

ARRESTING INFORMATION



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

York Regional Police officer Melanie Moffatt chats with Ojeer Mohammed and daughter Sharon Seecharah about crime prevention at the Markham Fall Home Show at the Markham Fairgrounds yesterday. The show continues through tomorrow at 5 p.m.

Markham, Stouffville callers caught

Figures released by York Regional Police show motorists are still using handheld devices.

When the law came into effect Feb. 1, it banned the use of any handheld device.

Since police began ticketing drivers, they have handed out 2,264 infractions.

The majority of offenders were caught in Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville, where police issued 631 tickets.

Vaughan was next with 486, Richmond Hill third at 387, Newmarket next with 213 and Georgina officers caught 30 motorists.

Another 498 were handed out by sup-

port service officers, the figures reveal.

The province enacted the law last October and gave motorists a five-month grace period to get used to it.

In that time, York Regional Police officers issued 256 warnings.

According to studies, a motorist distracted by a cellphone, GPS or any other handheld device is four times more likely to be involved in a crash than someone paying attention to the road, police said.

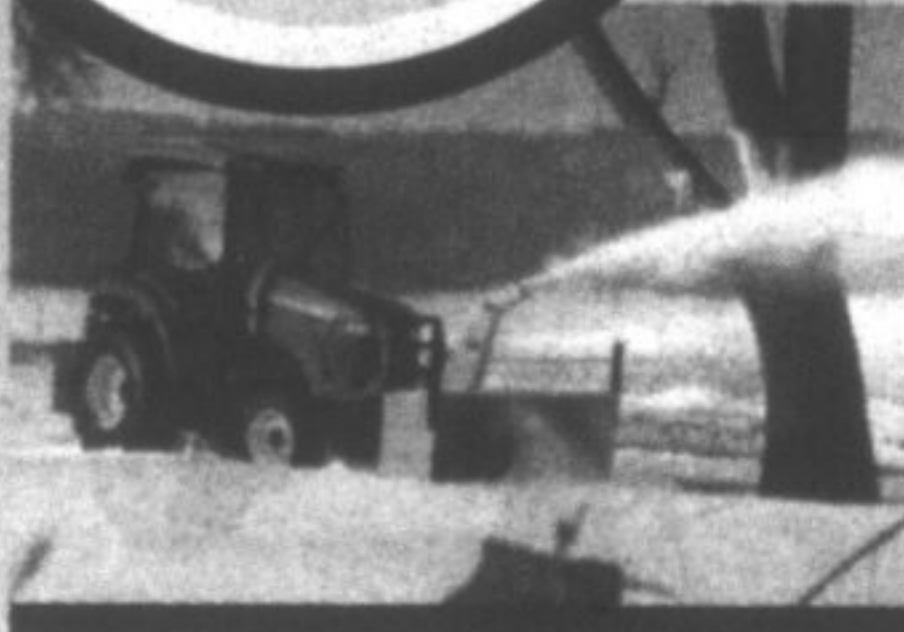
Dialing and texting carry the highest risks for a crash. Under the law, you could be fined a maximum of \$500 if you are caught texting, typing, e-mailing, dialing or using any sort of a handheld device while driving.



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