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## THUNDER BAY OPP – JUNE NEWSLETTER

### THUNDER BAY OPP DETACHMENT

A review of Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachments in the North West Region identified some opportunities for efficiencies and reinvestment. As a result the Armstrong Detachment ceased to be a "stand-alone" detachment on August 1, 2016 and became part of the Thunder Bay Detachment as a satellite detachment. As a result of this realignment, and an increase in staffing levels at Thunder Bay Detachment, effective May 22, 2017 the Thunder Bay Detachment Commander will become an Inspector position rather than Staff Sergeant. The OPP welcomes newly promoted Inspector Jim GRAHAM as the Thunder Bay Detachment Commander.

The OPP continuously evaluates its operations to seek efficiencies and keep policing affordable for all the communities it serves. All levels of management, the Ontario Provincial Police Association, the Commissioned Officers Association and involved stakeholders have been engaged in this process to identify and address any concerns prior to the implementation.

The OPP will continue to meet or exceed provincial policing standards anywhere we serve while striving for our shared vision of "*Safe Communities...A Secure Ontario*".

### THUNDER BAY OPP CELEBRATE POLICE WEEK WITH LOCAL YOUTH

The theme of Police Week 2017 in Ontario is ***Working Together for Safer Communities***. Police Week ran from May 14-20 nationally and recognizes the work that police officers do to keep their communities safe in Ontario and across Canada.

Police Week is about celebrating professional, accountable, and effective policing across our Province. Police Week provides opportunities for police and community to join together to celebrate policing.

On Thursday, May 18, 2017, the Thunder Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) hosted 130 students from the Thunder Bay OPP Detachment area rural schools. While at the detachment, students experienced some of the OPP Specialty Units including Canine, Emergency Response, and Forensic Identification just to name a few. The students participated in fun challenges and interacted with the Specialty Unit officers.



## WHO IS MORE VULNERABLE -- MOTORCYCLISTS OR OFF-ROADERS?

### *OPP to Also Unveil New STAR Pilot Project*

As numerous motorcyclists and off-road vehicle enthusiasts plan to ride on roads and trails over the next several months, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is pointing out trends that can make these seasonal drivers vulnerable to fatal collisions.

According to OPP traffic data, a significant number of motorcyclists continue to be killed in collisions that are no fault of their own.

In 2016, **10** of the **28** motorcycle drivers killed on OPP-patrolled roads were reportedly not at fault in the crashes that claimed their lives. The previous year painted an even grimmer picture for safe motorcycle drivers, with more than half (**14**) of the **27** who died in road crashes in 2015 reportedly being not at fault.

In contrast, OPP data reveals a significant number of off-road vehicle (ORV) drivers who continue to contribute to their own demise, with the majority of deaths being directly linked to alcohol/drug impairment and riding without a helmet.

Alcohol/drug impairment was a factor in more than half (**13**) of the **22** ORV deaths that occurred in OPP jurisdictions last year. While there were fewer ORV fatalities in 2015, six of the **14** deaths that year were attributed to an alcohol/drug-impaired ORV driver.

Further stacking the odds of survival against ORV riders is driving without a helmet. Of the **22** riders who died in incidents last year, nine (**9**) were not wearing a helmet. Helmets were even scarcer in 2015 incidents, with almost half of (**six**) of the **14** deceased riders found without one.

The OPP is reminding all drivers, on and off-road, that driving defensively and safely will go a long way toward reducing deaths on Ontario roads and trails.

Day to day policing does not come without inherent risks and in an attempt to curb Suspect Apprehension Pursuits (SAP), the OPP is also launching this long weekend, the **Satellite Technology Apprehension Response** or STAR Pilot Project.

