



THUNDER BAY OPP – JANUARY NEWSLETTER

NORTHWEST REGION CHANGE OF COMMAND

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) North West Region would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing Chief Superintendent Mark Pritchard for all his hard work and congratulate Superintendent Dave Lucas in his promotion to Chief Superintendent and New Commander of OPP North West Region (NWR), effective December 1st 2017.

Chief Superintendent Dave Lucas brings a wealth of experience to his new position of Commander of OPP NWR. Chief Superintendent Lucas began his policing career with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In 1992 he joined the OPP taking a posting in the NWR and has remained here ever since. Chief Superintendent Lucas has invaluable experience that comes from working with many of the 500 uniformed and civilian members responsible for providing front-line and specialized services within the region. Chief Superintendent Lucas has worked; as a Uniform member, an ERT member, a Crime Unit member, a member of the Professional Standards Bureau, the Commander of both the Rainy River District Detachment and Kenora Detachment, as a Critical Incident Commander and most recently as the Director of the NWR. He has had the honor of working at, or from most of the 9-host and 15-satellite detachments throughout the 421 000 square kilometres that make up the NWR.

"We will continue to build on our relationships with all communities and work in collaboration with our partners to enhance community safety and well-being in the North West Region. Strong support to the health, safety and wellness of all OPP staff is also a priority." - OPP Chief Superintendent Dave Lucas

Further changes to the North West Region command structure include the following, effective December 1st 2017.

- Inspector D. (Dwight) Thib, Manager of Operations North West Region, has been promoted to Superintendent and assigned Director - Operations, North West Region.
- Detective Staff Sergeant (Mark) Hutchinson, Manager of Criminal Operations North West Region, has been promoted to Inspector and assigned Manager-Operations, North West Region.

These members of OPP North West Region Command have good knowledge of policing in the North and understand the importance of working with indigenous communities.



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THUNDER BAY OPP 6th ANNUAL STUFF A CRUISER EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS

On Saturday, December 9, 2017, law enforcement officers from the Ontario Provincial Police, Thunder Bay Police Service, Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service, Anishinabek Police Service, and officers from the Canada Border Services Agency and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry participated in the 6th Annual Stuff a Cruiser event.

Officers were located outside the Real Canadian Superstore, Walmart on Memorial Avenue, Metro Stores on Arthur and River Street, Safeway Stores on Arthur Street, Court Street and Dawson Road and Odena in Kakabeka Falls.

The community donated 9077 kg, (which is almost 20,000 lbs.) of non-perishable food items and \$6500 in cash donations in support of the Regional Food Distribution Association (RFDA), and at Odena in Kakabeka Falls, 1800 lbs. of non-perishable food items and \$570 in cash donations was collected for the Rural Cupboard Food Bank (RCFB).

All food items were provided to the RFDA and RCFB to assist with the goal that everyone in the community, as well as numerous communities throughout the North West Region, have food on their table over the festive season. The quantity of food items collected will help ensure a food bank supply well into the winter months.

The officers and volunteers want to thank all of those community members who generously donated food items or made cash donations making this event such a phenomenal success. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

We also want to thank the Real Canadian Superstore, Walmart, Metro and Safeway Stores and Odena for their support and participating with this event.

Have safe and happy holiday season!



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OPP CANINE UNIT CALENDAR SUPPORTS YOUTH AND HERITAGE

The OPP Canine Team has become an elite team of specialized personnel who are highly respected among agencies across North America for their exceptional police work.

Members of this Unit provide canine support for search and rescue, tracking wanted persons, detecting narcotics, and are used extensively in searches for explosives, cadavers and physical searches. The officers and their canine partners can often be found in elementary school classrooms educating young people about the OPP and the value of safe communities.

When you match up a police officer who is in top physical condition and pair him with a dog that lives to track, you have created a highly effective police partnership. And that partnership is being recognized on a 2018 OPP Canine Unit calendar. Every month will feature a professional photograph of an OPP canine member, each of them highly regarded members of this Ontario Provincial Police specialized team.

Calendars are selling for \$15 each (tax included) and is available online from the [OPP Off-Duty Shop](#).

About the OPP Youth Foundation

The OPP Youth Foundation is a charitable organization that operates at arms-length from the OPP. Its mandate is to connect the youth of Ontario to members of the OPP through programs that focus on assisting youth to participate in social, recreational or educational activities that might otherwise not be available to them.

About the Friends of the OPP Museum

The Friends of The OPP Museum (The Friends) is a volunteer-based registered charity that supports, promotes and assists in the preservation of OPP history. The Friends has supported research initiatives, connected with people throughout the province through outreach programming and has contributed to the development and preservation of the OPP Museum collection.



WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS

Winter storms can be treacherous and damaging if you are unprepared. They can disrupt power supply and transportation and create home and personal safety issues. Bitter cold and winter storms kill more people than the number of Canadians killed by tornadoes, thunderstorms, lightning, floods and hurricanes combined. When you are building your family emergency plan review and discuss these safety tips with your entire household to make sure everyone understands what to do.

