



THUNDER BAY OPP – APRIL NEWSLETTER

THE ONSET OF SPRING BRINGS IMPROVED DRIVING CONDITIONS REMEMBER TO ALWAYS DRIVE WITH SAFETY IN MIND

With the winter weather behind us, for the most part, the onset of Spring brings improved road and weather conditions.

Here are 10 tips to help you enjoy spring driving in safety:

1. Don't be too eager to take off your winter tires. They should be left on until the ambient temperatures stay above 7 degrees Celsius.
2. We still can get some snowfall, which means the warm spring sun can melt ice and snow near the road. This melt water can freeze when the sun stops shining on it and the temperatures drop below zero. If you notice wet-looking roads and the temperatures have dropped below freezing, expect ice and slow down.
3. As the weather warms it will bring out motorcyclists and cyclists. Every motorist has to practice good vision techniques and stay focused on their driving to spot these smaller road users. Looking out for and respecting these two-wheeled travelers is an important part of safe motoring.
4. On the other side of the safety equation, cyclists and bikers need to ride wisely and be visible to motorists and truckers. Cyclists should wear brightly coloured clothing or safety vests, use lights, keep right and ride in single file. The laws of physics are not on the side of the smaller vehicle in a collision.
5. Warmer weather brings more children outside. Slow down and pay very careful attention in residential and school zones. School kids are easily distracted by play and don't always notice traffic. Be alert for teenagers who tend to be fixated on their texting, socializing and cellphones and, as a result, won't be paying much attention to traffic.
6. This time of year is when we can get the wide fluctuations in temperatures and freeze-thaw cycles. This combination causes potholes to form. Stay well back of the vehicle in front and stay focused on your driving and you can give yourself more time to see these wheel-bending potholes. Staying farther back from the vehicle in front of you will also reduce your chances of being hit by kicked-up rocks. Keeping your vision high is critical to safe driving. Do not become fixated with looking downward at the road looking for potholes and debris. Use quick glances to look for dangers on the road surface.



7. Heavy spring rains coupled with melt water can cause localized flooding. When encountering a flooded road never try to cross the flooded section as the roadway under the water could have been washed out. Instead, turn around and look for an alternate route.
8. Spring wreaks havoc on gravel shoulders. They can be much softer than usual from all the melt water. Coupled with that winter erosion, gullies can form on the shoulders. Use extra care if you're pulling off the road or if you drop a wheel off on to the shoulder. Smooth steering inputs will help you maintain control. Never jerk the steering wheel to rush your return to the pavement.
9. Rural municipalities tend to use a lot of sand mixed with salt to increase traction on snowy roads. Any residual sand will act as tiny ball bearings under your tires causing a noticeable reduction in grip. When exiting off of a major rural road onto one less travelled, you may be driving from a road with good grip to one with very little grip as you encounter these sand-covered roads. Look where you want to go, slow down and expect the road to be slippery from sand.
10. Many animals hibernate through the winter and will now be on the move as they forage for food. Being prepared for this can help prevent animal deaths and damage to your vehicle. Slow down in rural areas or where animal traffic is high. If you are not sure of your skill level, it is better to hit smaller animals than to risk your safety and that of others by taking evasive actions. Motorists have died or have been seriously injured trying to swerve to avoid animals.

The preceding information was provided by Wheels.ca

WHO IS LESS LIKELY TO BUCKLE UP ON ONTARIO ROADS?

A close look at seat belt-related road deaths on Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)-patrolled roads in recent years suggest that males place far less importance on wearing a seat belt than females do.

Over the past five years (2011-2015), a total of 332 people have died in collisions on OPP-patrolled roads as a result of not wearing a seat belt. According to OPP data, 261 of the victims were males and 71 were females.

OPP are sharing some insight into seat belt attitudes and why they believe there have been almost four times as many male seat belt-related deaths as female deaths in the same causal factor category.

"Our data suggests a strong presence of male drivers and male passengers who believe that they are at a lower risk of being involved in a collision than other people, and who do not see a need to wear a seat belt. This attitude works against our efforts to save lives on our roads."



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- J.V.N. (Vince) Hawkes, Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner.

"Ontario's roads are among the safest in North America and it is everyone's responsibility to keep them that way. Everyone knows that seat belts save lives so buckle up - it only takes a moment but can make all the difference. Do your part to help the dedicated OPP officers keep our roads safe for everyone."

- Yasir Naqvi, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services

All drivers and passengers need to acknowledge the fact that if they do not buckle up, they are at a significantly greater risk of dying in a collision that can be caused by the irresponsible actions of a distracted, impaired or aggressive driver.

OPP data also revealed that over the past five years (2011-2015), more than three times as many unbuckled drivers (252) died in collisions as unbuckled passengers (80). This statistic is also of concern to the OPP.

