

Drivers need to slow down on Hwy. 401 through Northumberland: OPP

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"Whiteouts appeared out of nowhere and the road conditions in the area changed fairly quickly," Const. German said.

At the time of the collisions Environment Canada was reporting flurries and winds with gusts of up to 50 km/h in the area.

Brandy Duhaime, regional communications coordinator for the MTO, said the ministry has made a number of safety improvements to help when bad weather strikes Northumberland-County.

"(The MTO) installed snow fencing and hedges to help mitigate drifting snow (and) added portable variable message signing to advise motorists of inclement weather," Ms. Duhaime wrote in an e-mail to Northumberland News.

She said the MTO also put up winter hazard signs to warn motorists of potential sudden changes in weather conditions and installed emergency gates at all on-ramps to Hwy. 401 to help police manage traffic during highway closures.

"(The MTO) added rumble strips on both shoulders to help warn drivers if they are not on the travelled lanes," Ms. Duhaime added.

Const. German stressed the public should not be quick to blame the weather.

"The driving public is not getting the message and are still driving too fast for the road conditions," she said.

Any suggestions of decreasing speed limits on Hwy. 401 during bad weather, Const. German said that's the responsibility of the MTO.

"No matter what the speed limit is, drivers are driving too fast for the road conditions. They need to slow down. We don't know how much more we can stress that point," she said.

Since Nov. 1, according to Const. German, there have been approximately 100 collisions on Hwy. 401 between Cobourg



NORTHUMBERLAND - Several tractor-trailers left the roadway after they were involved in a series of collisions on Hwy. 401 eastbound between Cobourg and Grafton Feb. 26.

Karen Longwell / Northumberland News

and Cramahe Township, spanning some 26 kilometres.

Northumberland-Quinte West MPP Rob Milligan points his finger at the MTO and reduction of plowing services in Northumberland County.

He said a recent meeting with representatives from all seven of Northumberland County's member municipalities and Ministry of Transportation staff, ministry contractor Carillion Canada, the Northumberland OPP detachment commander, and Northumberland councillors was called to see what can be done to improve road clearing efforts.

"But since the Province has cut services and hired external contractors, we've seen a decrease from 17 plows on County roads to nine, and we used to have four salt and sand depots and now we two," Mr. Milligan said. "In my opinion, that's putting people's lives at risk."

Mr. Milligan said he spoke with Ontario's Minister of Transportation, Glen Murray, Wednesday morning.

"We spoke about the grave concerns I have for this stretch of highway," Mr. Milligan said. "That highway has always been a

concern because after Cobourg, it dips and curves into a valley. It can be pretty treacherous."

He also noted three lanes converge into two lanes in the same area.

"And Minister Murray and I talked about that and widening the highway is an idea we talked about briefly," Mr. Milligan added.

According to Ms. Duhaime, the MTO is planning on widening a portion of Hwy. 401 east of Cobourg.

"The next phase of widening from four to six lanes of Hwy. 401 is from Burnham Street to approximately two kilometres east of Nagle Road, which will include the realignment of the County Road 45 interchange," she said.

Ms. Duhaime said a public meeting will be held on March 18 to discuss the project.

"We will be presenting the technically preferred alternative, the staging of traffic during construction, and mitigation measures developed to address potential impacts," she said. "This project is scheduled for to be tendered by end 2014 subject to environmental approvals and utility relocations."

NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS MAR. 6/14

Warkworth woman dies in head-on crash during whiteout

Second driver suffers serious injuries

TRENT HILLS -- A Warkworth woman has died following a head-on collision in whiteout conditions.

Diane Lacavera, 67, died at Campbellford Memorial Hospital following a collision on County Road 30 near 1st West

Line in Trent Hills on Feb. 27, Northumberland OPP said.

The crash was reported at approximately 2:10 p.m. during whiteout snow conditions, police said.

A second driver in the accident was seriously hurt.

Police said Ms. Lacavera's southbound red 2005 Dodge Caravan collided head-on with a northbound black 2014 Dodge Journey. Trent Hills Fire Department extricated both drivers from their vehicles.

The driver of the Dodge Journey was transferred to Kingston for treatment of serious injuries.

Drifting snow and poor visibility in the area prompted officials to close County Road 30 and erect barriers to traffic, while the OPP investigated the collision. Motorists were detoured.



WILLIAM "BILL" HARRY STEPHENSON

Passed away peacefully on Thursday evening, February 27, 2014. Born in Belleville to Mariah and Isaac, December 2, 1917. William left high school for the Royal Bank of Canada and it was in front of his branch in the village of Warkworth, Ontario that he met "the love of his life", Norma Lillian Helson. In 1940, they were engaged before William went overseas as a fighter pilot, serving in the RCAF. He crash landed while fighting on the Middle-Eastern Front, was wounded and captured by the Italians and later taken to Stalag Luft III where he spent the duration of the war as a POW. He received the Distinguished Flying Medal for his service. One week after his return, he and Norma were married and would have been celebrating their 69th anniversary in June. He will be missed by Norma and his daughters, Carol Jane and Janet Elizabeth, sons-in-law Michael Harpur and Ronald Judge and grandchildren Matthew, Katryn and Alexander. He is survived by the youngest of 5 siblings, Thomas. William had a fulfilling career with the Royal Bank and volunteered as Treasurer for the Save the Children Fund and for the Toronto Parks Authority, raising funds for Pioneer Village which meant a lot to him, as it was one of his favourite spots to take his family. He loved woodworking and gardening and was prepared to tackle all of our "fixer-uppers". He loved to spend time travelling with Norma, the POW "Stay Alive till 95" was a happy reunion trip. His family is so grateful to him for his quiet integrity and kind, generous way. His presence will always be with us. The family wishes to thank the staff at Sunnybrook Hospital, especially at the Veterans Wing, for the comfort they gave to William and his family. Thank you also to Canterbury Place staff, and to Sonia who cared for him. A funeral will be held at R.S. Kane Funeral Home (6150 Yonge Street, at Goulding, south of Steeles), on Tuesday, March 4th, at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Sunnybrook Veterans K-3 Centre, 416-480-4483. Condolences www.rskane.ca

R.S. Kane
416-221-1159