



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

A semi-monthly compilation of national, provincial and local news stories on road safety

For the period November 1st to 15th, 2014

Ontario Minister of Transportation makes three announcements at OTA convention

November 13, 2014, Truck News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Steven Del Duca, the Ontario Minister of Transportation dropped some major announcements and policy changes today at the OTA's annual convention. Del Duca told about 500 attendees of the OTA convention that he supports Electronic Logging Devices.

“Ontario also supports the concept of using Electronic Logging Devices as an effective tool for monitoring hours of service compliance by commercial motor vehicle drivers,” he said.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

A step toward pedestrian right-of-way in Hamilton

November 13, 2014, Inside Halton (HAMILTON, ONTARIO)

Pedestrians are poised to get the right-of-way more often when crossing Hamilton's reputedly dangerous streets – just as soon as the province makes it legal to do so.

The province has announced plans to update Highway Traffic Act regulations with an eye to making walking and cycling safer.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

Photo-radar secret revealed: zero tickets for minor speeding

November 13, 2014, CBC News (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

Those hush-hush speeding ticket numbers that city council kept as a closely guarded secret, too sensitive to share with the public, stayed that way for less than 24 hours.

On Thursday, the transportation department revealed that exactly zero tickets were handed out in the last four years to drivers going five km/h or less over the posted speed limit.

More than 70 per cent of the tickets were given to drivers going 15 km/h or more over the limit, said Gord Cebryk, branch manager of transportation operations for the city.

The transportation committee met Thursday to discuss a report about traffic safety.

Ten people showed up to speak to a range of issues. Among them was Dr. Louis Francescutti, an emergency room physician and University of Alberta professor, who thinks photo radar is an effective tool to curb speeding and save lives.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

Urban-rural divide leaves N.S. second in traffic fatalities

November 12, 2014, Chronical Herald (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

Nova Scotia has the second-highest car accident mortality rate in the country, according to a new federal report.

There were 12 collision fatalities per 100,000 licensed drivers in the province in 2012, according to Transport Canada's national collision database.

Only Saskatchewan, with double that number, had a higher rate. The national average was 8.6.

But this is only part of the picture.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

Manitoba Public Insurance's popular 'Friends for Life' speaker series back for another year

November 12, 2014, MPI (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Thousands of teenagers across the province will hear about the deadly consequences of impaired driving this month thanks to the return of Manitoba Public Insurance's popular 'Friends for Life' speaker series.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

Pedestrians need to respect the rules

November 11, 2014, Sundre Roundup (SUNDRE, ALBERTA)

With dozens of walkers dying in vehicle-pedestrian collisions on Alberta roads and streets every year, the province has launched a new awareness campaign aimed at making things safer.

The "When eyes lock, it's safer to walk" safety campaign is being spearheaded by Alberta Transportation in conjunction with RCMP and other stakeholders throughout the month of November.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

KANETIX sponsors first-of-its-kind distracted driving program in Ontario

November 11, 2014, Canada Newswire (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

KANETIX is excited to support the launch of a first-of-its-kind anti-distracted driving training program in Ontario. Brought forth by non-profit organization Teens Learn to Drive, the Impact Teen Drivers program speaks directly to the people responsible for educating teenagers on matters of safe and attentive driving practices—from police officers, to public health workers and non-profit organizations, to driving instructors and teachers.

"It's really important that we continue to bring forward this message that distracted driving is incredibly dangerous—even though you're an excellent texter, even though you've been drinking coffee for the last 10 years while you drive," said Anne Marie Hayes, founder of Teens Learn to Drive. "All it takes is one mistake and it can change your life—or end it."

[Continue reading this post...](#)

Hands-free car tech does more harm than good

November 10, 2014, Globe and Mail (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Hands-free systems, whether on your phone or in your car, aren't officially regulated or tested. That's a problem, because when voice-activated systems don't work well, they can be more distracting than picking up a phone, studies show.

"No one's minding the store," says David Strayer, a University of Utah cognitive neurologist. "I think ultimately, having guidelines or standards would make sense - there's nothing along those lines now."

[Continue reading this post...](#)

Fleet Safety Council honours members

November 10, 2014, Truck News (NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO)

The Fleet Safety Council took some time out from educating its members to honour some deserving ones during its 23rd Annual Educational Conference.

Two of the council's chapters put forward the names of individuals and companies for their outstanding commitments to their jobs and the industry as a whole.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

Transport Canada warns of 'threat' to safety at Fallowfield rail crossing

November 9, 2014, Ottawa Citizen (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

On Thursday, an OC Transpo bus stopped under the railway crossing arm and, according to Valencik's letter, was "in close proximity to a passing Via train." The incident was captured in a photo and circulated online.

The bus was along the same route as last fall's crash in which six people were killed after an OC Transpo bus drove through the gate and struck the side of a Via train.

The Transport Canada letter asks the city to advise by Nov. 21 how it intends to resolve "these hazards or conditions."

[Continue reading this post...](#)

City of Calgary tests out rapid flash beacons at pedestrian crosswalks

November 6, 2014, Global News (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

Calgary is the first city in Canada to test a new high-tech system aimed at keeping pedestrians safe.

