



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period December 1-31, 2024

Is it legal to drive without clearing the snow off your car?

December 1 2024, The Globe and Mail

“Every driver is responsible for clearing the snow off all of their windows, mirrors, hood, roof and trunk,” RCMP Corporal Michael McLaughlin, a spokesman for B.C. Highway Patrol, said in an e-mail. “Even when it’s on the hood or roof, it can slide or blow onto a window at any time and obstruct your vision.”

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With greater weight and torque, EVs can have dangerous momentum on icy roads

December 2 2024, The Globe and Mail

Driving-safety researchers have warned for years about the false sense of security drivers of all-wheel-drive vehicles get on winter roads. Those pickup trucks and SUVs can accelerate quickly on ice and snow, causing drivers to think they can stop quickly, too. They can’t.

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City of Saint John wants to look at 'business case' for installing red light cameras

December 2 2024, CBC

The city wants to explore the potential use of image capturing enforcement to understand costs and benefits.

A month after the province passed legislation allowing municipalities to use image-capturing enforcement – red light cameras and photo radar – Saint John is ready to explore whether or not the technology is right for the city.

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Alberta to end use of photo radar on provincial highways, at speed-on-green cameras

December 2 2024, Global News

Come April 1, 2025, Alberta is ending photo radar ticketing on all numbered provincial highways.

The province also plans over the coming months to review “cash cows” - photo radar spots that appear to prioritize money-making over safety – with the goal of shutting down 70 per cent of the current 2,200 sites.

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Manitoba Government Introduces Legislation to Strengthen Licensing Consequences for Convicted Impaired Drivers

December 5 2024, Province of Manitoba | News Releases

The Manitoba government has introduced legislation that would impose new, stronger licensing consequences on drivers convicted of impaired driving and refusal offences that cause bodily harm or death, Justice Minister Matt Wiebe, minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance, announced today.

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Government of Canada invests in building safer communities

December 9 2024, Canada.ca

The Government of Canada is committed to building safer communities. Road safety programs help protect Canadians by reducing the number of collisions, injuries, and fatalities on our roads.

Today, the President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Transport, the Honourable Anita Anand, accompanied by Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, the Honourable Jenna Sudds, announced 35 new projects across Canada that will receive funding through the Enhanced Road Safety Transfer Payment Program.

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PSAC: Federal in-office mandate gridlocking traffic, increasing pollution in major cities

December 11 2024, Public Service Alliance of Canada

The Public Service Alliance of Canada is sounding the alarm over longer commute times for Canadians tied to the federal government's arbitrary in-office mandate. More vehicles on the roads for longer periods of time is not only increasing emissions but also negatively impacting productivity.

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Taller vehicles make lower-speed crashes more dangerous for pedestrians

December 11 2024, Driving.ca

Vehicle speed is a factor in how severe injuries are when a pedestrian is struck, but the vehicle's height also plays a part. According to a new study by the U.S. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), taller vehicles compound the injury risk of high vehicle speeds.

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Launching of the Public Review for the new Draft Standard Related to the Safety Index of Heavy Vehicles

December 12 2024, Newswire

The Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ) launches a public review for the new draft standard BNQ 1030-100 Safety of Vulnerable Users - Safety Index for Heavy Vehicles - Direct and Indirect Vision. It aims to establish a methodology for determining the safety index for direct vision and indirect vision on heavy vehicles, and to specify the requirements for evaluating and rating direct vision as well as the characteristics of indirect vision systems and other auxiliary safety equipment.

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Voices grow to save lives on rural roads

December 13 2024, BayToday.ca

Three years ago, 561 Ontarians died on our roads - 426 of those deaths occurred on rural municipal roads.

Bonfield and other municipalities are creating resolutions in support of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program. The goal is to greatly reduce those numbers above.

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Researchers awarded \$475k to help improve road safety

December 16 2024, University of Waterloo

Two research projects led by professors at Waterloo Engineering were approved for almost \$475,000 in federal funding this week under a program designed to reduce collisions, injuries and fatalities on roadways.

Projects led by Dr. Krzysztof Czarnecki and Dr. Bruce Hellinga are among 35 initiatives across the country to receive a total of \$14.6 million through the Enhanced Road Safety Transfer Payment Program of Transport Canada.

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U.S. to require passenger vehicles to sound alarms if rear passengers don't fasten their seat belts

December 16 2024, CTV News

Starting in September of 2027, all new passenger vehicles in the U.S. will have to sound a warning if rear-seat passengers don't buckle up.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Monday that it finalized the rule, which also requires enhanced warnings when front seat belts aren't fastened.

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Alcohol's Impact On Eye Movements And Steering: A Step Toward Safer Roads

December 18 2024, Mondaq

Driving under the influence of alcohol has long been recognized as a major cause of accidents, but understanding precisely how alcohol impairs driving is crucial for advancing safety measures.

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Regina police unveil new mobile impaired driving testing unit

December 19 2024, CBC

Regina Police have unveiled a new mobile testing unit that they say will speed up drug and alcohol testing.

