

# More than 1,200 'distracted drivers' nabbed by cops

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During the past three months, York police have heard a lot of excuses after drivers are pulled over for so-called distracted driving.

One driver spun a tale of not actually talking on the phone but instead, using it to scratch an ear itch. Another driver tried to talk their way out of a ticket by claiming they were just holding their cellphone.

Police began issuing \$155 tickets Feb. 1. Since then there have been 447 warnings and 794 charges laid, Sgt. Ed Villamere said.

The charges have been laid for two infractions; using a handheld device while driving, such as a cellphone and driving while using a handheld entertainment device, such as a DVD or laptop.

Motorist can buy a hands-free device for less than the cost of the fine, Sgt. Villamere said.

The distracted driving law makes it illegal for drivers to talk, text, type, dial or e-mail using handheld cellphones and other handheld communications and entertainment devices.

Drivers can use the devices hands-free. The legislation also bans the viewing of display screens,

such as on-board DVD players.

You can't use your cellphone or GPS while stopped at a red light or while sitting in traffic. Rather, pull into a parking lot, Sgt. Villamere said.

*Motorist can buy a hands-free device for less than the cost of the fine.*

Even if you're using a paper map, police can still lay charges if you are

driving erratically, such as failing to drive in a marked lane or careless driving.

Distracted driver blitzes have been included as part of regular enforcement, York police said.

Even so, he regularly sees three and five motorists using handheld devices during his short drive to pick up his children from school.

"Ten tickets isn't going to stop some people," he said.

Drivers' compliance with the new legislation is not as high as it could be, Ontario Safety League president Brian Patterson said.

He sees several drivers a week using cellphones while driving,

he added.

Earlier this week, Toronto police enacted a zero-tolerance policy for the offence.

Sgt. Villamere noted the laying of charges remains at an officer's discretion and some people require different levels of education than others.

However, he rejected the idea police are going easy on drivers if some distracted driver aren't charged when pulled over.

Police are enforcing the distracted driving law as much as they are seatbelt legislation, for example, Sgt. Villamere said.

## What's On in Whitchurch-Stouffville



TOWN OF  
**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE**

### Leisure Services

Email: [leisure.services@townofws.com](mailto:leisure.services@townofws.com)  
Customer Service Phone: 905-642-PLAY (7529)

#### Youth Week Success

Once again the Mayors Youth Council (MYC) made Youth Week a great success. Thank you to all our contestants who took part in the *Stouffville has Talent* contest and to everyone who participated in the week long event. We would also like to thank Mayor Emmerson, Councillor Hilton, Mayor's Charity Golf Committee, MYC Chair, Erik Fraunberger and Co-Chair, Carlo Cilia and MYC members for their support and ongoing involvement with youth week events.

#### Community Garage Sale

Saturday May 15 - 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Stouffville Arena, 12483 Ninth Line  
Table rentals only \$20  
Call 905.642.PLAY (7529)



**YOU'VE BEEN SPOTTED BY THE HELMET PATROL**  
Weekly draws with great prizes, just wear your helmet while cycling to be spotted by the patrol.  
Cycle Safe!

#### NEW - Summer Skating

Begins the first week of June at the Stouffville Clippers Sports Complex - Keith Acton 2

Shinny Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Public Skate Wednesdays from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. and Sundays from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
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#### Summer Swimming Lessons

Registration begins on Tuesday June 1, 6:00 p.m. (Non-residents June 2) and is ongoing throughout the summer. Register online at [www.townofws.com](http://www.townofws.com) > WSPLAY or in person at the Lebovic Leisure Centre

#### SUMMER CAMP

Registration ongoing. Spaces still available for the 8, one-week sessions in *Our Neighbourhood Camp*. Home base for the camp is Stouffville District Secondary School.

### Museum



14732 Woodbine Avenue, Gormley  
Phone: 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337



Presented by the  
**Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Museum**  
Saturday, June 5th  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Spend the day exploring 12 heritage sites in our community (free of charge!).

Many of these heritage treasures are rarely open to the public. Don't miss this opportunity to see what happens behind-the-scenes! Sites include the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club, the Doctor's House (6659 Main Street), Charinda Belgian Chocolates, Richardson Masonic Lodge & a Walking Tour.

For more information visit: [www.doorsopenws.ca](http://www.doorsopenws.ca)

#### Did you know? The Log Cabin...



- was built sometime in the mid-1800s
- was originally located in Ballantrae on the property of John & Sue Miles
- was covered in insulbrick when it was discovered
- was badly damaged by fire sometime in the past
- moved to the museum in 1982

**DUE TO CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW VISITOR / COMMUNITY CENTRE THE MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED FROM MARCH 22 TO MAY 19, 2010.** Research appointments may still be possible - please call to confirm availability.



### Library

30 Burkholder Street, Stouffville  
Phone: 905-642-READ (7323) or 1-888-603-4292



#### MENTAL HEALTH LECTURE

Thursday, May 13  
7:00 p.m.  
With Dr. Jampa Yonten of the Tibetan Healing Centre  
Admission is free!



#### PRE-SCHOOL CRAFT!

Ages 3-6 years  
Wednesday, June 9 OR Thursday, June 10  
11:15 - 11:45 a.m. OR 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.  
Cost \$2.00/child  
Pre-registration is required!



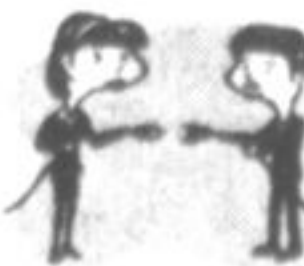
#### JOIN US FOR STORY TIME!

Mondays ..... 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
Wear Your PJ's!  
Tuesdays ..... 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Wednesdays .. 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.  
Ages 3-6 years



#### MOVIE AND DISCUSSION FOOD, Inc.

Thursday, May 27 - 7:00 p.m.  
An unflattering look inside America's corporate controlled food industry. Enjoy the movie and then participate in a lively discussion afterwards!  
Free Admission!



#### NETWORKING DROP-IN FOR BUSINESS PEOPLE

Tuesdays, February 16 - June 22  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
Work Alone? Run a Small Business? Would you like to network with others with a similar work life? Bring along your business cards and meet at the Library.



**BOOK CLUB SOCIAL**  
Thursday, June 3 - 7:00 p.m.  
Librarian, Catherine Sword, will demonstrate the NovelistPlus database.  
Everyone welcome!



19 Civic Ave., Box Office Hours: Wed. - Sat. • 1-6 p.m.  
[www.townofws.com/nineteen](http://www.townofws.com/nineteen) Phone: 905-640-2322

### 2010 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES!

Experience the BEST in Arts & Entertainment!

Saturday, June 26  
8 p.m.

JUSTIN HINES

"His musical talent needs no crutch..."

Really,

it seems like a

slam dunk."

The Globe & Mail

(Folk / Pop)

\$35 regular

\$20 students

Thursday, July 22 • 8 p.m.

ALEX J. ROBINSON

2009 CCMA Nominee -  
New Female Artist (Country)  
\$30 regular / \$20 students

Thursday, August 19 • 8 p.m.

"THEO TAMS | Up Close and Personal"

Canadian Idol Winner!  
(Pop / Adult Contemporary)  
\$30 regular / \$20 student

ONLINE TICKETING AVAILABLE!