Three marked front line OPP patrol vehicles have been equipped with a global positioning projectile launching system. When a motorist fails to stop for the OPP, a GPS projectile, once deployed by one of these vehicles attaches to the suspect vehicle and a GPS signal is sent that allows the vehicle to be safely tracked, in real time, by one of the OPP's Provincial Communications Centres. This will allow officers to be constantly updated on the location and whereabouts of the offender and to safely move in and make an arrest, thereby eliminating the need to engage in a suspect apprehension pursuit.



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### QUOTES

"This is the time of year when drivers need to keep a watchful eye out for motorcycles. Motorcyclists must always drive safely, defensively and assume that other drivers cannot see them - an all-too-familiar claim in motorcycles crashes. Off-road vehicle drivers have unique vulnerabilities too, but the majority who die are their own worst enemy through poor behaviours, such as riding while alcohol or drug-impaired and without a helmet."

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

### DID YOU KNOW?

On July 1, 2015, the government of Ontario implemented new changes that affect ORV and ATV (all-terrain vehicle) riders.

Some types of ORVs and ATVs can travel on certain provincial highways and municipal roads.

**Click here for more info:**

[Drive an ATV](#)

### HELPFUL LINKS

[Motorcycle Safety Courses](#)

[Smart Ride Safe Ride](#)

[Tips for Young ATV Riders](#)

<http://opp.ca/files/starchase.mp4>

### DRIVING TIPS FOR SUMMER TRIPS

More fatalities occur on Canadian roads during the summer months than at any other time of year, including the winter holiday season. Alcohol, fatigue and aggressive driving are often implicated in these tragedies. Whether you're out for a day trip, travelling to the cottage or on a cross-country holiday, the Canada Safety Council urges all Canadians to put safety first when you set out on your summer travels.



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### Prepare your vehicle

Before leaving on vacation, have your vehicle checked to make sure everything is working properly. Repair or replace worn parts to avoid the worry and time-consuming costly repairs that could ruin your trip. Check fluid levels and tire pressure. Make sure all lights work, including signal lights.

### Keep your passengers safe

Make sure everyone in your vehicle is buckled up properly at all times. Buckling up is the single most effective thing you can do to keep yourself and your passengers safe while on the road.

If you are travelling with young children, make sure to make regular stops. Bring plenty of items to keep them occupied. Special travel games and songs also help.

### Drive defensively

Drive at a safe speed. Speeding increases the likelihood and severity of a crash. The faster a vehicle is moving, the less time the driver has to react to a hazard, and for other road users to react to that vehicle. A speeding vehicle requires more time and distance to stop. Leave plenty of distance between yourself and the vehicle ahead. Apply the three second rule so you can see around the car ahead and plan a manoeuvre to avoid potential dangers, add more time if you have a heavier vehicle, and in poor weather conditions.

The Canada Safety Council estimates that 85 per cent of collisions are preventable. But simply being in the right will not save you from injury or death. You must be prepared for the unsafe actions of other motorists or for poor driving conditions.

- Obey all signs and signals, including speed limits, traffic lights, stop signs and railway crossings.
- If you drive with a wireless phone, avoid unnecessary calls and always make the driving task your top priority.
- Absolutely never drink and drive.

### Stay alert

Canadians often travel long distances when they go on vacation. This creates a temptation to keep driving for extended periods even when tired. On top of this, routes can be quite monotonous, another factor that can make a driver sleepy. Get a good sleep before leaving on a long trip. Fatigue is a form of impairment; so don't give in to that temptation to push on. If you started early, stop early. Rest stops are important.



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A break keeps the driver alert by promoting blood circulation, makes the trip more pleasant for passengers and lets the vehicle cool down.

### Carrying a heavy load or towing a trailer

Before you tow a trailer or haul a load, make sure your vehicle is properly equipped for the job. Check your owner's manual or if in doubt contact your vehicle dealer. Check that your rear view mirrors give a clear view of the road behind. Driving a heavily loaded car or towing a trailer means you need more space to stop or pass. Leave plenty of distance between yourself and the vehicle ahead. Keep your distance – at least three seconds for each six metres (20 ft.) of vehicle length. For conditions that are less than ideal, increase the following distance. If cars cut in front of you, drop back to keep your separation. When traveling slower than the flow of traffic, be courteous. Pull over where possible to let faster vehicles pass.

