

## Distracted driving

Distracted Driving is a growing issue and it's on track to become a bigger problem.

Between 2002 and 2011, there was a 39 per cent increase in deaths resulting from inattentive and distracted driving, as well as a 26 per cent increase in injuries, according to Ontario's Ministry of Transportation.

So far in 2014, the OPP report, 31 people have died in collisions that were a result of in attentive and distracted driving. In 2013, incidents of in attentive driving ? including:

? Driving while using a hand held device like a cellphone ? resulted in 86 deaths on Ontario's roads. Those 86 fatalities accounted for one-third of all deaths attributed to traffic collisions in 2013. There were more deaths on the road caused by distracted driving than either drunk driving (65) or failing to wear as seat belt (71).

Transportation ministry officials say current collision trends show there's no doubt that inattentive driving will become a more significant factor in traffic fatalities than drinking and driving by 2016.

Since the Ontario Government passed a distractive driving law in 2010, more than 283,00 charges have been laid. A conviction carries a \$280 fine. Ontario Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca says he hopes to legislation introduced this fall which will beef-up the penalty with increased fines and demerit points.

With school about to begin, motorists are once again reminded to be extra vigilant which means not using handheld devices.