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CENTRAL CANADA DISTRICT CONNECTION



<http://www.ccdistrict.ca>

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Where the District Teams Meet

JUNE 2020

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CORNER



I hope all our GWRRA families and friends are in good health and safe. May 30th will be 76 days Ontario has been in a State of Emergency. It's hard to believe this State of Emergency started on Saint Patrick's Day. Doug Ford lifted some of the restrictions, and our Parks were over-crowded Saturday May 23, 2020.



Trinity Bellwoods Park, located near Queen Street West and Ossington Avenue

As you can observe, social distancing was not happening.



This is so sad, as our numbers in Ontario as of Sunday May 24th, while writing this newsletter article, are Confirmed: 25,912, and recovered: 19,477.

Social distancing is very hard, and I know most of us are climbing the walls after only a few weeks, as we would all have several fun miles of riding under our belts by now. We must all do our part to minimize the spread with social distancing, wearing a mask, and washing our hands regularly for 20 seconds.

With all the extension dates of non-essential people, workers, and businesses opening, combined with the borders, they have set a date of June 21st to open.

Enough talk of the pandemic...

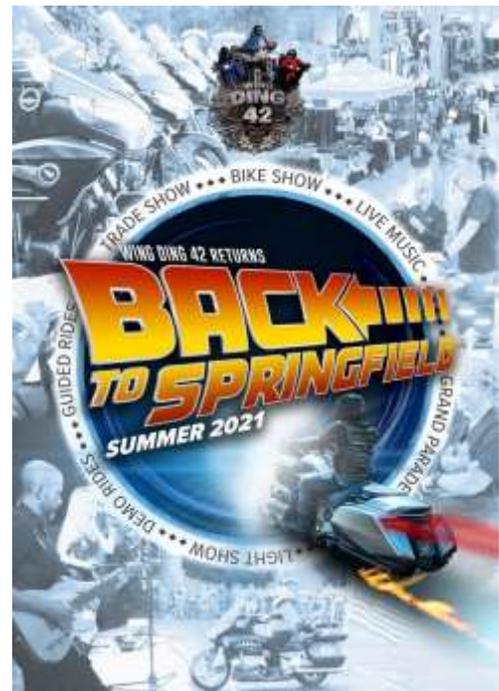
It was nice to see some of the Chapters in CCD on their FB pages going for a few small group rides, and are social distanced during these rides.

With all our breakfast gathering places being cancelled, it was also a pleasure seeing the Chapters communicating via: Zoom, Skype, and Microsoft Teams.



What a great way to say hello and see how we are all making out during these stressful times.

GWRRA is excited to announce that we will be returning to Springfield, Missouri, for Wing Ding 42. The event will be held **June 29, 2021 through July 3, 2021**. We are grateful to the city of Springfield for helping make this a possibility for our membership.



Wishing you all good health during this time, BE SAFE!!!



Remember: we only REGRET the rides we didn't take!

Gary and Kristina McDermott
Central Canada District Directors



RIDER EDUCATION



Three things to believe (even though they're not necessarily true)

By Lance Oliver

I don't take much of anything on faith, and if the facts don't show something is really — literally — true, then I don't believe it. But there are a few exceptions. When it comes to riding and safety, there are a few cases where I've decided to believe certain things, even though my hyper-rational side tells me they're not literally, always true.

Here are three things you should believe.

Ride like everyone in a car is trying to kill you

This has been said a hundred times in the comments on stories we have run on crash stats, safety, riding skills, etc. Of course, if it were literally true, the average motorcycle street-riding career would last 30 seconds. As soon as I pulled onto the road, the first car driver who saw me would instantly swerve into me and squash me dead. It is easy enough to do.

Since that's never happened, I know, rationally, everyone isn't trying to kill me, but there's still value in thinking that way. Consider this: If you're riding down a two-lane country road, do you flinch in terror every time you see a car coming in the other lane? No. Because about a million times you've passed a car going the other direction with no drama. So, it's easy to assume the next time will be the same.

They're not really trying to kill you. But it doesn't hurt anything to believe they are.

Adding a dose of paranoia shakes you out of that complacency. It may mean doing something as simple as shifting your lane position as a car approaches or as you approach an intersection. At least 999 times out of 1,000 it won't matter, but the one time a texting driver drifts across the center line, it could make all the difference in how you spend the rest of your life. If you have one.

It's a tiny cost for a potentially huge benefit. I like that. The paranoid mindset keeps you thinking and looking for escape routes. So, go ahead and ride like everyone is trying to kill you, even though they are not.

