

info SAAQ

www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca

NEWSLETTER NO.5

2nd quarter 2004

IN THIS ISSUE

- Don't leave home without it
- Protect your life and that of others
- Move with a minimum of worries
- Look out for the payment due date

Drink or drive: it's your choice!

Summertime is teeming with activities, and opportunities to enjoy a drink with friends abound. But it is also a time of the year when the most people die because they were drinking and driving.

Simple solutions to avoid the worst:

Before you have a drink,

- Designate a sober driver to take you home.
- Call a cab, to get to your destination and return home.
- Have on hand the number to call a driver escort service.
- Ask for hospitality if you are going to a friend's.

A gesture that can make all the difference

If one of your friends has not planned how he will return home, you could save his life or that of innocent victims travelling on the road. Stopping a person from driving after drinking is your responsibility; you can be sure the person will thank you the next day!

How?

- By clearly showing your disapproval if he wants to drive.
- By supporting people who try to stop others from driving despite their diminished faculties.

Motorcycle riders: Start off right this spring!

Get to know your motorcycle again gradually, and review your riding techniques by going on short trips.

If you are riding a new machine or one not belonging to you, take the time to become acquainted with how it handles.

It is compulsory to wear a crash helmet that meets regulatory standards. Wearing a visor is strongly recommended.

Be extra careful and reduce your speed. Motorcycle accidents often happen on curves, when another vehicle is not involved.

Take care to be plainly visible to other drivers, especially at intersections. Motorists who crash into a motorcycle often say they never saw it.

Adopt a defensive approach to riding. Remember that a motorcycle offers very little protection in the event of impact.



THE SOCIÉTÉ KEEPS YOU INFORMED



You are holding in your hand a copy of our INFO SAAQ newsletter.

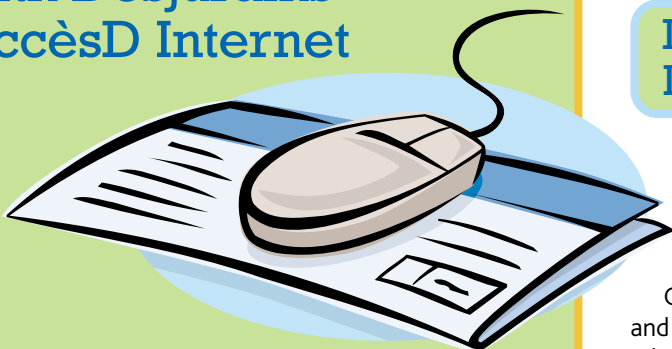
This publication, over 6 million copies of which are printed each year, is enclosed with your driver's licence and vehicle registration payment notice.

As a means of keeping you informed, the newsletter will touch on a range of subjects relating to the services the SAAQ offers and on road safety. We trust it will answer a number of your questions and encourage you to go to our Web site for more information in French.

Jacques Brind'Amour
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer



Pay online with Desjardins AccèsD Internet



If you're a member of a Desjardins caisse, you can now use their **AccèsD** and **Accès D Affaires Internet** services to pay for the renewal of your driver's licence, registration or disabled parking permit.

This new feature has been added to the other payment options available, which include the postal service, financial institution or automated teller and going to one of the SAAQ service outlets.

To sign up for this service, go to www.desjardins.com

Discover your Automobile Insurance Plan

Robert was operating a business when he became involved in a car accident. He has a lingering injury to an ankle. He cannot remain standing for very long, and cannot ride a bicycle like before.

Of course, the SAAQ pays him an amount to replace his income and financial compensation for his injured ankle, as well as reimbursing his medical fees.

What is more, the public insurance plan includes rehabilitation services. This will help Robert get additional career training that matches his interests and skills. The plan can also provide all the support required to help him practise his favourite sport again.

Did you know...

Every year, more than 6,000 injured people benefit from rehabilitation services to return to their living environment, to college or university or onto the labour market? More than 60 million dollars are invested on an annual basis to provide these services.



Desjardins
Online Solutions

Look Out for the Payment Due Date

Whether the payment notice you received concerns your vehicle registration or your driver's licence, make sure the fee payment is made by the due date... to avoid problems.

Have you **SOLD** your vehicle?

Make sure the registration transaction is done in an outlet offering SAAQ services before the fee payment due date, otherwise charges apply. **Remember:** you remain the owner of record until the transfer of vehicle ownership has been recorded by the SAAQ.

Planning on **SELLING** your vehicle?

Should the registration transaction not take place by the fee payment due date, you have two options:

- Pay registration fees in full (and be credited afterwards); or
- Put your vehicle in storage.

