



THUNDER BAY OPP – AUGUST NEWSLETTER

OPP RELEASE RESULTS OF COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

2018 Provincial Report

Between January 4 and January 31, 2018 citizens from across the province were asked to participate in a Community Satisfaction Survey supported by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) to measure public opinion about the services provided by the OPP throughout the province. Topics of discussion included the handling of crimes, marine and all-terrain vehicles (ATV) patrols, highway safety and traffic enforcement, response to major occurrences and more.

The responses have been gathered and we are pleased to provide the results, available in both English and French. Overall, the survey revealed that 97.5 per cent of respondents felt 'safe' or 'very safe' in their communities and 95.5 per cent felt 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the overall quality of services provided by the OPP.

When it comes to highway safety, 62.9% of respondents were 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with the OPP's enforcement of distracted driving laws.

The information that is collected annually through this survey informs the OPP's goals and objectives in support of a safer Ontario.

QUOTES

"Policing is a commitment to serve and protect the fundamental rights of all people in this province," says OPP Commissioner V.J.N. (Vince) Hawkes. "Each year, it is important for us to check in with Ontarians about how we're doing and assess our priorities for the future. We will continue to work diligently to meet the evolving needs of our communities."

"Distracted driving remains the deadliest behaviour on OPP-patrolled roads," says OPP Deputy Commissioner Brad Blair. "Despite the OPP's robust campaigns and year-round commitment to get motorists to drive distraction-free, we need the public to maintain a zero tolerance for distracted driving. Passengers in particular can be key to identifying and stopping these situations. It is this collaborative approach that will allow us to make significant gains in eliminating distracted driving and the resulting deaths on our roads."



OPP FATAL TRANSPORT TRUCK COLLISIONS UP 38 PER CENT

As the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) geared up for its *Operation Safe Trucking* campaign (July 15-21), it is dismayed at fatal transport truck collisions being up in all but two of the OPP's six regions, with its North East Region marking the highest increase this year at 800 per cent.

The OPP has responded to 33 transport truck-related collisions so far this year, marking a 38 per cent increase when compared to this time last year. Forty one (41) people have died in the crashes.

Year-to-date (Jan 1 - July 9, 2018) fatal transport truck crashes in the OPP's six regions with 2017 comparisons:

Fatal Transport Truck Collisions 2018 - 2017 % change

CENTRAL REGION 2 - 2 0.0%

NORTH WEST REGION 2 - 5 - 60.0%

EAST REGION 8 - 6 + 33.3 %

NORTH EAST REGION 9 - 1 + 800.0%

HIGHWAY SAFETY DIVISION 3 - 2 + 50.0%

WEST REGION 9 - 8 +12.5%

"The OPP has never been more committed to its *Commercial Motor Vehicle Collision Mitigation Strategy*. We continue to work diligently with our road safety and trucking industry partners toward our goal of reducing the number of transport truck collisions on our roads. Despite our efforts, it takes a firm commitment to safe driving on the part of all transport truck drivers and other motorists in order to see a significant reduction in these types of collisions."

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

During *Operation Safe Trucking*, the OPP will be well-resourced to address speeding and other forms of aggressive driving, distracted/inattentive driving, driver impairment, hours of service and equipment violations, and lack of occupant restraint.



QUICK FACTS

OPP-patrolled roads in 2018:

The OPP has investigated more than 3,600 transport truck-related collisions, which represent 11 per cent of the total number of collisions (34,461).

The OPP has dedicated close to 4,300 hours to transport truck inspections and taken 658 vehicles out of service.

The OPP has laid more than 1,615 speeding charges, 354 distracted driving charges and 963 defective equipment-related charges against transport truck drivers.

OPP CONDUCT OPERATION SAFE TRUCKING (JULY 15 - 21, 2018)

No CMV-related Fatalities, but Charges Laid

During Operation Safe Trucking July 15 – 21, 2018, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) stopped 4,254 commercial motor vehicles (CMV), laid 2,479 charges and took 120 unsafe CMVs out of service.

During the blitz, the OPP covertly conducted highway patrol resulting in 114 distracted driving charges against CMV drivers.

OPP aircraft and the use of OPP non-traditional patrol vehicles were also used for enforcement, providing an enhanced view of aggressive CMV drivers. Speeding accounted for 576 of the charges, 75 were the result of Follow Too Close and an additional 269 charges were laid for other moving violations.

A number of CMVs were found to have defective equipment, making up 214 of the charges. Improper documentation saw the highest number of CMV charges (794).

There were no CMV-related fatalities reported during this period.

When CMV drivers were not drawing the OPP's attention, officers spotted a number of passenger vehicles whose drivers were charged with various violations such as distracted driving and speeding.

