



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period November 16th to 30th, 2014

CounterAttack roadchecks on now

November 28, 2014, ICBC (BURNABY, B.C.)

Today, the B.C. government, police and ICBC launched the December CounterAttack campaign to urge drivers to plan ahead for a safe ride home if their holiday festivities involve alcohol.

While attitudes toward drinking and driving have changed considerably over the years, an average of 86 lives are still lost every year in B.C.*

“Even after more than 35 years, CounterAttack remains a cornerstone of our provincial enforcement strategies that, together with changing public attitudes and our tough Immediate Roadside Prohibition program, have helped to reduce the alcohol-related death toll on B.C. roads to record lows,” said Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice. “CounterAttack remains about preserving and building on these vital public safety gains.”

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Supreme Court to hear pair of impaired driving cases

November 27, 2014, CTV News (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to hear a pair of cases involving drivers stopped by police at roadside checks.

One of the cases involves a British Columbia man who got a warning reading after blowing into a roadside screening device.

Lee Michael Wilson received a three-day driving ban in September 2012 after the roadside device registered a blood-alcohol level in the warning range.

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Pedestrian collisions spike in treacherous driving conditions

November 26, 2014, CBC News (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

Police across Metro Vancouver are blaming the terrible weather for a spike in the number of collisions involving pedestrians.

Between Tuesday and Wednesday morning, police were called to nearly 20 incidents involving pedestrians across the Lower Mainland.

In Vancouver alone, police say they were called to 40 vehicle collisions, including nine involving pedestrians and two involving cyclists, all in about 24 hours.

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Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) to launch Wildlife-Vehicle Collision (WVC) clearing house

November 26, 2014, TIRF (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

TIRF is pleased to announce that it has received funding from State Farm Canada to develop an online wildlife-vehicle collision (WVC) clearing house. The development of the clearing house stems from a comprehensive review of this road safety issue and a feasibility study to investigate strategies to address the problem.

“The TIRF feasibility study, also funded by State Farm Canada and released in 2012, revealed important gaps in research and knowledge about WVCs, and a lack of complete data sources that can inform our understanding of the causes and consequences of this problem,” explains President and CEO, Robyn Robertson...

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Police partner with MADD for Operation Christmas

November 26, 2014, Government of Nova Scotia (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

Government and law enforcement agencies are coming together to launch Operation Christmas.

The annual campaign, aimed at reducing impaired driving and encouraging motorists to practise safe winter driving, was launched today, Nov. 26, in Annapolis Royal.

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Toronto to narrow traffic lanes in hopes of increasing safety

November 25, 2014, Globe and Mail (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Toronto will narrow many of the city's traffic lanes in a bid to increase safety by reining in speeds while freeing up space for bicycle lanes or wider sidewalks.

The city has just finished a new policy for lane widths, guidelines that will be rolled out gradually across Toronto.

It will mean that, over a period of years, the lanes on streets across the city will be redrawn. A city official said current widths can encourage drivers to go faster than necessary. The new lanes will generally range from 3 to 4.3 metres, depending on location.

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BC Coroners Service highlights pedestrian safety

November 23, 2014, The Castlegar Source (CASTLEGAR, B.C.)

A new review from the BC Coroners Service shows risks to pedestrians and other vulnerable road users remain high on B.C.'s roads even as risks to occupants of motor vehicles continue to decline.

The BC Coroners' data shows that between 2008 and 2012, the number of vehicle drivers and passengers who died in motor vehicle incidents dropped by more than one third. But the number of pedestrians killed remained constant over that five-year period at about 55 each year.

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Updated auto radar standard to improve road safety

November 21, 2014, Market Wired (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The radar technology in cars uses radio waves to measure the speed and distance of approaching objects. This technology is being used in the automotive industry to offer features such as adaptive cruise control, which will help drivers avoid collisions thereby making Canadian roads safer.

Industry Minister James Moore today announced changes to Canada's standard on radars, or field disturbance sensors, which will allow the latest safety features to be included in new cars sold in Canada.

Starting in 2015, select cars sold in Canada will be able to incorporate this new radar technology.

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Demerits needed to curb distracted drivers, chief urges province

November 21, 2014, CBC News (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

The province needs to assess demerit points for distracted driving if it wants to get motorists to ignore their mobile devices while behind the wheel, says Edmonton's police chief.

