2019 Graham McCulloch Memorial Bursary Winner

"What does road safety mean to you?"
Written by: Anonymous

When I was three, my dad nearly killed us in a car accident. Of course, this isn't the only incident or the only close call we have had, but it is one of the worst. My dad apparently had been driving many long hours as we had been on a road trip. It was late at night and both my mum and I were asleep. My dad, heavily sleep deprived, fell into a microsleep which lead our vehicle to veer off our lane into the next. I don 't like to think about what could have happened if my mum hadn't woken up in time.

You may wonder why my dad didn't pull over to stop or let my mum drive if he was that tired. I can only guess why without asking him directly, but I would say that it comes down to his ego at the time. Maybe he wanted to prove that he was fine, maybe he wanted to prove that he was invincible to sleep. Although my dad is a wonderful person, and all he did was make a careless mistake, it was still his fault that he didn't take in consideration of the people around us as well as his own family.

It's these kinds of incidents that truly stress the importance of road safety. Driving is extremely dangerous. The danger can either be you, or the people around you. Many people, particularly those who are young, fail to realize that being enclosed in a vehicle is not safe. Many people make careless mistakes like my dad did, whether it involves sleep deprivation, alcohol, or drugs. Those impaired must always remember that there is always an alternative to getting home.

My mum always stresses the importance of road safety to me when I drive. I think that the best way for me to raise awareness about road safety is to reach out to people I know about being safe (notably in the winter season), encourage people to choose a designated driver when going out, and always be in the right state of mind.

We must always remember that anything can happen on the road, and that we are not alone. Always take in consideration of others and of yourself.

Advantage Fleet Services Inc.
"it saves to be safe"