



## THUNDER BAY OPP – MAY NEWSLETTER

### OPP SEE FIVE YEAR HIGH IN SEAT BELT CHARGES OVER EASTER LONG WEEKEND

Despite warning road users ahead of the long weekend and their high visibility throughout the weekend, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) laid 1,524 seat belt charges during their Easter Long Weekend Seat Belt Campaign (March 30-April 2, 2018).

The charges mark a five-year high in Easter Long Weekend seat belt offences. With ten (10) seat belt-related deaths on OPP-patrolled roads so far this year, the OPP is reminding drivers and passengers that choosing to not buckle up continues to cost road users their lives.

### 2017 MARKED DRAMATIC INCREASE IN ROAD, BOATING AND SNOWMOBILE DEATHS

On the road:

A total of 343 people died on OPP-patrolled roads last year, marking a five-year high. By comparison, there were 307 deaths in 2016.

The OPP responded to 68,794 collisions last year, 304 of which were fatal. By comparison, there were 67,450 crashes in 2016 with 275 of the incidents resulting in fatalities.

Three of the Big Four fatality causal factor categories were up last year over the previous year:

Big Four	2017	2016
Inattentive-related:	83	64
Speed-related:	75	54
Seat belt-related:	49	45
Alcohol/drug-related:	46	47



## Motorcycles:

Forty eight (48) motorcyclists died last year, marking the highest number of motorcycle deaths in ten years. Also marking a ten-year high are the 27 motorcyclists who were driving properly (not at fault) at the time of the collision. There were 36 motorcycle deaths in 2016.

## Transport trucks:

Ninety one (91) people died in 76 collisions that involved a commercial transport truck, marking another ten-year high. By comparison, 77 people died in 66 fatal transport truck collisions in 2016. The driver of the transport truck accounted for 15 of last year's 91 fatalities, while 76 of the victims were in other vehicles involved (69), four (4) were pedestrians and three (3) were passengers in the transport truck.

## Pedestrians:

Fewer pedestrian were killed last year with 27 deaths, compared to 39 deaths in 2016.

## Snowmobilers:

Snowmobile fatalities reached an all-time record high in 2017, with 29 deaths. Excessive speed, loss of control and driver inattention led the list of primary causes. There were 16 snowmobile deaths in 2016.

## Boaters/paddlers:

Marine (boating) fatalities reached an eight-year high with 31 people dying last year, compared to 23 deaths in 2016. With falling overboard being the lead contributing factor both years, the outcome could have been different for the 42 victims who were found not (or not properly) wearing a personal floatation device over the two-year period.

## Off-road:

A total of 22 people died in off-road vehicle incidents last year which is the same number of deaths as in 2016. Approximately half of those who died over the two-year period were found not wearing a helmet.

"The OPP is saddened and disappointed to see 2017 mark one of the worst years in recent history for fatalities on and off the road. As is the case every year, the majority of these deaths were preventable and attributed to poor driving behaviours. Until all drivers respect and observe road, off-road and marine laws that are designed to keep us all safe, these tragic deaths will continue". - Commissioner J.V.N. (Vince) HAWKES, Ontario Provincial Police



## UPDATE - OPP GUN AMNESTY AT MID-CAMPAIGN

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have safely secured dozens of weapons and hundreds of rounds of ammunition midway through a month-long Gun Amnesty campaign.

As of April 16, 2018, there have been 218 gun amnesty calls for service in OPP jurisdiction, 42 of which were received through the online reporting option on the OPP website. Since the launch of the gun amnesty, 267 items were recovered through appointments made with OPP officers. These included restricted, prohibited, replica, and vintage weapons. Just over 5,200 pieces of ammunition were surrendered during this period, including a quantity of hollow point bullets.

The gun amnesty will be in effect until Monday, April 30, 2018 for any Ontario resident who wishes to voluntarily surrender unwanted or illegally-owned firearms, weapons, accessories, or ammunition. The public is reminded that no amnesty is offered for people who turn in weapons that have been used in the commission of a crime and no anonymous submissions will be accepted.

Interested gun owners are strongly urged to call the OPP (or their local police service's) non-emergency number at 1-888-310-1122 to arrange for officers to attend and safely retrieve the weapons. Gun owners can also use the OPP website at [opp.ca/gunamnesty](http://opp.ca/gunamnesty) -- or the Citizen Self Reporting tool to notify police.

