

Expect 600,000 Students Daily On School Buses As New Stopping Law Starts

Over 600,000 Ontario boys and girls are expected to be riding the fleets of school buses across the province each day, when school reopens on Tuesday, September 2.

During the 1973-74 school season, 592,026 children used the buses daily, an advance of 33,680 over the previous year. Based on this, Ministry of Transportation and Communications officials predict that well over 600,000 youngsters will be riding the buses in the season ahead.

As the new school season starts, so does the new school bus stopping law. And the flashing red signal lights are going to have new importance for all vehicle drivers, wherever they are driving -- highway, city street, village road, or "right around home."

The new school bus law, effective September 1, calls for all vehicular traffic to stop no matter what the posted speed limit, whenever the drivers see a chrome-yellow school bus flashing its alternating red lights, front and rear.

Until the introduction of this new school bus law, traffic in both directions has had to stop only on roads and highways where the posted speed limit is over 35 miles per hour. On and after September 1, the stopping law will apply regardless of the posted speed limit.

The only exception is on multi-lane highways with a median strip, where only the vehicles behind the school bus must stop.

What exactly is a median strip? Here is how the Ministry of Transportation and Communications defines it in The Highway Traffic Act -- "the portion of a highway constructed to separate traffic travelling in one direction from traffic travelling in the opposite direction. The median strip is a physical barrier or an unpaired strip of ground."

There's a penalty for not stopping. Conviction for failure to stop when required carries a maximum fine of \$100 and an assessment of 4 demerit points.

Under the new stopping law, a school bus is defined as a bus used for the transportation of children to and from school. The bus must bear on the rear the words "Do not pass when signals flashing." It carries two red signal lights on the rear and two on the front. And it is painted chrome yellow, with black lettering and trim.

The new law also says that no vehicle other than a school bus can bear the words "Do not pass when signals flashing," or the words "School Bus."

With the new September 1 law, each municipality will have the authority to enact by-laws designating local school bus loading zones.

These will have identifying signs, and can be located only on the same side as a school or nonschool facility often visited by school children and teachers -- for example,

the Royal Ontario Museum, where many school bus loads of students and teachers arrive from all over the area.

The school bus driver cannot stop a bus to drop off or pick up school children on a road or highway opposite a designated loading zone. And at the zone, the bus must be as close as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway.

Also, in loading zones, the school bus driver will not be permitted to flash the vehicle's alternating red lights.

"Chrome yellow" is going to be the colour to look for when you are driving during school days after September 1. This is the internationally-accepted colour for school buses, and it is now being used by school boards and bus companies, throughout Ontario as well as in other provinces and the United States.

Any bus that is not used to transport children to and from school cannot be painted chrome yellow.

In late April of this year, the Minister of Transportation and Communications

John R. Rhodes sent letters to all members of the Ontario Motor Coach Association and the School Bus Operators' Association, advising them that the new school bus stopping law changes would be in effect September 1, and explaining the law changes to these groups.

The changes came as a result of requests by various school boards and school bus operators, as well as by the Ministry of Education, which has publicized the law changes in its bulletin to regional directors of education and school principals across Ontario.

When the 600,000 youngsters start boarding their school buses each day, the onus will be on everyone who drives to keep an eye open for the chrome-yellow bus with the flashing red lights, and the key words to remember will be "any speed zone ... anywhere ... stop!"

Around town

Mrs. Lorenze Varnes, Jenny, Jimmy and Tim, Mrs. Evey Bass, and Mrs. Ed. Murray spent Tuesday at Niagara Falls.

Mrs. Evey Bass of Leasburg, Florida, has returned home after spending a month with her son Lorenza Varnes and family. Mr. and Mrs. Varnes and Jenny, and Mrs. Ed. Murray took her as far as Detroit on her trip home.

Dr. Paul Ferris of Toronto, spent the weekend with his brother and sister-in-law.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Ferris. Mrs. Hugh Cronk and Mrs. Madge Smith, spent a few days last week in Windsor, visiting their mother, Mrs. William Reaume.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Philip, visited Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Steedman, recently at St. George.

Mr. and Mrs. James Martin of London, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reeves, on Wednesday.

Mrs. Gordon Philip and her daughter Caryl Clark, visited

Mr. and Mrs. Garth Smith for a few days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Burgess of London visited Mr. and Mrs. Ferman Harris on Wednesday, and went to the Erie Beach Hotel at Port Dover for dinner.

Mrs. Jack Johnston of Belleville; and Mrs. Wayne Madole and Mrs. Robert Kirtin, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hammond gave a Surprise Party for them on Saturday, August 9 at their home, to celebrate their fortieth wedding anniversary. Mrs. Johnstone presented Mr. and Mrs. Hammond with an artistically decorated wedding cake, and they also received many beautiful gifts and good wishes from about thirty-five relatives and friends, who were guests at the party.