Planning **ON NOT USING** your vehicle?

If your fee payment notice concerns the registration of a vehicle that will be out of use for a certain amount of time, advise the SAAQ before the payment due date, and avoid that extra charge.

You can use the automated telephone service to notify us of the date beforehand that you would like to place your vehicle in storage. Telephone:

(514) 873-7620 in Montréal;
(418) 643-7620 in Québec (city and vicinity); or
1 800 361-7620, toll free, from elsewhere in the province.

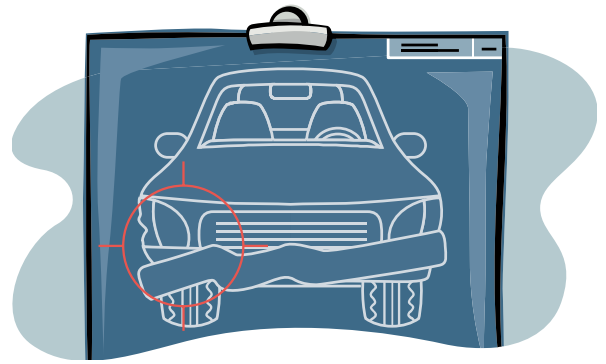
The best times to reach our automated telephone service **outside of regular business hours** are:

- Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- Sunday noon to 11:00 p.m.

Protect your life and that of others

Operating a motor vehicle requires the use of all our faculties and senses. **In just one minute of driving, how many movements do we make with our feet, hands and body?**

We have to move to back up, turn, park, change lanes, enter a highway, and check the blind spot. We move from head to foot, every part of our body is involved - in good weather as in bad, during the day and at night. Drivers have to be feeling very fit, remain concentrated and be ready for whatever might happen.



What you should do if you're injured in a traffic accident

- Call the POLICE immediately and have them write an accident report.
- Consult a PHYSICIAN as soon as possible and ensure that all of the injuries you sustain in the accident are listed in the medical report. Be sure to send this report to the Société and contact us as soon as possible at the following number: **1 888 810-2525**.

You will receive a claim form.

- Notify your PRIVATE INSURANCE COMPANY if there is property damage.

If you are involved in a serious accident **outside of Québec**, within Canada or the U.S., contact the SAAQ immediately at our toll-free number: **1 800 463-6898**

For more information on coverage available under the public insurance plan, pick up the brochure entitled: "The Insurance Policy for All Quebecers" at one of our service outlets or visit our Web site at:

www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/victim/

Did you know?

Drivers of heavy vehicles must undergo a medical assessment at the following ages:

- 45 years of age • 55 years of age • 60 years of age • 65 years of age, and every two years afterward.

When our health is good, everything is fine. But what happens when a health problem arises? Our driving ability is affected by reduced concentration or physical ability, despite many long years of driving experience. Unfortunately, disease can strike at any age.

That is why regardless of their health condition, all drivers must undergo a medical and eye check-up when they turn 75 years of age. Then, starting at age 80, the check-up or assessment takes place every two years.

Contrary to what we might think, only 1% of drivers lose their licence after this assessment.



Move with a minimum of worries

Do you plan on renting a truck?

Before anything else, make sure you have the right class of driver's licence.

Indeed, to drive a two-axle truck with a net weight of 4,500 kg or more, you must hold a Class 3 licence.

If the rented truck weighs less than 4,500 kg, a regular Class 5 licence is acceptable.

If you operate a vehicle weighing more than 3,000 net kg, you must stop at the Société's weighstations when they are open.



Are you moving with just a trailer?

Be careful with how you load your belongings. Tie them down securely or cover everything so that nothing will move or fall off. Make sure that nothing blocks the driver's field of vision, that the tailend brake lights are not covered, and that the weight of the load is well distributed in the trailer. And remember that no one can be seated in a moving trailer.

During the traditional moving period, the Société's carrier enforcement officers are especially vigilant. Don't run the risk of getting a fine ranging between \$90 and \$600.

For more information, in French, go to: www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/lourds/demenagement.html

CHANGE OF ADDRESS VIA THE INTERNET

It is possible to change your address online. Simply go to the home page of our Web site at www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca. Click on **Changement d'adresse en ligne**, under tab

En vrac...

Rapid, reliable and efficient, this service allows you to change your address for the following documents:

- Driver's licence
- Vehicle registration (when you are a vehicle's sole owner)
- Parking permits for handicapped people
- Compensation file if you have been the victim of a road accident

ARE THE DAYS OF YOUR VEHICLE NUMBERED?

