

Serious injuries in Ninth Line crash

Two people were sent to hospital with lifethreatening injuries after a serious crash just south of Stoufffville Tuesday.

The police reconstruction unit is investigating the 6:30 a.m. crash and had closed roads around Ninth Line and Elgin Mills Road.

This was just one of the 10 crashes witnessed across York Region during the morning as the season's first snowfall wreaked havoc for some commuters.

However, according to York Regional Police Const. Andy Pattenden, the low number of crashes indicates many people are still off work for the holidays.

Teen charged with stunt driving

A 19-year-old Stouffville man has been charged with stunt driving.

Around 12:35 a.m. Dec. 19, a York Regional Police officer stopped the man for driving his 2009 Jeep Patriot north on Hwy. 48, near Bloomington Road, at more than 50 km/h more than the posted speed limit of 60 km/h.

Along with the charge of stunt driving, which resulted in a seven-day impoundment of his vehicle, he was charged with speeding as well as having a dirty licence plate and improper muffler and tires.

As a Class G1 license holder, he was also charged with being unaccompanied by a qualified driver and driving at an unlawful hour.

Drunk drivers welcome in 'hotel'

The drunkest person York police have ever witnessed at the Markham detachment was a man picked up for impaired driving who had 400 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood.

Although it may vary depending on the man's size, weight and the length of time he spent drinking alcohol, one officer estimated that ratio represents about 27 beers. These are the tidbits you pick up when you visit the police cells where men and women charged with drunk driving are held while they sober up.

Those cells were on display at yesterday's media event dubbed L'Hotel de York Regional Police, a tongue-in-cheek look at what might happen to you if you're ever nabbed for impaired driving. (See photographs on yorkregion.com)

Visitors to the "hotel" are not only forced to sleep on a concrete bed and urinate in a stainless steel toilet, but they are also forced to suffer the indignity of being locked behind steel bars for between eight to 10 hours while the alcohol leaves their system.

"The first comment is always, 'Why are you handcuffing me, I'm not a criminal'?" York Const. Andy Pattenden said. "They soon realize this is not a jovial process ... and when the bars slam shut, it all begins to sink in."

As for costs, police lists \$12,996.75 as the minimum cost of dealing with an impaired charge, including \$10,000 for legal fees and \$1,000 for the impaired driving fine.

The inventive form of awareness by YPR comes as the region has seen a spike in the number of impaired charges in 2015. This past year, there were 1,820 charges, up from 1,700 last year — including 223 impaired-related collisions.

– Jeremy Grimaldi and Sandra Bolan



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