Passenger vehicles are also reminded that they are accountable to the law, and should provide adequate space to CMVs to ensure the highways are safe for everyone.



As expected, our officers noted that the vast majority of CMV drivers were operating their trucks in a safe manner during this initiative. The OPP would like to thank these (and other) drivers who contribute to safe roads and help save lives.

Operation Safe Trucking is the latest initiative to support the OPP CMV Collision Mitigation Strategy, the goal of which is to reduce the number of CMV collisions on OPP-patrolled roads.

OPP REPORT CANADA DAY LONG WEEKEND FATALITIES - NUMEROUS AGGRESSEIVE DRIVING CHARGES

Seven people died on Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)-patrolled roads over the Canada Day Long Weekend (June 29-July 2, 2018). Five drivers, one passenger and one pedestrian were among the victims in seven separate collisions.

It also proved to be a tragic weekend off the road, with three people drowning and two people dying in marine incidents in OPP jurisdictions.

The OPP's Aggressive Driving campaign kept officers busy on roads, with officers laying close to 7,000 speeding charges and more than 170 stunt/racing charges for driving more than 50 kilometers per hour over the posted speed limit.

The OPP is reminding the public to make safety the first priority on roads, waterways and trails over the summer months.

WHO ARE ONTARIO'S BIGGEST SPEEDING/STREET RACING OFFENDERS?

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) laid close to 213,000 speeding charges and more than 4,800 street racing charges against Ontario drivers last year (2017).

With 75 people dying in speed-related collisions on OPP-patrolled roads in 2017 (a five-year high), the OPP is revealing who their biggest speeding offenders were last year.

Among last year's speeding charges, close to 148,000 were issued to male drivers, with female drivers drawing over 65,000 charges. Below are the top three male/female age group offenders:



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Speeding charges (males by age group):

25 to 34 years: 37,498 charges

35 to 44 years: 27,959 charges

45 to 54 years: 26,212 charges

Speeding charges (females by age group):

25 to 34 years: 17,433 charges

35 to 44 years: 12,817 charges

45 to 54 years: 11,541 charges

The youngest male age group (16 to 20 years) accounted for 5,939 charges while their female counterparts drew 2,699 charges.

Among the street racing charges (for driving more than 50 kilometres per hour over the posted speed limit), males drew more than 4,100 charges, while close to 760 were issued to females. Below are the top three male/female age group offenders:

Street racing charges (males by age group):

25 to 34 years: 1,382 charges

21 to 24 years: 968 charges

35 to 44 years: 622 charges

Street racing charges (females by age group):

25 to 34 years: 260 charges

21 to 24 years: 155 charges

35 to 44 years: 130 charges

Among the youngest age group, 447 street racing charges went to 16 to 20 year-old males, compared to 91 charges laid against females in the same age group.



"When you speed, follow too closely, fail to yield right-of-way or engage in road rage behaviour, you are not just breaking the law. You are contributing to preventable road deaths on OPP-patrolled roads every year that are linked to these aggressive driving behaviors. We are urging all drivers to be mindful of this over the Civic Day Long Weekend and throughout the year."

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

CIVIC DAY LONG WEEKEND – FOCUS MOVE OVER

Over the Civic Day Long Weekend (August 3 – August 6, 2018) the OPP will be conducting a Slow Down, Move Over enforcement and education campaign. With heavy traffic volumes expected throughout the province, highways and roads will see a greater presence of roadside emergency vehicles, making it a particularly important time for drivers to act in accordance with this law.

Drivers are being reminded that in 2015, the law was amended to include slowing down and, on multi-lane highways, moving over for tow trucks parked on the roadside with their amber lights flashing. The law carries a fine range of \$400 to \$2,000 and three demerit points, but the cost is far greater to police officers, other responders and drivers of approaching vehicles who are involved in roadside collisions every year.

The move over law requires motorists, upon noticing an incoming emergency vehicle (ambulance, police or fire), coming from any direction with sirens or flashing lights operating, to move to the farthest right lane, or the shoulder of the road and stop, until the vehicle has passed by.

Section 159 (2,3) of the Highway Traffic Act also requires, if there are multiple lanes in your direction of travel, that drivers slow down and vacate the lane adjacent the emergency vehicle, if it can be done safely. This provides a buffer lane to stopped service vehicles with active strobing or rotating lights - including tow trucks with their flashing amber lights activated.

If you can't move over safely (i.e. you would cut-off the left lane driver), you must slow down while passing the stopped emergency vehicle. In Ontario, you must slow to below the posted speed limit as necessary to avoid endangering roadside personnel.

