



THUNDER BAY OPP – JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER

15th COMMISSIONER TO BE HONOURED IN CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

On June 6, 2019, Thomas CARRIQUE officially took command as the 15th Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

As the new Commissioner, he will lead one of the largest deployed police services in North America. In honour of his appointment as Commissioner, the OPP conducted a Change of Command ceremony. During this tradition-rich ceremony, the OPP Tipstaff -- the symbolic mantle of OPP leadership -- was formally passed by Commissioner (Retired) Vince HAWKES to (Incoming) Commissioner Thomas CARRIQUE. The ceremony included the OPP Ceremonial Unit, the Commissioner's Own Pipes and Drums, the Cedar Women Singers, the OPP Chorus, and an honour guard comprised of current recruit class members.

OPP HOSTED SUCCESSFUL PROVINCIAL RECRUITMENT DAY

With events held at 30 locations across the province, the OPP's inaugural Provincial Recruitment Day held on Saturday, May 25, 2019 was an overwhelming success attracting more than 2000 participants, with thousands more watching events throughout the day live on Facebook.

The theme for the event, "What makes the OPP the employer of choice?" was illustrated through dynamic presentations, demonstrations and information booths. In addition to promoting uniform jobs, numerous bureaus also attended to promote their civilian career and volunteer opportunities.

The largest events were held in Toronto, Orillia and Kenora, with many venues also livestreaming portions of the day's events via Facebook.

Commissioner Thomas Carrique, who spoke at the Toronto event, noted the value of a broad reaching event such as this, indicating how important it is for a provincial organization to recruit across the province in an effort to attract employees who reflect the communities that it serves.



Several participants noted how surprised they were to learn that there were so many different roles available to OPP officers beyond the traditional front line experience. A number of specialty units were profiled including Canine, Criminal Investigation Unit, Anti Rackets and Serious Fraud, Uniform Recruitment and the Provincial Police Academy to name a few. One of the event's goals was to highlight the "career within a career" aspect of the OPP uniform role - in addition to profiling the wide range of roles open to civilians and volunteers.

"What a lot of people don't realize is, in addition to more than 5,800 uniformed officers, the OPP has over 2,400 civilian employees working in all areas of the organization," said Ms. Shawn Pollock, Program Coordinator for Uniform Recruitment. "From forensics to cyber operations to criminal investigations, it is truly amazing how many opportunities available within the OPP."

OPP REPORT LONG WEEKEND FATALITIES, NUMEROUS TRAFFIC CHARGES DURING CANADA ROAD SAFETY WEEK

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) investigated three road/off-road fatalities and laid numerous traffic charges leading up to and over the Victoria Day Long Weekend.

The first fatality occurred on Friday, May 17, 2019 when a 58-year-old man was killed in an off-road vehicle incident in Peterborough County. On the same day, a 28-year-old female pedestrian was killed after being struck by a passenger van in Essex County.

On Sunday, May 19, 2019 the OPP recovered the body of a 72-year-old kayaker near Nipigon after his kayak became submerged and he failed to resurface a day earlier.

The OPP laid close to 12,000 traffic charges during Canada Road Safety Week (May 14-20), as they joined police partners across Canada in an effort to keep roads safe.

The annual campaign is part of the broader [Canada's Road Safety Strategy 2025](#), which aims to make Canada's roads the safest in the world.

Among the charges laid by the OPP:

Speeding: 10,095

Stunt driving/street racing: 226

Failure to wear seat belt: 525

Fail to yield: 277



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Distracted driving: 251

Careless driving: 165

Alcohol/drug-impaired driving: 162

MOTORCYCLISTS, OFF-ROADERS AND BOATERS - why they are at risk

With motorcyclists, off-roaders and boaters expected in large numbers this summer season, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is raising awareness of behaviours and contributing factors that are common in deaths across all three of these seasonal recreational driver/user classes.

(All data applies to 2018 in OPP-jurisdictions):

Driving too fast for the conditions (7), excessive speed (6) and alcohol impairment (5) were the top contributing factors in last year's 36 motorcycle deaths. Seven (7) of the deceased motorcyclists were not wearing a helmet.

More than half (10) of last year's 19 deceased off-road vehicle drivers were also not wearing a helmet. Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in at least eight (8) of the fatalities. Losing control (7) and driving too fast for the conditions (4) were the top driver actions reported in the deaths.

