

67-Year-Old Female Driver Fatally Injured Near Mt Brydges Ontario Is Another Lesson To Be Learned

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I attended the site of this unfortunate fatality this afternoon after hearing of its occurrence yesterday afternoon, October 6th. It is always a fine line between trying to educate the public while potentially causing additional difficulties to the family and friends of this person. However it must be done.

The collision occurred at a time when there was rainfall in the area, but I cannot say to what extent it was a factor at the time and location of this happening. What is also evident is that there was road construction activity around Mt. Brydges, Ontario which caused the main road to be closed and a detour was arranged onto Rougham Road where the fatality occurred. So picture this: drivers are directed onto a secondary road which normally does not experience a lot of traffic but all of a sudden it experiences a lot of traffic, redirected off the main road. A lot of these drivers have likely never been on this secondary road and do not know where the stop signs are located.

The news media reported that the fatally injured woman was travelling north on Rougham Road and that she came to the stop-sign-controlled intersection at Glendon Road which runs east/west. Her vehicle was reportedly struck by a vehicle headed eastbound on Glendon Road. So, such a collision would likely result in direct contact to the driver's side of her vehicle and that is rarely a good consequence. But let us look at some photos of the site that I took this afternoon.

First I want to show you the roadway (Rougham Road) on which the woman was travelling northbound as she approached the intersection at Glendon Drive and below is a view looking north toward that intersection.



Nothing unusual it would seem. A typical, semi-rural intersection. But did you notice the orange Detour sign near the stop sign? How about a closer look? Below is another view just south of the intersection and looking north-east at the Detour sign.



It's a nice Detour sign. Orange. Quite visible. Certainly having it placed where it is makes drivers know precisely where they must go. But the background is somewhat cluttered. There is something behind that Detour sign that is not making it stand out as it should.

So let's move our camera over a little bit and take another photo as shown below.



Oh, O.K., there was a stop sign behind that Detour sign. But it's O.K. now because we moved over a bit and exposed it. No problem right? Or maybe not. Remember that this driver reportedly travelled through a stop sign and therefore she is likely to be at fault for the collision but she is no longer available to explain. While the Detour sign only blocks the stop sign for a brief distance and time why is it placed there anyway? Is there no

better place to position a Detour sign? Let's look on the opposite side of the intersection and see where the Detour sign is located. The photo below shows a sound bound view on Rougham Road toward the intersection with Glendon Drive.



It should be clear that the Detour sign for southbound traffic is clearly out of the way of the view of the stop sign. The Detour sign for southbound traffic is positioned further away from the road so that it does not interfere with the driver's view of the stop sign.

So is there a problem? Certainly it does not help that the Detour sign for northbound traffic actually blocks the view of the stop sign for northbound drivers. That may not be a significant problem but one really knows. Heavy rain might have been falling. The driver may have been distracted by other events as she moved toward the intersection and she reduced her speed without actually being certain whether there was a stop sign for her direction or not. She might have glanced toward the direction of where the stop should be but she only saw the Detour sign because the stop sign happened to be directly behind it. So she might have continued into the intersection without stopping.

Who knows? But it is these kinds of things that are not reported in the local news media. I am not a betting man but I am almost willing to bet anyone that tomorrow or the next day when they provide further details about this collision there will be no mention of a Detour sign possibly blocking the line of sight of the deceased driver. There will only be a mention of driver who was not paying proper attention and "failed to yield the right of way".