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect more than one province, while others affect only a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain.

Regardless of the severity of a winter storm, you should be prepared in order to remain safe during these events.

If you are indoors:

- Listen to the radio and/or television for weather reports and emergency information.
- Stay indoors. If you must go outside, dress for the weather to avoid serious cold-related injuries.
- Keep water running. Running water, even at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing.

If you are outdoors:

- Avoid overexertion when shovelling snow. If you must shovel snow, ensure you take frequent breaks so as not to over-stress your body.
- Dress in several layers of lightweight clothing. Wear mittens and a hat (preferably one that covers your ears).
- Wear waterproof, insulated boots to keep your feet warm and dry and to maintain your footing in ice and snow.
- It is important to regularly check for frostbite. Indicators include, numbness or white areas on your face and extremities (ears, nose, cheeks, hands and feet in particular).
- Bring pets/companion animals inside during winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.



Prepare Now

- Review and discuss the safety tips with your entire household to make sure everyone understands what to do during a severe winter storm.
- Add additional items to your emergency survival kit such as; extra warm clothes or blankets.
- Winterize your home to retain heat by insulating walls and attics, caulking or weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected once a year.

The preceding information was provided by Emergency Management Ontario.

MOTORIZED SNOW VEHICLE SAFETY

The OPP is committed to ensuring a safe, enjoyable riding experience for all Motorized Snow Vehicle (MSV) operators, not just on Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trails, but in all locations, including roadways, private property and trails not maintained by the OFSC.

There are over 30,000 kilometres of OFSC trails within the province. The OPP encourages snowmobilers to adhere to OFSC trails as these remain the safest areas to ride on.

Travelling on unsafe ice, speed, and alcohol consumption continue to be leading causes in OPP-investigated snowmobile fatalities. During the past snowmobile season, the OPP investigated 26 MSV collisions that led to the deaths of 27 people. This is the highest number of MSV fatalities in over 10 years.

Some of the analytics behind these fatalities will help officers conduct effective MSV enforcement and education. Of note:

- Speed excessive / too fast or lost control accounted for 46 percent of all MSV fatalities last season;
- 53 percent of the fatalities involved alcohol;
- Males between 25 and 65 years of age accounted for 72 percent of fatal incidents;
- 41 percent of the incidents occurred on frozen or what was thought to be frozen waterways; and
- 71 percent of the fatalities and personal injury incidents are occurring on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.



The OFSC is a volunteer organization that provides a safe trail system, both on the trail and behind the scenes where they gain permission from private landowners to allow members of the public to cross their land. Ongoing issues with trespassing and damage to property make it challenging for the OFSC to keep trail systems efficiently operational.

The laws regarding the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act is available at the following link: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90m44>.

Snowmobile Safety continued:

Snowmobiling is a popular winter activity in Ontario. Just remember that there are risks to consider every time you head out. Knowing how to prepare and operate your vehicle safely will help make sure you have a safe and fun ride.

Driver requirements

Everyone who drives a snowmobile in Ontario must:

- be at least 12 years old
- have a valid driver's licence or motorized snow vehicle operator's licence (see below)
- register the snowmobile with the Ministry of Transportation
- have insurance

Where you can drive a snowmobile depends on your age and the licence you hold.

Licensing & document requirements

Drivers must carry the following documents with them at all times:

- your driver's licence, a valid motorized snow vehicle operator's licence (MSVOL) or a snowmobile driver's licence from another jurisdiction
- snowmobile registration permit
- insurance card

If you don't have a driver's licence and you're 12 years of age or older, a valid MSVOL will allow you to drive a snowmobile on trails. Contact your local snowmobile club to get more information about the MSVOL program or visit the [Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs website](#).

Failing to produce any of these documents to a police officer or conservation officer when asked could result in a fine of up to \$1,000.



Where snowmobile riders can drive, depending on their age and type of driver's licence:

Age 16 and over WITH a valid Ontario driver's licence, MSVOL or snowmobile licence from another jurisdiction can drive:

- Snowmobile trails
- Across a road, where permitted
- On roadways where permitted

Age 12 years or older WITH a valid MSVOL or a licence from another jurisdiction can drive:

- Snowmobile trails only

Any age with no valid Ontario driver's licence, MSVOL or snowmobile licence from another jurisdiction can drive:

- Private property only

Under age 12

- Private property only

Where to ride

You CAN ride:

- on your own property
- on private trails belonging to organizations of which you are a member
- on private property, with the owner's permission
- alongside public roads, between the shoulder and fence line (unless prohibited by the municipality)

You CAN'T ride:

- on certain high-speed roads (400-series highways, Queen Elizabeth Way, Ottawa Queensway, Kitchener-Waterloo Expressway)
- on the pavement of public roads where vehicles drive
- on the ploughed portion of the shoulder

Check with each municipality on snowmobile by-laws for roads within its boundaries.

