



THUNDER BAY OPP – JUNE NEWSLETTER

THUNDER BAY OPP WELCOMES NEW DETACHMENT COMMANDER

The Thunder Bay Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment now has a new confirmed Detachment Commander. North West Regional Commander Dave Lucas is pleased to announce Inspector Allan Gordon as the successful applicant.

Inspector Al Gordon, formerly of Greenstone Detachment, began his career in the North West Region, where he was posted to Armstrong Detachment in 1987. Following his tenure in Armstrong, he transferred to London Detachment where he performed general law enforcement duties, and then worked in the Crime Unit from 1994 until 1998.

In 1998, Inspector Gordon transferred to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO). In 2001 he was promoted to Detective Sergeant and transferred to the AGCO Corporate Investigation Unit in Toronto.

In 2013, Inspector Gordon transferred to Elgin County Detachment as a Platoon Sergeant. In 2015 he assumed the duties of Administrative Sergeant, and was also Acting Staff Sergeant for a period of time.

In 2016 Inspector Gordon was promoted to Staff Sergeant and returned to North West Region to assume the role of Detachment Commander in Greenstone.

"Northern Ontario is home to me and I look forward to using my time as Detachment Commander in Thunder Bay to develop and sustain partnerships within the community to prevent crime and victimization and to address social disorder." - OPP Inspector Al Gordon



OPP GUN AMNESTY RESULTS

Province-wide campaign yields unwanted weapons and ammunition

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and its municipal law enforcement partners have received and rendered safe hundreds of weapons and thousands of rounds of ammunition during a month-long Gun Amnesty.

During April 2018, the OPP:

- received **592** gun amnesty calls for service, **86** of which (or **14.5** per cent) were received through the online reporting option on the OPP website;
- recovered **689** items through appointments made with OPP officers including **267** rifles, **156** shotguns, **113** prohibited firearms, and **62** other guns such as replica and vintage weapons; and,
- collected **12,615** pieces of ammunition.

All Ontario police services participated in the month-long initiative. During that time, a total of **1,503** guns were voluntarily surrendered in non-OPP jurisdictions.

A majority of firearms that have been surrendered to police will be destroyed, but a number of guns will be retained for historical, educational or training purposes. Although the gun amnesty has officially ended, police will continue to accept submissions from the public. Interested gun owners may call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or their local police service's non-emergency lines to arrange for officers to attend and safely retrieve the weapons.

Police continue to encourage members of the public to turn in unwanted weapons despite the conclusion of this initiative. Police retain the ability to exercise discretion (amnesty) regarding weapons related charges at all times, not just during this month long event. The public is reminded that **no one should ever deliver guns, ammunition or military ordinance directly to police facilities.**

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](#).



ON THE ROAD, NOT AT FAULT MOTORCYCLIST DEATHS ON THE RISE: OFF ROAD: LOSS OF CONTROL PRIMARY CAUSE IN DEATHS

With motorcycles and off-road vehicles expected in large numbers over the upcoming summer months, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is raising red flags on what its investigations reveal about these seasonal riders.

The OPP is reminding road users about the historically tragic motorcycle season on OPP-patrolled roads last year. Over and above marking a ten-year high, what made last year's 48 motorcyclist deaths particularly tragic was the fact that almost half (22) of the motorcycle drivers were not the at-fault driver. Among the top contributing factors in the deaths were alcohol/drug impairment (6), improper turn (6), excessive speed (5) and fail to yield (5).

Off the road, history repeated itself last year when nine (9) of the 22 off-road vehicle drivers who died were found not wearing a helmet. The same number of deaths occurred in 2016 with the same number of victims found without a helmet. The leading primary cause was loss of control, with 15 of the fatalities being attributed to this cause over the two-year period.

"Last year, the OPP saw the highest number of road fatalities in five years, with 343 people losing their lives. Regardless of where your travels take you this week and over the weekend, please know that driving safely means driving the number of road deaths way down. The OPP, our policing partners and the thousands of families travelling on Ontario roads this week are counting on you to help make that happen."

