



Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortium

Bus News

Fall 2013

Welcome to the fourth year of the RCJTC "Bus Stop News". This newsletter is intended to be a publication that will be distributed to all stakeholders to keep them informed of all ongoing or upcoming operational items.

This Year's Operational Startup

Thank you for your cooperation in making this a safe and effective start up. We believe that there was a higher than normal expectation placed on transportation this year and we are moving towards more automation in order to help mediate those concerns. As we all play a part in this we would ask your help in some key areas; 1) send only one notification of any change (this reduces the likelihood of duplication of effort), 2) making sure that your student data is as current as possible as we pull information from both Maplewood and Trillium at the beginning of each month, 3) direct people to our web page to fill in the form on line at www.rcjtc.on.ca, 4) if schools could also send electronically via email all requests as we would prefer NOT to receive hard copies via courier or faxes in order to reduce paper (scan the document and simply attach to an email). If we all work together we feel it will make for a better more timely system of response.

So, it looks like another successful school year well on our way.

Winter

Don't forget to check our web page (www.rcjtc.on.ca) frequently for the most up to date information with respect to cancellations or delay. You can also find all our forms under publications to help serve you better.



...the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step

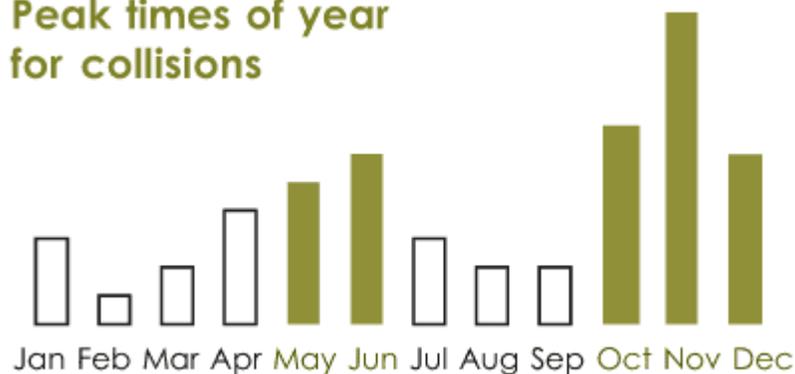


Collisions with wild animals can result in serious vehicle damage, personal injury or even death.

- On average, there is a motor vehicle/wild animal collision every 38 minutes
- One out of every 17 motor vehicle collisions involves a wild animal
- Motor vehicle/wild animal collisions are increasing annually. In 2007, 13,954 collisions were reported. Many more go unreported.
- 89 per cent occur on two-lane roads outside of urban areas
- 86 per cent occur in good weather

Wild animals are unpredictable at all times. However, there are two peak times when the risk of a collision is highest: May and June and from October to December.

Peak times of year for collisions



The Province of Ontario has taken a number of steps to help keep animals from wandering onto the road, including:

- Installing fencing along major highways
- Removing roadside brush to improve sightlines and visibility for drivers
- Draining salty ponds beside highways, which may attract wildlife
- Posting warning signs where there is a history of wildlife collisions
- Installing highway lighting to improve visibility at night



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Reduce Your Collision Risk

Watch

- Scan the road ahead from shoulder to shoulder. When you see wildlife beside the road, slow down and pass carefully as they may suddenly bolt onto the road.
- Watch for the yellow wildlife warning signs that indicate an area of increased risk. Slow down when travelling through these areas.
- Use high beams at night where possible and watch for glowing eyes of animals

Steer

- Stay in control. Watch your speed and take extra precautions when driving at night as visibility is greatly reduced. Slowing down will give you that extra second to respond.
- Never swerve suddenly. This could cause your vehicle to go out of control or head into oncoming traffic.

Brake

- brake firmly if an animal is standing on, or crossing, the road. Never assume the animal will move out of your way.

Stop

- Stop as safely as possible if a wild animal is crossing the road. Remember, if one animal crosses the road, others may follow.

If possible, avoid driving during dusk or dawn when most wildlife collisions occur. Swerving to avoid hitting a wild animal may result in a more serious collision. If hitting a wild animal is unavoidable, remember to stay in control.

People who live adjacent to highways are encouraged not to feed deer during the winter as this increases the probability of motor vehicle collisions, resulting in more personal injuries and increased deer mortality.

Motorists should watch for these potential problem areas and drive carefully when passing through them.



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Safety Reminder

Always check your blind spots. Almost all side collisions can be prevented by checking your blinds spots around you.

The only way to accurately check your blind spot is by pivoting forward and back while checking the blind spot in order to ensure that there are no obstructions in your path or headed towards you.

Under the best conditions, when in doubt give the right of way to the other vehicle as it always better to arrive a few minutes late as opposed to not arriving at all!



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