



DRIVE DEFENSIVELY

Minister of Transportation and Communications John R. Rhodes urged motorists to drive defensively over the coming Labour Day weekend in an effort to avoid a repetition of the carnage on Ontario roads during the August Civic Holiday.

"Through the August 3-4-5 Civic Holiday weekend this year, 33 people died in traffic accidents on provincial high-ways," said Mr. Rhodes. Defensive driving could have prevented many of these highway tragedies. Speed too fast for conditions, failure to yield, improper passing and loss of control were major contributing factors.

"Surely it's worth a tremendous effort on the part of every citizens who drives, to see that we stop sacrificing dozens of lives each holiday weekend," added Mr. Rhodes.

Preventability is the keyword to defensive driving. The only consideration when a possible emergency situation arises is to prevent an accident from happening, despite the actions of other

drivers or adverse driving conditions.

Critical defensive driving practice must include:

- leaving a safe distance between you and the car ahead. At least one car length for every 10 miles of speed.
- don't insist on the right-of-way at highway intersections, even if you are legally entitled to it.
- look well ahead and be constantly aware of people or objects in your path which may effect the movement of your vehicle.
- gear your speed to weather and road conditions so that in an emergency situation you have time to take defensive action or find some safe "out" of a collision situation.

"All drivers must learn to give a little," the Minister concluded. "They must learn to react responsibly to the unexpected. It doesn't matter whether a driver is right -- he can be right and dead -- and that is a real tragedy."