Paying it forward from the driver's seat

When it comes to seat belt use, the OPP looks to drivers in particular to set a good example for their passengers - especially children, young drivers and young passengers whose decision to wear a seat belt over the course of their lives may be significantly influenced by the attitudes of their parents, other family members and friends. Passengers of all ages are more likely to buckle up when they see the driver do it.

The death of one unrestrained child is one too many

While the number of seat belt-related deaths among children under 16 years of age remains the lowest of all other age groups, it is unacceptable to the OPP when even one child dies as a result of this causal factor.

Between 2011 and 2015, nine children have died because they were not properly restrained in the vehicle. Parents and child caregivers need to ensure that children are always safely buckled in a child restraint appropriate to their age and size.

Whether it is a car seat for infants or toddlers, or a booster seat, make sure it is the right seat.

The OPP are counting on all drivers to help make it a safe for everyone travelling on Ontario roads.

Did you know?

When involved in a serious motor vehicle collision, getting ejected from a vehicle almost always ends in death.



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Encouraging family and friends to wear a seat belt can have a significant positive influence on their decision to wear a seat belt. Start talking about it!

Air bags are designed to work with, not replace seat belts.

The set fine for Failing to Wear a Seatbelt is \$240 plus two demerit points

BUCKLE UP ONTARIO - EVERY TRIP, EVERY TIME!

ONTARIO ROAD DEATHS: DID DRIVERS DO BETTER OR WORSE IN 2015?

OPP Shares In-Depth Collision & Road Fatality Data

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are seeing both positive and negative indicators of driver behaviour when it compares its 2015 collision data to 2014. The data also reveals how driver behaviour contributed to the 260 fatal motor vehicle collisions that occurred on OPP-patrolled roads and highways last year.

Road deaths up but all “Big Four” categories down

According to the data, 299 people were killed in road collisions in OPP jurisdiction in 2015, compared to 288 in 2014.

Every year, the “Big Four” account for the majority of deaths on OPP-patrolled roads and 2015 was no exception. These are deaths preventable road deaths associated with alcohol/drug use, inattentive driving speeding and not wearing seat belts.

How the numbers stack up (all data applies to OPP jurisdiction only).

Big Four Fatality Category	2015 Deaths	2014 Deaths
Alcohol/drug related	45	52
Inattentive-related	69	82
Speed-related	61	64
No seat-belt-related	51	53

Some positive news

The OPP are encouraged to see that all of the Big Four-related road deaths were down in 2015 when compared to 2014. Last year also marks the lowest number of alcohol/drug related deaths in more than ten years and the lowest number of inattentive-related road deaths since Ontario introduced distracted driving laws in 2009.

How the Big Four road fatalities can be down when overall road fatalities are up



Tragically, last year there were more road crashes in which more than one life was lost, than in the previous year. In 2015, there were four times as many crashes in which three people died and sadly, one of the collisions claimed the lives of four people (see detailed data below).

Transport truck and motorcycle-related deaths

In 2015, 71 people died in collisions involving large commercial transport trucks, compared to 66 in 2014. Sadly, 2015 marked the highest number of transport truck-related road deaths in the last eight years (since 2007).

Motorcyclists were the only road user class that did not see an increase in fatalities in 2015, however the decrease was minimal, with one less fatality in 2015 (31) than in 2014 (32).

Most collision categories down

The OPP responded to 69,469 road collisions in 2015, compared to 75,644 in 2014.

Large commercial transport trucks were involved in 5,373 collisions in 2015, compared to 6,307 in 2014.

Collisions that involved motorcycles were up, with 838 collisions in 2015, compared to 803 in 2014. (See below for more detailed collision data).

OPP Traffic Safety Senior Command weighs in on the data

“The OPP are concerned that more people died in road crashes in 2015 than in the previous year. We are encouraged to see lower numbers in all of the Big Four fatality causal factor categories, but we need to see drivers keep this downward trend going. There is no worse place to take risks, exercise poor judgement and make mistakes than behind the wheel,” said OPP Deputy Commissioner Brad Blair, Provincial Commander of Traffic Safety and Operational Support.

“When we reflect on our 2015 road fatality data, there is a much bigger picture that goes beyond those who tragically lost their lives. The devastation and grief that unfold following the death of a human being, let alone multiple human beings in a road crash can resonate across an entire community and have a tremendous impact on the well-being of that community,” said OPP Chief Superintendent Chuck Cox, Commander of the Highway Safety Division.

Cox explained that the burden of physical and emotional injury on those who survive a fatal road crash is extensive. Every year, thousands of people of all ages involved in these collisions are seriously injured and hospitalized. Many require long-term physical



and psychological rehabilitation after surviving such a violent, catastrophic and traumatizing ordeal. For some, the suffering lasts a lifetime.

