



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period May 1st to 31st, 2015

Is the Okanagan Canada's hotbed for drunk driving?

May 29, 2015, Global News (KELOWNA, B.C.)

On average, 29 people in the Southern Interior are killed every year by impaired motorists. According to Statistics Canada, Kelowna ranked highest in the country for impaired driving incidents, with 583 per 100,000 residents in 2011.

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Motorcycles on MB roads more than double since '96

May 28, 2015, CBC News (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

The number of motorcycles on Manitoba roads has more than doubled in the last 20 years.

In 1996, 6,734 motorcycles registered with Manitoba Public Insurance. In 2014, that number was 14,141.

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Pincourt man fined \$120 for using Apple Watch while driving

May 27, 2015, CTV News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

Most of us know it's against the law to use a smartphone behind the wheel - but what about a smartwatch? A Pincourt man learned the hard way that police won't tolerate those either.

Jeffrey Macesin received a \$120 ticket and four demerit points after he was pulled over by the Surete du Quebec for wearing a smartwatch.

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Distracted driving among leading causes of crashes in B.C.

May 25, 2015, CJDCountry.com (DAWSON CREEK, B.C.)

ICBC lists distracted driving as one of the leading causes of crashes in the Province.

As the Fort St. John RCMP is closely monitoring roads in the region, they are finding hand held electronic devices in the hands of drivers on the roads.

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Potentially deadly airbags in 34 million vehicles lead to biggest consumer recall in U.S. history - but Canada fails to follow suit

May 21, 2015 Toronto Star - Business (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

One day after the U.S.'s auto safety regulator issued the largest consumer recall in history, Transport Canada says that it has no plans to follow suit. According to the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), airbag inflators made by Japanese auto-parts giant Takata can blast out sharp metal projectiles...

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Tecumseh road east is #1 worst street in Southwestern Ontario, says annual survey

May 21, 2015, Windsorite.ca (WINDSOR, ONTARIO)

Over 2000 roads across the Province of Ontario were nominated in 2015 and organizers asked for votes and feedback on what roads were the worst based on criteria like potholes, traffic congestion, poor timing of traffic signals, confusing road signs, pedestrian safety and cycling safety.

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Breaking down Saskatchewan's traffic safety numbers

May 20, 2015, CBC News (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

The latest numbers from SGI indicate that speeding and aggressive driving are the most common types of traffic offences in Saskatchewan.

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Winnipeg students set up mock crash to warn of dangers of distracted driving

May 20, 2015, CTV News (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Students from the Teens Against Drunk/Distracted Driving group held a mock vehicle crash to raise awareness on the dangers of distracted driving.

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Monument honours lives cut short by impaired drivers

May 20, 2015, Cape Breton Post (CAPE BRETON, NOVA SCOTIA)

Located in the Dartmouth Memorial Gardens on the property of Atlantic Funeral Home, it serves as one place where family and friends can go to remember their loved one, said Susan MacAskill, Atlantic region services manager for MADD Canada.

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Ontario investing in the next generation of connected vehicles

May 19, 2015, Government of Ontario (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Ontario is helping the province's transportation industry become a global leader in connected vehicle technology.

The province, through Ontario Centres of Excellence, is pledging \$1 million to support innovative and commercially viable projects through the Connected Vehicle/Autonomous Vehicle Program.

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BC's drinking and driving laws go before the Supreme Court of Canada today

May 19, 2015, News 1130 (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

BC's tough drinking and driving laws face another legal challenge today – this time, before the highest court in the country today.

The case looks at whether roadside driving prohibitions are constitutional. It's an appeal from Richard James Goodwin and three others who had been banned from driving for 90 days and had their cars impounded for 30 days after either refusing to provide breath samples or failing the roadside breath test.

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Report says distracted driving is “the most dangerous thing a person can do on the road”

May 18, 2015, mobile syrup (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Distracted driving continues to be a topic of interest and concern. In Ontario, drivers have been banned from using their devices, such as smartphones and tablets, since 2009. Drivers also face fines upwards of \$280 if caught talking, texting, browsing or even holding a phone while behind the wheel.

Recently, Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, said that distracted driving is “a real problem... these machines are so ubiquitous in their lives that they just have them with them all the time, and so we need to break that cycle.”

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Why it's so hard to fight drug-impaired driving

May 16, 2015, CBC News (OAKVILLE, ONTARIO)

Before a driver who had just smoked a lot of pot hit the vehicle Nancy Stewart's husband was driving, killing him instantly, she hadn't given much thought to the dangers of someone getting behind the wheel while impaired by drugs.

... Driving while impaired by drugs has been illegal under the Criminal Code for nearly a century, but is rather problematic to enforce.