Under NO circumstances should anyone deliver guns or ammunition directly to police facilities.

### DID YOU KNOW

- The Gun Amnesty does not prevent or limit the transfer of ownership or sale of firearms to and by third parties who have a valid [Possession and Acquisition Licence](#) .
- During the amnesty, police will not recommend weapons-related Criminal Code charges that might otherwise apply to people who are turning in firearms and ammunition.
- Although a majority of firearms surrendered to police will be destroyed, a number of firearms may be retained for historical, educational or training purposes.
- All municipal police services in Ontario are participating in the Gun Amnesty.
- For more information on the Canadian Firearms Program visit the RCMP's national website at <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/index-eng.htm>. There you will find some general safety information, as well as information on [Inherited Firearms](#).



## BEAR ENCOUNTERS – WHO DO I CALL?

This time of year, we see more bears come into urban areas in search of food. Not every bear sighting is an emergency situation. Here is who to call if you encounter a bear.

### Non-Emergency Encounters

Call the toll-free Bear Wise reporting line at 1-866-514-2327 (TTY 705-945-7641) if a black bear is:

- Roaming around, checking garbage cans
- Breaking into a shed where garbage or food is stored
- In a tree
- Pulling down a bird feeder or knocking over a barbecue
- Moving through a backyard or field but is not lingering.

This line operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week, from April 1 to November 30. Staff can provide advice about bear behaviour, how to avoid human-bear interactions and how to remove attractants from your property.

### Emergency Situations

Call 911 or your local police force if a bear poses an immediate threat to personal safety by exhibiting threatening or aggressive behaviour, such as:

- Entering a school yard when school is in session
- Stalking people and lingering on-site
- Entering or trying to enter a residence
- Wandering into a public gathering
- Killing livestock/pets and lingering on site.

Police are the first responder for any emergency situation. If requested by police, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry will respond to emergency situations to assist during daylight hours.



## BE BEAR WISE AND PREVENT BEARS FROM VISITING YOUR COMMUNITY

### *Ontario and OPP Share Safety Tips as Bears Return From Hibernation*

Ontario and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are reminding people to do their part to avoid human-bear interactions this spring, and encouraging them to check around their homes and remove the most popular bear attractants.

April is the beginning of bear season and with it comes an increase in bear sightings in urban areas. As bears wake up after a winter of hibernation, they are faced with a scarcity of natural food sources, leading black bears to forage for food in garbage cans and bird feeders.

Top tips for preventing bears from visiting your neighbourhood include:

- Storing garbage in waste containers with tight-fitting lids
- Putting out garbage only on the morning of pickup
- Filling bird feeders, including seed, suet and nectar, only during the winter when bears are hibernating
- Cleaning food residue and grease from outdoor barbecue grills after each use
- Keeping pet food indoors.

Bears that enter your community are not necessarily a threat, but it is important to know who to call during a bear encounter. For non-emergencies, the province operates a toll-free Bear Wise reporting line (1-866-514-2327). The line is open 24/7 from April 1 to November 30 to provide useful information and best practices.

If a bear is posing an immediate threat by exhibiting threatening or aggressive behaviour, call 911 or your local police.

### QUICK FACTS

- Since 2004, Ontario's [Bear Wise](#) program has been educating people on how to avoid attracting bears and how to prevent human-bear interactions.
- Bears will remember their last source of food and return there when hungry, sometimes travelling over 100 kilometres.

### LEARN MORE

Who to call during a bear encounter

[What you can do to keep bears out of your neighbourhood](#)



Ontario Provincial Police

## Newsletter

### 911 IS FOR EMERGENCIES

Do you know when it is appropriate to call 911 and when it isn't?

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are warning people who are unnecessarily dialing 911 that they are putting the lives of others at risk.

The OPP reminds residents that 911 service should only be used when someone's health, safety or property is in jeopardy or a crime is in progress. When improper 911 calls are made, 911 dispatchers are spending valuable time fielding non-emergent calls that tie up the line and prevent others from reporting real emergencies. It can also prevent police resources from responding to other incidents in a timely manner.

If you require police for a non-emergent situation, contact your local Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122.

### LOCK IT OR LOSE IT REMINDER

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) would like to remind people to lock their vehicle doors.

