

## DON'T HIT ROAD WITHOUT IT

Part of being prepared for winter is having the right equipment handy if something goes wrong. A well-stocked winter driving kit helps to handle any emergency. It should include:

- Properly fitting tire chains;
- Bag of sand, salt or cat litter;
- Traction mats;
- Snow shovel and brush;
- Ice scraper;
- Booster cables;
- Warning devices such as flares or emergency lights;
- Fuel line de-icer;
- Extra windshield wiper fluid appropriate for sub-freezing temperatures;
- Roll of paper towels;
- Flashlight and a portable flashing light (extra batteries);
- Blanket;
- Extra clothing, including hat, wind-proof pants and warm footwear;
- First-aid kit;
- Snack bars or other "emergency" food and water;
- Matches and emergency candles — only use with a window opened to prevent build-up of carbon monoxide and;
- Road maps.

## Learn safety on trails

York Regional Police are working with local snowmobile clubs to provide training for people planning to hit the trails this winter.

The Georgina Trailriders Snowmobile club will train youth 12 to 16 years of age Saturday at the Georgina police station at 3527 Baseline Road. Training sessions will also be held Dec. 17 and Jan. 14. For information, call Jack Wilkinson at 905-476-2024 or Bob Bedford at 905-476-2236.

# Plow drivers bear brunt of winter road rage

BY CAROLINE GRECH  
Staff Writer

Sometimes it's a silver Tim Hortons coffee travel mug that gets hurled at them, other times it's a shovel.

Getting flipped the bird is almost expected with every shift.

As soon as the first few snowflakes fall on York Region's roads, snowplow drivers are the first ones out, clearing away snow, black ice and whatever other elements are on the region's streets.

Paul Brauweiler has been a snowplow driver for eight years and has been clearing roads for York Region for just more than two.

"It's thankless. We're up at 2 a.m. clearing the roads for people and we get coffee cups thrown at us," Mr. Brauweiler explained.

One morning, while he was clearing snow, someone threw a travel mug full of coffee at him.

Other times, while clearing a residential street, he has had shovels thrown at him.

"It's brutal some morn-

ings. You just shake your head," Mr. Brauweiler said.

But having coffee cups and shovels thrown at them isn't the worst situation in which they can find themselves.

That's reserved for when a driver gets agitated and impatient with them.

Doug Job, supervisor of roads for York Region, has had a collision with an irate driver who was trying to pass him.

"I've been hit. When we're driving, an echelon of cars want to get around. I've had a

car lose control and come in front of me," Mr. Job explained. "His car got plowed just like the snow."

Luckily, nobody got hurt, but Mr. Job stressed car collisions happen when drivers get impatient.

"We're clearing the roads for their safety. The public needs to know what we're up against when we're plowing the snow," Mr. Job said.

An average snow plow, when extended, is five metres wide and 10 metres long, with the driver at least six feet up.

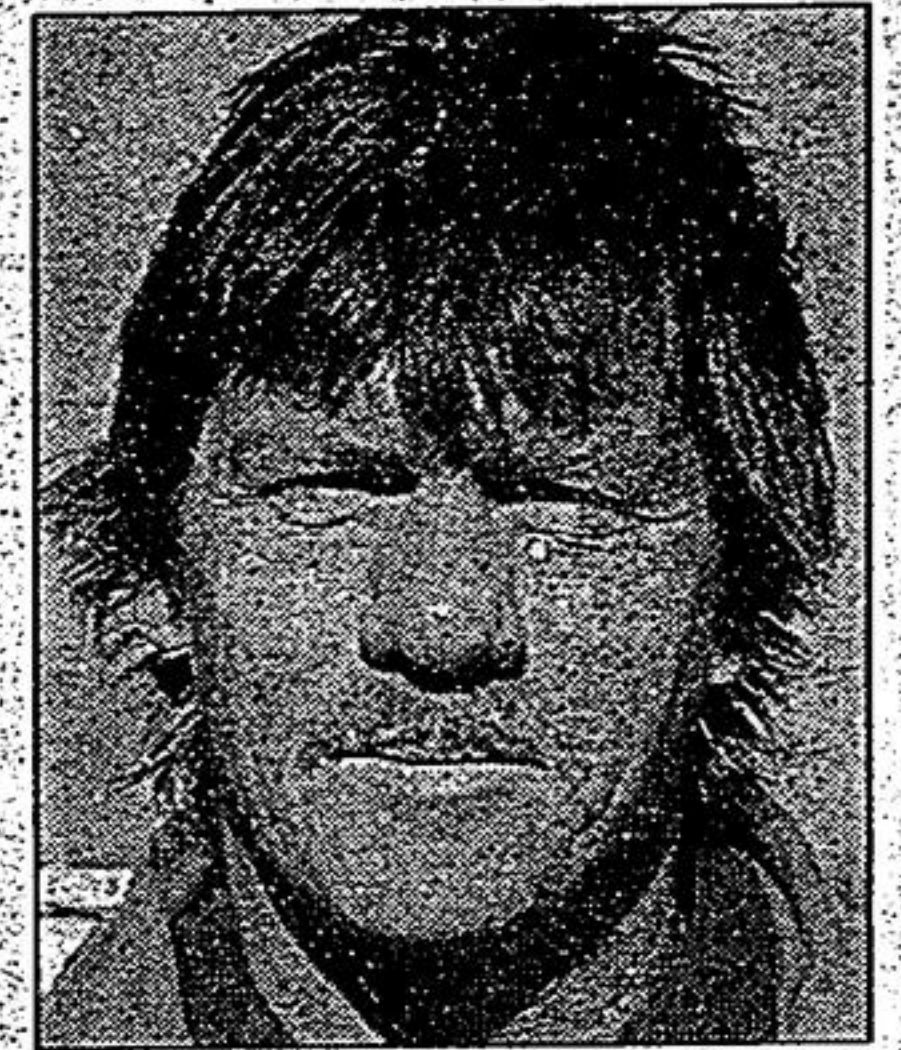
It is the equivalent of driving an average size in-ground swimming pool.

Manoeuvring a vehicle of this size, means driving significantly slower than the rest of traffic.

Mr. Brauweiler said he never likes to go more than 60 km/h when plowing roads, which will make drivers in a hurry more impatient.

The speed drops down to 40 km/h when they salt the roads.

"It's tough and it's scary sometimes," Mr. Brauweiler said.



**DOUG JOB:** Region's roads supervisor has collided with cars that spun out passing his plow.

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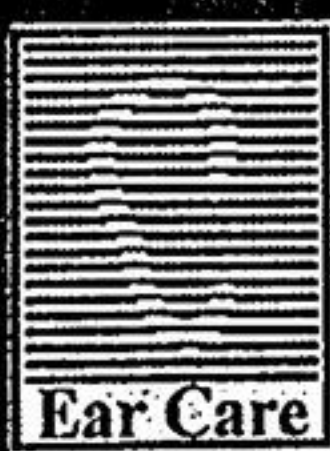
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