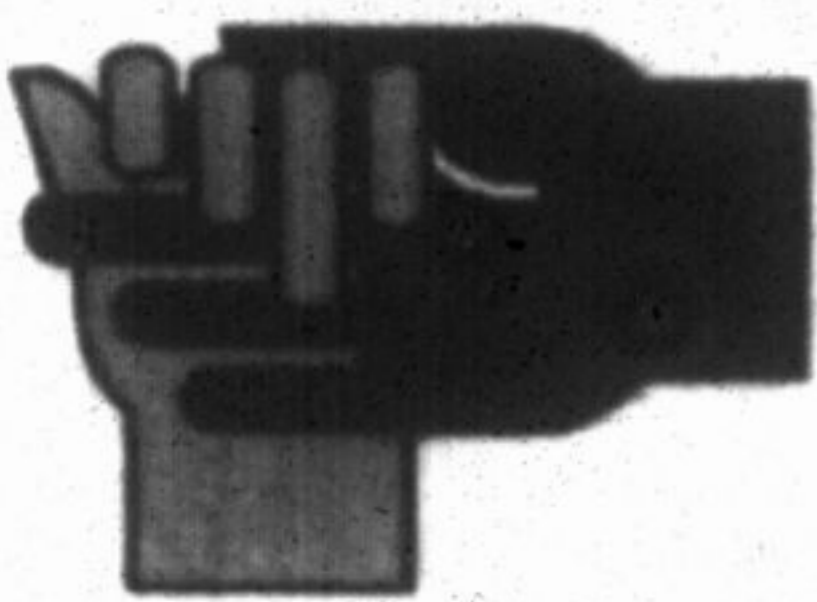


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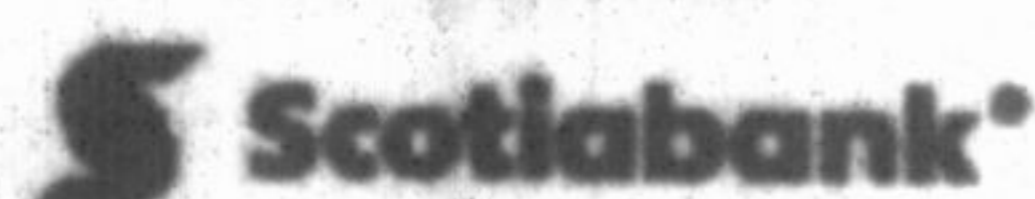
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## Increase in crashes linked to time change

From page 1.

improve their visibility to drivers.

It's a particularly important time for the initiative, because research shows pedestrians are most likely to be involved in a collision as we return to Eastern Standard Time, the region says.

Pedestrian safety is something close to the heart of Jennifer Seixeiro. Her brother Steven, 17, was killed while walking in Vaughan last year.

He was struck and killed by a tractor trailer Jan. 12, 2010 while crossing Keele Street at Rutherford Road. Steven was heading to school early to study for exams.

His death, one of 10 pedestrian fatalities in 2010 — the highest number in five years — shook his sister.

Ms Seixeiro, 26, wants the government to mandate large vehicles to have guards that keep cyclists and pedestrians from being caught underneath them. Stricter penalties for drivers who kill pedestrians are also needed, she said.

She believes large, suburban intersections are not pedestrian friendly.

"I'm sure his death really brought awareness to the cause," she said, describing her brother as a caring, compassionate young man who was a good son.

The issue has caught the attention of the province, which announced Monday the chief coroner's office will review pedestrian deaths across Ontario — focusing on those in 2010.

It's "about time" the government investigates pedestrian deaths, Ms Seixeiro said.

But while reviews and education initiatives continue, collision numbers may climb as more cars travel our roads and more people

move into our communities, Staff Sgt. Bulmer noted.

He also acknowledged some drivers — and pedestrians — taking a me-first attitude, is part of the problem.

"It's like they are the No. 1 priority," he said.

It's a view shared by Ontario Safety League president Brian Patterson, who said he sees plenty of discourteous, self-centred behaviour from all types of road users.

It was unfortunate that when Ontario's distracted driving legislation was written, penalties did not include demerit points, he said.

Along with distracted driving legislation, which can result in a fine of \$155 for a driver caught texting or talking on their cellphone without a hands-free device, Ontario's road laws have recently changed to leave you without a vehicle for seven days if you are caught 50 km/h or more above the posted limit and now includes a three-day roadside suspension for blowing a blood alcohol concentration between 0.05 and 0.08 mgs.

But despite those changes and the subsequent police blitzes that encourage drivers to put down their cellphones, keep an eye out for impaired driving and be more courteous to pedestrians, a long-term trend shows collisions in York Region are on the rise, according to a recent regional transportation services committee report.

Mr. Patterson agrees there's a lot of value in driver education, adding it's staggering how much technology drivers can mount in their vehicles, increasing the number of distractions around them.

Ultimately, it will take a combination of education, research, compliance with road laws and real deterrent to improve road safety, he said.

## Doors open after Santa parade

From page 1.

open its doors Dec. 3 immediately after the Santa Claus Parade finishes, will be equipped with 10 four-foot by eight-foot Boston tables, a snooker table, as well as foosball and a couple of other games.

There will be five flatscreen TVs located throughout the space and a snack bar with

hot dogs, nachos, chips and pop for sale.

"You can see a father coming in with their 10- to 11-year-old kids," Mr. Nelson said.

The tables will be rented by the hour and the hall can also be booked to host parties. Leagues are also a possibility.

Stouffville Family Billiards, 6276 Main St., is expected to be open from 2 to 10 p.m. with extended hours on the weekends.



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