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

CANADA ROAD SAFETY WEEK RESULTS: FOUR DEATHS AND INCREASED TRAFFIC RELATED CHARGES

Preliminary data indicates Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers were kept busy on and off roads during the Victoria Day holiday weekend, investigating four deaths and laying thousands of charges to address poor driving behaviours.

During Canada Road Safety Week (May 15-21 inclusive), the OPP laid more than **10,600** speeding charges, **175** of which were street racing charges against motorists driving 50 km/h or more over the posted speed limit. Both were increases over the same period of 2017.



Officers also laid **726** seat belt charges (up nearly 12 per cent), **424** distracted driving charges (a 12 per cent decrease from 2017), **124** impaired by alcohol or drug charges and various other traffic-related charges to motorists who continue to threaten the safety of other road users in OPP jurisdiction.

One death occurred on a road in the OPP's West Region that remains under investigation while officers also responded to an off-road vehicle (ORV) incident that claimed two lives in North East Region, and a drowning death in Central Region.

Canada Road Safety Week is a national campaign aimed at educating drivers through awareness and enforcement about the Big Four causal factors in motor vehicle collision fatalities - impaired driving, distracted and aggressive driving and lack of seat belt use.

Although this specific campaign is over, the OPP reminds drivers that officers remain vigilant 365 days a year to try to improve decision-making and change these driving behaviours.

OPP REPORT EIGHT-YEAR HIGH IN BOATING FATALITIES

OPP Partners with CSBC for Safe Boating Week

Boating fatalities on OPP-patrolled waterways reached an eight-year high in 2017, 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.

During Safe Boating Week (May 19-25, 2018), the OPP partnered with the Canadian Safe Boating Council to promote safety on the water.

Whether you are a boat operator or a passenger, consider these facts when heading out on the water in any type of watercraft:

- Wear a personal floatation device or lifejacket
- Don't operate any watercraft while impaired
- Obtain relevant licencing
- Ensure you have all the required safety equipment
- Ensure your watercraft is water ready
- Be wary of the dangers of cold water immersion (especially this time of year)



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For more information about how to remain safe on the water this weekend, and all summer long, visit the [Canadian Safe Boating Council](#).

MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING TAILGATE SALE

The Municipality of Neebing Tailgate Sale will be taking place on Saturday, June 9, 2018. Officers from Thunder Bay OPP, the OPP Canine Unit, and Emergency Response Team officers will be in attendance. The OPP Mobile Command Unit will be on display as well. The tailgate sale is in support of the Neebing Fire / Rescue Association.

OPP WORKING WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is committed to continuous improvement and finding new ways to deliver services to meet the diverse needs of our communities. In partnership with the Ontario Association of the Deaf (OAD), the OPP has endorsed a visor card to assist a Deaf person to communicate with a police officer during a traffic stop.

This is the first initiative of its kind to be endorsed by a police service in Ontario. The visor card was produced by the OAD. The OAD will be distributing the visor cards to members of the Deaf community who present an Ontario Driver's Licence during their annual Mayfest Festival that was held from May 11-12, 2018.

The visor card may assist with bridging the communication gap by facilitating alternate communication methods such as hand signals and writing out instructions. The visor card includes images of what a police officer may need to see for identification from the Deaf person along with icons of common driving violations.

"The OPP works diligently with our community partners to recognize barriers and address them to provide the highest level of services possible. In addition to a number of uniform members who are able to sign, the visor card further enhances accessibility with members of the Deaf community by improving the quality of communication between a Deaf person and an OPP officer," Commissioner Vince Hawkes said.

About the OAD

Ontario Association of the Deaf is Canada's oldest Deaf non-profit organization. For over 130 years, OAD has placed special focus on educating and advocating in the interests of all Deaf Ontarians.



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Deaf people are the heart of OAD's efforts to ensure equality and protecting the rights of Deaf Ontarians. OAD provides resources, support, and advocacy to the Deaf Community of Ontario and individuals and organizations seeking information and assistance. For more information about the OAD and Mayfest Festival, visit deafontario.ca.

LET'S BE BEAR WISE

The North West Region Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) remind the public to be Bear Wise and prevent bears from showing up where you don't want them. Please do your part to avoid human-bear interactions this spring, and check around your home to remove the most popular bear attractants. With the warming weather comes an increase in bear sightings. 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.

Tips for preventing bears from visiting your neighbourhood include:

- Storing garbage in waste containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Only put garbage out on the morning of pickup (*may already be a local by-law*).
- 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.

Bear Encounters - Who Do I Call?

This time of year, we see more bears come into contact with humans 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.
- Pulling down a bird feeder or knocking over a barbecue.
- Moving through a backyard or field but is not lingering.



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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.

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.

If you're out for a wilderness walk, keep your dog on a leash. Bears are generally more apt to act aggressive or defensive when a free running dog approaches or provokes it.

Let's all do our part to stay safe.

OPP CONTINUES TO MAKE MENTAL HEALTH A PRIORITY FOR OUR PEOPLE AND OUR COMMUNITIES

Mental Health has long been a priority for the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). This week marks the Canadian Mental Health Association's Mental Health Week with communities across the country supporting mental health initiatives. The OPP is proud to provide ongoing support to its people and communities with its *Mental Health Strategy: Our People, Our Communities*.



Mental health and wellness go hand in hand, a premise that underlies the *OPP Mental Health Strategy*. The strategy has two related but distinct components - *Supporting Our People: Healthy Workforce* and *Supporting Our Communities: Police Interactions with People with Mental Health Issues*. The OPP has made considerable progress since launching the strategy in December 2015.

"Mental health is an important issue, for everyone. The goal of the strategy is to improve the response to the mental health needs of our people and the individuals in the communities we serve," Commissioner Vince Hawkes said.

Some of the notable achievements over the last two years in *Supporting Our People* include delivering mental health awareness and resiliency training to more than 8,000 OPP members, expanded formal training to the Auxiliary Program and increased access to the OPP Critical Incident Stress Response Team/Peer Support Program.

Continued progress was made in the established priorities for action during the second year of implementation of *Supporting Our Communities*. Achievements include increased referrals to community support services, tools to aid police in communicating more effectively with medical professionals and people experiencing a mental health crisis, over 1,200 OPP members have completed Crisis Intervention Training, and continued training for OPP members in de-escalation techniques.

"Members across the organization continue to embrace this evolving strategy," Commissioner Hawkes said. "We have made significant achievements, but recognize there will always be more work to be done. I am proud of all that has been accomplished in just over two years in support of the important issue of mental health."

BICYCLE SAFETY

Cycling is a fun and healthy activity, it's a low-cost way to get around, and it's good for the environment.

Before you head out on a bike, learn the rules of the road, helmet information and safety tips for cyclists of all ages.

What is a bicycle?

A bicycle, or bike, is a vehicle that:

- has one, two or three wheels (a unicycle, bicycle or tricycle)
- has steering handlebars and pedals
- does not have a motor. For motor-assisted bikes, read about electric bicycles or scooters and mopeds



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Licence and registration

Bicycles do not require:

- registration
- licence plates
- vehicle insurance
- a driver's licence

People of all ages can ride a bike.

Rules of the road

As a cyclist, you must share the road with others (e.g., cars, buses, trucks, motorcycles, etc.).

Under Ontario's *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA), a bicycle is a vehicle, just like a car or truck.

Cyclists:

- must obey all traffic laws
- have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers
- cannot carry passengers - if your bicycle is only meant for one person

Riding on the right

You must stay as close to the right edge of the road whenever possible, especially if you're slower than other traffic.

Where you can ride

You can ride on most roads, except:

- controlled access highways, such as Ontario's 400-series highways
- across a road within a pedestrian cross-over - you must walk your bike to the other side

Bike helmets

Children and youth

By law, every cyclist under age 18 must wear an approved helmet.

Riders under 16 years old: a parent or guardian must make sure their child wears a helmet.



Adults

Helmets are not compulsory for adults over 18; but a helmet can greatly reduce the risk of permanent injury or death if you fall or collide. It is strongly recommended that all riders wear helmets.

Types of helmets

The best helmets:

- are made to meet strict safety standards
- fit properly when worn correctly

Bicycle safety resources

For more information about cycling safety, check out:

- CAN-BIKE, a series of education and skill courses on cycling safely
- Canada's Independent Bicycle Retailers Association
- the Toronto Cycling Committee: a citizen's advisory group on bike-related policies
- the Share the Road Cycling Coalition: an organization that works to make communities more bicycle-friendly
- CAA Bike Safety: safety tips for cyclists and drivers Service Ontario Publications: order copies of *Cycling Skills* and the *Young Cyclist's Guide*

Frequently Asked Questions

New Cycling Changes

Q1: What new changes do cyclists need to know about?

Beginning January 1, 2017:

- New bicycle traffic signals can be used to direct bicycle traffic at intersections
- Cyclists must obey bicycle traffic signals where they are installed
- Cyclists who do not obey bicycle traffic signals can face a set fine of \$85; and, \$120 in community safety zones
- Where both a regular traffic signal and a bicycle traffic signal apply to the same lane, cyclists must obey the bicycle signal
- If no bicycle traffic signals are present, cyclists must obey standard traffic signals



Q2: Why did the province pass legislation for bicycle signals?

Bicycle traffic signals are expected to improve safety at intersections and help reduce collisions with pedestrians and drivers.

New One-Metre Passing Law

Q1: What is the penalty to drivers for not leaving a minimum of one-metre distance when passing a cyclist?

The penalty for not leaving a minimum one-metre passing distance is a set fine of \$85.00 plus a \$5 court fee plus a \$20 victim surcharge fine for a total payable of \$110.00.

Drivers who contest their ticket by going to court may face a fine of up to \$500 if found guilty (fine range is \$60 to \$500). Upon conviction, two demerit points will also be assigned against the individual's driver record.

Q2: Will cyclists also be required to leave a minimum one-metre distance when passing a vehicle?

Cyclists are not required to leave a specific one-metre space; however, they are required to obey all the rules of the road. Cyclists who are being overtaken should turn out to the right to allow the vehicle to pass.

Q3: What if there isn't enough room to allow for a one-metre passing distance? Can a vehicle cross the centre median line to pass the cyclist?

A motorist may, if done safely, and in compliance with the rules of the road, cross the centre line of a roadway in order to pass a cyclist. If this cannot be done, he or she must wait behind the cyclist until it is safe to pass.

Dooring

Q1. What are the new increased penalties for "dooring" offenses?

The new penalties for improper opening of a vehicle door (for driver or passenger) are a set fine of \$300.00 upon conviction and 3 demerit points. The total payable fine is \$365.00 (\$set fine plus \$60 victim fine surcharge and \$5 court costs).

The current HTA set fine for "dooring" offence is \$85.00 upon conviction and the total payable fine is \$110 (\$set fine plus \$20 victim fine surcharge and \$5 court fees). Additionally a conviction results in 2 demerit points being added to the individual's driver record.



Q2. Does the “dooring” law only apply to cyclists?

Although cyclists may be the most commonly perceived road user affected by this behaviour, the “dooring” law applies to all road users and is not specific to cyclists.

The government is committed to helping ensure the safety of not only cyclists but all road users.

Increasing the Fine for Cyclists for Non-Compliance with Light, Reflector and Reflective Material Requirements

Q1. Why is the government increasing the fines for cyclists with improper light, reflector and reflective tape?

Currently, the fine for non-compliance with bicycle light, reflector and reflective requirements, carries a maximum fine of \$20 which is less than the majority of set fines for motorists and cyclists.

Increasing this fine will put this violation in line with all other cycling violations.

Allowing Cyclists to use Intermittent Flashing Red Lights

Q1. Why is the government allowing cyclists to use a red flashing light? Won't this be distracting to other road users?

Red flashing lights were previously not allowed under the Highway Traffic Act even though the majority of cyclists were already using rear lamps that produce intermittent flashes of red light to make themselves more visible to others.

Considering the safety benefits from the use of these lights, and to prevent cyclists from potentially being charged, the Highway Traffic Act was amended to allow bicycles to use lamps that produce intermittent flashes of red lights.

A motorist may, if done safely, and in compliance with the rules of the road, cross the centre line of a roadway in order to pass a cyclist. If this cannot be done, he or she must wait behind the cyclist until it is safe to pass.

Bicycle Helmets

Q1: What is the fine for not wearing a bicycle helmet?

All bicycle riders under the age of 18 need to wear an approved bicycle helmet when travelling on any public road. The total fine is \$75.



Q2: How do I know which bicycle helmet to buy?

Look for a helmet that fits comfortably and meets safety standards. Check the inside of the helmet for stickers from one or more of the following organizations:

- Snell Memorial Foundation: Snell B90, Snell B95, Snell B90S, or Snell N94
- American National Standard Institute: ANSI Z90.4-1984
- American Society For Testing and Materials: ASTM F1447-94
- British Standards Institute: BS6863:1989
- Standards Association of Australia: AS2063.2-1990
- United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) 16 CFR Part 1203

Recommended for you

- [#CycleON: Ontario's Cycling Strategy](#)
- [Bill 31](#)

Cycling guides

Learn more about safe cycling:

- [Cycling Skills: Ontario's Guide to Safe Cycling \(PDF - 9 MB\)](#) : a detailed handbook of rules and safety standards for any rider
- [Young Cyclist's Guide \(PDF - 2.83 MB\)](#) : a kid-friendly handbook book of cycling safety tips and rules for young riders

The preceding information was provided by the Ministry of Transportation

"PIT PARTIES"

During the Spring and Summer months, Thunder Bay OPP officers are sometimes called upon to attend area camp sites, local lakes and private gravel pits to deal with young people and adults alike that have gathered to party / consume alcohol.

When you add alcohol and a large gathering of people to the mix, there is a propensity for public intoxication, possible impaired driving, damage to property and the potential for violence.

The local gravel pits are owned by private landowners, anyone found on their property may be charged contrary to the Trespass to Property Act, their vehicle may be subject to being towed and if there are any damages incurred on the property, the user will be held responsible and could be subject to a charge contrary to the Criminal Code.



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Also, people cannot gather on private property unless provided permission from the land owner.

Thunder Bay OPP appreciates and encourages members of the public to contact police if they have knowledge or information regarding these gatherings / parties taking place.

It may be the call that prevents a potentially unsafe, dangerous situation.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents is requested to call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, any information can also be reported to Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-8477 or submit online at www.tipsubmit.com

THUNDER BAY OPP INVESTIGATE MISCHIEF: SEEKING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

On May 20, 2018 officers from the Thunder Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) received a report of mischief that had occurred in the area of Hoof Lake Road.

A refrigerated trailer that was used to store tree planting equipment and trees (saplings) was damaged. It was discovered that the trailer had damage to the rear taillights and suspect(s) attempted to pry open the rear doors. The gas tank had also been tampered with.

As well, a homemade utility trailer had been lit on fire. Tree planting employees were able to extinguish the fire, containing the damage to a small portion of the trailer.

Police are attempting to locate two males and a female that were observed in the area of Swallow / Hoof Lake. They were observed riding in a Polaris Ranger Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV), blue in colour, over the Victoria Day long weekend.

Anyone with information regarding this incident 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



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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.



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

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 Safety Officer

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