One of the OPP's goals is to eliminate preventable injuries and deaths on Ontario roads and, in collaboration with its road safety partners, contribute towards Canada's Road Safety Strategy to make Canada's roads the safest in the world.

ALL OPP REGIONS	TOTAL	
Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions	2014	2015
Number of Fatal Collisions	266	260
Persons Killed	288	299
Persons Killed - Alcohol/drug-related	52	45
Persons Killed - Inattentive-related	82	69
Persons Killed - Speed-related	64	61
Persons Killed - No seatbelt/helmet	53	51
Motor Vehicle Collisions	2014	2015
January	10,602	8,119
February	6,836	8,222
March	6,036	4,586
April	4,348	4,118
May	4,795	5,089
June	5,713	5,774
July	5,602	5,912
August	5,497	5,381
September	5,164	5,000
October	5,979	5,564
November	8,428	6,151
December	6,644	5,553
	75,644	69,469
Motor Vehicle Collisions Involving Large Commercial Transport Trucks	2014	2015
Number of Collisions	6,307	5,373
Number of Fatal Collisions	59	56
Persons Killed	66	71
Number of TT Drivers Killed	4	10
Motor Vehicle Collisions Involving Motorcycles	2014	2015
Number of Collisions	803	838
Number of Fatal Collisions	31	27
Persons Killed	32	31
Motor Vehicle Collisions - Animal Related	2014	2015
Number of Collisions	11,508	10,288
Number of Fatal Collisions	2	5
Persons Killed	2	5



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	2014	2015
Other Contributing Factor Categories of Fatalities	Deaths	Deaths
Fail to Share/Yield	61	60
Pedestrian	12	15

IT'S NOT AN EMERGENCY OR CANADA REVENUE AGENCY...IT'S A SCAM!

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) want you to confirm who you're dealing with before sending any money anywhere for any reason.

The Emergency Scam and the more recent Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and other agency-related extortion threats have increased the financial losses sustained by unsuspecting victims.

In 2015, the Emergency (or Grandparent) Scam claimed 474 victims in Canada lost nearly \$2.5 million from more than 1,100 complaints. The CRA fraud drew 15,091 complaints, resulting in 751 identified victims who lost a combined \$2.49 million. Police admit 95 percent of the crimes go unreported.

In the typical Emergency Scam, the victim will receive a frantic phone call from someone claiming to be a grandchild or loved one. The caller will explain that they are involved in some sort of mishap or are having trouble returning from a foreign country and need money 'right away'.

In the CRA scam, the criminals extort money from their victims by telephone, mail, text message or email, a fraudulent communication that claims to be from the Canada Revenue Agency requesting personal information such as a social insurance number, credit card number, bank account number, or passport number.

Fraudsters impersonate the real CRA by telephone or by email. Fraudsters are either *phishing* for your identification or asking that outstanding taxes be paid by a money service business or by pre-paid debit/credit cards. They may insist that this personal information is needed so that the taxpayer can receive a refund or a benefit payment. Cases of fraudulent communication could also involve threatening or coercive language to scare individuals into paying fictitious debt to the CRA.

Other communications urge taxpayers to visit a fake CRA website where the taxpayer is then asked to verify their identity by entering personal information. These are scams and taxpayers should never respond to these fraudulent communications nor click on any of the links provided.



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Here are some warning signs:

- Urgency-- The scammer always makes the request sound very urgent, which may cause the victim to not verify the story.
- Fear-- The scammer plays on the victim's emotions by generating a sense of fear. For instance they may say, *"I am scared and I need help from you."*
- Secrecy-- The scammer pleads with the victim not to tell anyone about the situation, such as, *"Please don't tell Dad or Mom, they would be so mad."*
- Request for Money Transfer-- Money is usually requested to be sent by a money transfer company such as Money Gram, Western Union or even through your own bank institution.

To avoid becoming a victim, police advise you to first check with another family member or trusted friend to verify the information BEFORE sending money or providing credit card information by phone or e-mail.

If you or someone you know suspect they've been a victim of the Emergency Scam or someone posing as a Canada Revenue Agency official, hang up and contact your local police service. You can also file a complaint through the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#), Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), or online at <https://www.tipsubmit.com/start.htm>

"Recognize, Reject and Report Fraud"

Learn More:

OPP YouTube Emergency Scam [video](#) (English)

OPP YouTube Emergency Scam [video](#) (French)

[Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#)

[Competition Bureau of Canada](#)

[The Little Black Book of Scams](#)



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NORTHERN POLICE EXPERIENCE

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) will be hosting a two-day recruiting initiative called "Northern Police Experience" in the City of Thunder Bay on Saturday, April 30, 2016 and Sunday, May 1, 2016.

