



THUNDER BAY OPP – FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY HELPS OPP ASSESS SERVICE TO ONTARIANS

Community Satisfaction Surveys are scheduled to start in January 2018 in North West Region to solicit public opinions about the services the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachments deliver to communities throughout the region.

The Community Satisfaction Survey is a telephone survey that randomly selects members of the public (16 years or older) who live in Ontario. The survey takes about five to seven minutes to complete and is strictly voluntary. Those contacted and willing to participate are asked about issues such as community security, perceptions of crime and youth issues in the community, OPP presence in the community, service delivery and even how the OPP investigates crime and enforces the law.

The information provided by those surveyed is being collected by a research consultant, R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd. that has been retained by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. The information is treated confidentially and the names, telephone numbers, and addresses of those surveyed will not be included in the survey results provided to the OPP.

Once the survey is complete, the results will be used in the OPP Business Action Plan and Annual Report. The information will also be useful in helping OPP's North West Region set out goals and objectives to improve on the services it delivers to communities across the Region. Detachments within each OPP Region are surveyed on a rotational three year schedule.

The North West Region detachment surveys will start in January and are expected to be completed by March 31, 2018. Data for the annual Provincial Community Satisfaction Survey will also be collected during this time period. The Ontario Provincial Police would like to thank those who participate in the Community Satisfaction Survey and who take the time to help the OPP in its vision of Safe Communities.....A Secure Ontario.



OPP WRAPS UP FESTIVE RIDE CAMPAIGN, CHARGES 587 IMPAIRED DRIVERS

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged **587** drivers with impaired driving during its annual Festive *Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere* (RIDE) campaign (November 24, 2017 - January 2, 2018).

An additional **366** drivers were issued a [Warn Range Suspension](#) and had their driver's licence suspended for having a blood alcohol concentration between .05 and .08.

By comparison, the OPP charged **623** impaired drivers and issued **407** Warn Range Suspensions during the 2016-2017 Festive RIDE campaign.

The OPP remained highly focused on keeping roads safe over the holidays, reflecting on the **44** lives lost in alcohol/drug-related collisions on OPP-patrolled roads in 2017. Officers conducted more than **9,830** RIDE events throughout the province, surpassing the **7,343** RIDE events conducted over the previous season's campaign.

Over the holidays, OPP Drug Recognition Evaluators (DRE) assisted with the tools and expertise to test for and detect drug impairment in drivers. Of the **587** drivers charged, **29** were charged with drug impairment.

While the OPP maintained a heightened focus on impaired drivers during the campaign, officers enforce impaired driving laws around the clock, 365 days a year. In 2017, the OPP charged **4,915** drivers with alcohol-impaired charges and **238** drivers with drug-impaired charges and issued **2,995** Warn Range Suspensions.

The OPP is again reminding the public to call 9-1-1 if you suspect that someone is driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs. In doing so, you could be saving lives.

THUNDER BAY OPP FESTIVE R.I.D.E. CAMPAIGN RESULTS

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Festive Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) campaign ran from November 24, 2017 to January 2, 2018.

Officers from the Thunder Bay Detachment conducted 182 Festive R.I.D.E Program spot checks during that time period. Officers have charged three people with impaired driving offences, and two people were issued warn range suspensions.

Thunder Bay OPP officers continue to conduct R.I.D.E. Program spot checks throughout the year.



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The OPP reminds motorists that operating a vehicle under the influence of any amount of alcohol or drug is dangerous and jeopardizes your own safety as well as the safety of others. If you suspect someone is driving impaired, dial 911 immediately.

OPP & OFSC KICK OFF SAFE SNOWMOBILE WEEK (JAN 20-28, 2018)

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to **27** snowmobile deaths during the 2016-2017 season, marking the highest number of fatalities since the winter of 2003-2004.

Last season was also the worst on record for snowmobilers whose ride took a tragic turn while travelling on frozen waterways. One third (**9**) of last season's victims died as a result of their snowmobiles either going through the ice or entering open water.

As the OPP kicks off Safe Snowmobile Week with the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC), they are urging snowmobilers to leave all forms of risky behaviour behind when heading out for a ride, especially when riding on frozen waterways.

"The spike in snowmobile fatalities and all-time record high in ice-related deaths last season are unacceptable. The vast majority of the 27 snowmobilers who died took unnecessary risks instead of making it a safe, enjoyable ride that got them home safely to their families. With very few exceptions, speeding, driving too fast for the conditions, consuming alcohol, riding on unsafe ice and other risky behaviours are what lead to snowmobile deaths every year.

