



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

THUNDER BAY OPP – JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

DETACHMENT COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Thunder Bay OPP hopes that everyone enjoyed a happy and safe holiday season. The temperatures are falling and winter is in full swing. So as good Northern Ontario residents, many are turning to outdoor winter activities. It's a great time to be outside and the winter doesn't shorten the list of things available, it just changes it. I hope that all of our residents make good use of these winter months and take advantage of all that our area has to offer.

I remind you that winter also brings basic driving challenges due to snow and ice on the roads. Inclement weather adds to the work that our officers deal with and drivers need to be prepared for increased wait times for officer response. Vehicle safety kits and communications are essential. Quite often we get into a mindset of going from one warm environment to another and we don't dress for the potential to be stranded in the cold along the way. For yours and your family's safety, please always travel with appropriate cold weather clothing.

The Thunder Bay OPP are committed to the safety of our community residents and our local motorists. We will continue to be vigilant about the Big 4 causes of highway tragedies (speeding, aggressive driving, distracted driving and impaired operation) and we encourage everyone to be responsible and safe on the highway.

Inspector A. (AI) Gordon
Thunder Bay OPP Detachment Commander



OPP CHARGE MORE THAN 500 IMPAIRED DRIVERS DURING FESTIVE RIDE CAMPAIGN

The Festive RIDE campaign resulted in OPP officers removing 539 alcohol/drug-impaired drivers from roads during Festive RIDE stops between November 23, 2018 and January 2, 2019.

An additional 384 drivers were issued Warn Range Suspensions for having a Blood Alcohol Concentration in the .05 and .08 range.

Officers conducted a total of 10,270 RIDE stop events throughout the province during the campaign, marking the first time the number of OPP RIDE stop events exceeds the 10,000 mark.

During the previous (2017/18) Festive RIDE campaign, the OPP charged 587 drivers with alcohol/drug-impaired driving, issued 366 Warn Range Suspensions and conducted 9,830 RIDE stops.

"I am extremely proud of our officers for their commitment to keeping our roads safe over the holidays. Whether drivers were charged with alcohol-impaired driving, drug-impaired driving or issued Warn Range Suspensions, the bottom line is that our officers took close to 923 impaired drivers off our roads and eliminated the threat they posed to those who were sharing the road with them that day." - OPP Interim Commissioner Gary COUTURE.

Tragically, there were 42 alcohol/drug-related road deaths on OPP-patrolled roads in 2018.

The OPP is reminding drivers that as of December 18, 2018, police can demand a roadside breath sample from any lawfully stopped driver without first having to suspect the motorist has been drinking.

Under the new legislation, drivers impaired by alcohol now also face higher mandatory minimum fines and some higher maximum penalties.

LEARN MORE

<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/sidl-rlcfa/c46/p3.html> (Bill C-46)



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

OPP COMMITTED TO MAKE ROADS SAFER WITH NEW IMPAIRED DRIVING LAWS

Part 2 of Bill C-46 came into effect on December 18, 2018. The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) will begin to exercise new authority for investigating impaired drivers on Ontario roads.

Police officers will now be able to demand a roadside breath sample from any lawfully stopped driver to determine whether a person has alcohol in their body without first having to suspect the motorist has been drinking. Until now, officers had to have a reasonable suspicion that a driver had alcohol in their body before demanding a sample.

Drivers need to be aware that it is mandatory for them to comply with this demand and that those who do not can be charged with failing or refusing to provide a breath sample.

Under the new legislation, drivers impaired by alcohol will also face higher mandatory minimum fines and some higher maximum penalties. (See penalties below).

"The new mandatory alcohol screening serves as an important deterrent to drivers who are impaired by alcohol, including those who believe they can avoid detection by police. So far this year, alcohol and/or drugs have been a factor in the deaths of 41 people on OPP-patrolled roads. Every person who uses our roads has the right to be safe. The OPP fully supports this and any other legislation that enhances our ability to reduce the number of preventable deaths attributed to this deadly driving behaviour."

- Interim Commissioner Gary Couture, Ontario Provincial Police.

The OPP has laid more than 7,300 impaired driving charges across the province between January 1 and mid-November, 2018.

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.



Penalties for impaired driving as of December 18, 2018

Alcohol-impaired driving that does not cause bodily harm or death - mandatory minimum penalties:

- First offence + blood alcohol content (BAC) of 80-119 mg: mandatory minimum \$1,000 fine
- First offence + BAC of 120-159 mg: mandatory minimum \$1,500 fine
- First offence + BAC of 160 mg or more: mandatory minimum \$2,000 fine
- First offence of refusal to be tested: mandatory minimum \$2,000 fine
- Second offence: mandatory minimum 30 days imprisonment
- Third and subsequent offences: mandatory minimum 120 days imprisonment

LEARN MORE

<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/sidl-rlcfa/c46/p3.html> (Bill C-46)

NOVEMBER ARRESTS SHOW PREVALENCE OF ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN ONTARIO

Numerous charges have been laid across Ontario, in what police are calling a snapshot of one month's worth of work by Internet Child Exploitation Investigators that make up the *Provincial Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet*.

