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## 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.

### FATAL TRANSPORT TRUCK COLLISIONS UP 25 PER CENT

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) conducted a robust Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) enforcement campaign, with their latest traffic data fueling their resolve to reduce the number of transport truck-related deaths on Ontario roads.

OPP are reporting **25** fatal collisions that involved a large transport truck this year, up **25** per cent since this time last year. The OPP has responded to a total of **3,047** transport truck-related crashes so far this year, with investigations pointing to the driver of the transport truck as the at-fault driver in a large number of the collisions.



"Poor driving behaviours and moving violations alone account for a large number of transport truck-related crashes every year. When other dangerous habits are thrown into the mix such as failure to adhere to vehicle maintenance, inspection and hours of service regulations as well as unsecured loads, it then becomes a question of when, not if more lives will be lost in serious transport truck collisions."

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

The OPP commends the many transport truck drivers who are committed to safe driving and other motorists who respect their space on the road and help keep Ontario roads safe.

*Operation Corridor* was carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation and is the latest traffic safety initiative to support the OPP CMV Collision Mitigation Strategy.

## SPEEDING, DEFECTIVE EQUIPMENT LEAD LIST OF CHARGES DURING OPERATION CORRIDOR

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) laid a total **697** charges against transport truck drivers and took **63** trucks out of service during the OPP's Operation Corridor enforcement initiative on June 13 - 14, 2018. In partnership with the Ministry of Transportation, the OPP stopped a total of **1,692** trucks during the 24-hour blitz.

Speeding led the list of offences, with **226** charges being laid. Defective equipment ranked second at **176** charges (see complete list of charges below).

Other charges ranged from unsecured loads to distracted driving, reaffirming the OPP's commitment to its Commercial Motor Vehicle Collision Mitigation Strategy with the goal of saving lives on Ontario roads.

The OPP would like to thank the many safe transport truck drivers and other motorists who drove safely and helped keep our roads safe during the campaign.

## OPERATION CORRIDOR COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE CAMPAIGN RESULTS:

Distracted Charges: 28

Speeding charges: 226

Speed Limiter charges: 38



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Follow Too Close charges: 18

Unsafe Lane Change charges: 10

Move Left Charges: 4

Other Hazardous Moving Violations charges: 30

Seatbelt charges: 107

Equipment charges: 176

Insecure Load charges: 28

Hours of Services charges: 31

Impaired Driving charges: 0

Other Criminal offences: 1

Number of Out-of-Service Vehicles: 63

Total Number of Vehicles Stopped: 1,692

### BOATING SAFETY TIPS

#### Boating Safety Equipment Requirements

Along with your Pleasure Craft Operator Card, you are required by law to carry marine safety equipment. At a bare minimum, you should always have with you:

- Canadian-approved [flotation device or lifejacket](#) of appropriate size for each passenger on board
- Buoyant heaving line at least 15 metres in length
- Watertight flashlight OR Canadian approved flares – Type A,B or C
- Sound-signaling device
- Manual propelling device (i.e. paddle) OR an anchor with at least 15 metres of rope, chain or cable
- Bailer OR manual water pump
- Class 5 BC fire extinguisher

For more information, please refer to the Office of Boating Safety.



In addition to the safety equipment listed above, we highly recommend that you carry the following items – enough for everyone on board:

- Marine First Aid Kit
- Drinking water
- Sun-screen
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Dry clothing (i.e. long-sleeved shirt)
- Snacks
- Waterproof matches
- Knife

## Alcohol Awareness

Every year hundreds of people die as a result of boating-related activities. Almost 65% of these deaths involve the use of alcohol.

There is no safe way to mix alcohol and drugs with boating.  
Boat Smart... Boat Sober!

## The Facts

Many people who would never drive their car after drinking alcohol, don't think twice about combining boating and alcohol.

- 37% of boaters in Canada admit to consuming alcohol every time they boat.
- 66% report they drink alcohol sometimes when boating.
- Alcohol is a factor in over 40% of recreational boating fatalities.

Many people think it's okay to drink and boat - but it's not. Drinking and boating is just as illegal as drinking and driving, and can be even more dangerous.

## Alcohol & the Boater

How can alcohol affect the boater?

Alcohol is alcohol: 341 ml (12 oz) of beer = 142 ml (5 oz) of wine = 43 ml (1.5 oz) of spirits.



## Alcohol:

- diminishes judgment and the ability to process information,
- reduces motor skills, peripheral vision and balance,
- slows reaction and reflex response time,
- reduces depth perception, vision and focus,
- disturbs the inner ear thus reducing your ability to distinguish the water surface if you fall in, and
- accelerates hypothermia.

## Be Responsible

- Wait until you are off the water before consuming alcohol. Remember, if you drink after a day of boating, be sure you have a designated driver for your vehicle.
- Don't allow a person who has consumed alcohol to operate a boat.
- Provide non-alcoholic beverages for boat operators and passengers.
- Wear lifejackets or Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs). It's the law to carry one that fits each person in the vessel, but Red Cross recommends wearing it every trip, for the whole trip.

## Weather Conditions

- Are you aware of the weather and water conditions and any hazards that may affect your trip? Plan ahead! The operator and all passengers should be well prepared. Work together and share the duties necessary to prepare.
- To prepare a safe day on the water, you should always run through a Pre-departure Checklist. [Click Here](#) to download your free copy!

The preceding information is provided by the Canadian Red Cross.