Donate your car to The Kidney Foundation of Canada's Kidney-Car Program. You will be contributing to research and help the many thousands of Quebecers who suffer from kidney disease. An income tax receipt will be issued for your donation and your vehicle will be recycled!

To find the Kidney-Car number for your region, call **1 888 228-8673** or go to www.kidneyquebec.ca

For more information on donating your old car, contact the SAAQ or one of the program's partner agencies:

- Corporation des concessionnaires d'automobiles du Québec;
- CAA-Québec.



DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT

Riding a bicycle?

Head injuries are the reason for close to 60% of fatalities involving cyclists. The risk isn't worth it: wear a helmet! In the event of an accident, it absorbs the blow and the force of impact will be spread over its entire surface, instead of your head.

When purchasing a bicycle helmet, make sure it meets one of the following performance standards: **CSA**, **CPSC** or **ASTM**. There should be a sticker inside the helmet that indicates one of these abbreviations, guaranteeing its sturdiness. To get maximum protection, make sure your helmet is well adjusted.

Certain rules to follow

- Ride with the flow of traffic, to the extreme right of the roadway. Keep in mind that it is forbidden to cycle or skate on the sidewalk, except if necessary or where the road signs so indicate.
- Wear appropriate attire that is light in colour or easily seen, and signal your intentions. At night, wear reflective clothing; at intersections, come to a complete stop and wait for the green light or, at a stop sign, yield to users who have the right of way.

Do you rollerblade?

Even if you cannot rollerblade or go in-line skating on the street, don't take any chances - wear a helmet. You should also wear wrist guards and elbow and knee pads to help prevent serious injury.

Do you ride an electric powered-bicycle?

If so, these specific rules apply:

- you must wear a bicycle helmet when riding;
- you must be at least 14 years of age;
- you must hold a moped operator's licence (Class 6D), if you are aged 14 through 17; from age 18, no licence is needed;
- you must equip the bicycle with the same reflectors as a standard bicycle.

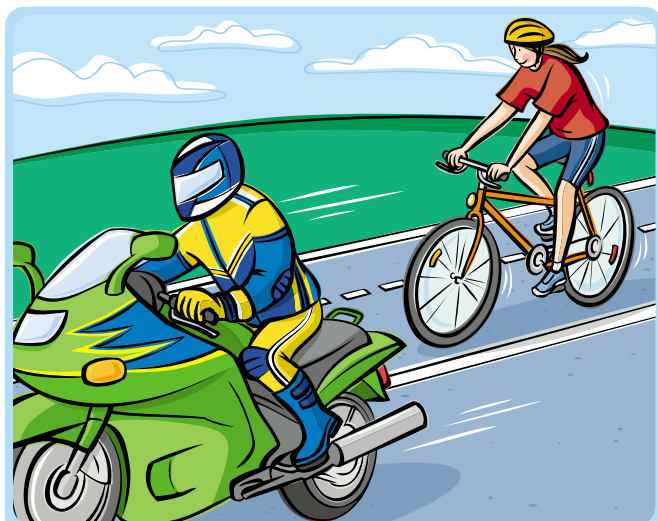
You are not required, however, to ride in lanes reserved for cyclists.

What about the head?

A confounding statistic is that based on observations compiled for 2002, only 28% of bicycle riders in Québec wore helmets, with adolescents being the age group making up most of the non-wearers even though they are the ones most often who become accident victims. Now there's something to scratch one's head over!

If you want to read more on bicycle safety, in French, visit:
www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/prevention/velo/

Compulsory visibility equipment



THE TWO-WHEELERS ARE BACK, so be on the lookout, car drivers!

In springtime, motorcyclists, moped riders, and cyclists are back on the roads. Keep on the lookout because—since they're smaller—they're harder to see.

Let's learn to share the road again.

Visit our Web site for more information, in French, about:

Child car seats. Is your child right up there?

● www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/prevention/sieges/

Driver fatigue. Keeping your eyes wide open.

● www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/prevention/fatigue_volant/

Modified vehicles. Caution required.

● www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/dossier/vehicules_modifies/

Patience and courtesy at the wheel.

● www.surete.qc.ca/prevention/impatience_com.html

Alcohol-impaired driving.

● www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/prevention/alcool/

Produced by the Direction des communications, the INFO SAAQ newsletter is printed on 100% Québec paper.

Your comments are welcome.

E-mail: courrier@saaq.gouv.qc.ca

Version française disponible sur demande.

© Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec, 2004

Reproduction is authorized on the condition the source is credited.

ISSN: 1705-9283

Photos: Photomag

Société de l'assurance automobile

Québec

