

# Ontario Begins Transition To New Symbol Traffic Signs

Adoption of symbol traffic signs by Ontario was announced recently.

The signs conform to international standards, and use symbols and illustrations to convey their message. When old signs need replacing, the new signs will be used in an increasing number of cases on both provincial and municipal streets and highways.

Gradual transition to the new signs is expected to extend over some years.

"The greatest possible uniformity of traffic signs is clearly desirable for the sake of safety as well as the convenience of motorists," said an Ontario Department of Transport official.

"It is equally desirable that such signs be recognizable at a glance, and that they be clear to all drivers. To meet these aims, the best signs are those that convey their message by symbols rather than words."

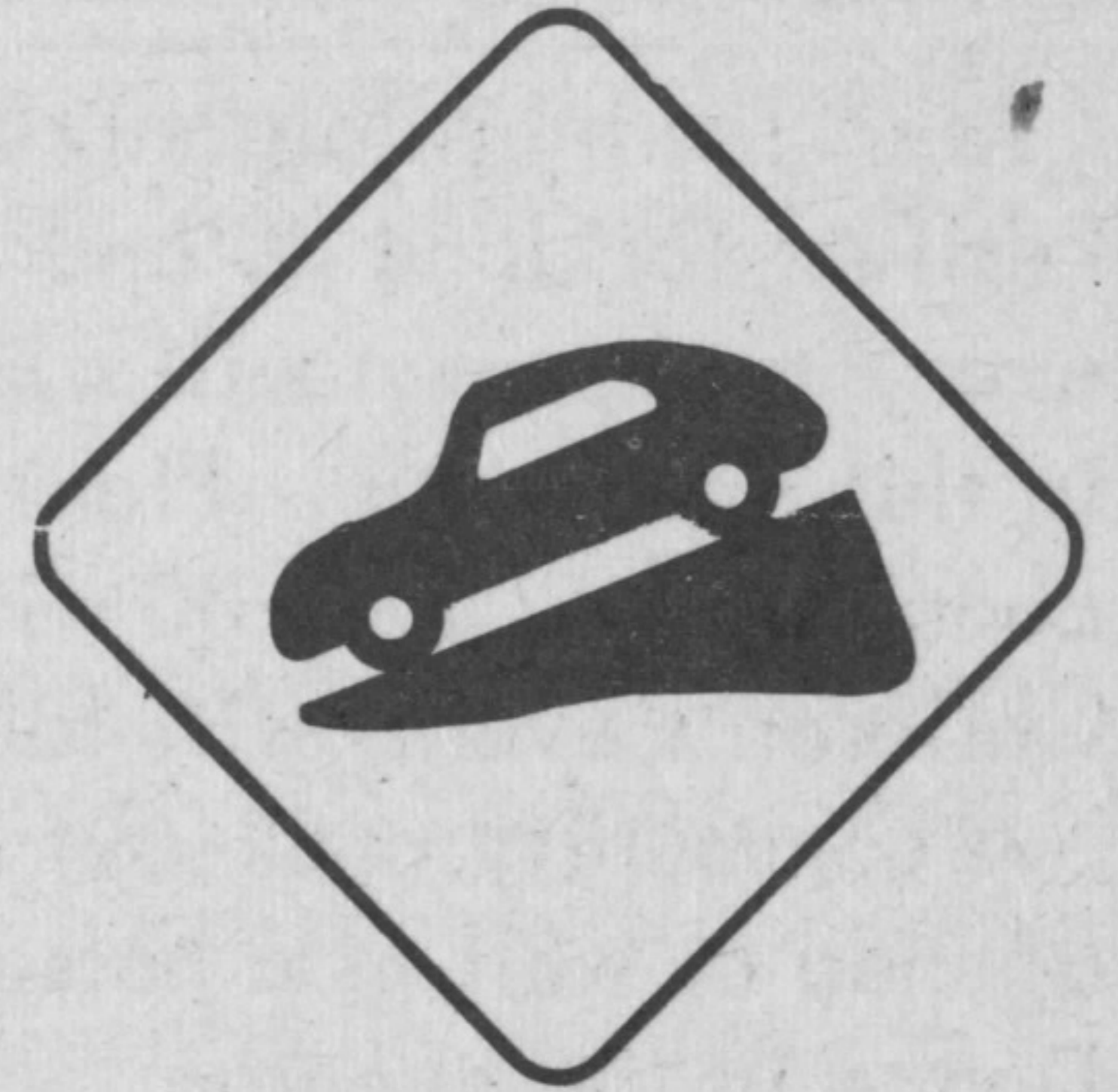
Wide use has already been made of curve and turn signs that conform to the new standards, and these have proved their worth in both urban and rural areas.

Among new signs, one shows a car skidding. This will replace "Slippery When Wet" signs. A picture of a helmeted man with a shovel will replace "Men Working" signs. A sign showing a car on a sharp decline will replace "Steep Hill" signs.

