



BUSSING BEGINS: School buses are back on the road transporting our children to school. The buses may seem inconvenient to drivers but remember, they are carrying our precious cargo to school and back as evidenced here as this bus unloads it's precious cargo at St. Josephs school Tuesday morning. - Marie Shadbolt photo.

Remember to stop for school buses

School started this Tuesday and school buses are picking up and dropping off students.

Police are reminding drivers, they must stop for school buses when signal lights are flashing.

"Every year, police receive numerous reports of school buses being unlawfully overtaken by motorists," says an OPP media relations officer.

When a school bus is stopped, drivers are obliged to follow these rules:

175 (11) Every driver or street car operator, when meeting on a highway, other than a highway with a median strip, a stopped school bus that has its overhead red signal-lights flashing, shall stop before reaching the bus and shall not proceed until the bus moves or the overhead red signal-lights have stopped flashing.

175 (12) Every driver or street car operator on a highway, when approaching from the rear a stopped school bus that has its overhead red signal-lights flashing, shall stop at least

twenty metres before reaching the bus and shall not proceed until the bus moves or the overhead red signal-lights have stopped flashing.

Some drivers are confused about when they must stop. Overhead school bus lights are activated when the driver is about to stop. This warns drivers of the impending stop and gives them an opportunity to stop safely, much like the role of an amber traffic signal. They break the law when they pass a stopped school bus with overhead lights activated.

"The most common reasons for passing stopped buses seems to be inattention, excessive speed and ignorance of the law with respect to multiple lane situations," says the OPP.

Whenever a school bus is passed children are placed in harm's way so drivers can expect to be charged regardless of their excuse. Likewise, if their actions resulted in the death of a child, an excuse would probably do little to clear their conscience!

BACK TO SCHOOL

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School is back.

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