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Sask. driver who looked at cellphone is off the hook in distracted driving case

May 15, 2015, CBC News (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

A Saskatchewan man who got a cellphone ticket last year is not guilty because he only looked at the device and didn't use it, a Moose Jaw judge has ruled.

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Unsafe ATV use is killing kids: Alberta Health Services

May 14, 2015, Edmonton Sun (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

Unsafe ATV use is killing kids, warns Alberta Health Services.

"We know that children less than 16 years of age have not yet developed to the point of having the strength, skills or judgment needed to operate an ATV, and this includes ATVs marketed as 'child-sized,'" says Dr. Chris Sikora, Edmonton Zone Medical Officer of Health.

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RoadWatch takes aim at impaired drivers: MPI

May 14, 2015, Government of Manitoba (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Manitoba Public Insurance is once again sponsoring the highly successful RoadWatch program, with this year's announcement coinciding with Canada Road Safety Week (May 12-18).

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Quebec's fast-growing Tecnic partners with AlertDriving to expand fleet safety program

May 13, 2015, Business Wire (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

AlertDriving, the global leader in driver risk management, today announced a significant new addition to its global ADvantage Channel Partnership Program. Tecnic Driving School, Quebec's largest driving school network, will join companies of all kinds already adding value to their businesses through FleetDefenseSM, the world's most extensive, widely used driver training tool.

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ORBA calls for safe driving in construction zones

May 13, 2015, Canada Newswire (MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO)

As we enter into our first long weekend of the summer, Ontario Road Builders' Association (ORBA) reminds all Ontarians to drive safely, especially when travelling through construction zones.

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Using a smartwatch while driving could result in a distracted driving ticket

May 13, 2015, Global News (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

Police are warning drivers that using a smartwatch, while behind the wheel, could result in a distracted driving ticket in B.C. Although a smartwatch, such as the Apple Watch, is not a handheld electronic communication device, it is an electronic device that can send or receive text messages or email.

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Canada road safety week underway

May 13, 2015, eCanadaNow (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The annual traffic enforcement awareness campaign, which runs May 12 to 18, is a police initiative designed to save lives and reduce injuries on Canada's roadways by focusing on what are commonly called the "Four Big Killers" - impaired driving, failure to wear seatbelts, distracted driving and aggressive driving.

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Speeding cars and traffic top child pedestrian safety concerns for parents

May 13, 2015, Parachute (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Seventy five percent of parents are concerned about their children sharing the road with speeding cars and traffic, and only 28% of students are walking to school, according to a new national survey from Parachute and FedEx Express Canada.

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Motorcycle deaths hit nine-year high: OPP

May 12, 2015, CTV News (LONDON, ONTARIO)

Provincial police say 32 people died in motorcycle crashes on OPP-patrolled roads in 2014, a nine-year high.

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Young drivers admit phones, food and navigation distract them from the road

May 12, 2015, Canada Newswire (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

...According to a survey on distracted driving commissioned by ingenie, an auto insurance brand designed for drivers aged 16 to 24, many young drivers in Ontario admit they don't always give the road their full attention.

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"I Hope We Never Meet"

May 11, 2015, Canada Newswire (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

arrive alive DRIVE SOBER® launched its 27th annual sober driving campaign at the Ornge Hangar at Toronto's Billy Bishop Airport, with new messages - including some specific to the summer season.

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Hey Ontario! trucks and truck drivers are safest road users

May 11, 2015, Today's Trucking (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

A new report from the Ontario Ministry of Transportation proves something you already know: that trucks are the safest vehicles and truck drivers are the safest drivers on the road.

That's the word from David Bradley, president of the Ontario Trucking Association (OTA). The report--officially the latest edition of the Ontario Road Safety Annual Report (ORSAR)--was released this week.

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Can I get a ticket for using the Apple Watch while driving?

May 11, 2015, Globe and Mail (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Smartwatches lead to dumb driving, but whether you'll get charged isn't clear. It depends on where you are and what you're doing on the watch.

"It could be considered careless driving in Ontario, but right now the specific distracted driving legislation only speaks to the holding of a hand-held communication device," wrote OPP Sgt. Kerry Schmidt in an e-mail. "Because you are wearing it, this would be difficult to get a conviction in court."

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Quebec police cracking down on speeders

May 11, 2015, CBC News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

Police across the province are cracking down on speeding this week.

Quebec provincial police say all municipal police forces will also be handing out tickets to people driving over the speed limit or who are breaking the law.

It's part of National Road Safety week.

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Cone Zone season is approaching, slow down and respect roadside workers

May 11, 2015, Canada Newswire (RICHMOND, B.C.)