Every crash can be avoided

I first heard this said by the late Lawrence Grodsky, the founder of *Stayin' Safe Motorcycle Training*, and author of the similarly named column in *Rider Magazine* for many years. The fact that Larry died in a motorcycle crash (after hitting a deer at dusk on a rural Texas highway) disproved his statement, in the coarsest way imaginable.

Larry's successor, Eric Trow, teaches in the *Stayin' Safe* course that 99 percent of crashes can be avoided. Whatever the number, I'm convinced of two things: They're right, that *almost* all crashes can be avoided but, even more important, you should ride as if they *can* all be avoided.

That mindset puts the responsibility on you. When a car pulls out in front of me, I can scream obscenities and rage about “cagers” and consider the risk “unavoidable” or **I can analyze what I could have done** to improve my odds. Was my attention on the greatest risk, the car waiting to turn left across my path, or was I focused elsewhere? Did I shift my lane position to give myself the biggest possible buffer between me and the greatest threat? Was I thinking ahead about “what if?” scenarios, so I had an escape plan ready? Did I have the brake lever covered because I was entering an intersection, a high-risk zone? Had I checked my mirrors to see if there was a car tailgating me that would hit me if I braked hard?

If a car turns left in front of me, it’s the driver’s fault. But I’m the one likely to pay the highest price. So, I ride as if I am responsible for avoiding the crash, not as if I’m just a helpless victim of fate.

Even though you’re in too hot, you can make this curve

It’s happened to most of us. We’re enjoying a winding road and then we get into a curve too fast and suddenly we think we can’t make it.

The most common reaction at that point is to panic, give up, stand up the bike, brake, and run off the road, as seen in the video above, which I **wrote about a few years ago**. Giving up is not the best choice, however, because it may mean plunging into a ravine (as happened in this video) or smashing into the grill of an SUV (as almost happened).

<https://youtu.be/gct9bzEHBYY>

If you’re on any kind of performance motorcycle, odds are very good it’s capable of making the turn, even if you feel you can’t. Your best option is to look farther ahead to the exit of the corner (**look where you want to go**), lean the bike over more and try to make the curve. If you’re on a cruiser with limited lean angle, your odds may be a little worse, but if you shift your body weight (you’re going to have to have practiced that before it is needed in a panic situation) you still have a fighting chance of getting through without dragging hard parts badly enough to cause your tires to lose traction.

So believe you can make the curve. It might not be true. Maybe you really did screw the pooch and get into that curve so fast there’s no way your motorcycle can get you out the other side and still on the tires. But you’re better off believing and trying, because you probably *can* make it.

The thing is, for these three things to save your hide you have to believe, really believe, or you won’t act on them in the moment. For the first two, it means keeping your brain active and maintaining awareness, instead of riding carefree and letting your mind wander. As for the third, when I’m coming to a winding stretch of road, I’ll actually remind myself: If you have a “moment,” don’t panic and give up. Lean more and ride through it.

For your own good, sometimes you have to believe.

Ride Safe Always

Michel Lavoie MIT 023

Ride Safe Always!

Rouler Toujours Prudemment!

Central Canada District Educator - University Coordinator

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CCD Educator - University Coordinator





Looking back at last season and reflecting at all the fun we had as chapters and groups of friends, who would have ever thought that a pandemic would have changed our favorite past time this drastically. Here we are, one of the largest motorcycle groups in the world, and we aren't even supposed to go out and enjoy the company of our friends, HMMM.....what to do?

We get back to basics, that's what we do. We all bought motorcycles before we knew that GWRRA existed, and we took those bikes out with our spouses, packed a lunch, explored unknown roads and saw things we never knew about. We invited a friend or two to tag along, and we had a lot of fun just riding and exploring without having a lot of plans or expectations. And while the current restrictions are in place restricting group sizes, we should enjoy these great machines the way we originally planned to - just go out, ride, and enjoy them. And when you are not riding, what a great time to post pictures on chapter websites and Facebook pages sharing the experience you just had, encouraging others to do the same. These restrictions are in place for safety reasons, and after all, GWRRA is big on safety, but that doesn't mean we can't have fun, and before you know it, the restrictions will be lifted and we can get back to life as we knew it (mostly).

On a different note, our District Directors have announced that they will be stepping down to become active members, enjoying all of the good things GWRRA has to offer. I would personally like to thank them for all they have done for, not only the district, but for each individual chapter as well. Their guidance has shaped our district, developed programs, encouraged participation, and left some pretty big shoes to fill.