At a media conference, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) along with 26 police agencies of the Provincial Strategy announced the results of investigations during the month of November across the entire province of Ontario. A total of 267 judicial authorizations were obtained, resulting in 551 charges against 122 persons, including 11 youth who cannot be identified under terms of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. Charges include: Sexual Assault, Sexual Interference, Invitation to Sexual Touching, Possession of Child Pornography, Make Available Child Pornography, Distribution of Child Pornography, Making Child Pornography, Accessing Child Pornography, Luring, Making Sexually Explicit Material Available to a Child.

In addition, 55 victims were identified during the investigations and referred to appropriate community-based resources for assistance. Police also seized a total of 17 firearms three of which were loaded handguns.

Additional partners that participated in these investigations included RCMP, Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Canadian Forces National Investigation Service, The FBI and United States Homeland Security Investigations.



Representatives of BOOST Child and Youth Advocacy Centre and the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (CCCP) were also on hand to advocate for more services for identified victims of exploitation and to enhance awareness to prevent further harm and victimization.

Police displayed a video showing 843 unique IP addresses associated to the possession or making available of child sexual abuse material or were present on a suspected child pornography website. These IP addresses were observed over the month of November alone. Police describe these numbers as the "tip of the iceberg" in relation to online child sexual exploitation in Ontario.

From its inception in August 2006, the entire *Provincial Strategy* has completed 50,403 investigations and laid 20,901 charges against 5,686 people. During that period, 2,009 child victims have been identified in Ontario and beyond.

A list of arrested persons, their municipality of residence and their respective charges have been appended to a media release. The investigation continues and additional arrests are pending.

QUOTES

"It is our fundamental and moral responsibility to ensure every child grows up safe. On behalf of the OPP, I want to make this message very clear: We will not stand for anyone hurting our kids. We will do everything we can to reduce the threat child predators pose to our children."

- Deputy Commissioner Rick Barnum, OPP Investigation and Support Bureau

"The investigators of the Provincial Strategy and our partners work tirelessly in one of the most difficult jobs in policing to bring those who would harm our children to justice.

We know from experience that working together will allow us to most effectively combat the internet sexual exploitation of children."

- Inspector Tina CHALK, OPP Counter Exploitation and Missing Persons Section

"Perpetrators of online sexual exploitation often minimize their actions by saying they were 'just looking.' Let me be clear: Anyone who possesses, distributes, accesses or otherwise supports the supply and demand chain for child sexual abuse images are complicit in the sexual exploitation of children."

- Staff Sergeant Sharon Hanlon, Coordinator of the *Provincial Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet*



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

THUNDER BAY 7th ANNUAL STUFF A CRUISER - A GREAT SUCCESS THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED

On Saturday, December 8, 2018, law enforcement officers from the Ontario Provincial Police, Thunder Bay Police Service, Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian National Police, and officers from the Canada Border Services Agency participated in the 7th Annual Stuff a Cruiser event.

Officers and volunteers were located outside the Real Canadian Superstore, Walmart on Memorial Avenue, Metro Stores on Arthur Street and River Street, Safeway Store on Arthur Street, and Odena in Kakabeka Falls.

The community donated 7169 kg, (15,800 lbs) of non-perishable food items and over \$4800 in cash donations in support of the Regional Food Distribution Association (RFDA), and at Odena in Kakabeka Falls, approximately 725 kg (1600 lbs) of non-perishable food items and \$650 in cash donations was collected for the Rural Cupboard Food Bank (RCFB).

All food items were provided to the RFDA and RCFB to assist with the goal that everyone in the community, as well as numerous communities throughout the North West Region, have food on their table over the festive season. The quantity of food items collected will help ensure a food bank supply well into the winter months.

The officers and volunteers want to thank all of those community members who generously donated food items or made cash donations making this event such a phenomenal success. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

We also want to thank the Real Canadian Superstore, Walmart, Metro and Safeway Stores and Odena for their support and participating with this event.

OPP CANINE UNIT SAVES LIVES

And raise money for Charity!

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Canine Teams work across the province each day to support public safety. In addition to these duties, the OPP Canine Unit has created the 2019 Canine Calendar to raise money for the [OPP Youth Foundation](#) and the [Friends of The OPP Museum](#). Each month of the calendar features OPP canines from across the province. Funds raised from the sale of the 2018 OPP Canine Calendar totaled more than \$28,000.



