



## Transportation Health & Safety Association of Ontario

### **The Real Cost of Motor Vehicle Collisions!**

It was not the first multi-vehicle collision along Highway 401 and unfortunately it is not likely to be the last. A recent seventy vehicle pileup along the highway in the Woodstock area kept Police, Fire and EMS personnel busy.

Every year in Ontario motor vehicle collisions take a tremendous toll. This cost includes death and injuries as well as a major dollar figure. Here is a sample breakdown on just this one collision. If we were able to factor in an all inclusive dollar cost, I'm sure the figure would be astronomical.

The following information was sourced from a Jan. 23/08 issue of the *Woodstock Sentinel Review*. No one was killed in this collision.

#### **THE NUMBERS**

- 7 ambulances (5 Oxford, 1 Waterloo, 1 Brantford)
- 2 Oxford EMS support vehicles
- 16 paramedics
- 16 patients
- 30 firefighters (Woodstock, Drumbo and Innerkip)
- 6 fire department vehicles
- 20 Ontario Provincial Police officers
- 4 Oxford Community Police Service officers
- 2 Woodstock city buses
- 34 stranded motorists (transported to truck stop)
- 80 vehicles (57 cars – 23 tractor trailers)

It is estimated that when everything is taken into account, the deaths, injuries, suffering and the costs of collisions across this province the total would exceed nine billion dollars annually.

Simply slowing down and anticipating changing conditions would go a long way toward decreasing these numbers. Driving defensively is more important now than ever. Ontario's volume of traffic is higher than ever and it is growing steadily. Please talk to your drivers about driving safely and adjusting to the actual road and weather conditions or consider enrolling in a defensive driving course from THSAO. Your local representative can provide you with information on this or any course.

Please see our website at [www.thsao.on.ca](http://www.thsao.on.ca) for course and contact information.

THSAO is your partner in health and safety.