

Stouffville drivers among least accident prone in York: study

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Three Vaughan communities have ranked near the bottom of a survey that indicates York Region drivers are some of the most accident prone in the GTA.

Although the company's clients have reduced the number of crashes in which they were involved during the past few years, six York Region communities rank in the bottom 20 of 46 in Ontario, according to data compiled by Allstate Insurance.

The Ontario safe driving study looks at Allstate Canada customer claims data from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012.

Maple, Thornhill and Woodbridge are

among the worst in the region, ranking 44, 40 and 34. They are joined by Aurora at 33, Richmond Hill at 32 and Markham at 30.

In all, Maple motorists reported 6.14 collisions per 100 vehicles, while Thornhill had 5.89, according to the list.

Despite the poor scores, many communities are in much better shape than past years, including Thornhill, which improved 16 per cent from dead last two years ago, and Maple, which improved by almost 12 per cent. Richmond Hill and Markham also improved.

York Regional Police Staff Sgt. Brad Bulmer said he would suspect many York Region municipalities placed near the bottom because of the type of driving motorists are

doing in those communities.

"It's interesting that many of the communities at the bottom of the list are close to the northern edge of Toronto," he said, noting these motorists are more frequently behind the wheel and travelling greater distances than those in other centres.

Towns near the top of the list are largely self-contained communities, including Brockville, Welland and Greater Sudbury, he noted.

One must be cautious when drawing conclusions from basic statistics that don't take into account factors including the severity of the accidents logged, Staff Sgt. Bulmer added.

Communities closer to the top of the list include Newmarket (25), Stouffville (21) and Georgina/Keswick (9), down from fifth two years ago.

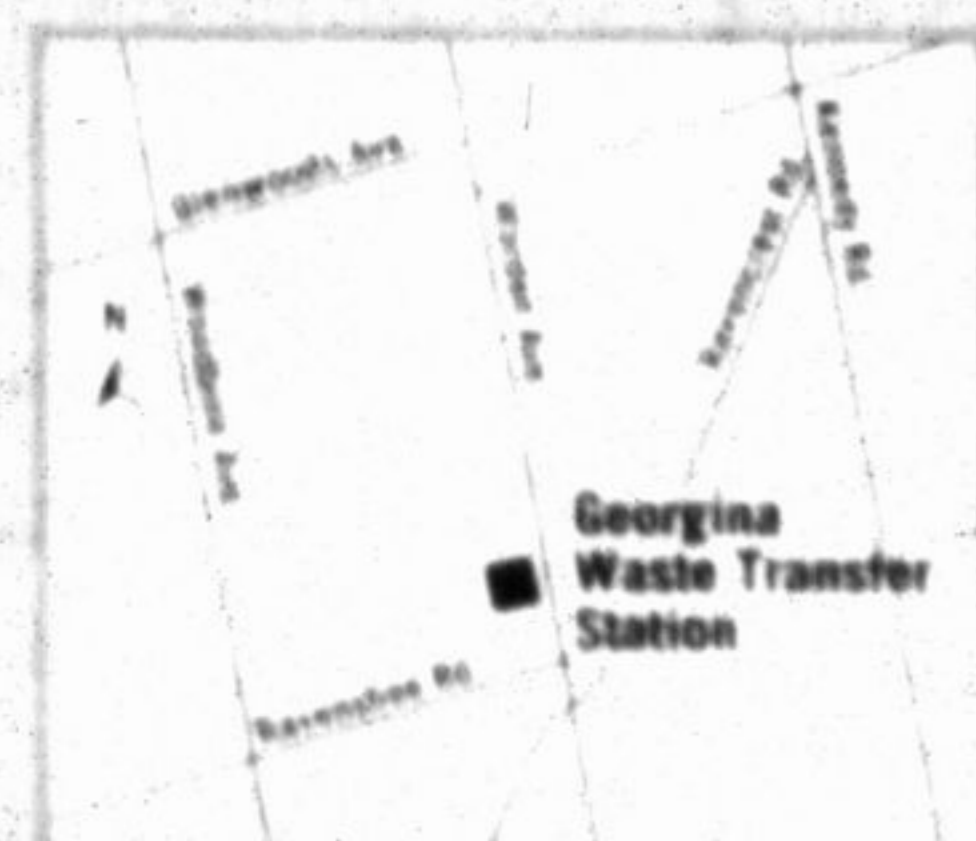
The number of collisions in each of these communities have increased from past surveys, although only Georgina/Keswick has gone up by more than 5 per cent.

Allstate released the information to help reduce the number of accidents in York Region and throughout the province, spokesperson Lisa McWatt said.

One of the findings is that there are more deaths in collisions in clear weather, suggesting drivers take more chances in clear conditions, she said.

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