



Graham McCulloch Memorial Bursary Winner

"What does road safety mean to you?"

Written by: Brennan Kish

The ability to hop into the driver's seat of a weapon weighing in excess of a ton isn't a right – it's a privilege. When you're behind the wheel you are not only responsible for your own life, but for the lives of the motorists and pedestrians around you as well. There are many different items that fall under the category of road safety – such as road conditions, impaired driving, distracted driving, speeding, seatbelts, et cetera – but every scenario that I contemplate in regards to what road safety means to me is linked to driver experience.

From a very young age, my parents and I have focused on attaining real-world driving experience. Regardless as to whether it was an electric toy jeep, an ATV, or a full-sized pick-up truck, each rehearsal provided me with invaluable experience that I now use as a licensed, novice driver. It is my personal belief that real-world driving experience is the most important factor when it comes to educating drivers on not only the importance of, but also the ability to maintain due care and control.

One of the key advantages of a driver who has received adequate practice in real-world conditions is the skill to anticipate the actions of the surrounding individuals. When a driver is reliably able to predict what's about to happen before it happens, there is an enormous increase in their ability to avoid dangerous situations. No amount of classroom instruction time can sufficiently equal the valuable knowledge real-world experience can provide.

There are many pieces of advice my father has passed along to me over the years that I will never forget. His advice is a result of practice and acquired understanding of road safety. In summary, I believe that experience is one of the most important contributors to road safety for not only drivers, but also pedestrians.

