

12 Minutes Faster

A Message from Auntie Karen

Notice to reader :

Please find to follow one of many comments or stories that I've received. I will only publish stories or comments that I receive written/emailed authorization for. Further to that, I will never include full names or locations to protect the identities of those whom submit. Feel free to submit YOUR stories to me at any time!

Thank you – this website is only what YOU make it!

Auntie Karen

Comment / Story :

You're welcome to use my email on your website, it's a great thing you're doing. Upon hearing it on the radio your topic really got to me and I was worried there might be too many speed freaks ready to criticize you and whatever few considerate drivers there are out there, so I dropped in my two cents. I'm just an average-type guy whose so far lucky not to have had any first-hand experience with auto-related death or injury and I credit this to a sort of "waking up" on my part thanks to news, headlines, radio, and basically just the kind of stuff that you're doing to raise awareness. I look forward to watching the visitor count on your new website go up to show just how many other people are also "getting it".

Keep up the good work,

PB

This is in response to Auntie Karen's letter to your program talking about the risks of daily driving on our streets and highways. This is one of the things that I felt was completely true, and really made me think. This effects a big part of everyday life for a great majority of Canadians. And for what it's worth, it compelled me to write this lengthy feedback in support of safer driving.

Thank you Karen for speaking out about this, and thank you Charles for having it on your radio show. I had to turn the volume up at work because I was surprised to hear that there ARE some people out there who aren't blind to this fact.

The trouble here isn't due to a lack of traffic enforcement, it's people's attitudes behind the wheel. In an era where our cars define our ego, a faster driver equals a better driver, and slow means stupid, that is the mentality out there. The truth many drivers need to face is that it is in fact the other way around. The Maximum Speed Limit is exactly that, it's not a suggestion. Why is it that people cannot tolerate another driver going below this limit yet it is perfectly acceptable to go 10 kilometers over? I know your car can go fast, guess what? so can mine. It's easy to go fast, but do you have the nerve to maintain your speed when some spaz decides to tailgate you? Do you have the self control needed to be a defensive driver when you suddenly get cut off?

I sometimes wish "Darwinism" applied to bad drivers, we would be rid of their stupidity, the problem would resolve itself. But it doesn't work that way; everyone sharing the road risks their lives equally. In fact, I'm embarrassed to admit that I WAS one of these dangerous drivers myself, years ago. But several heavy traffic fines and a few close calls later and I began to open my eyes and I asked myself why was I risking it? WHY? I finally started to see and hear things EVERY DAY about real collisions and a voice in my head would admit; "that could have been me" and it scared me straight. I look back now wondering what was wrong with me, what was I thinking? Was I so ashamed to drive slower? I've since had my windows tinted and this helps to ignore the feeling of strong judgment from passing drivers.

Today I don't care if people tell me I drive like an old lady. Those people can walk. I don't have to prove anything when I'm behind the wheel of my car. I still struggle with the notion of not letting other drivers get to me. I'm still working on being a

Website : www.12minutesfaster.ca
Email : 12mins@mts.net

12 Minutes Faster

A Message from Auntie Karen

better driver. Try this; next time you're behind a slow car, or better yet a truck, can you keep your distance? Can you resist from slamming your foot down on the gas, cranking the wheel, and "showing them"?

I'm not sure what I would convey to the dangerous drivers out there that would make them stop and think. The dangerous drivers aren't even aware that they are bad drivers. They really have no idea what they are risking. I'm willing to guess that the dangerous drivers don't even listen to the radio, because if they did they would instantly know better just from hearing the daily traffic reports.

You're a dangerous driver if, you:

- Don't have any merits on your license
- Actually believe you won't ever get caught for speeding
- Didn't give yourself enough time to get to where you're rushing to
- Don't give yourself enough room to react if the car in front of you suddenly stopped
- Wait until the last possible second to switch lanes when the car in front of you is making a turn
- Keep your foot on the gas pedal as you approach a stop sign or red light
- Don't understand what a turn signal has to do with you driving your car
- Don't make an attempt to switch lanes out of courtesy to allow merging traffic to enter
- Throw trash out your car window, (an obvious sign of no regard for anything)
- Act like the Transit priority lane signs don't apply to you
- Have trouble staying centered in your lane
- Actually think there's a certain amount of alcohol that's okay for you to drink before driving*.

There's more, these are just obvious common signs of a dangerous driver. If any one of these apply to you then everybody wants you to change your habits because soon it could be someone you know who suffers for your ignorant ways, and then you'll be in for a world of regret, my friend. Lastly, on a positive note, I would like to sincerely thank all the nameless Winnipeg drivers out there who have ever allowed me to switch lanes, or kept a safe distance behind me, or drove even slower than myself. By your good example I have been able to make the change from a destructive to a safer driver. We drive slow because we know better and not because we are inferior.

Take care out there,
Peter B.

Website : [www. 12minutesfaster.ca](http://www.12minutesfaster.ca)

Email : 12mins@mts.net