Up to 40 applicants will be selected to spend two days with OPP members and learn about the recruiting process for both uniform and civilian career opportunities within the Ontario Provincial Police.

During "Northern Police Experience" both officers and civilian members from the OPP will be on hand to discuss their careers and answer the candidates' questions while showcasing specialized policing equipment. The candidates will have the opportunity to experience police training i.e. scenarios and fitness testing.

Candidates must meet the minimum requirements on the application form and submit it electronically to denette.maslach@opp.ca no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 28th, 2016.

Find the application package on www.OPP.ca Please complete, scan, and email the application package as ONE (1) attachment, instead of page by page.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN 7TH ANNUAL POLAR PLUNGE 2016 IN SUPPORT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Throw your winter jacket away and slip into a bathing suit
It's time to take the PLUNGE for Special Olympics Ontario!

When: Saturday, April 2, 2016

Where: Prince Arthur's Landing at Marina Park Boat Launch - Pearl St. Entrance

Registration Social: Friday, April 1st at Prince Arthur Hotel - 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Hand in all fundraising donations and pick up plunge number and incentive prizes

Late Registration: Saturday, April 2nd from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Prince Arthur Hotel

Plunge Time: 2:00 pm - Adult Team and Individual Plunge

3:00 pm – Special Olympics Athletes

3:30 pm - Cool School Plunge

Awards and Social – Prince Arthur Hotel – Social from 3:00 to 6:00 with Awards at 4:30

This year, the Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Bear Plunge will raise money for Ontario Special Olympics to support the hardworking athletes who are involved. Special Olympics Ontario provides individuals in our community and across Ontario with an intellectual disability the opportunity to participate in sport and recreation activities.

The goal is to raise \$75,000 at this event!



Registration Information:

To participate in the 7th Annual Polar Bear Plunge you **MUST** register online at: www.polarplunge.ca to be eligible for incentive prizes. Registrations will be accepted at Registration Social but we cannot guarantee registration and incentive prizes.

Once you register on line you may start your online donation campaign or download the pledge forms to get your friends and family to help you reach your fundraising goal. A waiver form must also be signed online at time of the registration.

OPP REMIND THE PUBLIC TO BE AWARE OF CHANGING ICE CONDITIONS

Thunder Bay OPP would like to remind the public to be careful when venturing out on the area lakes and rivers at this time of year during the spring melt.

Some of the area lakes may have up to 12 inches of ice thickness or more but near some of the islands and rivers where there are varying currents, the ice is questionable.

Avoid fast moving rivers and hydro dams.

Always be prepared when you venture out. Always advise someone of your destination and when you expect to return, carry a cell phone with you, if possible wear a floater suit and have ice picks available. Always know the ice conditions before you venture out.

Recommended minimum ice thickness is as follows:

3" (7 cm) or less – **STAY OFF** 4" (10 cm) – ice fishing, walking, cross country skiing 5" (12 cm) – one vehicle – snowmobile or ATV 8-12" (20-30 cm) – one vehicle – car or small pick-up 12-15" (30-38 cm) – one vehicle – medium truck

OPP INVESTIGATE THEFT OF FUEL FROM LAPPE NORDIC SKI CENTRE

On Sunday, February 28, 2016 at approximately 9:00 am, officers from the Thunder Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were advised of a theft of fuel in Ware Township.

Approximately 2500 litres of fuel was stolen from Lappe Nordic Ski Centre. The theft occurred sometime between Wednesday, February 24 and Sunday, February 28.

On Saturday, March 5, 2016 at approximately 2:00 pm, officers from the Thunder Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were advised of a second incident of theft of fuel that occurred at the Lappe Nordic Ski Centre in Ware Township. Approximately 1000 litres of fuel were stolen from the Centre in this incident.



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Thunder Bay OPP are asking anyone with information regarding this investigation, to call OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or if you wish to remain anonymous, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit a web tip at www.tipsubmit.com. 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.

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.



April is.....

7 World Health Day "Diabetes"

10-16 National Volunteer Week

18-24 National Victims of Crime Awareness Week

May is.....

Sexual Assault Prevention Month

National Water Safety Month

Green Ribbon Of Hope Campaign

1-7 National Summer Safety Week

1 Ontario Police Memorial Service of Remembrance

1-7 Emergency Preparedness Week

2-8 Mental Health Week

15-21 National Police Week

14-21 National Road Safety Week

25 National Missing Children's Day

19-22 Aboriginal Awareness Week

16-22 National Safe Boating Awareness Week

30-June 5 Safe Kids Week



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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.

P/C Diana Cole
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