

Helping Canada celebrate 125 years

Interested in celebrating Canada's 125th birthday?

Well, volunteers are needed to participate in Route 125, a horse trek riding coast to coast, winding up in Ottawa on July 1.

People are asked to join in the trek as it makes its way through their communities — they can hike, jog, run, walk, ride a bike, walk their dog...anything.

Route 125 will be making its way through Erin on June 9, between 1-2 p.m.

That night, a bonfire is being organized at the Cataracts, and all members of the public are invited to attend.

If you would like to join in Route 125 as it proceeds through Erin, help out with the bonfire or just more information, contact Margaret Quayle, at (416) 838-2374.

Drivers buckle up

More Ontario motorists are wearing their seatbelts than ever before according to a new survey. But despite the increase the province's residents are still among the lowest users in the country.

The survey, conducted in late October by Transport Canada, indicates 83 per cent of Ontario drivers are buckling up compared to 72 per cent in October 1990. But despite the increase, the province is still three per cent below the national average of 86 per cent.

"It's frustrating to find there are still well over a million motorists on the roads who are willing to jeopardize their safety and the safety of others by not wearing their seatbelts," says Ontario Transportation Minister Gilles Pouliot.

"People must realize wearing a seatbelt is not an option - it's the law."

Statistics show wearing a seatbelt reduces the risk of serious injury and the likelihood of being thrown from a vehicle during a collision. In 1975, the year before seatbelt legislation was introduced, Ontario had 774 drivers killed in collisions. In 1990, the last year for published statistics, 540 drivers were killed on Ontario roads. More than half of these drivers were not wearing their seatbelts.

Hospitalization and rehabilitation costs for motorists injured

while not wearing seatbelts are twice that of users. "We all pay for health care costs of people who don't wear seatbelts," said Pouliot.

"We have expanded our view of health from treating illness and injury to include emphasizing ways in which we can stay healthy," said Health Minister Frances Lankin. "Your government wants to increase the number of years of good health for Ontario residents by reducing illness, disability and premature death. Wearing a seatbelt is one of the preventative measures we can take to achieve this goal."

The message to Buckle Up is reaching the driving public thanks to the co-operative partnership with the insurance companies, safety organizations and especially police services across Ontario. Through their continuing programs of education, monitoring and enforcement the number of serious injuries in collisions has been reduced.

"However, we must address the failure of the million and more drivers and passengers who don't yet wear seatbelts," Pouliot said.



Helping others

Students in Grade 2 and 3 at St. Joseph's School decided to help the environment and handicapped people, recently. They brought several items from home (like cookies and chocolates), then raffled them off, raising \$55 for the handicapped. They also planted two blue spruce trees at the school. From left, front are Shelly Dagenais, Carolyn Glatt, parent helper Cherie Lehman, Anne Byrne, Peter Lehman, Lucy Horvat and Daniel Charland.

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