Rectangular rapid flash beacons have been installed at 10 crosswalks across the city with another 10 scheduled to go up next year.

“We are looking at hotspots,” said Councillor Druh Farrell on Thursday. “There are certain intersections in this city that are really dangerous for pedestrians and they’ve had multiple collisions and some deaths.”

[Continue reading this post...](#)

Are mobile truck ads a distraction for drivers?

November 5, 2014, Global News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Mobile truck advertisements have critics questioning whether it is a major driving distraction.

“Anything that distracts a driver from a driving task is going to be quite dangerous,” said Angelo DiCicco, the GTA Director of Young Drivers Of Canada.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

OPP to Drivers: Help us prevent another chaotic winter on roads

November 5, 2014, Canada Newswire (ORILLIA, ONTARIO)

The more than 33,000 road collisions on Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) patrolled roads last winter has the OPP asking road users to be part of the solution to reduce the number of preventable collisions over the 2014-2015 winter.

Poor driving behaviour - not poor weather or road conditions - was a primary contributing factor in many of last winter's single and multi-vehicle crashes, taking an unrelenting toll on road users, the movement of traffic and the provincial social costs associated with motor vehicle collisions.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

McGarry's mandate: Working on road safety, advising on provincial cycling strategy

November 4, 2014, Cambridge Times (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Among MPP Kathryn McGarry's chief duties are working to "help maintain" Ontario as a leader in North American road safety, and advising on the implementation of the province's first cycling strategy.

Those are the first two bullet items in a letter to McGarry, made public this week, from Minister of Transport Steven Del Duca. McGarry, who is in her first term of office representing Cambridge and North Dumfries, serves as his parliamentary assistant.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

Drug use tests for Canadian drivers coming soon - A national forensics panel is currently examining three devices for roadside drug tests.

November 3, 2014, Toronto Star (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Sticking your tongue out at the cop who's pulled you over – never a good idea – is likely to become even more fraught in the near future.

With federal legislation to authorize their roadside use in the offing, devices that can detect marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines and methamphetamines in saliva are almost certainly on their way to Canadian highways.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

Heads Up Halifax highlights vehicle-pedestrian safety

November 3, 2014, CBC News (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

The switch from Daylight Savings Time makes crossing Halifax streets even more dangerous, and that's prompting the city to highlight crosswalk safety awareness...

...Collisions involving pedestrians in crosswalks peak at this time of year when it gets dark earlier.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

Media Advisory: MADD Canada, police partners and sponsors launch Project Red Ribbon to inspire sober driving this holiday season

November 3, 2014, Market Wired (ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK)

...Joining MADD Canada to kick off the annual campaign to promote sober driving over the holiday season are representatives from the Government of New Brunswick and the City of Saint John, the Saint John Police, Kennebecasis Regional Police, the RCMP, and representatives from generous campaign sponsors, Allstate Insurance Company of Canada and Irving Oil.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

Ontario's Doctors asking everyone to keep streets safe during darker months

November 3, 2014, Canada Newswire (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

With the sun setting earlier, Ontario's doctors are urging both pedestrians and drivers to be alert and take charge of the safety of our roads.

The end of Daylight Savings Time means it will be darker earlier in the evening, and visibility will be reduced during some of the busiest times on our roads, affecting both pedestrians and drivers.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

Halton police ask motorists to take Crime Prevention Week pledge against distracted driving

November 1, 2014, Inside Halton (OAKVILLE, ONTARIO)

Halton police are encouraging motorists to break the deadly habit of distracted driving by supporting their “thumbs up” campaign and taking a pledge during Crime Prevention Week Nov. 3-7.

...In support of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) week-long crime prevention initiative, Halton police have launched their “Thumbs Up Against Distracted Driving” campaign.

[Continue reading this post...](#)

Canadian Events & Conferences in 2014 & 2015

ACT Canada (Association of Commuter Transportation of Canada)
Sustainable Mobility and Healthy Communities Summit – 2014
Markham, Ontario
November 30 - December 3, 2014
[Learn more...](#)

Call for Nominations
TAC 2015 Decade of Action Road Safety Awards
Submission Deadline: December 19, 2014
[Learn more...](#)

Call for Nominations
TAC Technical Excellence Awards
Submission Deadline: February 13, 2015
[Learn more...](#)

25th CARSP Conference (formerly Canadian Multidisciplinary Road Safety Conference or CMRSC).
Theme: Road Safety: The Road Ahead
Call for Abstracts Deadline Extended to November 21, 2014
Delta Ottawa City Centre
Ottawa, Ontario
May 27 - 30, 2015
[Learn more...](#)

Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers (CITE) 2015 Conference
Theme: Supporting a Healthy Vibrant Community
Call for Abstracts Deadline Nov 15, 2014
Regina, Saskatchewan
June 7-10, 2015
[Learn more...](#)

CCMTA Annual Meeting
Yukon Convention Centre
Whitehorse, Yukon
June 16-19, 2015
[Learn more...](#)

Prepared by:
The Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals (CARSP)

Email: info@carsp.ca

Web: www.carsp.ca

If you are aware of road safety news items or upcoming conferences that should be included in this Safety News Digest, please forward them to info@carsp.ca