In the introductory stage, the new signs will be accompanied by a plate carrying the appropriate legend. These will be discontinued as time goes on.

The signs fall in three categories: regulatory, guide, and warning signs. Many of the regulatory signs, such as stop, yield and one-way street signs are already familiar to motorists. The guide signs showing directions, mileages and highway routes, are also in use on Ontario roads.

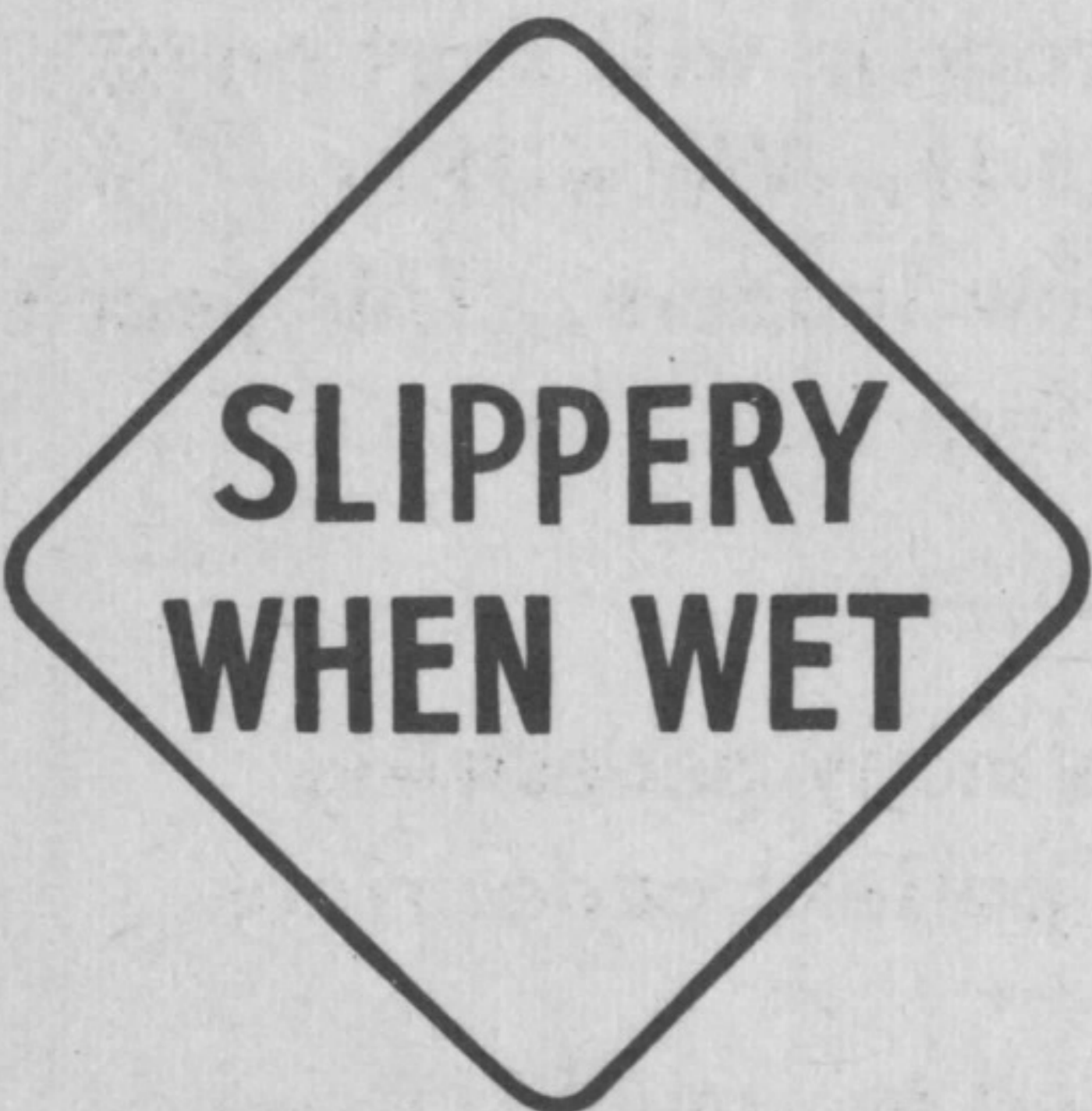
Standards for the signs were worked out by a consortium of technical personnel from across Canada, supported by the Canadian Good Roads Association and the Institute of Traffic Engineers. The symbols are much the same as those used in many countries of Europe and in parts of the United States.



Ontario's new symbol traffic signs are expected to make an important contribution to the safety and convenience of motorists. Examples of the new signs which will be adapted gradually on a replacement basis, are shown above on the right.

**Old**

**New**



... prevent forest fires!

