Impaired driver in King calls police for help to get his car started

By Mark Pavilons

A Richmond Hill man found an innovative way to call for help.

York Regional Police charged the 27-year-old man with impaired-related charges after receiving a call from him requesting assistance to get his vehicle started.

Shortly after 2:30 a.m., Nov. 24, police received a non-emergency call from a man asking for help to get his car started. He was able to tell the call taker that he was in the area of Bathurst Street and King Road near King City. The call taker could hear the engine revving in the background as the driver attempted to get his vehicle moving.

Officers located the car stopped on the shoulder of King Road just east of Bathurst. The car was running, with the lights and windshield wipers on. They spoke to the driver who was showing obvious signs of being impaired by alcohol. The driver was arrested and taken to the station for a breath test, where he blew over the legal limit of alcohol.

Police stress that impaired care or control is a criminal offence for which a person can be charged with if they are impaired by drug or alcohol and make attempts to operate a vehicle. The vehicle does not need to be moving to be subject to the offence of impaired care or control.

Police encourage everyone to call 9-1-1 if they believe a motorist is impaired by drugs or alcohol. They will respond to these calls promptly as they are considered to be crimes in progress.