



The transition from 2012 to 2013

Another year is just about in the history books. How would you rate it from your perspective? I guess the biggest question from a financial perspective is did you think you would have made it? We all try to be positive especially when it is our business. But that thought has to cross every trucking company owners mind from time to time.

When I joined the trucking industry over 40 years ago I never dreamed that I would be running my own safety consulting business. To be honest I had every intention to retire from the same company that I joined the industry with in 1972.

As things became uncertain for me over those years I had some doubts as to where I was going to be at retirement. I was glad that my kids had good jobs and a solid work ethic because I thought that they would be supporting their mother and I into our golden years.

Did your company avoid disaster in 2012? For most, disaster can mean different things and what is a disaster for one is nothing more than another day at work for another. Recruiting and retention has sparked some conversation. Good companies may have new work come their way but may be unable to build a workforce to meet the challenge. For some, their workforce has aged into retirement. Then we have those employees that have had the misfortune of poor health and are no longer able to assume the responsibilities that they had for so many years in this fine industry.

From time to time we complain about the trucking industry but I have to tell you, I would do it all over again; with a few changes of course.

Take sometime before the end of the year and reflect on where you have been and where you want to be in another year. Involve your staff and most of all make sure that safety is a part of the plan.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a safe 2013.

Check out our website www.transportationsafetycs.ca for past issues on the Safety Lane as well as many other interesting articles.

*I have not failed.
I've just found
10,000 ways that
won't work.*

Thomas Edison

***There are still
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2013 Open Courses

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www.transportationsafetycs.ca



Top tips for preventing slips and falls

Whether you own a home or business, you have certain legal responsibilities and an obligation to ensure that anyone on your property is reasonably safe.

Much like parents would baby proof their home, you must take the time to carefully inspect your property for potential slip and fall hazards.

Follow these tips to prevent injuries:

- Keep up with snow and ice removal on and around your property.
- Make sure there's enough lighting, especially in stairwells.
- Repair or replace loose or missing handrails.
- Smooth out damaged or uneven surfaces in parking areas, walkways or steps.
- Repair or replace damaged floor coverings, such as loose tiles or ripped carpet.
- Keep washroom areas and decks around hot tubs or pools clean and dry.



From Co Operators Insurance, January 2012

I would like to add a comment to this. A few years ago one of my clients told me that his property insurer suggested that they keep a log for winter snow and ice maintenance.

Hopefully no one takes a slip or fall on your property. If you are doing the right thing and cleaning walkways stairs etc., take a few extra minutes and document the task for your own protection.

"When you do it right, safety gets you home at night."

John Boerefyn



Peephole Driving

In a safety meeting that I attended, the terminology, 'peephole driver' came up. Being unfamiliar with the term, I had to google it.

It seems that nearly all snow-belt drivers have done it at one point, myself included. It's cold and we're running late, so we do a rush job of clearing the snow and ice off the windshield. We pull out of the driveway, peering through a small ice or snow-free hole in the windshield just enough for us to see part of the road, hoping the wind and defroster clear the rest quickly. This tactic is known as "peephole driving" and while it is not a new trend, the winter season and new laws are bringing the issue into the spotlight.



Peephole driving dramatically reduces a driver's field of vision, and it increases the likelihood that snow or ice can become dislodged and hit another vehicle or a pedestrian, according to police and safety advocates.

"Everybody is in such a hurry to get where they've got to go, they don't want to take the time to completely defrost their windows."

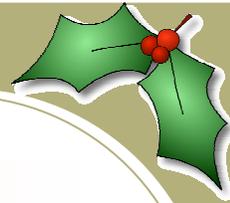
Beware of Others

Once you clean up your act and take an extra few minutes to fully clear your vehicle of snow and ice, you still can't relax. Beware of other drivers on the road who haven't taken the time to do the right thing.

If you see another driver frantically scraping frost off the inside of their windshield, while bobbing their head from one side to the other, rubber-necking to get a view out of the 8-inch hole in the snow and ice on the windshield, you'll know to give them some extra distance. There's no reason that their rush to get going in the morning should delay you with a fender bender or damage from flying debris.

Please take time to remove the snow from your vehicle, including the roof. And if you see another vehicle that did not have the courtesy to do so, steer clear!





Words of wisdom from Joe Theismann

In 1985, Washington Redskins quarterback Joe Theismann was near the pinnacle of his career. He led the team to victory in Super Bowl XVII during the 1982 season. The next year, the Redskins won the NFC championship and Theismann won the league's most valuable player. He was earning \$1 million a year, making him the fourth highest paid player in the NFL.

"I was great, or at least in my mind I had become great. The entire world revolved around one thing, Joe Theismann. But truthfully, what I had become was the single most despicable, egotistical maniac to ever walk the earth," he told a gathering of fleet executives and managers at the PeopleNet User Conference held in Boca Raton, Fla., on August 7. "I was bad. I didn't need anybody. I was the star."

His career began to unravel in 1985. The Redskins started the season 4-4 and then came the turning point of his career and life. On Monday, November 18, at 10:05 PM, he received the play call from the sidelines of RFK Stadium—a flea flicker. After taking the snap, Theismann handed the ball off to the fullback who then turned around and pitched it back to Theismann. His main receiver, Art Monk, was covered. Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor broke through the line and grabbed his left shoulder. "His leg caught mine," and the rest is history.

Looking back on that experience, Theismann says it happened for a reason. He remembers the standing ovation from the crowd as he was carried off the field in a stretcher.

"Fifty five thousand people stood up and gave an ovation that I've never heard before and said thank you to a man who thought he needed no one," he said. "The good Lord has a way of coming into our life. He set up something so I was not going to forget that evening."

Theismann said that after the injury he took a \$935,000 pay cut. If he was going to be successful from that point on, he would have to earn a life in business. "When you take a \$935,000 pay cut, your attitude suffers," he said.

Theismann shared some valuable lessons from his life, most of which seemed like common sense, but with his passionate delivery the audience of 850 PeopleNet customers and vendor partners rewarded him with a standing ovation.

Goals, attitude, enthusiasm and confidence are among the most essential traits for success. He said confidence has three elements: anticipation, education and hard work. "Once you get confidence, it gives you a chance to do something, to take a chance." He challenged the audience to be confident and ask themselves how they can make a difference in the industry and make it better.

"If you get excited, people around you get excited. Great orators get elected to office, but are not the best people for the job. I'll leave it at that," he quipped.

His speech was not all about success in the workplace, however.

"We may think our job is so important that family takes second place. I'm tired of hearing, 'But I'm doing it for you.' That is the biggest crock of baloney in the world. A valued life is a balanced life. I lost a family because of it. That was my excuse; that was my story. You have to take the time. If you can get to the last quarter of a basketball game or soccer game, you get there. You will never have that moment back."

In summary, Theismann said that a saying he keeps on his desk reminds him of what life is really about, even if it took a fractured leg and a pay cut to help him learn it: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

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