

PEC's Hwy 49 voted fourth worst road in Ontario: CAA

[Derek Baldwin](#) Published May 28, 2024

According to voters who nominated bad streets and roadways for the CAA Worst Road for 2024, County Road 49 – long a thorn in the side of Prince Edward County host municipality – earned the fourth spot in the top 10 worst roads in the province.

The road also earned the dubious honour of being the worst road in Eastern Ontario by voters.

The county has begged the province to fix or reclaim the road as their own to no avail given the high costs of rehabilitating the roadway surface to modern standards.

County Road 49 is crumbling from severe joint and slab failures, cracking, and polishing of the surface. The average weekly cost of patch repairs, including material, equipment/vehicles, and staffing is approximately \$3,500 or \$182,000 annually, according to the county last year.

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The road made CAA's annual Worst Roads list as the worst road in Ontario in 2016.

Last year, Prince Edward Mayor Steve Ferguson called on the federal and provincial governments to step up and support the rehabilitation of County Road 49.

"The deterioration of this critical road has gone on for too long; enough is enough. The condition of the road has been an election issue during multiple campaigns and people want it fixed," Ferguson said in May 2023. "The County has done everything it can to move this project forward and it is "shovel ready." Now is the time for the upper levels of government to join us at the table."

Opened in 1966, County Road 49 spans 18.6 km, 17.5 km of which is concrete pavement.

The Province of Ontario downloaded the roadway to the County in 1998.

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Aberdeen Avenue in Hamilton, meanwhile, is the CAA Worst Road for 2024.

Taking the second and third place spots are Eglinton Avenue West in Toronto, due to traffic congestion, potholes and poor road maintenance and Barton Street East in Hamilton, due to potholes and poor road maintenance.

“We know that the campaign works; time and time again, we see roads and infrastructure projects being moved up and budgets prioritized after the road has appeared on the list,” said Teresa Di Felice, assistant vice president of government and community relations, CAA South Central Ontario.

“For the last 21 years, the campaign has given Ontarians a voice to help them nominate the roads they believe are in need of urgent repair.”

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CAA Worst Roads lists provide decision-makers with an important citizen perspective on which roadway repairs need to be expedited and key priorities for infrastructure funding and investments moving forward.

In Ontario, 145 municipalities nominated over 2,000 different roads in their communities. Municipalities are responsible for approximately 140,000 kilometres of roads across the province.

“Roads, sidewalks, and bike paths are only some of the things municipal governments fund with limited revenue sources,” said Di Felice. “It’s important for communities to share their view on what and where investments should be made. CAA Worst Roads is a forum to do that.”

Drivers accounted for most of the nominations, while cyclists and pedestrians accounted for about a quarter. Ontarians shared their primary reasons for selecting a road, with 53 per cent citing potholes, followed by poor road maintenance (52 per cent), traffic congestion (13 per cent) and poor cycling infrastructure, or lack thereof (8 per cent).

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Ontario’s top 10 list is verified by the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO).

“For the second consecutive year, RCCAO is proud to be the technical partner of the CAA Worst Roads advocacy campaign,” said Nadia Todorova, executive director of RCCAO. “This year’s campaign revealed growing competition on Ontario’s deteriorating infrastructure amidst a growing state of good repair backlog. Long-term, sustainable funding is needed to build and maintain critical infrastructure.”

Ontario's top 10 worst roads for 2024

1. Aberdeen Avenue, Hamilton
2. Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto
3. Barton Street East, Hamilton
4. County Road 49, Prince Edward County
5. Hurontario Street, Mississauga
6. Bloor Street West, Toronto
7. Cedar Street North, Uxbridge
8. Finch Avenue West, Toronto
9. Lake Shore Boulevard East, Toronto
10. Laclie Street, Orillia

Worst roads by region

Central— Laclie Street, Orillia

Eastern— County Road 49, Prince Edward

SOURCE: [CAA](#)