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## Traffic blitz cracks down on aggressive drivers

By **Jeremy Ashley**

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On the shoulder of Old Highway 2, Sgt. Bruce Quigg put an oncoming motorist in the cross-hairs.

The minivan — about a kilometre away — was traveling at 86 km/h in a posted 60 km/h zone through the Bayside area shortly after 10 a.m.

“You see,” the Quinte West OPP officer said while adjusting his laser radar, “I can pinpoint his vehicle, how fast he is traveling and his exact distance from me.”

Nearby Quinte West OPP traffic Const. Jamie Sullivan received a nod from Quigg. The officer walked out onto the busy highway and motioned at the oncoming motorist to pull to the side of the road.

The radar, which cost about \$5,000 and can target a vehicle as far away as five kilometres, is an effective tool for traffic enforcement, Quigg said.

“With this piece of equipment, we can now target areas which we couldn’t before. In school zones, for instance, people would be right on us — and of course, would slow right down.

“Now, we can be somewhere outside the school zone and picking off speeders from a location where it would be extremely difficult to spot us.”

Members of the Quinte West OPP traffic unit had ample opportunities to try out its latest gadget, Wednesday, as officers joined more than 20 across Prince Edward and Hastings counties in a surprise traffic blitz in an effort to crack down on a variety of aggressive driving tactics.

The day-long event, held as a promotion of the three-week ‘Aggressive Driving Kills’ campaign in May, had officers working identified problem areas along Highways 62 and 27 in Centre Hastings, high-traffic areas within Stirling, school zones in Trenton and the busier sections of Picton.

“We want people to think about their driving habits all of the time — not just during our three-week campaign,” said Kerry Jianopoulos of the health unit, which is involved in co-ordinating the initiative with the Belleville Police Service.

“So we organized this effort in the hopes that some people will change their driving behaviours.”

Belleville police Const. Doug Norman said organizers have considered holding similar one-day traffic blitzes throughout the year — not just around the time of police driving campaigns.

“This is also to keep people on their toes ... you never know when we’re going to be out there doing something like this. I can say that we are going to have at least a couple more at sporadic times in the year.”

During last year’s official campaign, officers with Belleville police and provincial police in Quinte West and Centre Hastings laid more than 1,400 Highway Traffic Act charges. While geared primarily to make motorists aware of their bad driving habits — police typically hand out information booklets while issuing a ticket — Norman said throughout the initiative police enact a zero-tolerance policy toward any traffic violation.

Wednesday, however, officers didn’t have any information booklets to pass along to motorists.

“Not today ... we’re just handing out a yellow piece of literature, with 15 days to make an option,” Norman said, referring to a typical traffic ticket.