk and into the evening. It's not uncommon to see deer standing on the road in the middle of the night," he said.

Although there's no foolproof way of avoiding accidents, drivers should pay close attention when they see deer crossing signs posted on the shoulder of the road.

"You can be certain that deer will be near a road where crossing signs are posted," Almand warned.

Although drivers should take extra caution during this time of the year, Almand also notes the period from late May to early June can be a time when deer-vehicle accidents take place along rural roads.

"In the spring you get a lot of yearling animals hit on the road.

"When the does have fawns they kick the fawns born the previous year out of their home range and as a result, the yearlings try to establish their own range."

In instances where an accident has occurred, Almand notes the driver can take possession of the deer providing

they report it to a local ministry office immediately or on the next business day.

In turn, the ministry will issue a certificate to the individual reporting the accident.

In cases where there's vehicle damage of more than \$700, the driver must report it to local police authorities.



**LEADERS WANTED**

Call for Details:

1-800-565-8111

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist/Tribune

# FINAL COUNTDOWN CLEARANCE

Get our best financing offer of the year on new in-stock 2000 Explorer, Taurus and most F-150.

# 009%

48 Month Purchase Financing



### MOST 2000 F-150

Canada's BEST-selling truck for 34 years\*

- 4.2L V6 Engine or choose optional 4.6L or 5.4L V8 Engine with the most torque in its class • AM/FM Stereo with available Cassette and CD • SecurILock™ Anti-Theft System • SuperCab with standard 4-doors • Removeable Tailgate • Rear Anti-Lock Brakes • Power Steering • Second Generation Dual Air Bags • Optional 4x4 Off-Road Package

### ALL 2000 TAURUS

Canada's BEST-selling car in its class\*

- 3.0L 2V 6 Cylinder Engine • 4-Speed Automatic Transmission • 6-Passenger Seating • AM/FM Stereo with Cassette • SecurILock™ Anti-Theft System • Remote Keyless Entry • Tilt Steering • Dual-Stage 'Smart' Air Bags • Air Conditioning • Optional Power Adjustable Pedals



The Taurus has earned five stars - the highest possible U.S. Government crash test rating - for front impact for both driver and front passenger - two years in a row.\*\*

### ALL 2000 EXPLORER

Canada's BEST-selling SUV\*

- V6 or V8 Engine • Air Conditioning • Available 5-Speed Automatic with Overdrive • SecurILock™ Anti-Theft System • Power Windows, Mirrors and Locks • 4-Wheel Anti-Lock Braking System • Second Generation Dual Air Bags • Illuminated Entry System • Child Proof Rear Door Locks



2000 MUSTANG

\$1,000

CUSTOMER CREDIT ON NEW IN-STOCK 2000 MUSTANG\*

LIMITED TIME OFFER



www.ford.ca/offers

YOUR ONTARIO

FORD DEALERS.

WISE BUYERS READ THE LEGAL COPY: \*0.9% purchase financing on new in-stock 2000 Taurus/2000 Explorer/2000 F-150 excluding SVT Lightning and Harley Davidson Limited Editions for a maximum of 48 months to retail customers, on approved credit. E.g. \$15,000 financed at 0.9% annual percentage rate for 48 months, monthly payment is \$318.27, cost of borrowing is \$276.96 and total to be repaid is \$15,276.96. Down payment or equivalent trade may be required, based on approved credit. Financing not available with any other offer. \$1000 customer credit to the purchase of any new in-stock 2000 Mustang. Credit paid to dealer. Limited time offers. Offers may be cancelled at any time without notice. See Dealer for details. \*\*The highest front impact rating for both the driver and front passenger in U.S. government National Highway Traffic Safety Administration testing (www.nhtsa.com). Based on retail registrations year to date R.L. Polk Registration for August 2000 CYTD-1/May 2000 CYTD-4/December 1999 CYTD-2. Ontario FDA, P.O. Box 2000, Oakville, Ontario L6J 5E4