



# Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortium

## Bus News

Winter 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 Review

Overall, I believe this year is proceeding very well. We have had 9 system wide inclement weather days so far this year - a new record (previously 8 days in the 07-08 school year) for system wide cancellations in transportation service. We are starting to prepare for next school year inputting the new JK registrations into our system and promoting all the students (grades, i.e. 1 to 2, 2 to 3, etc.) accordingly. At the same time, we will be planning our new routes so those that want their school bell times adjusted (5-10min. either way) should make us aware of that sooner rather than later.

### Being the Ever Watchful Driver

Most of us at some point in our driving careers have hit an animal. The best way to ensure that you and your passengers are safe if you do hit an animal is to have an action plan. Part of your action plan is to anticipate what type of animals you could encounter on the roads?

#### Wild Animals

- Deer
- Moose
- Turkey
- Bear
- Others?

#### Domestic Animals

- Dogs
- Cats
- Cattle
- Horses
- Others?

A common factor when encountering one or more of these animals is that they are unpredictable; they do the unexpected. If you have ever collided with anyone of these animals, it can be an emotional time for you and your passengers. Keeping calm and alerting dispatch to the current situation will allow you to make the best choice. Don't try to swerve as that can often start another chain reaction of ending up in the ditch or worse, moving head on into another vehicle. Apply the brake evenly and quickly if you have ABS; control your steering to keep in a straight line. If you don't have ABS, avoid the temptation to slam on the brakes as this may put you in a skid. Being aware of the time of day and the time of year is crucial as the most active time



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

for animals is around dawn or dusk. There are other special times of year such as the spring and fall when mating season is in place. Note that when you see one animal there are usually more such as in the case of deer, so avoid celebrating the fact that you may have missed one....watch for the one that follows. By knowing the area you service, reducing your speed and being extra diligent to your surroundings can make all the difference. Make a personal note if you see "road kill" to review your speed and tactics on that particular stretch of road. Above all, drive defensively and make the best decision based on the current conditions.

**Transitional Driving from Winter to Spring Driving Conditions**

Don't forget to watch for black ice first thing in the morning where there had been a thaw area the day before as there now could be ice due to the cooler overnight conditions. Always remain in care and control of your vehicle and never become the aggressive driver; either one can be fatal.

Always Drive Defensively!



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