Thank you, Gary and Kristina, for your time and dedication; we wish you all the best as you join chapter life and take on new adventures.

Be safe out there, looking forward to chapter activities once again.

David Hay
Assistant District Director





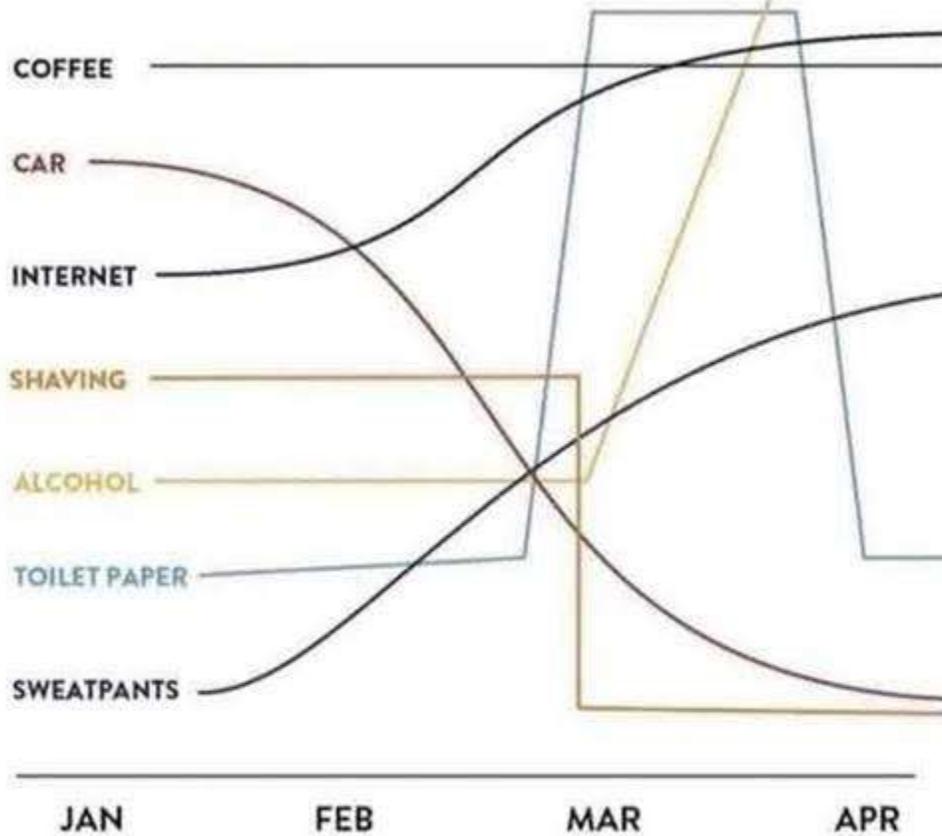
With so many sources of information related to the pandemic – including misinformation and myth – it’s easy to lose the facts provided by our real health and government authorities. Here are a few links for up-to-date, legitimate information:

- Health Canada on [Covid-19](#) – national stats, testing, self-isolations vs. quarantine, travel, etc.
- Information on [High Risk Groups](#) from Health Canada
- [Public Health Ontario](#)
- Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan: [Support for Individuals](#) – families, indigenous peoples, seniors, youth, etc.
- Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan: [Support for Businesses](#) – avoiding layoffs, creating jobs, self-employed, access to business credit, etc.
- Ontario Government [Covid-19 Updates](#)
- Ontario Government COVID-19: [Support for Businesses](#) - Information and advice to help your business navigate the economy during COVID-19
- Ontario Government COVID-19: [Support for students and parents](#) - Get information about school closures, child care supports and how to learn at home during COVID-19.
- [Re-Opening Ontario after COVID-19](#)

Quote of the day:

“Our elders were called to war to save lives. We are being asked to sit on the couch to save theirs. We can do this!”

Relative importance in 2020, so far



The most accurate
graph I've seen so far
during this pandemic



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<http://on-g.ccdistrict.ca>

Editor's Note



GOALS

You must keep your mind on the objective, not on the obstacle.

William Randolph Hearst



We are in for a change in leadership. District Directors Gary and Kristina are stepping aside after gracing us with their support and dedication. But we are not losing them. They will remain as valued Chapter Members and dear friends. We look forward to working with our next leaders.

Helen Young
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1624039684328174/>

