



Ontario Provincial Police  
Police provinciale de l'Ontario

## News Release/ Communiqué

**FROM/DE: Haldimand County Detachment**

72 Hwy #54  
Cayuga, Ont.  
N0A 1E0

**DATE: November 22, 2011**

### **ARE YOU PREPARED, THE SNOW IS COMING!**

#### **(HALDIMAND COUNTY, ON.) – Are you prepared for winter driving? Do you have your snow tires on yet?**

If your answer is; “no not yet” to the above questions you’re not alone. If you haven’t done so already, now is the time to winterize your vehicle. Adverse weather and driving conditions are not too far off. Parts of Ontario have already seen snow.

So are you prepared for winter driving?

The start of the winter presents some of the worst driving conditions of the entire year. We see rapid fluctuations in the weather, which by extension greatly influences road conditions. The ground and pavement are still relatively warm so sleet or snow often forms ice or heavy slippery slush.

Bare pavement might be mixed with ice patches, loose snow or ground drifting. Pavement in the sun might be clear while a shaded area on the next curve is covered in black ice. Sleet, freezing rain, snow or a combination of the three is always a possibility as the temperature hovers around the freezing mark. Snow covered roads may be bare and wet an hour later or visa versa. These are just some of the conditions encountered by motorists this time of the year.

Taking control of a vehicle that is about to crash is difficult at best and the outcome is not always predictable. Anticipating problems and taking steps toward collision avoidance is a far better choice so here are a few key points that might make a difference:

\* Tires play a major roll in the handling and braking of any vehicle, especially in adverse road conditions. Typically the lighter, rear end, of a vehicle is prone to lose traction and break free when tested by an emergency manoeuvre. Snow tires are far more effective than all-seasons and should be on all four corners of your vehicle! Have you gotten your snows mounted yet?

\* Tires aside, drivers must adjust speed according to weather and road conditions at all times. Driving below the posted speed should be something you expect to do, so remember to reduce your speed!

\* As well don’t forget to have a qualified technician conduct winter maintenance on your vehicle. Cold weather takes its toll on vehicles that have not been prepared. Electrical and cooling systems are especially burdened in the cold. So have them checked.

\* This time of the year weather and road conditions change fast and often. In fact, the road conditions might be different around the next curve, so remember to be attentive!

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**Contact: Cst. Mark Foster**  
**Phone: 905 – 772 - 3322**  
**Pager: 1 – 888 – 823 - 1744**

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