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

The 2019 OPP Canine Calendars makes a great gift! Each calendar costs \$10, with all proceeds going to the OPP Youth Foundation and the Friends of *The OPP Museum*. Calendars can be purchased at the OPP Off Duty Shop (777 Memorial Avenue, Orillia) or [online](#).

To demonstrate the type of work the dogs featured in the calendar do, below is a story about Jake, a canine featured during the month of June:

OPP canine and handler locate missing man

Life as an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) canine handler is unpredictable-you never know what the day has in store.

In October 2018, Constable Jeff Scott and his German shepherd partner Jake were dispatched to a call about a missing elderly man with Parkinson's disease. The man had left his home around 8:30 p.m. and didn't return. Worried, the man's two housemates called the police at 4:00 a.m. to ask for help. The last place the man was seen was the end of his driveway.

When Jake, Constable Scott and a member of the OPP's Emergency Response Team (ERT) arrived at the man's house, they began surveying the area and immediately began their search. They started on the road outside the man's home and headed into a forested area nearby.

"When we start looking for a missing person, I always start looking in the areas that aren't so nice-places like swamps and bush," says Constable Scott. "I try to cover areas that, if someone was lost, they'd have a hard time getting out of."

Quickly, Constable Scott noticed a change in Jake.

"As a handler, you're always watching your dog's behaviour for any recognition of a scent," says Constable Scott. "Oftentimes when you're looking for missing people, it's a very long process. Right away, I noticed that Jake was air scenting."

Air scenting is when the dog picks up the microscopic particles in the air left behind by a human. A human's scent becomes airborne and can be carried by the wind for considerable distances.

"As we worked our way into the wind, I knew that Jake was definitely on to something," says Constable Scott. "I got a view of the direction the scent was coming from, suspecting we were downwind from the person we were tracking."



With this information, the ERT member took a grid of the area to get a sense of where the missing man might be. As the wind got stronger or died off, so too did the man's scent. The team continued through some nasty swamp areas, and finally made it to high ground. When they did, they did a "call out"-a yell to the surrounding area to see if they will get a response.

"Between the two of us, we thought we might have heard something way, way off into the distance," says Scott. "We started off in that direction and again I saw Jake pick up the airborne scent."

After following Jake and the scent for quite some time, Constable Scott decided to do another call out. When he and his ERT partner yelled, they heard something. It was faint, but this time there was no mistaking that it was an answer to their call.

"At this point, we knew we found him-we were so far out in the bush that no one should have been calling back," says Scott. "That's when we really started to holler so he knew help was on its way."

The team went through some more swamp, only to come up onto a ridge. They looked beneath the ridge only to find the missing man had fallen into the swamp below. He had no way to get up.

"We got to him and right away gave him water and made sure he was okay," says Scott. "Once we knew he was all right, we started to work out a plan to get him out of there."

After alerting the command post, Constable Scott and the ERT team member used GPS to guide in a team who brought a collapsible stretcher. Collectively, they returned the man to safety.

"Finding a missing person is quite the feeling," says Constable Scott. "This man was out all night: lost, alone and probably afraid. If we hadn't been able to find him, he wouldn't have made it home to his family. It's an extremely rewarding feeling."

And what was Jake's reaction to all of this? "Jake recognizes our emotions-if we're focused or excited, he picks up on that," says Constable Scott. "In the end, Jake worked hard as he always does, to get his reward. In this case, his reward was lots and lots of praise."



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

Consider purchasing a 2019 Canine Calendar to support charities!

"We are so grateful to the OPP Canine Team who not only save people's lives every day, they are also helping raise money for charity," says Dave Osborne, Member of the Board of Directors, Friends of *The OPP Museum* and the OPP Youth Foundation. "Their dedication helps us support local children and preserve the history of community safety and policing in Ontario."

About the charities

The OPP Youth Foundation provides funds to disadvantaged youth throughout the province of Ontario, and the Friends of *The OPP Museum* is a volunteer-based charitable organization that supports, promotes and assists in the preservation of the history of the OPP. For more information, visit oppyouthfoundation.ca and oppmuseumfriends.ca.

About the Canine Unit

The OPP Canine unit was formed in 1965, at which time only three teams were trained to provide support services to all of the OPP and other law enforcement agencies across the province. There are currently 27 teams, each team consisting of a dog and a handler. There are also an additional 16 dogs trained for specific detection duties.

Each team is stationed at strategic points throughout the province, providing canine support for search and rescue, tracking wanted persons, detecting narcotics, searching for cadavers, as well as firearms, explosives and physical evidence. Canine teams are also involved in community service work, fundraising, and public demonstration

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.





Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

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
807-939-2133