



THUNDER BAY OPP – OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

OPP WRAPS UP DISTRACTED DRIVING CAMPAIGN AUGUST 31 – SEPTEMBER 3 2018

Ten (10) traffic and marine-related deaths made for a tragic Labour Day Long Weekend on Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)-patrolled roads, waterways and trails.

Two motorcyclists were among the four people who died in separate road collisions over the weekend. One person died in an off-road vehicle crash. Two boaters died in separate boating incidents and three people drowned.

The OPP laid 651 distracted driving charges during their long weekend Distracted Driving Campaign. Over and above the campaign, officers were kept busy right through the weekend, laying a total of 10,403 charges throughout the province. Speeding topped the list at 6,136 charges, with an additional 195 charges laid for racing/stunt driving.

The OPP has investigated 5,619 collisions that involved an inattentive driver so far this year. Tragically, 31 people lost their lives in the collisions and 1,051 of the incidents left people with injuries.

Inattentive drivers continue to pose a serious threat to road users and are linked to the deaths of 738 people on OPP-patrolled roads over the past ten years.

"Some drivers claim to be good multi-taskers behind the wheel and this is how they justify habitual texting, talking on their phone or other distractions while driving. This attitude has contributed to driver inattention being the deadliest behaviour on OPP-patrolled roads for the past five years. To help get the school year off to a safe start, develop a zero tolerance for anyone who claims to be a 'safe' distracted driver. There is no such thing and anyone who claims otherwise is a dangerous driver."

- Commissioner J.V.N. HAWKES, Ontario Provincial Police

"As children go back to school and streets get busier, drivers are reminded to use extra caution and watch their speed when driving through school zones and crosswalks. Safety is our number one priority. Be mindful of all road users including other vehicles, buses, bikes, pedestrians and little ones getting on and off school buses - it's a good habit to practice year round."

- Michael Tibollo, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services



DID YOU KNOW?

Simply holding a cell phone or other electronic device while driving is against the law.

On January 1, 2019, penalties for distracted driving will increase to:

- a fine of up to \$1,000
- three demerit points
- a three-day driver's licence suspension

Also effective January 1, 2019, novice drivers will face the same fines as regular drivers and also face:

- a 30-day licence suspension for a first conviction
- a 90-day licence suspension for a second conviction
- cancellation of your licence and removal from the Graduated Licencing System for a third conviction

The OPP is reminding Ontarians to take responsibility for their own safety and that doing so will go a long way in reducing the number of deaths and injuries on roads, waterways and trails.

SEAT BELTS, NOT AIR BAGS ARE FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE IN A CRASH OPP CONDUCTS FALL SEATBELT CAMPAIGN SEPTEMBER 26 – OCTOBER 5, 2018

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has investigated 34 road fatalities so far this year in which the victims were reportedly not wearing a seat belt. There were 30 such deaths at this time last year (2017), with lack of occupant restraint being linked to 49 deaths by the end of the year.

As the OPP gears up for its Fall Seat Belt Campaign, drivers and passengers are being reminded that air bags do not replace seat belts and are designed to work with seat belts, not instead of them. When a frontal collision launches vehicle occupants toward the steering wheel, dashboard or windshield - even at low speeds, without a seat belt the outcome can be catastrophic even if the air bag deploys.

"Regardless of technological advances in vehicle safety, a seat belt remains your first line of defence and your best chance of surviving a collision. While air bags are a second line of defence, they will not restrain you. Only your seat belt can hold you in place.



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Whether you are a driver or passenger, don't let anyone in a vehicle be without their seat belt properly fastened." - Deputy Commissioner Brad Blair, Provincial Commander, Traffic Safety and Operational Support.

During the campaign, the OPP will be highly visible throughout the province as they conduct education and enforcement initiatives aimed at getting people to buckle up and stay safe.

DID YOU KNOW?

While 93 per cent of Canadians buckle up, the seven per cent who do not account for almost 40 per cent of fatalities in vehicle collisions (*Transport Canada*).

LEARN MORE: [Is your child properly secured?](#)

HELP PREVENT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND RISK OF VICTIMIZATION

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) would like to encourage the public to help prevent child sexual abuse and risk of victimization in our communities. The OPP has partnered with the Canadian Centre of Child Exploitation (Canadian Centre) to protect children from those who would do them harm. Through this partnership, the OPP and the Canadian Centre can work effectively to provide resources regarding child protection and child exploitation to the public, as a preventative measure to protect children.

You can do your part to help prevent child sexual abuse. Below are some valuable websites that can assist in educating you and your family about sexual abuse.

Providing Parents with Information to Keep Kids Safe Online

ProtectKidsOnline.ca helps parents/guardians stay on top of the digital world their children are engaging in. On this site, you will find information about the ever-changing online interests of young people, the potential risks they face, and proactive strategies to help keep your child/adolescent safe while online. Visit www.protectkidsonline.ca for more information.

Helping Families Respond to a Sexting Incident

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection assists parents when a sexual image/video of their child has been created and shared with a peer(s), or if their child has shared an image/video of a peer with others. Visit www.cybertip.ca/self_peer_exploitation for more information and to download the free guide.



Responding to Child Sexual Abuse in an Institutional Environment
(Including schools, religious environments, sports organizations or daycares)

Effectively disrupting abuse begins with understanding inappropriate behavior, grooming and knowing how to respond to misconduct. The Canadian Centre for Child Protection's Commit to Kids program provides parents and child-serving organizations with tangible steps, policies, and strategies for reducing the risk of child sexual abuse, and encourages organizations to take an active, participatory role in protecting children in their care. For more information visit www.commit2kids.ca.

