



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period May 1-31, 2024

SGL aims to reduce intersection collisions with right-of-way campaign

May 1 2024, DiscoverWeyburn

SGL, along with law enforcement throughout Saskatchewan, will be putting the traffic safety spotlight on the right of way and traffic control devices for the month of May.

“Collisions occur frequently at intersections, during turns and lane changes,” said JP Cullen, Chief Operating Officer of the Auto Fund.

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St. Catharines councillor asks for safer streets for students ASAP

May 1 2024, St. Catharines Standard

St. Catharines city staff developing an active transportation master plan are being asked to speed things up because of concerns about student pedestrian safety.

The plan – a blueprint for what’s needed in the city to make it easier for people to get around without a vehicle on foot, bike, skateboard and other means – is in its final phases.

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54% Of All Fatal Motorcycle Accidents Caused By Other Drivers

May 2 2024, Hunters Bay Radio

The OPP highlighted causal factors behind motorcyclist fatalities in the past decade to help raise awareness and prevent further tragedies.

Excessive speed, failing to yield, inattention, and losing control accounted for over 50% of these fatalities, with alcohol or drugs involved in 17% of cases.

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Mandatory breath samples now required in every Toronto-area traffic stop: OPP

May 2 2024, Global News

Ontario Provincial Police say they are taking their strongest measures yet by requiring a mandatory breath sample from drivers for every traffic stop in the Greater Toronto Area.

The OPP said it is using the full extent of Canada's Mandatory Alcohol Screening (MAS) which was amended in 2018 to allow police to demand a breath test of any driver even in the absence of suspicion.

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SGI shines Safety Spotlight on suspensions in Sask.

May 3 2024, SwiftCurrentOnline

SGI's March Traffic Safety Spotlight highlighted the staggering number of drivers suspended for impaired driving-related offences during the month of March.

A total of 454 Sask. drivers were suspended in March, 142 of whom were charged with a Criminal Code impaired driving offence and 312 were handed suspensions for exceeding provincial limits on substances.

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Toronto-area drivers stopped by OPP will have to give breath sample

May 4 2024, CBC News

All drivers in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area who are pulled over by Ontario Provincial Police highway safety officers will now be asked to provide a breath sample – no matter what they're stopped for.

Officers will be conducting "mandatory alcohol screening" at every routine traffic stop as part of a new enforcement policy taking aim at drinking and driving, even if there is no reason to suspect a driver is impaired, the OPP said this week.

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Ottawa police launch new strategy to address speeding and traffic concerns in neighbourhoods

May 5 2024, CTV News Ottawa

The Ottawa Police Service rolls out a new traffic enforcement strategy on Monday, with frontline officers increasing their focus on speeding, impaired driving and the traffic concerns raised by residents in neighbourhoods across the city.

As part of the new strategy, frontline officers will conduct 18 traffic enforcement initiatives every three months, focusing on speeding, stunt driving, impaired driving and "residential-area intersection compliance."

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MP calls for tighter rules around new drivers

May 7 2024, Yahoo News Canada

Batley and Spence MP Kim Leadbeater is calling for tighter legislation around new drivers to help cut down the number of deaths on the roads.

On Tuesday she introduced a new law in Parliament proposing graduated driving licences.

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TPS Service Fleet Now Fully Equipped with Automatic Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR)

May 7 2024, Toronto Police Service

The Toronto Police Service's fleet of 560 police vehicles are now fully equipped with Automatic Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR).

This technology notifies officers as they travel the streets of Toronto when a vehicle on a 'hotlist' passes in front of the forward-facing camera, whether it be in relation to a Highway Traffic Act offence, criminal investigation, public safety alert, or Amber Alert.

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Cycling Safety and AI Tech: Enhancing Road Safety with Innovative Solutions

May 7 2024, Deutschmann Law

In the realm of road safety, the intersection of technology and cycling presents a promising avenue for mitigating risks and preventing accidents. Among the latest advancements in this field is Copilot, an AI-powered bike light developed by velo.ai. By harnessing smart sensors and sophisticated algorithms, Copilot aims to provide cyclists with enhanced situational awareness and early warnings of potential hazards on the road.

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Red, yellow, green ... and white? Smarter vehicles could mean big changes for the traffic light

May 11 2024, Times Colonist

As cars and trucks get smarter and more connected, the humble lights that have controlled the flow of traffic for more than a century could also be on the cusp of a major transformation.

Researchers are exploring ways to use features in modern cars, such as GPS, to make traffic safer and more efficient. Eventually, the upgrades could do away entirely with the red, yellow and green lights of today, ceding control to driverless cars.

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Ontario Line Traffic Plan Update

May 13 2024, Paula Fletcher

City Transportation Services staff finalized its traffic plans for the next phase of Ontario Line construction along Pape.

These next phases will have traffic, transit and pedestrian impacts in the Pape & Danforth, Pape & Riverdale and Pape & Sammon areas.

Earlier this year I co-hosted two meetings alongside TDSB Trustee Sara Ehrhardt to discuss Metrolinx's original proposals and get residents' feedback to help the city develop solutions that work better for the local community.

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Steal a car, lose your driver's licence under new Ontario proposal

May 14 2024, CP24

Repeat car thieves may face lengthy licence bans under proposed changes to Ontario's Highway Traffic Act.

Transportation Minister Prabmeet Sarkaria and Solicitor General Michael Kerzner provided details of new measures aimed at preventing violent auto theft at a news conference on Tuesday morning.

