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The View from Passenger's Seat

Last month I went on a trip with one of our drivers to see what life was like on the road. What an experience it was!

Prior to the trip I grabbed a few healthy choices from the grocery store, packed my clothes and made sure to include my running shoes so that I could go for a jog once we stopped driving. The plan was to leave from our yard in Oakville, do a switch in Greenfield IN and then get liveloaded the next day in Frankfort KY. Sounds easy enough.

After an extensive pre-trip we hit the road. We being me, a veteran Caravan driver Paul and his little dog Chloe. Paul is a Driver Trainer with Caravan so he is used to hauling around people with limited, or in my case zero experience. We drove for a couple of hours talking about Caravan, the transportation business as well as our personal lives.

Before I knew it we were at a truck stop in Tilbury to take Chloe for a walk and for me to grab some Burger King. So much for the healthy groceries that I bought. When we got to the Detroit border we made the realization that we were supposed to go to Port Huron. D'Oh!

After a quick call to dispatch we had to wait about 35 minutes before everything was sorted out and we were on our way. We made it to Greenfield IN around 6 PM, did our switch and continued driving. Eventually we made it to Seymour IN where we spent the night at a Pilot Truckstop.

I was pleasantly surprised with the condition and quality of the food at the truck stop. There was a full salad bar as well as many reasonably priced items on the menu. We enjoyed our meals. The running shoes I packed? They did not leave the bag.

Nearly 14 hours on the road and I was completely wiped out; and I did not do ANY driving. I read a little bit of my book from my perch on the top bunk and called it a night. The next day we drove to Frankfort KY where we had a live load. After about an hour we were on our way.

We knew it was going to be a little tight for time so we limited our stops and headed north. Aside from some construction in London ON there were no major delays and we made it to the yard just as our HOS were expiring. Thank God! After 40 hours in the truck, I was ready to get home.

This trip gave me a new appreciation for life behind the wheel. The amount of preparation that goes into a trip is unreal. You need to have excellent time management skills, a good sense of geography, you must be mechanically inclined and you have to know how to safely navigate 80 000 lbs of freight at 100 KM/H. Not an easy task. So thank you Paul for your patience and thanks to all drivers for everything that you do.

Any drivers interested in having Mike join them for a trip, please call *227

Headquarters 2284 Wycroft Road, Oakville, ON L6L6M1
Montreal 500 Montée Labossière, Vaudreuil-Dorion, QC J7V 8P2
Winnipeg 68 Bergen Cutoff Road, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2E6
Regina 12202 Rotary Avenue Regina, SK S4M 0A1
Calgary 5312 - 114 Avenue SE, Calgary, AB T2C 4T9

phone 905.338.5885 fax 905.338.8450
 phone 450.424.2700 fax 450.424.6838
 phone 204.633.4099 fax 204.633.4069
 phone 306.584.1001 fax 306.584.1081
 phone 800.268.3045 fax 403.279.2983



DRIVERS OF THE MONTH

DRIVER OF THE MONTH

JULY



Ernie Horvath

- 11,600 + miles
- Fuel economy over 90 points
- Great attitude



DRIVER OF THE MONTH

AUGUST



Lawrence Fort

- Reliable
- Trusted driver trainer
- Helps with whatever he can



DRIVER OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER



Devan Horvath

- Professional conduct
- Does longer day trips as needed
- Fosters good relationships with local shippers and receivers



TOP FACEBOOK PHOTOS



Colours by Jeff Wahlman



Autumn by Jeff Wahlman



Elkmont, AB by Dmytro Sokolovsky



Staff at the Blue Jays vs Baltimore Orioles game on Wednesday September 28

summer Staff Events



TORONTO FC SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST WINNERS



2016 WALK for CHILDREN with APRAXIA of SPEECH

CARAVAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016 at 10AM (9AM CHECK-IN)

at RIVERSIDE PARK RED ROOFED PICNIC SHELTER
709 HOGLAND STREET • GUELPH, ON N1H 7G6

Register online at casana.apraxia-kids.org/GuelphWalk before August 21st to receive a free t-shirt! Walk-up registration at the event is always welcome! For more information, please contact Brooke at guelphapraxiawalk@gmail.com





tech news Blackberry Radar

Trailer tracking has been the primary focus of transportation carriers across the world, and Blackberry stands at the forefront of technology, offering secure and encrypted fleet tracking data on cellular networks.

Five hundred Caravan Transport Group trailers have been equipped with the new Blackberry Radar to commence the joint pilot project. Blackberry Radar is the new, easy-to-use and easy-to maintain, secure cellular fleet and trailer tracking service available to carriers on the market now.

The trailer tracking features enables the client to view the status of their cargo, with live updates on locations and programmed events that show up as alerts, taking the guesswork out of supply chain solutions and logistics.

