



Obscure law looking for publicity

An obscure law, passed as an amendment to the Highway Traffic Act by the Ontario Legislature last Dec. 14, has gone into the books without any attention being paid to it by the general public. The new law would require Ontario motorists to turn on their headlights from 30 minutes before sunset until a half an hour after sunrise. The old law required that headlights be turned on 30 minutes after sunset to a half an hour before sunrise. This would increase the length of time by an hour in both morning and evenings. Presently, local and area police forces have not been strictly enforcing the new law.

Midland Police Chief Ernest Bates said, "You can't expect people to catch on to the law overnight. It's a habit people just have to get used to." Both the Midland police and the OPP have yet to lay any charges. Chief Bates added that the Ministry of Transportation has tried to get the message to the public via radio and the news media. A survey of the public showed that very few motorists are aware that the new regulations are in effect. The rationale behind the new rule is that studies suggest it's safer on the roads the longer car lights are kept on, even in daylight. Sweden and

Finland have required lights on at all times for years. The number of accidents dropped dramatically in both countries. Research done in North America indicates the same would likely happen here. Although most people agree with the new legislation, some people complain that you can never tell if the sun will officially set in 30 minutes or if it has been 30 minutes since the sun has set. Some people are even convinced that the new law will only help to further clog the already overburdened court system. Fines for non-compliance with the law range from \$53 to \$200.

Snow matches month

Hurononia has begun to look more like Huronia in January, with the accumulation of 30 centimetres of snow in four days. Mel Curtis of Midland reports that seven centimetres of snow fell on Jan. 4, two centimetres on Jan. 5, four centimetres on Jan. 6, and 17 cen-

timetres on Jan. 7. Between last Nov. 2, the date of the first snowfall of this winter, and last Thursday, 91 centimetres of snow came to earth in the area. Nearly all of the November and December snow had disappeared by just before New Year's Day.

Snowmobilers should know law

Snowmobiling has become a way of life for many Ontario residents. Wherever they're driven, operating skill is called for. The snowmobile is not a toy. It is a power driven vehicle that must be under the driver's control every second. Otherwise, the driver could become another accident statistic. Everyone who operates a snowmobile should know Ontario's laws which apply to the machine. They should also know the machine itself, how it works, how to drive it in different situations. All motorized snow vehicles must be registered and, in addition to registration, you must have a permit

to drive your motorized snow vehicle, unless you are driving it only on land owned or occupied by yourself. You may operate your motorized snow vehicle on your own property, on private trails of organizations to which you belong, or on other land with the owner's written permission. You may drive it on public trails, public parks, conservation areas, except where prohibited. **Speed limits** You may not drive faster than 20 km/h on a highway where the speed limit for cars is 50 km/h. You may not drive faster than 50 km/h on any highway where the car speed

limit is more than 50 km/h. **Identification** Carry your driver's licence or snowmobile operator's licence when you are operating your machine. You must show it when asked by a police officer or conservation officer or provide your correct name and address if not carrying it. **Helmet required** A helmet must be worn by every person driving or riding on a motorized snow vehicle. **Insurance** A person who drives a machine on a highway or public trail must carry liability insurance and produce evidence of such when asked by a police officer.

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