## SUMMER WATER SAFETY TIPS

For many Canadian families, summer includes activities such as boating and swimming. But each year, tragic and avoidable water-related fatalities occur across Canada. A Canadian Red Cross report examining these fatalities over 10 years revealed many common factors:



- Young children ages 1 to 4 and men ages 15 to 44 are at the greatest risk of drowning.
- Drowning is one of the leading causes of unintentional death for Canadian children ages one to four.
- A small child can disappear in seconds and can drown in only a few centimetres of water-enough to cover the mouth and nose. Typically these drownings occur in backyard pools, toddler pools, the bathtub, or at the beach.
- Small children are also the most vulnerable group for near drownings. For every death, there are an estimated four to five additional near-drowning incidents, which require hospitalization and often result in varying degrees of brain damage.
- Infants and toddlers drowned mainly in bathtubs and pools, whereas older children and youth drowned mainly in large bodies of water.
- Other factors for adults in water-related fatalities included current and alcohol consumption.

## Water Safety in Addition to Skills

Though important, swimming skills alone aren't always enough to save a life. Many drowning incidents involve other factors that swimming skills alone cannot prepare an individual for. Learning water safety-such as how to prepare for an emergency, and what to do if one should occur-is key to preventing an emergency in or on the water. It's swimming skills combined with safety knowledge and skills that saves lives.

## Prevention

### Active supervision

- The absence of adult supervision is a factor in most child drownings.
- Whether it's a pool, the bathtub, a water park, or the beach, always watch children actively around water-even if they can swim.
- Consider requiring all non-swimmers to wear a lifejacket to keep them at the surface to assist you while supervising.

### Backyard pools

- Backyard pools are especially dangerous for small children. Ensure adequate barriers are in place such as four-sided fencing along with a self-closing, self-latching gate.
- Empty portable toddler pools after each use.



## Bathing children

- When bathing infants or toddlers, an adult should remain with the child at all times- children should never be relied upon to supervise other children in the bath.
- When a child is in the bathtub, never leave to answer the phone or for any other momentary distraction.

## Diving

- Diving headfirst into water should be avoided unless the individual is properly trained and is sure that the water is deep enough.
- Avoid diving in home pools and always enter the water feet-first.

## Open water

- Never underestimate the power of current. Swimmers or waders can be swept away in an instant, particularly if non-swimmers or weak swimmers get caught by current in rivers or out of their depth in abrupt drop-offs.
- Be cautious about swimming in currents, and know what to do if caught in a current.

The preceding information was provided by the Canadian Red Cross

## OPP CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF PIPES AND DRUMS

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Pipes and Drums began with two members in Nipigon in 1968, and this year the group is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Provincial Constables Martin DeSilguy and Robert Stevens were the founding members of the band, which slowly grew as other officers in northern Ontario joined. In 1974, Commissioner Graham officially recognized it as the '*Ontario Provincial Police Pipe Band*' and it re-located to southern Ontario.

Twenty years later, in 1994, the band was renamed '*The Commissioner's Own Pipes and Drums*'. In 2009, during the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OPP, a new tartan was created, woven and registered in Scotland.

Civilians, volunteers, uniform and auxiliary officers became members and the group continues to travel across the province as ambassadors of the OPP, playing at community events, parades and graduation ceremonies.



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As part of the celebrations this week, the Pipes and Drums are touring through communities in northern Ontario.

OPP Commissioner Hawkes publicly honoured the band on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at an event held today at OPP's North West Region Headquarters in Thunder Bay. Surrounded by OPP personnel and local dignitaries, Commissioner Hawkes also acknowledged guest Sherry Stevens, widow of Constable Robert Stevens, one of the original band members.

### **Quote:**

"Fifty years of Pipes and Drums in the OPP is an extraordinary part of our rich history of which the entire organization is very proud. It is fitting to mark this milestone with a tour through northern Ontario, where the band first came together before going on to entertain and honour thousands over five decades across the province."- J.V.N. (Vince) HAWKES, OPP Commissioner.

### POSITIVE TICKETS

On June 6, 2018, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) joined with the Thunder Bay Police Service and Brain Injury Services of Northern Ontario (BISNO) to hold a "positive ticketing" event in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The purpose of the event was to speak with high school students about the dangers of drug-impaired driving.

"Positive Tickets", an initiative by Parachute, are small info sheets which contain key messages reminding teens to #KnowWhatImpairedMeans - and the fact that impairment includes driving high. Teens can also promote what they've learned by posing with #KnowWhatImpairedMeans pledge cards and sharing their snaps on social media.

### OPP "KIDS" GRADUATION

Over the past 10 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, Whitefish Valley Public School and Upsala Public School.

The OPP KIDS Program, which stands for Knowledge, Issues, Decisions and Supports, is an OPP initiated program that consists of four components. The four components consist of: Youth and the Law, Peer to Peer Relationships, Online and Social Media Awareness, and Drug Awareness.





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The program is a 10 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, Whitefish Valley Public School and Upsala 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.

### OPP VETERANS BBQ - HONOURING OUR LOCAL OPP VETERANS

On Wednesday, June 27, local OPP veterans will gather for a BBQ in their honour at the Thunder Bay OPP Detachment. Members from Regional Headquarters and the Provincial Communication Centre will also be in attendance.

Each year many of the veterans and their spouses gather for the luncheon event, and participate in plenty of reminiscing and catching up. Detachment Commander, Inspector Al Gordon will host the event.

### 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.





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July is.....

Marine Safety Days

National Drowning Prevention Week

August is.....

National Peacekeeper's Day

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 Safety Officer

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