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The Rotary Club of Waterford Valley

To those who may be concerned.

I forward to you my concerns regarding poor driving habits within the Province .

Our province has seen a major shift in the number of drivers who without any regard for fellow motorists and pedestrians are operating vehicles irresponsibly when behind the wheel. Please see attached.

Another point of interest would be the poor condition and lack of maintenance on vehicles traveling our roads. Newer vehicles have electronics integrated into the vehicles stability system, power steering, brake control, accident avoidance systems, collision restraint system, air bag deployment system and traction control etc. These systems must be maintained if the vehicle is to operate within the manufacturers safety guide lines.

The Motor Vehicle Inspection certification booklet was last reviewed around 1992 and is no longer accurate due to increasing technology. Time we get up to speed and review where we should be to meet the requirements of the technological changes required for inspecting these advanced automotive safety systems.

Do we need vehicle inspections, the answer is obviously yes as it is part of the issue at hand.

Poor driving habits, poor vehicle maintenance, and a lack of enforcement are the areas needing Governments immediate attention.

If you are serious about cutting cost associated with accidents a full review of where the problems start is a necessity. Missing on any one of these will negatively affect your efforts to resolve the problem at hand.

Regards

Gary Ball

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Formal request for Action

At our Clubs meeting of April 11 2018, I tabled my observations on the bad driving habits of many drivers in our Province. While putting my thoughts forward, I found that I was not alone and the general membership readily shared their observations and expressed their concerns over lack of a visible police presence especially in school zones and main thoroughfares.

Our decision to take action was an obvious one.

The number of motorists speeding in the metro area and on our highways lends to ask the question why are specific speed limits posted if twenty km and higher over the posted limit is becoming the norm and obviously acceptable?

The running of Red traffic lights is becoming an epidemic and a serious issue for conscientious drivers and pedestrians alike. Turning on a Red light the pedestrian always has the right of way.

Erratic operation of vehicles zig zagging in and out of traffic forcing those drivers maintaining a responsible stopping distance, from the vehicle ahead, to pile on the brakes, making it worse by failing to signal their intention to change lanes.

Driving at speeds as high as 78 km through school zones is outrageous, Fines for those speeds should be a minimum of three hundred dollars. When excessive speed is indicated in a school zone, we need to impound those vehicles for a minimum of fifteen days, an action that just might help quieten traffic.

Did you recently sit behind a vehicle at a traffic light and have to wait until the driver ahead takes their eyes off the phone before they realize other traffic has moved? How many times have you been side by side and observed a driver in the next lane texting away, not having a clue what's going on around them.

Why do some drivers take great pleasure passing in the curb lane in bad weather where pedestrians, especially the young and elderly have no other option of walking available? Too often pedestrians have been absolutely drowned by these inconsiderate operators, and that's totally unacceptable.

Tail gating is a dangerous practice for all motorists often causing chain reactions and serious injuries. The two second rule should apply between vehicles when moving and when stopped at a light, etc. You should be able to see the bottom of the tires of the vehicle directly ahead of you.

Passing on the solid double line is also very common on two lane roadways, Why ?

We all wonder why insurance costs are high, why health care is so high, why first responder suffer the effects of PTSD. All the above are contributing factors.

If you feel this letter will benefit us all, please forward it to the following emails (contactrnc@rnc.gov.nl.ca) (Premier@gov.nl.ca) (twminister@gov.nl.ca) (info@safetyservicesnl.ca) Also to friends and acquaintances. Let us take the first steps necessary to improving our road safety in Newfoundland and Labrador. Please initial and forward.

Gary Ball

Speeding - why do we have posted speed limits, what does the word maximum speed refer to? What is the acceptable speed to breach the posted maximum limit? if there is an acceptable amount allowed over the posted limit Where does enforcement start in relation to the maximum limit posted?

Running the Red light is playing Russian Roulette with a 4000 pound vehicle which often leads to death or serious injury.

Erratic vehicle operation (zig zagging through heavy traffic) is a major concern as it indicates that the operator of the vehicle is out of control due to stress, impairment or just don't consider that their actions that often cause serious accidents and stress out other motorists. How often have you left a safe distance between you and the vehicle ahead to have someone pull in necessitating you and those behind you to hit the brakes ?

Driving through school zones with zone warning lights flashing indicating speeds as high as 82 KPH is unacceptable whether school is open or closed. We need to make driving the speed limit a habit. If that means impounding vehicles to correct the problem, so be it. Why 3 different speed limits ? 30-40-50

You do not have to drive far to find someone in front of you or side by side lost in the texting world often without a clue of what's happening around them. Look around and experience it for yourself.

In the curb lane the speed limit should be strictly enforced, it is not a passing lane, in metro or on the highway. In metro areas it is often shared with pedestrians who often fall prey to inconsiderate operators who care not for them.

Tail gating especially when slowing down creates a dangerous situation and leaves no time to react to the unexpected, It's a bad habit, A few seconds between you and the vehicle ahead is prevention.

How often have you seen vehicles passing on a solid line, is this legal I think not but to many drivers do.

All of the above contribute to Death, Pain and Suffering. Planning your drive is the responsibility of the operator. Leave enough time and a little extra so you do not compromise your safety or the safety of others safety.

Listen to VOICM for road updates before starting your morning commute. And enjoy a safe drive.