### Share the road

With the warmer weather, comes the prevalence of vulnerable roads users. Motorists must be cautious of cyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians. Always be on the lookout for and yield to vulnerable road users, even if they don't have the right-of-way. Summer also brings increased construction on our roads and highways. Be prepared to stop or slow down in construction zones.

The preceding information provided by the Canada Safety Council

### CONSTRUCTION SEASON IS HERE - OPP REMINDING DRIVERS TO BE ALERT IN CONSTRUCTION ZONES

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) are reminding motorists that construction season is here and that drivers need to be extra cautious.

The MTO are reporting in excess of 200 construction projects underway around the province. These projects consist of highway expansions, bridge replacements and road maintenance which may result in road closures, reduced lanes, lane realignments and reduced speed limits.

Drivers should be prepared for possible delays in these areas and plan accordingly. Drivers should remain vigilant at all times, particularly in construction zones where inattention behind the wheel can lead to tragic consequences.



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The OPP will be closely monitoring traffic in these areas and actively enforcing the Highway Traffic Act (HTA). Drivers are reminded that speeding fines are doubled in construction zones where workers are present and that driver's licence/vehicle seizure provisions apply for the offence of speeding under section 172 of the HTA.

If you are traveling throughout Ontario, updated information on roads and construction projects can be obtained by calling 511, or by following the MTO on Twitter @511Ontario.

These construction projects are for the benefit of all road users. Please do your part by driving safely so that every road construction worker makes it home every night.

### OPP / MNRF MARINE PATROL ENCOUNTER NUMEROUS CHARGES

On May 20, 2017, officers from the North West Region Highway Safety Division of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) conducted Marine patrol on Little Harry Lake and Brightsand River in the Upsala area.

While checking several vessels, the officers found several vessel operators and passengers to be consuming alcohol.

The officers issued numerous Provincial Offence Notices for Consuming Liquor in other than Licenced Premises, Residence or Private Place contrary to section 31(2) of the Liquor Licence Act.

A male operator was issued a three day licence suspension upon registering a "warn" on the Alcohol Screening Device.

A male passenger in one of the vessels was issued a Provincial Offence Notice for Not Having a Valid Fishing Licence. There were several safety equipment violations as well.

Drinking and driving is against the law, whether it's on land or water. Impaired care and control of a vessel is still enforceable and is a criminal offence. Alcohol affects your balance, judgement, and reaction times, all of which are required to operate a boat safely on the waterways.

When boating, you are responsible for the safety of the occupants on your boat and other waterway users. Don't put them or yourself at risk, the consequences could last a lifetime.

Thunder Bay OPP will be conducting marine patrols and vessel checks throughout the boating season. Officers may inspect your boat, it's equipment and ensure that operators have proof of competency.



## BOATING SAFETY TIPS: BOATER EDUCATION & RESOURCES FOR SAFE FAMILY FUN

No matter how much experience you have, it's always a good idea for everyone to review boating safety rules before departures. Read below to familiarize yourself with these 10 basic boating safety tips:

### Be Weather-wise

Always check local weather conditions before departure. TV and radio forecasts can be a good source of information. If you notice darkening clouds, volatile and rough changing winds, or sudden drops in temperature, play it safe by getting off the water.

### Follow a Pre-Departure Checklist

Proper boating safety means being prepared for any possibility on the water. From compliance with fire safety regulations to tips for fueling up, following a pre-departure checklist is the best way to make sure no boating safety rules or precautions have been forgotten.