Blackberry Radar allows the driver to collect the freight and get rolling. There is no need to open the trailer doors, temperature and humidity settings are to be adjusted as needed, and both the driver and the planners/dispatchers are alerted when an event occurs.

The results of the Blackberry Radar trailer tracking program have been positive, the return on investment is demonstrated in the efficiency of the data being received and time saved in locating loads and determining load contents.

The Blackberry Radar software works in coherence with existing dispatch software and complements existing satellite communications, e-logs features and in-cab scanners.

Caravan Transport Group plans to further expand and continue to equip its fleet with the Blackberry Radar units, with the goal of fitting another 1000 trailers with the tracking devices. Caravan Transport Group is a proud proponent of the Blackberry Radar initiative and excited to see what a future together has to offer.



BLACKBERRY radar



-  HUMIDITY
-  TEMPERATURE
-  LOCATION
-  DOOR STATUS
-  LOADING STATUS

SENSORS ALLOW YOU TO LOCATE AND TRACK YOUR FLEET



Town Hall Meeting
 in the Drivers' Lounge on the
 first and last Tuesday of every
 month at 3pm in Oakville
ALL DRIVERS WELCOME!

Truck Driving Time-Saving Tips

- ✓ Several hours before you are scheduled to leave, confirm if your trailer is in the yard and if the paperwork has been done
- ✓ Thoroughly examine your ACE and ACI; these are your tickets to get through the border. If the name, license plate, piece count or anything else is off, it is your job to notice
- ✓ Double check what border crossing it says
 If you do not have an entry #, send your Driver Manager a message when you are 100 miles or more from the border
- ✓ Take a picture of your POD and stamped ACI as soon as you get them
- ✓ If possible, send your paperwork from the shipper. If the warehouse will not fax it, kindly ask reception
- ✓ If you are going to be late (or even early) let your Driver Manager know
- ✓ Enter a macro with your next date available

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JUST A REMINDER...

The Caravan Group Incentive Plan is still ongoing and allows you to receive discounted services at many local businesses. These offers are exclusively for Caravan Staff members and encourage you to live a healthy and affordable lifestyle. Better yet, many of these places are covered by your benefit plan.

For instance, did you know that massages are covered by your benefits? While the average person could get five massages at no cost through the benefit program, Caravan Staff can receive eight. We have incentive programs with auto mechanics, a chiropractor, a dentist, physiotherapists, a local gym and many more.

Some of these places even offer free consultations and checkups. So do not wait for something to go wrong before you get a check-up from your chiropractor or dentist. Be proactive! You even get a free "On the Road" Travelling Kit just for a FREE consultation from the dentist.

Caravan Fall Harvest

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 - NOVEMBER 30, 2016



DRIVER REFERRAL BONUS

CARAVAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

- \$400**
COMPANY SINGLE
- \$600** (S200 / DRIVER)
COMPANY TEAM
- \$500**
SUB-CONTRACTED / INCORPORATED SINGLE
- \$750** (S220 / DRIVER)
SUB-CONTRACTED / INCORPORATED TEAM
- \$1000**
OWNER-OPERATOR SINGLE
- \$1500** (S750 / DRIVER)
OWNER-OPERATOR TEAM

For more information, call us Toll Free: 1-855-937-2854 or email drivers@caravangroup.com

www.caravangroup.com

SIGN-ON BONUS

CARAVAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

- \$2000**
COMPANY SINGLE
- \$3000** (S600 / DRIVER)
COMPANY TEAM
- \$3000**
SUB-CONTRACTED / INCORPORATED SINGLE
- \$4500** (S2250 / DRIVER)
SUB-CONTRACTED / INCORPORATED TEAM
- \$5000**
OWNER-OPERATOR SINGLE
- \$7500** (S3750 / DRIVER)
OWNER-OPERATOR TEAM

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For more information, call us Toll Free: 1-855-937-2854 or email drivers@caravangroup.com



spot- lighting JAMES MEEDS

Q: Why did you choose to drive for a career?

A: I watched the TV Show Cannonball which followed around two zany drivers and it got me hooked.

Q: Do you encounter lots of wildlife?

A: I've seen a bunch of bears and deer and what not. The neatest thing I saw was a group of about 30 moose that were just walking as a group in Jasper AB. I slowed to a crawl and was so close that I could have touched them.



Q: Any advice for your fellow drivers?

A: maintain your equipment, do a proper pre-trip and do not let people push you around

Q: Do you have any hobbies that not many people know about?

A: I used to go Square Dancing all the time.

Q: What is the scariest thing that happened to you on the road?

A: Driving in NYC I was told not to even stop at red lights at night. One time a guy jumped onto the truck and tried to get in the window with one hand and his other hand had a gun pointed at us!

Q: Where in the world would you go if you had the opportunity?

A: My wife and I would love to go to Hawaii and Alaska.

Q: Has anyone ever told you that you look like Donald Sutherland AKA President Snow from Hunger Games?

A: No. (sees picture). Haha that does look like me!