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Ontario highway deaths topped 400 last year, OPP says

May 14 2024, CBC News

Ontario Provincial Police say 411 people were killed as a result of collisions on the province's highways last year, making 2023 the deadliest in more than 15 years.

In a news release, the OPP said 2023 was the first year since 2007 when there were more than 400 deaths related to crashes investigated by the service.

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Ontario Taking Impaired Drivers Off the Road

May 15 2024, Ontario Newsroom

The Ontario government is cracking down on impaired driving by introducing legislation that, if passed, would impose stiffer penalties for those who drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs - including a lifetime licence suspension for those convicted of impaired driving causing death.

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New West receives provincial funding to help with road safety

May 15 2024, New West Record

New Westminster is among the B.C. communities receiving provincial funding to help with road safety.

The province has awarded more than \$866,000 in Vision Zero grants to 53 projects in 56 communities, including 22 projects in First Nations communities.

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Silver Chain Challenge returns this June

May 17 2024, County of Renfrew

Lace up your sneakers and pump up your bike tires: the annual Silver Chain Challenge is back this June 2024! This exciting month-long event invites participants from Renfrew County and Lanark County to demonstrate their commitment to healthy living and active transportation, all while enjoying the scenic beauty of eastern Ontario.

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New N.B. impaired driving legislation doesn't target people driving high

May 20 2024, CBC News

Legislation brought in earlier this month to target impaired drivers would only apply to drunk driving and not cannabis impairment, the New Brunswick government says.

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DUI downgrade: Why the Ford government allows judges to lower impaired driving charges

May 21 2024, Global News

Drivers accused of being drunk behind the wheel were suddenly presented with a deal that would see their charges downgraded to offences under the Highway Traffic Act, instead of the Criminal Code, giving them a rare opportunity to avoid the risk of a record.

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EVs and hybrids are twice as likely to hit pedestrians as gas cars, study shows

May 22 2024, Yahoo News

Young children are trained to stop, look and listen before they cross the street. In the electric car age, parents might want to put extra emphasis on the word "listen."

Pedestrians are twice as likely to be hit by an electric or hybrid car than by a vehicle that runs on gasoline or diesel, according to a study released Tuesday by researchers in London.

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GTA Police Services Come Together to Eliminate Street Racing Everywhere

May 23 2024, Toronto Police Service

Today at Exhibition Place, police services from across the GTA came together to launch Project ERASE (Eliminate Racing Activity on Streets Everywhere).

The annual multi-jurisdictional campaign addresses illegal street racing, stunt driving and other dangerous driving practices on area roads.

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Toronto councillors frustrated with lack of e-scooter enforcement

May 23 2024, CBC News

Some Toronto city councillors are expressing their frustration with the lack of enforcement of the city's own laws prohibiting e-scooters.

Under city bylaws, people aren't allowed to use electronic scooters on public streets. During a meeting on Thursday, council once again refused to opt in to a pilot project that would potentially legalize the vehicles.

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Building cities for citizens, not vehicles

May 27 2024, The Peak

Although there are rules in place for all road users, not everyone sharing the road is ensured the same level of safety. Vulnerable road users, those being cyclists, motorists, and pedestrians, are at increased risk of severe or fatal injuries compared to vehicle users. Street safety for them needs to be prioritized. This begins with enhancing measures related to signage, awareness of surroundings, and the implementation of stricter road rules.

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OPP release Canada Road Safety Week results

May 29 2024, CKNX News Today

The Huron County OPP have shared the results from Canada Road Safety Week.

The campaign, which ran from May 14-20, saw OPP officers promoting and enforcing laws around traffic safety during the annual Victoria Day long weekend.

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Bike lanes may be coming to deadly stretch of Avenue Road, despite congestion concerns

May 29 2024, Toronto Star

Separated bike lanes, increased pedestrian space and reduced car lanes may be coming to a deadly section of Avenue Road, in a move that some worry could cause more congestion.

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Vancouver city council to vote on adding more pedestrian safety measures

May 29 2024, CityNews Vancouver

Leading Pedestrian Intervals, or LPIs, give pedestrians a head start when crossing the road and Vancouver city council is set to vote on a motion to expand the number of LPIs across the city on Wednesday.

Coun. Lenny Zhou tells CityNews the motion will try to double “or triple” the amount of LPIs in the city.

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Intoxicated scooter driver allegedly plunges into mud: OPP

May 29 2024, CTV News Barrie

Police charged one individual with impaired driving after they were busted riding an electric scooter around the city while intoxicated.

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Nissan Canada issues do-not-drive warning for 48,000 vehicles over airbag issue

May 29 2024, CP24

Nissan Canada has issued a do-not-drive warning for 48,000 vehicles in the latest effort to expand its campaign about defective airbags.

The recall includes cars and SUVs as old as the 2002 model year that were recalled as a part of an ongoing campaign to recall defective Takata airbag inflators.

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Tesla recalling more than 125,000 vehicles to fix seat belt warning system

May 31 2024, Times Colonist

Tesla is recalling more than 125,000 vehicles to fix a seat belt warning system that may increase the risk of an injury in a collision.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said that the recall includes certain 2012-2024 Model S, 2015-2024 Model X, 2017-2023 Model 3, and 2020-2023 Model Y vehicles.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2024

Ontario Traffic Council Events

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CARSP Conference 2024

June 16-19, 2024

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MTO 2024 Road Safety Events Calendar

January 1- December 31, 2024

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TAC Conference 2024

September 22-25, 2024

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ITE Canada Conference 2024

June 9-12, 2024

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