Library books (discards) are still available at the Port Rowan Library at ten cents each, and will be until August 30th. Library hours are Tuesday and Thursday 4 to 6, and on Saturday 2 to 5.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Krestel and Catherine, have returned home from a ten day vacation with Dr. and Mrs. D.A. Archibald, at their cottage at Barryvale.

Heidi Hagemester, Toronto Sculptress, was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W.T. McNeil, for a few days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Franklin attended the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Morris, at Norwich, on Sunday, August 3.

Recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Franklin were Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Franklin of Buffalo, N. Y., Rev. and Mrs. Black Franklin of Sun City, Arizona, Mr. Ernest Brown of Windsor, and Mrs. Roxy Runnalls of Waterford.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Kay and Jamie, spent last Friday with Mrs. Kay's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Thomson.

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Four Seasons Sheraton sponsors vintage car run

Paris 'twins' with Toronto hotel

Paris, that scenic town in southwestern Ontario with a population of some 6,000 has much in common with Canada's largest hotel - the Four Seasons Sheraton - although the common denominator may not be obvious at first.

Described as "a city within a city", the Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel has been open nearly three years and has its own "mayor", city council, police force, medical department, entertainment, two cinemas and even education facilities.

"On an average day, with 70 percent of our 1466 rooms occupied," says Kai Herbranson, General Manager of the hotel, "our population would match that of Paris, Ontario. With our restaurants and cocktail lounges filled, plus the various conventions and meetings, our population rises to double that of Paris."

When the two "cities" are analysed it is remarkable the similarities between a large hotel and a small town like Paris.

To emphasize the many similarities, it is proposed in "twinning" up the hotel and the town of Paris, to arrange exchange visits for the Municipal officials - the Police Chief of Paris to

spend a day with the hotel security department, the General Manager to exchange visits with the Mayor and explore the workings of each others offices, the Municipal Engineer for

Paris to spend a day in the giant plant and maintenance department of the hotel. There are many possibilities to be explored.

The first official event tying the "twins" together is the First Annual Toronto to Paris Vintage Car Run, sponsored by the Four Seasons Sheraton, on August 31st. There has been an overwhelming response from vintage car owners. The drivers and their families will enjoy Sunday brunch at the hotel and then a leisurely drive along the scenic country routes. An official welcome is planned in Paris, with a parade around the Fair Grounds, for this is the weekend of the annual fair. The day will end with a dinner hosted by the good people of Paris.

Mayor Bawcutt of Paris and Kai Herbranson of the Four Seasons Sheraton agree there is a remarkable similarity in their daily administrations of their two "cities".

The "mayor" - General Manager Kai Herbranson - convenes his "council",

consisting of Board of Operations members every Wednesday. In Paris Mayor John Bawcutt convenes his council on Tuesdays. Both mayors deal with a myriad of matters ranging from the incredible through the important to the impossible.

"I wasn't elected to office, but I have to know a lot about politics," comments Kai Herbranson, "and like any administrator, I have to rely heavily on my executives or 'council' to help keep my 'city' running."

The two "cities" both have swimming pools. Paris has a town park, the hotel has some two acres of shrubs, trees and flowers. Paris has a waterfall near the main street and the hotel has a 60' waterfall right off the lobby. "But in addition to the fun places, we also have our work areas and mechanical plants, just like Paris," adds Kai Herbranson. "Our public works, or maintenance department, is on the alert round the clock and prepared to deal with everything from changing a light bulb to a major power failure. In addition, the hotel has the same basic issues as Paris, there are sanitation



In Paris, France, they ride in "fiacres." In Toronto it's antique carriages. The Mayor of Paris, Ontario, Jack Bawcutt and his wife Joyce recently visited Toronto and found they didn't really care what it was called, they enjoyed it. For transportation, they found it slightly slower than the upcoming Toronto to Paris Vintage Car Run.

facilities, parking problems and lost kids. The hotel serves as many breakfasts, lunches and dinners as the housewives of Paris do each day.

The hotel has seven bars and restaurants and probably serves as many cups of tea and coffee in a day as they do in Paris. There are also some 40

stores and boutiques within the hotel, Paris has 30. Two banks can be reached without leaving the hotel, Paris has three. There are also a barbershop, beauty salon, drug store, candy shop and flower shop in the hotel and you can walk along the main street of Paris or through the hotel eating ice cream cones!

Port Rowan Want Ads

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Railroad signals, stoplights, wagons wheels, bell jars, field phones, boat propellers, rope, Jerry can's, canteens, packs, folding shovels, motors, single beds, stoves, rifles, swords, leather vests, antiques. Also a huge selection of used office furniture. **Outpost - Highway 3 East Simcoe. 9:30 - 5:30.** 23-3

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