



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE
Premier Dalton McGuinty, York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge, Transportation Minister Donna Cansfield and Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Monte Kwinter view mangled vehicles, part of a display at the Community Safety Village in Whitchurch-Stouffville Thursday.

Ban all drinking, driving: MADD

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nation of red and blue lights on vehicles, making them more visible.

The legislation was introduced later in the day.

Mr. McGuinty told Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees — who was in attendance and had previously introduced a private member's street racing bill — he had an "influence for good" on the proposed legislation.

The province wants to send a clear message his government considers you dangerous if you drink and drive or street race, the premier said.

"There can be no tolerance in Ontario for people who put other people's lives at risk on our roads," Mr. McGuinty said.

Mr. Klees welcomed the government action but said he still wants nitrous oxide banned in vehicles that use public highways.

Nitrous oxide is a highly combustible fuel used in racing vehicles.

The crackdown was viewed as a good step by MADD Canada York Region chapter president Margaret Williams.

"Obviously, we're in favour of anything that will get impaired drivers off the road," Ms Williams said, adding she wants the government to introduce zero blood-alcohol content regulations.

"There should be no drinking and driving permitted at all," she said. "We know what it is like to have our loved ones wrenched from our lives and we don't want anyone else to go through that."

More than two people are killed every day and 10 people seriously injured on the province's roadways, Ms Williams said.

"Innocent bystanders, all too often, are the victims of these reckless acts," she said.

The cost of street racing was highlighted last summer, when seven year old Katie Manchester of Richmond Hill was left orphaned. Her parents, Rob and Lisa Manchester, were killed after being broadsided by a Honda at Yonge Street and Stouffville Road.

Last year, York police investigated 30 crashes in which 33 people died.

"The use of alcohol was a contributing factor in 12 of those motor vehicle collisions and aggressive driving was a contributing factor in eight," Chief Armand La Barge said.

Impaired driving offences increased 9 per cent last year in York Region.

"Behind these sobering statistics are families torn apart by the loss of a father or a mother, a brother, a sister, a son or a daughter," he said.

Stouffville 10th best investment

BY DAVID FLEISCHER
Staff Writer

Markham is already one of the fastest growing and most diverse municipalities in Canada. But now, a leading real estate analyst is saying it is one of the best places in which to invest as well.

The Real Estate Investment Network recently released a report ranking the top 10 towns in Ontario for investing in real estate. Based on detailed research and forecasting, the report found Markham was the fourth-best town in the province.

The Kitchener-Waterloo area placed first, followed by Barrie and Orillia.

Toronto placed eighth on the list and Whitchurch-Stouffville, at number 10, was the only other York Region municipality to make the cut.

The town was lauded for its untapped potential.

"With low vacancy rates, no substantial increase in the number of rental units planned for the future and a rising demand for the 'country in the city' lifestyle, the town's biggest problem will be dealing with its growth," said the report.

Aurora and Newmarket received honourable mentions alongside St. Catharines, Guelph, London, Orangeville and Mississauga.

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