- Deputy Commissioner Brad Blair, Provincial Commander, Traffic Safety and Operational Support

"Snowmobiling occurs in an unpredictable and uncontrollable natural setting with inherent risks that demand constant rider preparedness, vigilance, caution, unimpaired reaction and smart decisions. The OFSC encourages all snowmobilers to click on the [GO Safe](#) link on our website to learn about how they can enjoy the safest ride possible".

-Lisa Stackhouse, Manager, Participation and Partnership Development, OFSC.



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LEARN MORE: [OPP Provincial SAVE Unit](#)

[Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs](#)

THUNDER BAY OPP RESPOND TO NUMEROUS COLLISIONS MOTORISTS REMINDED TO SLOW DOWN

Thunder Bay OPP officers have responded to numerous collisions during the months of December, 2017 and January, 2018. The collisions have included motorists losing control and entering the ditch, as well as, vehicles coming into collision with other vehicles.

The severities of the collisions have ranged from vehicles sustaining damages only, to occupants of vehicles involved in collisions suffering serious injuries.

OPP would like to remind motorists that during the extreme cold temperatures the Thunder Bay area has been experiencing recently, the pavement on highways and roadways may appear to be dry and bare, when in actuality the roads are frost covered and icy.

Motorists are advised of the following safety tips to help everyone arrive at their destination safely:

- Equip your vehicle with proper winter tires. When compared to regular or all-season tires, tests have proven that snow tires provide better traction, control and reduced stopping distances on snow covered or icy roads.
- Slow down! Drive according to current road and weather conditions. Reduce your speed when adverse weather conditions arise.
- Give yourself extra time to reach your destination. Consider postponing or cancelling your trip if the weather does not improve.
- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you. Remember, longer stopping distances may be required.
- Make it a habit of using your full set of headlights during the winter months; daylight running lights do not engage your rear tail lights, making it difficult for drivers behind you to see your vehicle.



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- Be able to see and be seen. Clean frost and snow off all windows, mirrors, and lights.

Drive with caution and arrive at your destination safely.

THUNDER BAY SITUATION TABLE AIMS TO HELP COMMUNITY'S AT RISK INDIVIDUALS

A new community-led initiative officially is bringing together dozens of partners from various fields to help some of Thunder Bay's most vulnerable individuals.

The Thunder Bay Situation Table includes representatives from more than 30 organizations across sectors – including mental health and addictions, justice, social services, employment and education – to help those at acutely-elevated risk of imminent harm, victimization or criminalization.

These are individuals in the community facing complex situations and multiple risk factors. They may be experiencing issues related to mental and physical health, addictions, poverty, negative relationships, housing, education, employment, domestic and physical violence and more. These are also situations where a single agency may have exhausted all its resources trying to help.

Community partners can refer these types of cases to the Situation Table, which meets twice monthly to create coordinated action plans to support specific and complex situations. The result is a rapid intervention that is short-term and time limited so that individuals receive access to appropriate services, typically within 48 hours.

“The Situation Table does not mean more community resources. Rather, it's a focused, efficient and collaborative approach to care that leverages existing community assets. It appears to be making an impact. So far, we've had eight referrals to the Table since we started meeting in September,” said Canadian Mental Health Association's Mariah Maddock, Chair of the Thunder Bay Situation Table.

When a matter is brought before the Situation Table, information is presented in a way that protects the individual's identity. This allows Situation Table participants to focus on addressing the challenges that are presented.



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“Each situation that’s brought to the table is unique to an individual and no two situations are alike. It’s important for the community to know that there is no typical type of person who needs the support. Situations brought to the table could be impacting anyone of any age,” said Jeff Upton, Education Officer, Lakehead Public Schools.

The Thunder Bay Police Service are a key member of the Situation Table and have been involved in discussions from the beginning.

“Too often police are the first point of contact for individuals experiencing a crisis. However, we realize that we’re not the most appropriate resource and rely on community partners for help. This collaboration across sectors helps a person in need of support, creates efficiencies amongst partner organizations and allows officers to focus on community safety and public service,” said Acting Deputy Chief Don Lewis, Thunder Bay Police Service.

The Thunder Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police also have representatives that support the Situation Table.

The Thunder Bay Situation Table is supported by the Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee, with funding provided by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, Ontario’s Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, and partner organizations.

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.





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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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