Encouraging the Reporting of Child Pornography Related Offences
(Including making, distribution, making available, possession, accessing)

Cybertip.ca is Canada's national tipline for reporting the online sexual exploitation of children. Tips from the public can help protect children from sexual abuse. Canadians are encouraged to report concerns to Cybertip.ca if someone they know may be victimizing children online. For more information on addressing child victimization or to report concerns visit www.cybertip.ca.

Any person with information regarding the sexual abuse of children is asked to contact the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000. You may access the Crime Stoppers website at: <http://www.p3tips.com/273>.

HUNTER SAFETY TIPS

With hunting season underway, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding hunters that safety needs to be a first priority.

There are a number of ways hunters can keep themselves, and those around them, safe. These include:

- Telling someone where you will be hunting and when you will be returning,
- Wearing hunter orange,
- Handling firearms with care and attention at all times,
- Never shooting unless you're sure of your target and what lies beyond,
- Carrying a survival kit and a small first aid kit with you at all times,
- Never drinking alcohol while hunting.



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The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, in partnership with the OPP, is encouraging all hunters to become familiar with all safety rules and resources that are available to them so that they have a safe hunting season.

QUICK FACTS:

- Hunters buy approximately 600,000 licences to hunt in Ontario annually, generating approximately 26 million in revenue.
- To report unlawful night hunting or any other illegal and unsafe hunting activity, call the MNRF TIPS line at 1-877-847-7667 or contact the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122.

Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

LEARN MORE: 2018 Ontario Hunting Regulations at:
https://files.ontario.ca/hunting_regs_e_final_for_web.pdf

CANADA REVENUE AGENCY CALL? ...IT MAY BE A SCAM!

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) want you to confirm who you're dealing with before sending any money anywhere for any reason.

The ever popular Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and other agency-related extortion threats have continued to sustain significant financial losses by unsuspecting victims. In 2017, the Extortion and Phishing Scam claimed 1,544 victims in Ontario losing approximately \$3 million from more than 8,576 complaints. Police admit only 5 percent of the crimes are actually reported.

In the typical CRA scam, the criminals extort money from their victims by telephone, mail, text message or email, a fraudulent communication that claims to be from the Canada Revenue Agency requesting personal information such as a social insurance number, credit card number, bank account number, or passport number. A new twist is that Fraudsters will leave a pre-recorded, clear message on your voicemail impersonating the real CRA. Fraudsters are either phishing for your identification or asking that outstanding taxes be paid by a money service business or by pre-paid debit/credit cards. They may insist that this personal information is needed so that the taxpayer can receive a refund or a benefit payment. Cases of fraudulent communication could also involve threatening or coercive language to scare individuals into paying fictitious debt to the CRA.



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Other communications such as texting, urge taxpayers to visit a fake CRA website where the taxpayer is then asked to verify their identity by entering personal information. Before you respond to any type of communication, think first that this is a scam. Individuals should never respond to these fraudulent communications nor click on any of the links provided.

Here are some warning signs:

- Urgency-- The scammer always makes the request sound very urgent, which may cause the victim to not verify the story. For example, they may say "*the police are on their way to arrest you.*"
- Request for Money Transfer-- Money is usually requested to be sent by a money transfer company such as Money Gram, Western Union or even through your own bank institution.

The CRA will never request by email, text or phone, any personal information such as passport, credit card or bank account information.

To avoid becoming a victim, police advise you to hang up, check and verify the information with CRA by calling a trusted phone number in which you have found and not the number provided by the caller.

If you or someone you know suspect they've been a victim of the CRA scam, check with a Canada Revenue Agency official, and contact your local police service and the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#), Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222 8477 (TIPS), or online at <http://www.p3tips.com/273>.

"Recognize, Reject and Report Fraud"

LEARN MORE: You may wish to visit the following websites for more information:

OPP YouTube [video](#) (English)

OPP YouTube [video](#) (French)

[Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#)

[Competition Bureau of Canada](#)

[The Little Black Book of Scams](#)



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

With witches, goblins, and super-heroes descending on neighbourhoods across Canada, here are some safety tips to help prepare their children for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday. Halloween should be filled with surprise and enjoyment, and following some common sense practices can keep events safer and more fun!

- Costumes should be light-coloured and flame resistant with reflective strips so that children are more easily seen at night.
- Costumes should be short enough to avoid tripping.
- Remind children to keep away from open fires and candles. (Costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Use face paint rather than masks or things that will cover the eyes.
- Remind children to walk on sidewalks - not in the street.
- Explain to children that calls should be made along one side of the street first and then the other, and that it's best to cross the street only at intersections or crosswalks.
- Remind children to look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks.
- Provide yourself or the children with a flashlight to see better and to be better seen.
- Have children plan their route and share it with you and the family.
- Trick or Treaters should travel in groups of four or five. Young children should be accompanied by an adult.
- Visit homes that have the porch light on.
- Make sure children know they should accept treats at the door and must not get into cars or enter the homes or apartments of strangers.
- Remind children not to eat their treats and goodies until they are examined by an adult at home. And candy should not be eaten if the package is already opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.
- Make sure you and your children know where the Block Parent houses are located in the neighborhood.
- Set agreed-to boundaries with your children. Explain the importance of staying within them and arriving home on time.

The preceding information was provided by Canadian Red Cross.



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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 <http://www.p3tips.com/273>. 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.



October is.....

Cyber Security Awareness Month
National Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month
Car Safety Month
Women's History Month
International Day of Older Persons
National Safe Communities Day
Mental Illness Awareness Week
World Mental Health Day

November is.....

Women Abuse Prevention Month
National Community Safety and Crime Prevention Month
Crime Prevention Week
National Senior Safety Week
National Addictions Awareness Week
Restorative Justice Week
Bullying Awareness Week
International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women
The White Ribbon Campaign

If there are other topics you would like addressed in this newsletter or have some ideas, please do not hesitate to call me.

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