With warmer temperatures and nice weather approaching, foot traffic is going to increase, and with it, crimes of opportunity. The OPP once again remind the public that crimes such as theft can be prevented by using some simple tips:

- Lock doors and pocket the keys
- Keep valuables out of sight
- Roll up windows

If you have been a victim and haven't reported it, the OPP would like to know. Police conduct focused patrols to stop crime in areas targeted by criminals, but without the proper information target areas may not get the attention required.

To report online:

- refer to [opp.ca](http://opp.ca)
- Under Contact police, click report online

Otherwise you can contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122.



## ROMANCE SCAM IS THE MOST EMOTIONALLY DEVASTATING FRAUD

Many hearts are broken in the quest for love, leaving some people financially wounded. Romance scams cause victims severe financial loss and, due to the emotional impact and personal embarrassment, these crimes are not reported to police.

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Anti-Rackets Branch say criminals use the [Romance Scam](#) to find potential victims online, generally single or recently unattached people of all ages. Usually this form of mass marketing fraud occurs through singles and dating-related 'meet' websites, social media platforms, or e-mail blasts. In some cases, prolonged interaction with individuals has cost some victims tens of thousands of dollars before the 'relationship' suddenly ends, usually without ever meeting in person. Among the most vulnerable are seniors.

In 2017, the Romance Scam generated 352 complaints and caused 250 victims to lose \$6.2 million in Ontario alone. The dollar value is the second highest fraud in the province and police admit that this may represent just five per cent of the total number of victims.

The OPP and its partners at the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#) have some tips to help you avoid becoming a victim of the Romance Scam.

- First, ask yourself - '*Would someone I have never met, really declare their love for me after only a few letters or emails?*' If the answer is no, [report it](#) to police.
- Don't give out any personal information in an email or when you are chatting online. Educate yourself. Check the person's name, the company name, and the addresses used.
- Never send money, or give personal credit card or online account details to anyone you do not know and trust. A request to send money to a foreign country or to someone you have never personally met should be a red flag.
- Check website addresses carefully. Scammers often set up fake websites with addresses that are very similar to legitimate dating websites.

If you or someone you know suspect they've been a victim of the Romance Scam, 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

The OPP has posting tips and links to various resources online OPP Official YouTube Community Safety Video - [Romance Fraud](#)



Ontario Ministry of Consumer Services (*video link*) - [Romance Fraud](#)

[Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#)

[Competition Bureau of Canada](#)

[The Little Black Book of Scams](#)

## THUNDER BAY OPP INVESTIGATING THEFTS OF SNOWMOBILES PUBLIC ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

Recently, officers from the Thunder Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were advised of two separate incidents of break, enter and thefts. The thefts occurred sometime during mid-March.

On March 21, 2018, officers were advised of a theft that occurred at a residence on Highway 593 in Devon Township. Items stolen from the property include:

-2010 Titan MSV trailer, enclosed, black with red lettering on the side of the trailer, Ontario trailer marker H7456F,

-2007 Polaris, Trail Tour model (TRL) snowmobile, black in colour, Ontario marker 2AB243

-Fibreglass sleigh, 6 foot, black,

-Honda generator, 2000 watt, red in colour, as well as various ice fishing equipment, and miscellaneous power tools.

On March 27, another incident was reported that occurred on Elliot Lake Road, Unincorporated Territory. Suspect(s) broke into a cabin and garage. Items stolen include:

-2012 600 Ace Skidoo, black in colour,

-2014 600 Back County Skidoo, black in colour with some yellow markings,

-2012 Skandic 550 Skidoo, yellow in colour,

-Fabrill Ice shelters (2), black and silver in colour.

Anyone with information regarding these stolen items is requested to call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, any information regarding this incident can also be reported to Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-8477 or submit a tip online at [www.tipsubmit.com](http://www.tipsubmit.com)





Ontario Provincial Police

## Newsletter

### THUNDER BAY OPP INVESTIGATING ROBBERY AT BUSINESS IN SHUNIAH

On April 24, 2018, at approximately 11:38pm, officers from the Thunder Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a report of an armed robbery at a business located on Highway 11/17 in the Municipality of Shuniah.

Police were advised that an unknown male, wearing a black, nylon cover/balaclava entered the business and brandished a knife at the employee and demanded money, which was not obtained. The suspect then fled the scene and police were notified.

The suspect is described as a Caucasian male, approximately 5'10", slim build, light brown, short hair, wearing a black or dark coloured hoodie.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is requested to call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, any information regarding this incident can also be reported to Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-8477 or submit online at [www.tipsubmit.com](http://www.tipsubmit.com)

### 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](http://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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