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## THUNDER BAY OPP – DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

### OPP AND POLICE PARTNERS LAUNCH FESTIVE RIDE CAMPAIGN IN NORTH WEST REGION

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Festive RIDE campaign is set to run from November 20, 2017 to January 6, 2018. OPP officers and our police partners will work around the clock during the campaign, conducting RIDE check stops across North West Region. These enforcement efforts, combined with the help of all citizens to intervene when they suspect that someone is driving or about to drive after consuming alcohol or drugs, will prevent innocent lives being lost this holiday season.

The OPP asks everyone to do their part to make this holiday season a joyous one.

### A Few Reminders When Drinking Alcohol:

#### Be responsible.

- Choose a designated driver. Decide who's going to be doing the driving before you go out, and make sure that person doesn't drink any alcoholic beverages.
- Call a taxi. Sometimes even the designated driver slips. If nobody in your group is sober, take alternate transportation. Cab, bus, – anything's better than getting in the car with a drunk driver.
- Hide keys. Don't be afraid to take someone's car keys. If the person gets angry, it's probably proof you're doing the right thing.

### When Throwing a Party

- Offer non-alcoholic beverages. Water, juice, soda pop – give your guests plenty of alternatives. And never pressure guests to drink alcohol.
- Serve plenty of food. A full stomach can slow the rate of alcohol absorption. Serve a great meal or have plenty of appetizers on hand.
- Stop serving alcohol well before the party ends. Give your guests an extra hour or two without alcohol before they head out the door.
- Arrange alternate transportation. Pay attention to your guests' alcohol intake and behavior. If someone has had a lot to drink or seems even the slightest bit tipsy, call a cab or set up a ride with a sober driver.

### Detecting Drunk Drivers

There are several signs associated with drunk driving:

- Making wide turns
- Weaving, swerving, drifting, or straddling the center line



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- Almost striking an object or vehicle
- Driving on the wrong side of the road
- Driving at a very slow speed
- Stopping without cause
- Braking erratically
- Responding slowly to traffic signals
- Turning abruptly or illegally
- Driving after dark with headlights off

Keeping these things in mind can help you avoid a dangerous situation. If you spot what you think is an impaired driver, keep a safe distance and call 9-1-1. Do not attempt to stop the vehicle yourself.

### SAFETY TIPS WHILE SHOPPING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

With the holiday season quickly approaching, stores and parking lots will have an increase flow of shoppers on a mission. Unfortunately this can also provide a very prosperous opportunity for thieves.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) reminds you to keep these safety tips in mind while shopping in downtown stores, shopping malls and parking lots.

- Carry a minimum amount of cash.
- Park in an area that is well illuminated.
- When using your convenience card, do not expose your PIN number.
- Do not put your purse or wallet in a shopping cart. Keep your purse close to your body and zipped closed at all times. Never leave your purse unattended.
- Do not leave purchased items unattended.
- Try not to overload yourself with parcels, so that it is difficult to walk or to carry them.
- When returning to your parked vehicle, be sure to walk directly to your vehicle with keys in hand, so that you are able to unlock your vehicle quickly. Be aware of your surroundings and other people in the area of your vehicle.
- When at your vehicle do not leave your purse on the seat of your car or in the cart while you load groceries or parcels.
- Be sure to place parcels in the trunk of your car or out of sight.
- Once inside, lock your vehicle's doors.

Crime Prevention...It's everyone's business.



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### THUNDER BAY OPP 6th ANNUAL STUFF A CRUISER

On Saturday, December 9, 2017, the Thunder Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police together with our law enforcement partners, Thunder Bay Police Service, Anishinabek Police Service, Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Police Services, as well as Canada Border Service Agency and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry will participate in the 6th Annual Stuff a Cruiser event.

Officers will be located outside Odena in Kakabeka Falls, the Real Canadian Superstore, Walmart on Memorial Avenue, Metro on Arthur Street and River Street and the Safeway stores.

Officers will collect food items in support of the Regional Food Distribution Association (RFDA), as well as for the Rural Cupboard Food Bank (RCFB) to assist with the goal that everyone in our communities has food on their table over the festive season.

All of the Law Enforcement services would like to thank Odena, Real Canadian Superstore, Walmart, Metro and Safeway stores for their support, as well, all of the volunteers and community members for helping make this event happen.

The Stuff a Cruiser event will take place on Saturday, December 9, 2017 between 10:00 am until 4:00 pm.

### POSITIVE TICKETING IS HELPING YOUTH "HEAT" UP THIS WINTER

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is proud to be continuing its partnership with Mac's Convenience/Circle K Stores across Ontario again this year for *Operation Heat 2017*.

OPP Officers will be handing out positive tickets to youth who are spotted committing random acts of kindness or exhibiting "positive" behavior. These positive tickets are actually coupons valid for a free beverage at all participating Mac's Convenience/Circle K stores across Ontario.

OPP officers will be on the lookout in communities across the province; and when they "catch" a youth participating in an act of kindness the youth will receive a 'thank you' which they will receive in the form of a free "ticket" for hot chocolate.

A youth may receive a "Positive Ticket" from an officer for a number of positive behaviours:

- doing a good deed;
- participating in community activities;



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- demonstrating community pride eg. picking up trash and/or;
- deterring crime or observing school crossing rules.

Officers can also use the tickets as an "icebreaker" to start a conversation with youth in their patrol areas.

### QUOTES

"The OPP is pleased to participate once again in this community based initiative that recognizes youth for responsible and caring behavior. Operation Heat gives our officers opportunities to interact and initiate relationships with youth in a positive manner within our communities."

--OPP Inspector Robyn MacEachern, Community Safety Services.

### OPP COMMUNITY BEAR PROGRAM: PROVIDING COMFORT – ENCOURAGING RESILIENCE

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), the OPP Youth Foundation (OPPYF) and TD have together launched a new partnership that will enable OPP officers to continue the OPP Community Bear Program.

The OPP Community Bear Program gives an opportunity for our officers to provide reassurance and comfort to our youngest victims, with the aim of beginning the process of rebuilding their sense of safety and security.

Through the sponsorship of TD, the OPP Community Bear Program will equip OPP cruisers with Community Bears that officers will hand out to children who have experienced a traumatic and/or stressful incident.

OPP, OPPYF and TD officials launched the program at the Orillia OPP General Headquarters where supporters and media were given a first look at the Community Bears before they take to the road in OPP cruisers. The 1,500 Community Bears being provided by TD will be distributed among detachments in all six of the OPP's regions.

### QUOTES

"The OPP is committed to assisting those affected by crime or traumatic events to get the support they need. The OPP Community Bear Program connects our officers to some of our youngest victims, in hopes to encourage resiliency."

--OPP Inspector Robyn MacEachern, Community Safety Services.



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"TD is proud to partner with the OPP and the OPP Youth Foundation to help provide Community Bears to children in stressful situations."

-- Bradley Kennedy, Professional Assistant Branch Manager, TD Wealth

### 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.



December is.....

Festive RIDE

1-7 National Safe Driving Week

6 National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women

10-United Nations Human Rights 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 Safety Officer

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