"People are just not responding," said Rod Knecht. "I would say it's getting worse as opposed to better."

Police have issued more distracted driving tickets every year since 2011 when distracted driving became illegal, he said.

"We're giving out more tickets but people are just saying - it's an annoyance, it's the cost of doing business."

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Here's the guy who keeps hitting pedestrians male, forty-something, in a hurry

November 21, 2014, The Coast (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

The person running into pedestrians in Halifax is a male, in his forties, driving through rush-hour traffic near the end of his work week. He'll probably hit a woman in a crosswalk who's between the ages of 21 and 30.

That's averaging out the most recent figures from Halifax Regional Police on vehicle/pedestrian collisions, which will be presented to the crosswalk safety advisory committee next week.

Over half of the drivers who hit pedestrians were between 31 and 60, and heavily swayed to the male gender. Men were responsible for close to 70 percent of accidents, even though they represent less than half of the drivers on HRM roads.

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Remembrance: Ceremony and vigil honours Canadian road crash victims

November 20, 2014, Toronto Star (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

We seldom give much thought to the victims of fatal traffic accidents until the news hits close to home, taking the lives of friends and loved ones.

As five people die on Canadian roads every day, the tragic consequences become painfully real to those left to mourn the loss and face the struggle to live on.

The third Wednesday of November has, since 2007, marked the day to remember those killed or injured in road crashes, to raise awareness and prevent senseless road accidents caused by impaired, distracted, fatigued and aggressive driving, speeding and failure to wear seat belts.

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Keeping Road Safety on “TRAC” - Expanding DalTRAC's "Share the Road" campaign

November 20, 2014, Dal News (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

...DalTRAC (Dalhousie (University) Transportation Collaboratory) focuses on the collection an analysis of transportation data to determine trends and action programs. Over the past few years, DalTRAC has been about gathering data on transportation in Nova Scotia, something they're looking to expand on with provincial support. Last month, DalTRAC held an event with the Nova Scotia Department of Energy to announce the expansion of its “Share the Road” campaign across the province.

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Road fatalities steadily decreasing – Manitoba Public Insurance

November 19, 2014, MPI (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Fatality rates on Manitoba roadways have been steadily decreasing over the last two decades, Manitoba Public Insurance announced today – the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims in Canada.

According to data collected by Manitoba Public Insurance, there were 85 fatalities on public roads in 2013, which is a decline of 11.5 per cent from the 96 fatalities reported in 2012, and a decline of 9.6 per cent from the preceding five-year average (2008-2012).

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#RememberRoadVictims: November 19, 2014 - National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims

November 19, 2014, Canada Newswire (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Wednesday, November 19 is the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims in Canada. Since 2007, the third Wednesday of November has been set aside for Canadians to remember those who have lost their lives or been seriously injured on Canadian roads. Each year in this country, almost 2,100 people are killed in road crashes, and almost another 165,000 are injured.

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A day to remember road crash victims

November 19, 2014, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Today is National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, time set aside to honour those injured or killed in traffic collisions.

"Collisions are traumatic events, and the effects can be long lasting," said Andrew Cartmell, President and CEO of SGI. "Not only for the victims, but for the loved ones of those hurt or left behind."

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Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals Remembers Road Crash Victims on November 19th

November 19, 2014, CARSP (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Today marks the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims in Canada. The 300 members of the Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals together with our colleagues in road safety across the country stand in solidarity as we pay tribute the thousands of Canadian victims and families touched by these tragedies.

"Preventing serious injuries and deaths on our streets, roads and highways is our collective responsibility," says Jennifer Kroeker-Hall, Vice President of the Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals. "We should all do what we can to raise awareness, and avoid the actions behind the wheel that put us, our passengers and pedestrians at risk."

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Parents share agony of losing children in road crashes

November 18, 2014, Globe and Mail (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

...On average, one person dies every five hours in a car crash on Canadian roads. In 2012, 2,077 people died in crashes and more than 165,000 were injured. Distraction and driver impairment are each a factor in nearly a third of fatal crashes, says the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF)...

...On in seven fatalities on Canadian roads is a pedestrian - 42 per cent of pedestrian deaths happen at intersections, reports the Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals.

