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## THUNDER BAY OPP – DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

### FESTIVE RIDE CAMPAIGN AS MUCH ABOUT DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE OF DRUGS AS ALCOHOL

*OPP Launches Festive RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) Campaign (November 23 - January 2, 2019)*

Heading into the first Festive RIDE campaign since the legalization of non-medical cannabis, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding drivers that they are as prepared to deal with drug-impaired drivers over the holidays as those who are alcohol-impaired.

So far this year (2018), alcohol and/or drugs were a factor in the deaths of 39 people on OPP-patrolled roads.

From January 1 to mid-October 2018, (the OPP's latest data) the OPP laid more than 6,700 impaired driving charges across the province, 283 of which were impaired by drugs.

"Drivers who consume cannabis and think they can avoid detection by the OPP need to think again. The OPP has a strong set of tools and skills that enable them to take drug and alcohol-impaired drivers off our roads. Whether a person is driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, impaired is impaired. Both forms are dangerous, serious criminal offences and they carry similar penalties."

- Interim Deputy Commissioner Rose DiMarco, Provincial Commander of Traffic Safety and Operational Support.

"Make no mistake - just because recreational cannabis has been legalized doesn't mean you can drive while under the influence. Driving impaired - whether from drugs or alcohol - remains a serious criminal offence. I want to assure the public that police officers across the province have received the training they need to identify drug-impaired drivers and will continue to keep roads and highways safe."

- Sylvia Jones, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

"It's never okay to drive impaired, whether by alcohol or drugs. There are strict laws and penalties in place for offenders, including a zero tolerance policy for young, novice and commercial drivers. Safety has been and will continue to be our primary focus."

- Jeff Yurek, Minister of Transportation



## DID YOU KNOW?

The OPP's Standardized Field Sobriety Test-trained officers and Drug Recognition Experts have been in place for years and continue to prove effective in identifying drug-impaired drivers.

Novice, young (under 22) and commercial vehicle drivers cannot have any alcohol or drugs in their system while driving.

When transporting cannabis in a vehicle, it must be in its original package that has not been opened, or it can be packaged in baggage that is fastened closed or is not otherwise readily available to any person in the vehicle.

If you suspect that a person is driving or about to drive impaired by alcohol or drugs, you should call 9-1-1 to report them to police.

## LEARN MORE

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/impaired-driving.shtml#affect>

## 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.



Ontario Provincial Police

## Newsletter

### Detecting Drunk Drivers

There are several signs associated with drunk driving:

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

### THUNDER BAY OPP 7th ANNUAL STUFF A CRUISER

On Saturday, December 8, 2018, 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 7th 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 on Arthur Street.

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 8, 2018 between 10:00 am until 4:00 pm.



## LOCK IT OR LOSE IT CAMPAIGN 2018

*Keep your possessions where they belong this holiday season*

T'was a month before the holidays with shoppers about, this also meant that, unfortunately, criminals were out! There are a number of ways to ensure that your purchases make it to the right person and do not end up stolen. The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is encouraging citizens to *Lock It or Lose It*. The *Lock It or Lose It* campaign is used to remind everyone that leaving your vehicle unlocked may increase your chances of becoming a victim of theft.

During the campaign, police officers and auxiliary members may examine parked vehicles in public places such as shopping malls and/or public parking lots. An officer will place a small notice on the vehicle that has been checked to point out if safety precautions could have been taken and to offer simple prevention tips for the driver to protect the vehicle and its contents from theft.

You can help prevent theft by following these crime prevention tips:

- Always roll up your vehicle's windows, lock the doors and pocket the key.
- If you have a garage, use it and lock the door as well as your vehicle.
- Always park your vehicle in a well-lit area.
- Never leave valuable objects or packages in full view. Put them in the trunk.
- Never leave your vehicle unattended while it is running.

Please do your part in making this year's holiday season a safe and memorable experience. Be sure to take precautions to protect your vehicle and vehicle contents from theft. Locking it up is your safest bet.

## OPP RESPONDS TO 25 REPORTED WRONG WAY VEHICLES IN ONE MONTH

A rash of incidents involving a vehicle travelling the wrong way on a highway or road has the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) raising awareness about what drivers should do when encountering a vehicle travelling the wrong way towards oncoming traffic.

Between October 5 and November 5, 2018 the OPP responded to 25 reports of a vehicle travelling the wrong way. A collision occurred in five of the incidents and two people lost their lives in two of the crashes. Twelve (12) charges have been laid so far in five of the incidents, two of which are driving while ability impaired by alcohol and/or drugs.



There were 182 wrong-way vehicle incidents on OPP-patrolled roads last year (2017) and 207 so far this year (2018).

When drivers encounter a vehicle travelling the wrong way towards oncoming traffic, they should immediately and safely pull over to the side of the road, call 9-1-1 and provide their location, a description of the vehicle and the licence plate number if possible.

The OPP is reminding drivers to pay full attention to the road and observe all directional signage, especially when driving on busy, multi-lane highways.

## OPP REMIND CITIZENS TO BE AWARE OF THIN ICE

The Ontario Provincial Police are reminding the public of the dangers of thin ice. With the colder weather among us the ice is beginning to form, but unstable conditions are still present on many lakes, rivers and waterways. Ice begins to be "safe" at around 4 - 6 inches thickness. Do not even walk on ice 3" or less in thickness. However, even at a 9" - 10" thickness, there may be unforeseen hazards such as a flowing current underneath that is ceaselessly weakening the underside of the ice. In this instance, even the thickness is not a good indicator of safety, as the ice could collapse at any time.

The OPP would like to remind citizens of the following:

In general, the rules for ice thickness measurements are:

- 3" (7 cm) (new ice) - *KEEP OFF*
- 4" (10 cm) - suitable for ice fishing, cross-country skiing and walking (approx. 200 pounds)
- 5" (12 cm) - suitable for a single snowmobile or ATV (approx. 800 pounds)
- 8" - 12" (20 - 30 cm) - suitable for one car, group of people (approx. 1500 - 2000 pounds)
- 12" - 15" (30 - 38 cm) - suitable for a light pickup truck or a van

It is important to remember that these measurements do not indicate ice safety in every instance. It is imperative to follow safety practices when traveling on the ice at all times.

For these and more ice safety tips visit [www.opp.ca](http://www.opp.ca)



Ontario Provincial Police

## Newsletter

### 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.



December is.....

Festive RIDE

National Safe Driving Week

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

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

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