



This important safety message is brought to you by concerned area businesses

School's back on Tuesday - Drive Safely

Remember to stop for school buses

School starts on Tuesday, Sept 8 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. Drivers 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 inatten-



SHE THINKS SAFETY: Emily Magoolagan is ready for her first day of school next week. Emily was one of hundreds of students in Halton who attended the First Rider Program with local bus companies showing new riders how to safely ride their school bus. Taking Emily for her first ride was Tyler Transport bus driver Kim Contini. - Submitted photo

tion, excessive speed and ignorance of the law with respect to multiple lane situations," says spokesman for 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, police say.

Defensive driving...

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per flashing red lights so there is not the usual warning.

- Changing lanes early for bicycles (they should be treated as another vehicle by giving them ample space). Be vigilant, many kids ride skateboards, scooters or roller blades on the road so be prepared for

a possible fall by providing extra space.

- Leaving plenty of time to get to your destination – running late can cause aggressive driving behaviours.

- Avoiding driver distractions such as cell phones, eating or drinking, and personal grooming which take focus off the road.

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Please drive with care. Schools back. Children will be travelling on buses, walking to and from school.
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Please Drive Safely!

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Be watchful.
School is starting and there are buses and children to watch for.
PETER TENSUDA, LL.B.
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25 Main St. North, Acton, Ontario L7J 1V9
Tel: (519) 853-3000
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School is back on September 8th.
Please Drive Safely!

Bruce Jones
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Wayne Joudrie
Director of Education

Alice Anne LeMay
Chair of the Board
Michael W. Pautler
Director of Education