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Nova Scotia remembers road crash victims

November 18, 2014, Government of Nova Scotia (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

The government is asking Nova Scotians to pause for a moment on Wednesday, Nov. 19, to remember those killed or seriously injured in road crashes.

As part of the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims that is being recognized across Canada, there will be a commemorative ceremony in front of the Bridgewater Police Station, 45 Exhibition Dr., at 10 a.m.

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Less than half of Saskatchewan, Manitoba drivers use winter tires: survey

November 18, 2014, CTV News (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Less than half of drivers in Saskatchewan and Manitoba use winter tires, according to a new survey by the Tire and Rubber Association of Canada. The survey found that only 39 per cent of drivers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan put winter tires on their vehicles.

Of those respondents, 57 per cent said they believe all-seasons are good enough in snowy and icy road conditions.

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Distracted driving fines to be tripled

November 18, 2014, CBC News (CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.)

P.E.I. Transportation Minister Robert Vessey has tabled legislation that would triple the maximum fine for distracted driving.

If the bill passes in its current form, the maximum fine if you're caught talking on your cell phone or texting while behind the wheel will rise from \$400 to \$1,200. The minimum fine will double to \$500. The number of demerits against your licence would also increase, from three to five.

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Half of Canadian teens hit or nearly hit by vehicles while walking: Poll

November 17, 2014, Global News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

More than half of Canadian teenagers say they have been hit or nearly hit by a vehicle while walking, according to a new pedestrian safety poll released on Monday.

The survey conducted by Angus Reid for the non-profit injury prevention group Parachute Canada and FedEx Express Canada shows 51 per cent of teens between the ages of 13 and 18 have been hit by a car or have been involved in a near miss.

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Province's winter tire low-interest financing program helps 10,000 motorists improve road safety

November 17, 2014, MPI (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

With winter settling in and driving conditions deteriorating, Manitobans are invited to apply for the new winter tire low-interest financing program. Since being launched this fall, more than 10,000 people have already signed up, Justice Minister James Allum and Manitoba Public Insurance announced today.

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This season, hand the reins over to Operation Red Nose from November 28th to December 31st 2014

November 17, 2014, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Operation Red Nose's hundreds of volunteers in Saskatchewan are lining up as the 6th campaign in the province is getting underway. On most weekend nights, starting November 28th up to New Year's Eve, those volunteers will be offering their fellow citizens the popular safe ride home service to motorists who don't feel fit to drive. With the help of Operation Red Nose's provincial sponsor, SGI, the service will be offered in 4 Saskatchewan communities: Regina, Saskatoon, The Battlefords and Prince Albert. To reach the safe ride home service, clients can find a local phone number available at OperationRedNose.com.

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Pedestrian safety is focus for November

November 17, 2014, Drayton Valley Western Review (DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA)

Both drivers and pedestrians are responsible for safety. Pedestrians have the right of way in crosswalks, but pedestrians also have the responsibility to cross safely.

Facts to Know:

- In 2013, in Alberta, 47 pedestrians were killed and 1,167 were injured. As well in 2013, 44.6 per cent of the drivers in casualty collisions involving a pedestrian were recorded as failing to yield the right of way to the pedestrian.

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More than 130 days until the end of the winter driving season

November 17, 2014, Canada Newswire (RICHMOND, B.C.)

Drivers in British Columbia are only a third of the way through the winter driving season. Depending on where you live or work in the province, travel on winter roads and highways can be challenging.

It's not too late to "shift into winter" and winterize your vehicle, starting with winter tires...

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51% percent of Canadian teens say they have been hit or nearly hit while walking

November 17, 2014, Parachute (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

More than half of Canadian teenagers (51%), between the ages of 13 - 18, said they have been hit or nearly hit by a vehicle while walking, according to survey results released today from Parachute and FedEx Express Canada. When asked about the contributing factors to the incident or near miss, teens most commonly said the driver wasn't paying attention (72%) or the driver was going too fast (30%). Teens also admitted they've failed to look before stepping onto the road (20%) and being distracted by their phone, music or other communication device (8%).

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2014 & 2015

Call for Nominations

TAC 2015 Decade of Action Road Safety Awards

Submission Deadline: December 19, 2014

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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

Delta Ottawa City Centre

Ottawa, Ontario

May 27 - 30, 2015

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Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers (CITE) 2015 Conference Theme: Supporting a Healthy Vibrant Community

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