The Regina Police Service's mobile testing unit is a new vehicle that will act as a laboratory, carrying advanced breathalyzer and oral fluid testing devices. It has been in use since early December.

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Ontario's Most Dangerous Cities To Drive In

December 20 2024, Mondaq

Automobile accidents occur every day in Ontario. And if you are injured due to someone else's actions, you need to see a personal injury lawyer.

But what are the most dangerous places in Ontario for drivers? A study provides some answers. Drawing on data from more than 100,000 insurance quotes in the past three years, including almost 2,300 accidents and over 5,000 tickets, the insurance comparison site MyChoice has painted a picture of the safest and most dangerous places to drive in Ontario.

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Lorraine Explains: The worst drivers of 2024

December 23 2024, Driving.ca

We'll start with one of the more schadenfreudey moments of the year back in March. "A pickup truck driver who crashed into a 'Report Impaired Drivers' sign on Vancouver Island this week appears to have been impaired, according to the RCMP," reports CTV. Jumping a curb in your Dodge Ram is always poor – and often deadly – form. But leaving your licence plate behind at the crime scene and taking off? Better than a trail of breadcrumbs. The driver was apprehended minutes later.

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Headlights seem a lot brighter these days – because they are

December 24 2024, CBC

If you feel a bit like a deer caught in the headlights every time you hit a dark road recently, you're not alone. Experts say the LED headlights on newer vehicles are, in fact, more blinding than what most people grew up with.

"It's not in everybody's head. It is real," Daniel Stern, chief editor of Driving Vision News and lighting researcher, told CBC News.

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Nearly 50 Percent of Drivers Admit to Speeding 15 MPH or More, Study Says

December 24 2024, MSN

Bad behaviors behind the wheel spiked during the pandemic, with deserted roads bringing out the worst in drivers. Traffic and pedestrian deaths jumped in the immediate aftermath, but even as deaths begin to fall a few years later, drivers in a new study from AAA admitted to engaging in dangerous driving habits that they know are wrong, like speeding 15 miles per hour or more above the speed limit.

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2024 Year in Review: Record-breaking death tolls on B.C. highways

December 25 2024, CityNews Vancouver

It's been a deadly year on British Columbia's highways, with a majority of the fatal crashes during the summer.

The province saw a staggering 51 driving fatalities in July alone – the highest number of deaths for a single month in over a decade, according to the BC Coroners Service.

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Why are Friday afternoons in December the most dangerous time on the road?

December 27 2024, CityNews Montreal

Winter weather is partly to blame for November, December and January being the top three months for collisions in Canada.

But Friday afternoons in December? Those are the most dangerous of the lot.

That's according to Allstate Canada insurance claims analyzed over the last two years.

The data point to a few factors: stress from work near the end of the year, excitement to start the weekend, holiday preparations, fewer daylight hours and more.

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Cars and bikes: These are the most popular questions we answered in 2024

December 29 2024, The Globe and Mail

In a year where we've seen a war on bike lanes in Toronto, maybe it shouldn't be surprising that readers asked us so many questions about rules for cyclists and how drivers and cyclists should interact.

The answers weren't always simple. They showed how complicated - and dangerous for cyclists - it can be when cars and bikes share the same spaces, road safety experts say.

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The politics of traffic safety in Winnipeg

December 30 2024, Winnipeg Free Press

Cities are complex networks of human interaction and whether by walking, cycling, taking the bus, or driving, thousands of people move around Winnipeg every day. The role of science in ensuring safety is crucial.

But in Winnipeg, science has been displaced over the years by political wrangling and lobby group pressure.

A significant turning point was the dissolving of the Manitoba Highway Traffic Board on March 1, 2019.

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Toronto speed camera cut down a third time, thrown into pond: advocacy group

December 30 2024, CP24

One of the busiest speed cameras in the city has been cut down for a third time and thrown into a pond.

Advocacy group Safe Parkside says the Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) camera near Parkside Drive and Algonquin Avenue was recently cut from its post, dragged into nearby High Park, and dropped into a frozen-over body of water.

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‘Fascinating to me’: New documentary explores rare 1912 footage of Malahat Highway

November 24 2024, CHEK News

The Malahat Highway on Vancouver Island is a lot different than it used to be – looking back over a century ago, it’s like night and day.

“I think a lot of people would be pretty reluctant to do the same adventure now if we could duplicate the road and the cars, that’s for sure,” said video creator Steven Park from his Ontario home Sunday.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2025

CARSP Winter Webinars

January - March 2025

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Ontario Traffic Council Events

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MTO 2025 Road Safety Events Calendar

January 1- December 31, 2025

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Connecting Road Safety Partners

January 1- March 31, 2025

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Careers in Transportation 2025

January 28, 2025

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2025 RSRPP Call for Proposals

February 7, 2025

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CARSP/ICTCT 2025 Conference

May 20-23, 2025

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