Failing to respond to any emergency vehicles. Penalties and fines regarding reacting to an approaching or stopped emergency vehicle include:

- First Offence: \$400 to \$2,000, plus three demerit points upon conviction.
- Subsequent Offence (within 5 years): \$1,000 to \$4,000, possible jail time up to six months and possible suspension of driver's licence for up to two years.



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View one of our videos about the importance of the Move Over law on our YouTube channel.

- Two lane road: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5L4TQNIq4I>
- Multi-lane road: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxEELQ-fvfQA>

More information about road safety and emergency vehicles can be found on the Ministry of Transportation Ontario website.

You can also consult the Ontario Driver's Handbook for guidance on reacting to a stopped emergency vehicle or tow truck.

OPP AND MNRF CONDUCT MARINE PATROL, VESSEL OPERATORS CHARGED

On June 30, 2018, 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 Dog Lake and Hawkeye Lake.

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

A 49 year old male, from Thunder Bay, was issued an offence notice for Operate Boat Underway with Open Container of Liquor contrary to section 32(3) of the Liquor Licence Act. The operator also registered a "warn range" on the Alcohol Screening Device and was issued a 3 day drivers licence suspension.

A 61 year old male, from Thunder Bay, was issued an offence notice for Operate Boat Underway with Open Container of Liquor contrary to section 32(3) of the Liquor Licence Act. The operator also registered a "warn range" on the Alcohol Screening Device and was issued a 3 day drivers licence suspension.

At approximately 9:52pm, the officers conducted a vessel check on Hawkeye Lake. While speaking with the operator of the vessel, officers determined that the operator had been consuming alcohol. The operator was arrested and transported to detachment for further tests.

A 66 year old male from Davie, Florida, USA, was arrested and charged with Operate a Vessel with Over 80 mgs of Alcohol contrary to section 253(1)(b) of the Criminal Code.

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.



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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, its equipment and ensure that operators have proof of competency.

For a safe and enjoyable outing, leave the alcohol behind.

OPP REMINDS PUBLIC TO STAY SAFE AROUND WATER THIS SUMMER

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) would like to remind the public to stay safe around water during the summer season and beyond. Swimming and water play are part of a healthy, active lifestyle that families often participate in, particularly during the summer months.

There have been four drowning deaths in the North West Region this summer. Approximately 500 Canadians die in preventable water-related incidents annually. Even one drowning is one too many. Drowning is the second leading cause of injury related death for Canadian children. Approximately 60 children drown in Canada every year. Approximately 140 children suffer from near-drowning related incidents yearly.

There are things that you can do to ensure that you and your family members stay safe this summer:

1. Learn to swim,
2. Enroll children in swimming lessons,
3. Actively supervise children when they are in or around the lake or pool,
4. Install proper pool fencing if you own a pool,
5. Ensure that children are wearing life jackets at all times,
6. Get trained in First Aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).

Children in the five to 14 year age group are at an increased risk because they may overestimate their own skills, underestimate the depth of the water or strength of the current, or respond to a dare from a friend.

If you would like more information about water safety and drowning prevention, you may wish to visit www.parachutecanada.org and www.lifesavingsociety.com.



STAYING SAFE WHILE EXPLORING THE WILDERNESS

Getting out into nature is good for your body and your mind and a little planning can make your outdoor experiences both safe and memorable. The following safety tips are provided to help you prepare for your next outdoor adventure.

While a visit to a nature area should be fun, healthy, and exciting, you should also be mindful of the risks. These include:

- Irregular terrain
- Becoming disoriented
- Falling objects
- Changes in weather conditions
- Encounters with natural features such as wildlife, bugs and poisonous plants.

Here are some general tips to help you plan your next adventure:

- Use the buddy system. It's more fun to explore nature together, and a friend can help you if you get into trouble.
- Plan your route ahead of time; tell someone responsible where you are going and when you expect to be back. Keep in mind that some areas may have limited or no cell reception
- Stay on marked trails or permitted areas at all times.

You'll enjoy your hike most if you plan your route in advance and stick to the designated trails.

- Bring a map of the area you plan to explore. (If one isn't available, most smartphones have a built-in GPS that will help you keep track of where you are.) Be aware of any features or landmarks you encounter on your trip.
- Plan for the sun! Cover up: wear a sun hat, sunglasses and sunscreen.
- Wear light-coloured clothing.
- Dress appropriately for the weather. Dress in layers: wear warm clothing in colder seasons (and bring an extra layer). Dress in lighter layers for warmer weather.



Weather can be unpredictable, so be sure to dress appropriately for the time of year.

