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Ontario

LICENCE PLATE RENEWAL: Free doesn't mean forget about it

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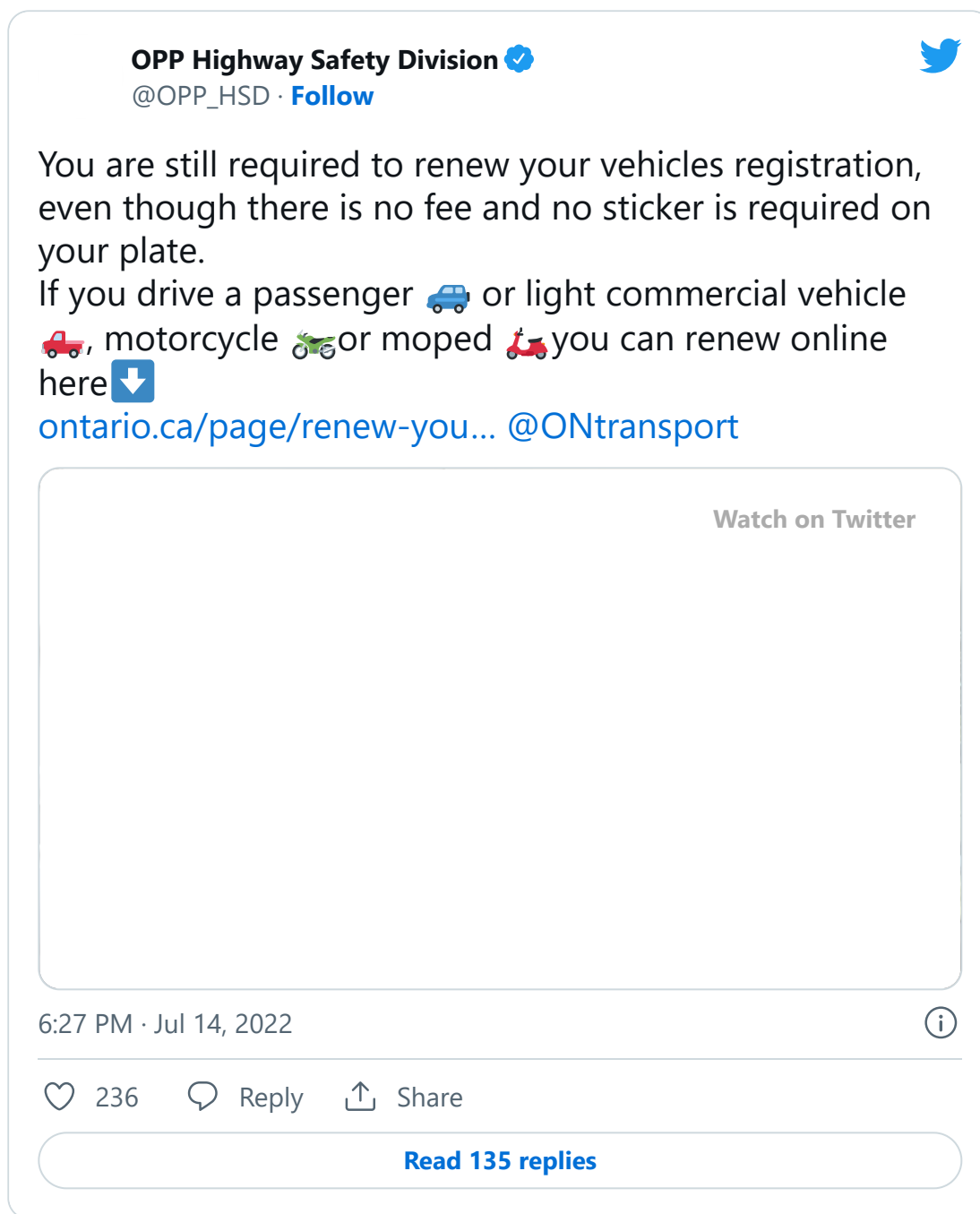


A photograph of an Ontario provincial licence plate with a renewal sticker is shown in Mississauga, Ont., on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022. PHOTO BY NATHAN DENETTE /THE CANADIAN PRESS

OPP are reporting increasing numbers of motorists with expired licence plates.



OPP Sgt. Kerry Schmidt in a video posted to Twitter reminded owners of passenger or light commercial vehicles, motorcycles and mopeds that they still have to renew their plates even though the government has dropped the fees.



“It may not cost anything but you are still required to go online and renew your registration,” Schmidt said. “All you need is your permit number, your licence plate number, your mileage,

insurance, pay any outstanding fines if there are any on your account, but the renewal is free ... It usually expires on your birthday.”

The Highway Traffic Act says that an offence under the section ‘Drive motor vehicle, with no currently validated permit’ carries a fine of \$60–\$1,000 on conviction.



A licence plate can be renewed online at ontario.ca/page/renew-your-licence-plate or in person at a Service Ontario Centre.

Jordanna Colwill, a spokesperson for Ontario Transportation Minister Caroline Mulroney, said the government cut costs for over eight million drivers by eliminating licence plate renewal fees — \$120 in southern Ontario and \$60 in Northern Ontario annually.

“While we have scrapped the cost of this renewal process, vehicle owners are still required to renew their licence plate every one or two years,” she said. “This is to ensure their automobile insurance is valid and any outstanding Highway 407 tolls and other municipal fines are paid.”

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Eligible Ontarians can opt to receive courtesy renewal reminders for driver's licence, licence plate, and health card renewals by email, text, or phone call by signing up for digital reminders online or by calling 1-800-267-8097, she said.

"Digital reminders are a fast, user-friendly and convenient option which help ensure Ontarians don't miss their renewal dates," Colwill said.

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