### Get your Pleasure Craft Operator Card

Your Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) is a bit like a driver's licence and once you have your PCOC it's yours for life. The PCOC is mandatory for anyone operating a pleasure craft with any type of motor, and the operator should be sure to have their original PCOC card "on board". There are a lot of options for your get your PCOC card and you can find a list by using this link to get to a current list of Transport Canada approved course providers. You can take the test from any of these approved companies and once you pass, they will provide you with your PCOC.

### Use Common Sense

One of the most important parts of boating safety is to know the rules and to use your common sense. This means operating at a safe speed at all times, especially in crowded areas. Be alert at all times, and steer clear of large vessels and watercraft that can be restricted in their ability to stop or turn.

Also be respectful of buoys and other navigational aids, all of which have been placed there for one reason only- to ensure your own boating safety.

### Designate an Assistant Skipper

Make sure more than only one person on board is familiar with all aspects of your boat's handling, operations, and other boating safety tips. If the primary navigator is injured or incapacitated in any way, it's important to make sure someone else can follow the proper boating safety rules to get everyone else back to shore. Remember that anyone operating the boat must have their PCOC.





## Develop a Float Plan

Whether you choose to inform a family member or staff at your local marina, always be sure to let someone else know your float plan. This should include where you're going and how long you're going to be gone.

A float plan can include the following information: name, address, and phone number of trip leader; name and phone number of all passengers; boat type and registration information; trip itinerary; and types of communication and signal equipment onboard. [Learn more](#)

## Make Proper Use of Lifejackets

Did you know that the majority of drowning victims resulting from boating accidents were found not to be wearing a lifejacket (also called a personal flotation device or PFD)? Make sure that your family and friends aren't part of this statistic by assigning and fitting each member of your onboard team with a lifejacket-prior to departure.

## Don't Mix Alcohol and Boating

Practise boating safety at all times by saving the alcohol for on land. The probability of being involved in a boating accident doubles when alcohol is involved, and studies have also shown that the affect of alcohol is exacerbated by external effects such as sun and wind. Just like driving under the influence, boating under the influence of alcohol is an offense under the Criminal Code of Canada. If you are planning to consume alcohol on your boat, then in most provinces you must be anchored and have permanent sleeping, kitchen and toilet facilities on board. Check with the appropriate provincial authorities (OPP for Ontario, SQ for Quebec, RCMP for all other provinces and territories) for carriage restrictions.

## Learn to Swim

If you're going to be in and around the water, proper boating safety means knowing how to swim. Local organizations such as the Canadian Red Cross and others offer training for all ages and abilities - check to see what classes are offered in your area.

## Take a Boating Course

Beginning boaters and experienced experts alike need be familiar with boating safety rules of operation. In addition to the mandatory PCOC for any boat operator, you should also consider additional courses so that you can boat with confidence. It's always important to be educated, aware and prepared for every circumstance that might arise.

## Consider a Free Vessel Safety Check

The Office of Boating Safety is working to raise awareness of boating safety issues and encourage all pleasure craft operators to follow safe boating practices. [Qualified](#)





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Boating Safety Specialists are available to conduct a FREE Courtesy Check of your recreational vessel (sail, power, personal watercraft or canoe.) The reviews are confidential and there are no penalties for deficiencies.

Take advantage of a free Vessel Safety Check from the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron (CPS-ECP) working in partnership with the Office of Boating Safety. They offer complimentary boat examinations to review all the safety equipment required by law. Free of charge, they'll provide a specialist to check out your boat and make helpful boating safety tips and recommendations

The preceding information provided by Discover Boating

### WHAT TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT BICYCLE SAFETY

#### Starting out

Make sure your child's bike and helmet are the right size. He or she should be able to straddle the bike with both feet on the ground; a bike that is too big or too small is a safety hazard. As a minimum, your child's first bike should be equipped with a bell and reflectors.

For young children, set the following hard and fast rules:

- No playing on the road
- No riding on busy streets.
- No riding at night.
- Stop for all stop signs.
- Ride on the right with traffic.

