

Avoiding truck accidents

Anna Moscardelli- September 2019

Tuesday August 20, 1:03 p.m. A text message comes through with a picture saying “Someone’s gonna be seriously injured.” Another day, another accident on the 402 highway involving transport trucks. Luckily no one was seriously injured in this accident.

I’ve heard all sorts of opinions about fixing the problems. “Put more OPP patrol cars on the highway, blame the US for not getting the trucks through quicker, blame it on the Sombra Ferry being closed, use the 4 way flashers when they (the truckers) come to a stop.” The reality is that the accidents are happening and the numbers involving transport trucks are up from this time last year. I’m not here to pick on truckers, however the reality is, is that something must change.

A few years back there was a lot of complaining about the speed limit being reduced from Airport Road to the Blue Water Bridge. Guess what? When the speeds were reduced, so were the accidents. The speed limits increased, and so did the accidents.

Do we need to go back to those same slow limits? I doesn’t need to start back at Airport Road, however, I say start the lower limit at the Modeland entrance to the highway. Are you going to stop the accidents? Probably not, however the impact of the crash will be lesser than what is happening now.

In about a month’s time the speed limit is to be increased to 110 km per hour on the 402. It’s my understanding that this area is to be a pilot project. Well hang on to your woollies people because it’s about to get really interesting.

There are still a number of outstanding lawsuits because of accidents on the highways locally. One in particular is still in the Discovery stage, and that accident happened about 7 years ago. Everyone is suing everyone. In essence, poor weather was probably the determining factor along with speed. Some say it’s the slow drivers that cause the accidents. Let me tell you, slow drivers in the fast lane are one of my biggest pet peeves. Leaving shopping carts in parking lots as opposed to returning them to the store or shopping cart area is my other pet peeve. Sorry, I got sidetracked.

Anyway, no doubt every level of government and others will blame everything and anything on all kinds of things. Bottom line, accidents are happening, and something needs to be done. Many of us have had loved ones who have patrolled those roads, and often they have either been involved in an accident or have tended to the accident. The memories left are not favourable. A good start in my opinion is to change the speed limit especially for the trucks.

One final rant of mine... Why are MPP’s getting raises when the Province is trying to get a hold of the sky rocketing debt? Mr. Ford, if you are going to be strict with spending and cutting in many areas, do you not think that MPP’s pay should be frozen as well? Yes, you work hard for your pay cheque and so do many others. If you cap one, then you cap them all including yours.