

Seatbelt use has increased

TORONTO — Driver seat belt usage in Ontario has increased 10 per cent since 1981 and more than half the infants and toddlers are buckled into an approved car safety seat.

"While the improvement in restraint use by both adults and children is encouraging, I am still very concerned that a large number of vehicle occupants are subjecting themselves to unnecessary risks," Ontario Minister of Transportation and Communications James Snow said. "We have volumes of research to indicate that seat belts save lives and reduce the severity of in-

juries, yet some people still choose to ignore the facts.

"What is particularly baffling to me is that parents are willing to put their children in danger when child restraints have been estimated to reduce fatalities by as much as 90 per cent when properly used."

The most recent restraint usage figures come from a survey conducted across the province last summer by MTC crews. For comparison purposes, the same locations and mid-day time periods were used as in previous surveys dating back to 1975.

The researchers found driver lap and shoulder belt use ranged from 64 per cent to 76 per cent in different regions of the province, compared to a 45-68 per cent range in 1981. Usage was highest among

females and older drivers, but no difference was observed between rural and urban areas.

Child restraint use in general was up from 33 per cent in the pre-legislation days of 1981 to 55 per cent in 1984, with safety seats in use by two-thirds of the children travelling in their parents' cars.

"However, further observation revealed that a high proportion of those seats were not secured properly," Snow said. "Obviously, under those circumstances, they aren't doing the job they're supposed to."

About half the harness straps were either not fastened at all or fastened too loosely to secure the child properly in the event of a collision. Approximately two-thirds of the toddler seats requiring

tether straps were not bolted to the vehicle or were bolted inadequately to protect the child. Furthermore, almost 25 per cent of the seats had been installed with the vehicle's lap belt not used or not placed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

"We will be using the information we have collected to study ways of encouraging adults to use child safety seats in a manner that will provide optimum safety for their children," Snow said. "We believe, if parents better understand the importance of properly restraining their children, they will be more than willing to make the extra effort."

The survey also indicated that eight per cent of children under five are travelling on adults' laps —

an important statistic considering one-third of the children in that age category killed in accidents between 1979 and 1983 were sitting on someone's lap before the impact. Studies have shown it is impossible for an adult to hold onto a child during a collision even at low speeds.

Since child restraint legislation was introduced in two stages during 1982 and 1983, the number of young children killed and injured in traffic accidents has dropped. In 1983, the last year for which complete data is available, 10 children under five died and 1,269 were hurt, compared to 19 fatalities and 1,608 injuries in 1981.

A full report of the 1984 child restraint and seat belt survey will be available in February.

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THANK-YOU

I wish to express my thanks to those who organized and supported my stag.

Claude Martin

Olympic swimmer gets cracking

Ottawa - Alex Baumann hopes to make as big a splash with Canadian egg consumers as he did at the Los Angeles Olympics this summer.

The 20-year-old swimmer from Sudbury emerged from the Olympic pool clutching two gold medals, having set world records for the 200 and 400 metre individual medleys.

Three months later, Baumann announced he was teaming up with the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency in his first step in the business world.

Although Baumann was flooded with offers, he was in little hurry to lend his name to a sponsor. Baumann's signing — his first — was a real coup for egg producers.

"After the Olympics, I made a commitment to myself. If I were to appear on behalf of any product or organization, I had to believe in it," said Baumann.

Eats 6 eggs for breakfast

Obviously, Baumann believes in eggs. He often eats six eggs for breakfast when he is in training.

"Eggs have always been a regular part of my diet, and I hope my association with the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency will make Canadians more aware of how important eggs are to a healthy lifestyle."

Baumann agreed to a two-year pact to promote eggs in at least six national television commercials and 12 radio spots. His picture will also appear on billboard advertisements and agency publications.

The contract was actually signed between CEMA and the Canadian Amateur Swimming Association so Baumann's amateur status would not be affected. The money will be held in trust until the swimmer retires from competition.

Baumann is a composed, confident young man with a winning smile and a resonant baritone voice. He should be a natural for TV and radio.

He also speaks passable French, allowing him to be a truly national spokesman on behalf of egg producers.

"I'm genuinely excited to be working on behalf of egg producers and I am looking forward to promoting their product," said Baumann.

Occupation: Spruce budworm

AND HE'S COMPETING FOR YOUR JOB. This little creature and billions of his friends were busy last summer eating their way through millions of acres of balsam fir and spruce trees. By eating the needles they destroyed the growth of the trees and left behind thousands of acres of dead or dying forest...forest that Northwestern Ontario relies on for its economic well-being.

The spruce budworm infestation doubled in 1984 over the previous year and is expected to intensify again this year. The resulting devastation could curtail forestry operations affecting employment in the forest products industry and, ultimately,

related businesses.

Your job may be at stake! It is essential to fight this epidemic NOW! The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources must be encouraged to implement an effective pesticide spray program to protect our forests today and in the future.

Attend the OMNR Open House January 23, 1985 at the Airline Motor Hotel in Thunder Bay and make your views known.

Or call or write your local Ministry of Natural Resources office.

Let's protect the forest.

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THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES OF NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO