



THUNDER BAY OPP – JULY NEWSLETTER

OPP REMIND MOTORISTS TO DRIVE SAFELY OVER CANADA DAY HOLIDAY

With the Canada Day holiday approaching, Thunder Bay Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) want to remind motorists to take care and use caution when travelling on roadways and highways.

Thunder Bay OPP officers will be conducting Reduced Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) and seatbelt spot checks ensuring strict compliance when it comes to impaired driving, and ensuring seatbelt usage.

The four main driving behaviours that put all road users at risk are: driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs; lack of occupant restraint; driving while distracted; and aggressive driving.

Every road user can play a part in reducing the “Big 4” killers on our roads during these summer months and throughout the year.

With the end of the school year here, children will be outdoors enjoying the summer months. OPP are asking motorists to be extra observant for children playing and walking along roadways. Reduce your speed in residential areas and areas where children are known to be such as parks and playgrounds.

Have a safe Canada Day holiday.

OPP ATTEND NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY EVENT AT MARINA PARK

On June 21, the National Aboriginal Day event in Thunder Bay took place at the Marina Park. Thunder Bay OPP officers attended the event and enjoyed the festivities and celebration of the First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples.

June 21 is National Aboriginal Day (NAD), a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Aboriginal peoples.

Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.



In cooperation with Aboriginal organizations, the Government of Canada chose June 21st, the summer solstice, for National Aboriginal Day. For generations, many Aboriginal peoples and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day due to the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year.

What led to the creation of NAD?

NAD was announced in 1996 by then Governor General of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc, after consultations and statements of support for such a day were made by various Aboriginal groups.

- In 1982, the National Indian Brotherhood (now the Assembly of First Nations) called for the creation of National Aboriginal Solidarity Day.
- In 1995, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommended the designation of a National First Peoples Day.
- The Sacred Assembly, a national conference of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people chaired by Elijah Harper, called for a national holiday to celebrate the contributions of Aboriginal peoples, also in 1995.

The preceding information was provided by Nadtbay.ca

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

To minimize the risk of fire and burn injury, the fire service does not recommend family fireworks or informal neighbourhood displays.

The fire service recommends attending public fireworks displays hosted by your municipality or other responsible organization.

If you still choose to have a family fireworks or an informal neighbourhood display, check with your local fire department about regulations regarding fireworks. Here are some important safety tips to be followed:

- Appoint a responsible person to be in charge. Only adults who are aware of the hazards and essential safety precautions should handle and discharge fireworks.
- Carefully read and follow the label directions on fireworks packaging.
- Always keep a water hose or pail of water close by when discharging fireworks.
- Discharge fireworks well away from combustible materials like buildings, trees and dry grass.
- Keep onlookers a safe distance away, upwind from the area where fireworks are discharged.
- Light only one firework at a time and only when they are on the ground. Never try to light a firework in your hand or re-light dud fireworks. For dud fireworks, it is



best to wait 30 minutes and soak them in a bucket of water. Dispose of them in a metal container.

- Discharge fireworks only if wind conditions do not create a safety hazard.
- Keep sparklers away from children. Sparklers burn extremely hot and can ignite clothing, cause blindness and result in severe burns. As the sparkler wire remains hot for some minutes after burnout, it should be immediately soaked in water to avoid injury.
- If someone gets burned, run cool water over the wound for three to five minutes and seek medical attention, if necessary.

The preceding information was provided by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services

NEEBING TAILGATE SALE

On Saturday, June 20, P/C Diana Cole, Canine officer, P/C Corey Parrish and his partner, Yukon as well as Auxiliary Officer Deb Muller attended the Neebing Tailgate Sale and fundraiser in support of the Neebing Fire Department. The officers interacted and provided information to the public but most of the interest was on Yukon. P/C Parrish provided those that attended with information about the canine unit, information on Yukon and performed a few demonstrations.

OPP "KIDS" GRADUATION

Over the past 12 weeks P/C Diana Cole has delivered the OPP KIDS Program to grade 5/6 students from McKenzie Public School, Gorham and Ware Public School and Whitefish Valley Public School.

The OPP KIDS Program, which stands for Knowledge, Issues, Decisions and Supports, is an OPP initiated program that consists of five components. The five components consist of: Youth and the Law, Peer to Peer Relationships, Online and Social Media Awareness, Drug Awareness, and Mental Health Awareness. The program is a 12 week program which involves use of a workbook, videos and classroom discussion regarding the component being taught.

During the last week of school, the students from McKenzie Public School, Gorham and Ware Public School and Whitefish Valley Public School celebrated their hard work with a graduation. Each student received a diploma certificate, and an OPP KIDS T-shirt. The OPP would like to thank the principals and teachers for their support and participation with this program.



Ontario Provincial Police

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SAFE BOATING DAY EVENT AT MARINA

Thunder Bay OPP would like everyone heading out on the waterways to reflect upon the numerous tragic and preventable deaths and injuries that occur on Ontario's lakes and rivers, due to careless behaviour, every year.

Check the load capacity of your boat. Take a second trip, if necessary, to avoid over loading your boat. Distribute the load evenly so that your vessel is not prone to tipping or taking on water.

A big wake can easily upset a smaller craft and can cause property damage along shorelines. Boating restriction regulations limit speed to 10 km/hour when operating within 30 meters of shore.

Drinking and boating is just as dangerous as drinking and driving, and the same Criminal Code laws apply. It is also an offence to have open liquor in your vessel unless it is moored for the night and has a washroom, cooking and sleeping facilities.

Boats vary in their size and configuration. Larger vessels need more space to manoeuvre and greater distances to stop. In addition, larger vessels tend to have blind spots that can limit the operator's view of smaller vessels operating nearby. Persons operating these larger boats must also be mindful of the wake potential of their craft. A big wake can easily upset a smaller craft and can cause property damage along shorelines.

Fuel-check your tank and remember: 1/3 to travel, 1/3 to return, 1/3 for reserve.

All persons operating a boat are required to have a Pleasure Craft Operator Card.

OPP data shows that eight out of ten victims who die in fatal boating incidents are not wearing a personal floating device (PFD). Every vessel must have a personal floatation device or lifejacket for everyone on board, and they must be accessible to all. Wearing a lifejacket can save your life.

The OPP will be at the Public Dock at the Marina on Monday, July 4, 2016 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Hope to see you there.

OPP GOLDEN HELMETS PERFORM DURING OPENING CEREMONY AT CAN AM POLICE FIRE GAMES

The OPP Golden Helmets will be performing at the opening ceremony of the Can Am Police Fire Games. The event will take place on Water Street (outside Marina Park area) at 1:00 pm.



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The Ontario Provincial Police Golden Helmets Precision Motorcycle Team was formed in 1963. Each year they tour the Province of Ontario giving exhibitions of superb riding skills at fairs, festivals and parades.

The 20-member team, comprised of OPP officers on regular patrol duties, consists of the Ride Master, Commentator, the motorcycle technician and 17 riders. Each team member must have successfully completed a three week motorcycle course and at least one season on motorcycle patrol. The members must be in good physical condition and possess a police fitness pin.

The motorcycles used by the Golden Helmets are Harley Davidson Police Specials. They have 1690 c.c. engines and weigh 800 pounds. These motorcycles are the same ones used on normal patrol.

During each 30-minute performance the riders take their machines through a series of complex patterns, which are intended to demonstrate the maneuverability of the machines and the riders' skills.

Although a nucleus of the team stays on from year to year, there are always changes and each spring new members have to be trained. The team executes an average of 30 performances per season, which runs from June to September

Location: Water Street (outside Marina Park area)

Time: 1:00 pm

WILD LIFE SAFETY MESSAGE FOR MOTORISTS

Thunder Bay OPP would like to remind motorists to watch out for wildlife on our highways and roadways. Recently there have been a number of collisions with wildlife reported to police. The wildlife involved being, deer, moose and bears but most often, deer.

If you spot a deer at roadside or crossing the road, slow down as there will likely be others nearby. Too often a motorist will brake for the initial deer crossing the road and while looking in the direction of the deer that has just crossed, not see the 2nd or 3rd deer coming behind. In such a case, a collision is almost certain.

Drivers are being asked to be vigilant and to watch for large wild animals crossing roadways throughout the area this spring as wildlife becomes more active.

As drivers, many of us are aware that any contact between a motor vehicle and an animal can result in significant damage and in some cases even death. Wild animals are unpredictable at all times.



- On average, there is a motor vehicle/wild animal collision every 38 minutes in Ontario.
- One out of every 17 motor vehicle collisions involves a wild animal
- 89% occur on two-lane roads outside of urban areas
- 86% occur in good weather

Reduce Your Collision Risk

- Scan the road ahead from shoulder to shoulder. When you see wildlife beside the road, slow down and pass carefully as they may suddenly bolt onto the road.
- Watch for the yellow wildlife warning signs that indicate an area of increased risk. Slow down when travelling through these areas.
- Use high beams at night where possible and watch for glowing eyes of animals.
- Stay in control. Watch your speed and take extra precautions when driving at night as visibility is greatly reduced. Slowing down will give you that extra second to respond.
- Never swerve suddenly. This could cause your vehicle to go out of control or head into oncoming traffic.
- Brake firmly if an animal is standing on, or crossing the road. Never assume the animal will move out of your way.
- Stop as safely as possible if a wild animal is crossing the road. Remember, deer often move in groups. If you see one, know there are likely more in the vicinity.
- If possible, avoid driving during dusk or dawn when most wildlife collisions occur. Swerving to avoid hitting a wild animal may result in a more serious collision. If hitting a wild animal is unavoidable, remember to stay in control.
- People who live adjacent to highways are encouraged not to feed deer as this increases the probability of motor vehicle collisions, resulting in more personal injuries and increased deer mortality.
- Motorists should watch for these potential problem areas and drive carefully when passing through them.

For more information, please refer to the Ministry of Transportation website at www.mto.gov.on.ca

For public safety tips residents may check out the OPP web-site at www.opp.ca

As always, for the safety of all of those travelling our roadways, remain alert!



Ontario Provincial Police

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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.



July is.....

Marine Safety Days

18-26 National Drowning Prevention Week

August is.....

9 National Peacekeeper's Day

12 International Youth Day

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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