#### Common dangers

The majority of bicycle injuries do not involve motor vehicles. Most are falls, collisions with stationary objects, and collisions with other bikes or pedestrians, which result from the bicyclist losing control, and most occur less than five blocks from home, in familiar surroundings.

But the most serious incidents involve motor vehicles.

The following are some of the most common causes of bicycle injuries:

#### Driveway ride out

A youngster rides out of the driveway and gets hit by a car. Very often these incidents involve younger children: the median age is less than 10.



Does your driveway present obstructions to the view of passing motorists, such as bushes or trees? If so, trim them back. Most importantly, teach your child about driveway safety. Go outside to the driveway and have him or her practice the following steps:

- Stop before entering the street.
- Scan left, then right for traffic.
- If there's no traffic, proceed into the roadway.

### Running the stop sign

Take your child to a stop sign and explain what it means, emphasizing the following:

- Stop at all stop signs regardless of what is happening.
- Scan both directions for traffic.
- Wait for any cross traffic to clear.
- Proceed when safe.

Above all, practice what you preach!

### Turning without warning

Teach your children to walk their bikes across busy streets, at least until they have some advanced training and are old enough to understand traffic. In the meantime, for residential street riding, you can teach them to always scan and signal before turning left. Go to a playground to practice riding along a straight paint line while scanning behind. Stand alongside and hold up two fingers on your hand after the child rides by. Call their name. After 10 or 15 minutes of practice a 10 year old should be able to look behind and identify how many fingers you are holding up, all without swerving.

### After dark

Most crashes in which a car coming up from the rear hits a bike while overtaking happen at night. These overtaking accidents can be serious. Most, however, involve older cyclists; the median age is about 20.

Rule out night riding for your youngster. It requires special skills and equipment. Few kids have either. Make your child understand that, if he or she gets caught out after dark on a bike, the only thing to do is to call you for a ride home.

### Following the leader

Many car/bike collisions take place when children are following each other. The first one may run a stop sign and get through. The second one may get hit. This Group Think behavior is hard to counter.



Teach your child always to assess the traffic situation for him or herself. When a group is riding around, each cyclist should stop for stop signs. Each one should scan to the rear before making left turns.

## Head injuries

Less than 20 per cent of reported bicycle injuries involve collisions with cars. Most occur in falls, or as a result of riders losing control. A bad fall can result from a skid, catching a wheel in a crack or even getting a shoelace caught in the chain.

In a spill, the forehead usually hits the ground first. Head injuries cause most bicycle-related deaths and can result in serious injury such as brain damage. Up to 88 per cent of serious head injuries could be prevented by wearing a helmet. It is critical for your child to wear a bike helmet that fits properly and is certified by CSA International.

When choosing a helmet, your child should try on several helmets carefully. Level the helmet over your child's forehead and adjust the chin strap to fit snugly and comfortably. It should protect the forehead without slipping forward or backward; and it should not move unless the scalp moves. A trained salesperson will help you ensure the fit is right.

Insist your child always wears a helmet when riding. (It goes without saying that parents must set an example by always wearing theirs when cycling.) Remember, a helmet only works when you wear it!

Never forget that example is the best teacher.

- Get into the helmet habit.
- Always stop at stop signs.
- Practice what you teach.

The preceding information provided by the Canada Safety Council

## RECRUITING INFORMATION

The Ontario Provincial Police will be showcasing our services in Sioux Lookout, June 14 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Several OPP speciality units will be on display for the public to view. Some of the units will have hands-on displays. At 3:00 pm, the Emergency Response Team and the OPP K9 Unit will put on a demonstration for the public. Everyone is welcome to come to the Sioux Lookout Recreation Centre to see OPP displays and talk with officers.



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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](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.



June is.....

Seniors Month

15-World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

21-National Aboriginal Day

6-13 National Water Safety Week

26-International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

July is.....

Marine Safety Days

18-26 National Drowning Prevention Week

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

Thunder Bay OPP Community Services Officer

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