Snowmobile trails

Ontario's snowmobile trail system is maintained by many local snowmobile clubs.

Trails are patrolled by:

- the Ontario Provincial Police
- municipal police services



- conservation officers
- Snowmobile Trail Officer Patrol (STOP) officers

Some trails may require a trail permit. Check with the local snowmobile club to find out if you need one.

For trails maintained by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, you must have and display a valid trail permit affixed to the windshield or engine cowling of your snowmobile. This includes trails on private property, municipal property and land owned by the government.

Rules of the road

Speed limits

Snowmobiles may not be operated at a greater rate of speed than:

- 50 km/h - on snowmobile trails
- 50 km/h - on roads where the speed limit is over 50 km/h
- 20 km/h - on roads where the speed limit is 50 km/h or less
- 20 km/h - in any public park or exhibition grounds

Helmets

Drivers and passengers must always wear a snowmobile helmet that meets the [standards approved](#) for motorcycle helmets, with the chin strap securely fastened. Everyone who rides on a cutter, sled or similar device towed by a snowmobile must also wear a helmet.

Towing

You must use a rigid tow-bar when towing a sled or similar device behind a snowmobile.

Driving while impaired

Never drive impaired by alcohol or drugs. It is against the law.

Alcohol, illegal drugs, even prescription and some over-the-counter drugs can slow your reaction time and affect your ability to make good decisions.

Penalties

If your BAC is 0.05 to 0.08 or you are impaired by a drug or a combination of a drug and alcohol (based on the results of a Standard Field Sobriety Test), your licence could be suspended on the spot for up to 30 days.



If you are impaired with a BAC over 0.08, or if you fail or refuse to comply with alcohol or drug testing or you are impaired by a drug or a combination of a drug and alcohol (based on a Drug Recognition Expert evaluation), your licence could be suspended on the spot for up to 90 days. You may also be charged with impaired driving under the Criminal Code of Canada.

If you are convicted of impaired driving on a snowmobile, you will lose your driving privileges for ALL TYPES of vehicles for at least one year. This includes cars, trucks motorcycles and commercial vehicles.

For more information on impaired driving and its consequences in Ontario, visit Ontario.ca/drivesober.

Planning a trip

Before you leave

- fill up your gas tank
- check the weather forecast before heading out.
- contact the local snowmobile club to check trail and ice conditions
- dress appropriately - wear clothing in layers, and make your top layer a snowmobile suit or other windproof layer

tell someone :

- where you're going
- the route you will take
- a description of your snowmobile
- when you expect to return
- never travel alone

Remember: Exposure to extreme cold can lead to frostbite and hypothermia. Your risk goes up as the temperature goes down.

- Wind chill at or below -25°C: risk of frostbite to exposed skin
- Wind chill at or below -35°C: frostbite in 10 minutes or less
- Wind chill at or below -60°C: frostbite in less than 2 minutes

What to bring

Pack a snowmobile survival kit that includes:

- first aid kit
- GPS unit, trail map and compass
- matches (or lighter) in a waterproof container
- knife, saw or axe
- ice picks (if you must cross over a frozen river or lake)
- flashlight
- whistle
- high-energy food like nuts or granola bars



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- an extra set of dry clothing

You should also bring a snowmobile mechanical kit that includes:

- spare spark plug and drive belt
- tow rope
- screwdriver, wrenches and hammer
- owner's manual

While you are driving

- always drive within your ability
- take extra care on corners and hills
- obey speed limits and road/trail signs
- always stay on the right-hand side of the trail
- use appropriate hand signals before stopping, slowing down or turning
- take extra care at road and rail crossings - cross roads at designated crossings and at a 90-degree angle so you can cross safely and quickly
- never ride on private property without permission of the land owner

Driving at night

- reduce your speed - some hazards are harder to see in the dark
- use your headlights and drive at a speed where they can shine ahead of you
- wear clothing that has reflective markings so that you are more visible to others

Driving on ice

- avoid driving on unfamiliar frozen lakes and rivers, as open water may not be visible
- if you must drive over ice, wear a buoyant snowmobile suit
- always drive on ice that is new, hard and clear
- never drive on ice that is slushy, weak, near moving water or that has recently thawed and refrozen
- check ice conditions with the local snowmobile club before you head out

The preceding information was provided by Ontario Ministry of Transportation.



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CRIME STOPPERS

Crime Stoppers look forward to continuing to work with the community on Crime Prevention initiatives. Keep in mind that if you have any information about any crime, we ask that you contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800- 222- TIPS or 623-TIPS or submit a web tip at www.tipsubmit.com. Remember your identity will remain anonymous and you could be eligible for a reward of up to \$2,000.00 and you will never have to testify in court.



If there are other topics you would like addressed in this newsletter or have some ideas, please do not hesitate to call me.

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