Hundreds of roadside work zones will be set up around British Columbia this summer. Thousands of drivers will travel through those "cone zones", and it is likely that many roadside workers will be hit and seriously injured by speeding or distracted drivers.

The responsibility for roadside worker safety lies with employers, workers and drivers.

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Manitoba Public Insurance and police partner up for road safety

May 8, 2015, Western Journal (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Manitoba Public Insurance and eight police agencies across the province are partnering in a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) aimed at drivers who continue to use hand-held electronic devices.

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Be a road hero: the way you drive can save lives

May 8, 2015, Canada Safety Council (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Pssstt... ordinary motorist: you there, ferrying your kids to soccer, you over there, trying to get to work on time, and you too, just out running errands. We have a special mission for you. It could save a life. Do you accept?

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May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in Nova Scotia

May 6, 2015, Government of Nova Scotia (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

To help keep motorcycle riders safe, government is teaming with Safety Services Nova Scotia by declaring May Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month and reminding all drivers to be alert for more motorcycle traffic.

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Road deaths in Quebec continue to decrease, SAAQ stats show

May 5, 2015, Montreal Gazette (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

Road deaths in the province continued their steady decrease in 2014 for the sixth year in a row, according to statistics provided by the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec.

The statistics made public Tuesday morning showed 336 deaths on the roads in 2014 – a 14.1-per-cent decrease from the previous year, when 391 people died on the roads.

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High-risk driving campaign launched to B.C. driver injuries, deaths

May 5, 2015, CBC News (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

A month-long high-risk driving campaign to reduce preventable collisions in B.C. was launched by ICBC, the provincial government and police agencies on Tuesday.

"In B.C. every day there are 226 crashes that happen at intersections," said Lindsay Matthews, ICBC's director responsible for road safety. "That's nearly one crash every five minutes."

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\$65M not enough to address Winnipeg's long-term road woes: Bowman

May 4, 2015, CBC News (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

The Manitoba government is shelling out \$65 million in 2015 to help fix Winnipeg's sorry roads, but Mayor Brian Bowman isn't satisfied that number will help address the city's long-term infrastructure problems.

In total, the province said 160 city streets will get upgrades over the next year meant to improve traffic flow and road quality and safety.

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SAAQ facing class action over questionnaire for impaired drivers

May 4, 2015, CBC News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

Quebec Superior court has approved a class action lawsuit against the province's automobile insurance board, the SAAQ, alleging a questionnaire used to evaluate the risk to re-offend of convicted impaired drivers is discriminatory.

Lawyer Stéphane Michaud said if successful, the lawsuit could see the SAAQ forced to compensate tens of thousands of drivers.

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Canadian communities join together for Parachute's Safe Kids Week

May 2, 2015, Parachute Canada (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Today, Parachute and hundreds of community partners launched Parachute's Safe Kids Week, May 4-10, an annual national awareness program. Now in its 19th year, Safe Kids Week's latest life-saving theme is Cycling and Road Safety.

Head injuries are the number one cause of serious injury and death to kids on bicycles. A head injury can permanently change the way a child walks, talks, plays and thinks.

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Albertans facing increased traffic fines

May 1, 2015, Global News (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

Traffic fines across Alberta have jumped 35 per cent, including the penalty for distracted driving.

The fine for distracted driving in Alberta has increased from \$172 to \$288 starting Friday, which includes things like using a hand-held phone, texting, and reading or writing while behind the wheel.

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Did you know that May is Car Care Month?

May 1, 2015, Be Car Care Aware (AIA Canada) (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Winter has been hard on your car - among other things, the cold temperatures and icy conditions have taken a toll on your belts and hoses, brakes, and exhaust system. Though you may not notice these changes, they can put your car at risk of breaking down.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2015

Scholarship for Safety Initiative - The Sarah Beth Therien Memorial Scholarship, Canada Safety Council

Open to graduating high school students and full-time post-secondary students.
Submission Deadline: January 31 - June 15, 2015

[Learn more...](#)

CCMTA Annual Meeting

Yukon Convention Centre
Whitehorse, Yukon
June 16-19, 2015

[Learn more...](#)

Child Passenger Safety Symposium

Justice Institute of BC
715 McBride Boulevard
June 19, 2015

Contact: RONAK@telus.net

"The art of regression modeling in road safety" – Graduate Course

Cost: \$900

University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario
September 8-11, 2015

For more info, please contact:

Ezra.hauer@utoronto.ca

Transportation Association of Canada 2015 Conference and Exhibition

Theme: Getting You There Safely

PEI Convention Centre
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
September 27-30, 2015

[Learn more...](#)

Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) 8th Annual Complete Streets Forum - Save the Date!

Hart House, St. George Campus, University
of Toronto

Toronto, Ontario

October 1, 2015

[Learn more...](#)