- Even if the weather looks clear, pack rain gear — just as a precaution.
- Avoid forested areas on very windy days.
- Carry plenty of drinking water and a high-energy snack.
- Carry a phone and keep an eye on the batteries. (Remember though: phones and GPS are just back-up navigation tools; technology can fail.)
- Have a back-up plan just in case.
- Remember: trail and terrain conditions vary; wear closed-toe footwear appropriate for the terrain, season and activity at hand.

Put your best foot forward: choose closed-toe shoes or boots suitable for your outdoor adventure.

In the event of an emergency call 9-1-1

If you do get lost, remember: S-T-O-P!

- Stop and do your best to stay calm.
- Think about when you last recognized where you were.
- Observe your surroundings. Look around for signs of something familiar. Listen for other people or activities you recognize. Maybe you can smell a campfire, or some cooking in the wind.
- Plan your next move. (e.g., Use your phone if you can, make noise or blow a whistle to alert others that you are lost).

Taking Children into Natural Areas

- Talk to children about what to do if they get lost. (Refer to the STOP tips above.)
- Let them know they won't get into trouble for getting lost.
- Remind them to stay calm and not to run; tell them to "hug a tree."
- If going on a longer hike or trip in a large natural area, give the child a whistle; you can even attach it to their clothes.

Teach kids what to do if they get lost — it's an important lesson for young and old alike.

- Don't be afraid of nature or animal sounds: "If you get scared, blow your whistle loudly."
- Tell them that people will come looking for them. If they see someone coming, they should blow their whistle or make noise. Remind them to look for people in uniform, or women with children.



- Come up with a password that you and the child will know in case a stranger needs to pick them up. Give the searchers the password to use.
- Make note of the clothes the child was last seen wearing; this will help searchers identify the child.

Stinging & Biting Bugs

Unfortunately, there are certain times of year when going into nature anywhere in Ontario means bug bites.

While most stinging bugs aren't likely to cause anything worse than an "ouch" or itch, some individuals with greater sensitivity may have a more severe reaction to a sting or bite.

Some insects in Ontario do carry diseases, such as West Nile Virus or Lyme Disease. While the risk of contracting these illnesses is low, it's important to be aware of the possibility.

Lyme disease can be transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected black-legged tick.

- To learn more about the types of insects or animals that carry these diseases, please visit your local Public Health Unit website.
- If you or someone travelling with you is highly sensitive to certain types of plants or animals, plan ahead: check with your Public Health Unit regarding advisories, and make sure you're carrying any prescribed medication at all times.
- As an additional precaution, wear light-coloured long sleeves, long pants tucked into your socks, and closed-toe footwear.

Poisonous Plants

- Certain plants may be harmful if ingested, or if they come in contact with your skin or eyes. These include poison ivy, poison sumac, giant hogweed, water hemlock, several species of mushroom, and others.
- The giant hogweed is one of several potentially harmful plants you may encounter in wilderness areas.
- The best way to avoid harmful plants is to stay in permitted areas and on trails, and to wear light-coloured, long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Refrain from touching plants, and never eat anything that you find in the wild.

If you or someone with you should experience faintness, nausea, vomiting, confusion, trouble breathing, a change in skin colour or any other type of emergency reaction after interacting with a plant or receiving a bug bite, call 911 immediately.



Encountering Wildlife

Every trip into a natural area brings the opportunity to encounter some fascinating wildlife.

- Never feed wild animals. Feeding desensitizes them to human contact and increases the likelihood of a negative encounter.
- Leave them alone. If an animal is not bothering you, don't disturb it. Make sure it has an exit route from where you are located, and do your best not to corner it or block its line of retreat.

If you encounter a larger animal such as a bear, keep your distance and stay calm. In all probability it won't be interested in you. In the unlikely event that it approaches:

- If you have children, pick them up.
- If you have pets, keep them on a leash. (Never leave pets unattended outdoors.)
- Yell and make yourself look bigger.

Enjoy your outdoor adventures and always keep safety in mind.

THUNDER BAY OPP INVESTIGATE THEFT AT BEDIVERE LAKE

On July 23, 2018, at approximately 1:22pm, officers from the Thunder Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a report of a theft that occurred at a camp on Bedivere Lake.

On July 15, unknown suspects, a male and female, arrived at the cabin by boat and proceeded to steal several items including a shovel and a memory card (SD card) from a trail camera that was on the property.

On July 11, officers received a separate report of a theft from another camp on Bedivere Lake. A Johnson, 15 horse power, outboard motor was reported stolen. It is unknown if these two thefts are related. The two camps are only accessible by boat.

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 a tip online at <http://www.p3tips.com/273>.



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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.



August is.....

National Peacekeeper's Day
International Youth Day

September is.....

World Suicide Prevention Day
World Alzheimer's 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
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