



PACE CAR UPDATE

Hopefully by now you've seen at least a few Pace Cars in your area but for those who haven't and those who still have questions, here are some we've heard...

What is a Pace Car?

A Pace Car is a vehicle whose driver has promised to drive the speed limit and adhere to the rules of the road. Pace Car drivers are courteous to others and cautious of pedestrians and cyclists.

How do I become a Pace Car?

To become a Pace Car you must sign a pledge indicating your commitment to safe driving. All you do then is display your Pace Car Window Marker in your car whenever you drive, and do your best to follow posted speeds.

What if someone other than me drives my car?

If someone who is not a registered Pace Car Driver drives your car we ask that you either

- a. have them promise to abide by the same rules you follow
- b. remove the window cling so others don't see a Pace Car behaving inappropriately

What if I do speed?

Everyone makes mistakes and everyone may accidentally speed at times. If you notice you are speeding, simply slow down. One of the nice things about our window markers is that they are there for you to see as you drive to remind you to be a safe driver. If you happen to be caught by police speeding there will be no additional repercussions beyond whatever the officer might normally do – ticket or warning. The Pace Car Pledge you sign is a promise of intent, not a legally binding contract which could get you in trouble.

Am I a Pace Car just in my own neighbourhood or everywhere?

Ideally you will act as a Pace Car in your neighbourhood and elsewhere. As more drivers sign on we would hope that many people coming into our neighbourhood are Pace Cars and would extend that same courtesy to them in their neighborhood as well.

What if I have comments or questions?

A designated e-mail address has been set up to handle any comments or questions. If the issues raised require more feedback than we are able to provide we will seek out the proper information and respond back as soon as possible.

Is this a new program or is it used elsewhere?

This program has been used successfully in several communities in the U.S. and Canada. There are likely Pace Car programs in other places in the world as well that we don't know of. We don't know of any similar programs in other places in Ontario but we do know others have looked into it recently.

When are Pace Cars "out there?"

Pace Cars are not on the roads at designated times. They don't sign up on a schedule. They don't take turns monitoring morning or afternoon traffic. People who sign up as Pace Cars simply drive the speed limit and follow the rules of the road whenever they are out and about in our community.

It's too hard driving the speed limit.

It can be hard driving the speed limit but those who sign on as Pace Cars are promising to try. As Pace Car drivers they have the added bonus of their Pace Car Sticker which serves as a constant reminder to them to try to follow the speed limit.

I'm afraid I'll speed and embarrass myself or get in trouble.

Displaying a Pace Car sticker in your car is simply an indication you are trying your best to follow the rules of the road. No one will watch you more closely as a Pace Car and that includes police.

I know speeding is an issue so I'm going to try hard on my own to be a better driver.

That's great and every little bit helps. As an official Pace Car Participant however you have access to resources and supports, communication that may be of interest to you, as well as discounts from local retailers who want to do their part to support the program. It also shows organizers and local police that we support the ideas behind the Pace Car program.

I don't mind driving the speed limit in our area but I tend to drive faster than the posted speed on the highways.

Although speed limits can be important in other places as well, the Pace Car sticker is removable so you have the option of using it just while in our own community or anywhere you go.

What's the big deal and why are people talking about this?

The big deal is that every single day pedestrians see evidence of people speeding past school children, running red lights where children are waiting to cross or seeming not to see pedestrians in their rush to wherever they're headed. Our community is still growing and unless we can get control over our own streets it is only a matter of time before someone gets hurt.

I don't need a sticker. I already drive the speed limit.

That's great and there should be more of you. However displaying your Pace Car sticker and joining the program shows people you care about how you drive, shows your commitment to safer streets and shows outside agencies like the police and the City that we're willing to do our part.

Can I still sign up?

Absolutely. Just send a quick e-mail to pacecarkanata@live.com and we'll send you more information.