On the water, 22 of the 24 people who died in last year's boating/paddling incidents were not wearing a life jacket. With falling overboard (11) and capsized vessels (7) being the top primary causes in the deaths, life jacket use may have reduced the number of boating deaths significantly. Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in at least eight (8) of the fatalities.

"We can all contribute to the safety on our roads, trails and waterways by never operating a motor vehicle or boat while impaired by alcohol and/or drugs. Our personal and public safety relies on each and every one of us obeying the speed limit, driving in accordance with weather, road and trail conditions, and ensuring the use of helmets when riding a motorcycle and/or ATV and a lifejacket while boating."

-- Thomas Carrique, Commissioner, Ontario Provincial Police



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"Summer is a great time of the year to be outside and enjoy everything Ontario has to offer with your friends and family. Be sure you put safety first this season. ATV riders and motorcyclists should wear proper protective gear, while boaters need to ensure they're wearing the correct life jacket. Whether on the trails or on the waterways, be sure you respect the rules this summer."

-- Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General

HELPFUL LINKS

[Safe Boating Awareness Week](#)

[Motorcycle Safety in the Spring](#)

[Off-road Vehicle Safety](#)

OPP IDENTIFIED 35 PER CENT INCREASE IN OVERDOSE DEATHS WITH NEW REPORTING STRATEGY

'Opioids and Overdoses: Impact and Strategies' Report Released

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Opioids Working Group has released their *Opioids and Overdoses: Impact and Strategies* report, highlighting the alarming increase of opioid overdoses and deaths across Ontario. The report contains information relating to OPP opioid seizures, overdoses and relevant strategies.

Out of concern for the safety of all Ontarians, the OPP is sharing the data to help prevent the loss of more lives.

Key information:

- OPP has identified a 35 per cent increase in overdose deaths during the first quarter of 2019, compared to the first quarter of 2018
- Since September 2017, the OPP has administered naloxone on 79 occasions and saved 73 lives
- OPP has administered the highest number of naloxone doses in March and April 2019
- The spirit of the *Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act (GSA)* is embedded in all aspects of OPP involvement with the public



"Every life matters; meaning every overdose occurrence will be thoroughly investigated. We owe it to each victim to thoroughly investigate every occurrence so we can target those who produce, import and traffic these harmful and deadly substances."

- OPP Superintendent Bryan MacKillop, Director, Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau

The focus of the OPP Opioids Working Group during the past year has been to establish foundational elements to respond to the opioid crisis and understand the impacts of overdoses and opioids. New reporting and analytical tools have been made available to position the OPP to be more proactive in our approach to the opioid crisis.

The *Opioids and Overdoses: Impact and Strategies* report can be found at opp.ca/opioids

WATCH FOR CHILDREN AT PLAY AND BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS

With the end of school just around the corner, 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.

Cyclists have been patiently waiting for this warmer weather to arrive and now many are cycling along the streets and roadways. Bicyclists must obey the rules of the road like drivers of any other vehicle and must be treated as equal users by all other vehicles. If you are driving in a vehicle, ensure the cyclist has enough room to ride safely. Bicycles and vehicles must share the roadway

Here are a few bicycle safety tips to consider:

- Wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet - Protect your brain. Ensure your helmet fits properly and do up the chin strap.
- Check your equipment - Adjust your bike to fit you. Ensure tires are properly inflated and ensure your brakes work properly.
- See and be seen – Wear bright colours , neon or fluorescent when riding during day or evening hours. Wear something that reflects light such as reflective tape or marking. Install flashing lights onto your bike to be seen in the evening.
- Watch for and avoid road hazards – Be on the lookout for hazards such as potholes, broken glass, gravel, puddles,. All these hazards can cause a crash. Alert other riders to these potential hazards Keep both hands ready to brake allow extra distance for stopping in the rain as brakes are less efficient when wet.
- Avoid riding at night – It is more dangerous to ride at night than during the day because you may be difficult to see. If you have to ride at night, wear clothing that makes you more visible. Ensure you have reflectors on front and rear of your bicycle as well as a flashing light.



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- Go with the traffic flow – Ride on the right in the same direction as other vehicles, go with the flow.
- Obey all traffic laws – As a bicyclist, you must obey all traffic signs and signals and lane markings. Follow lane markings and if there is a bike lane, ride in it.
- Be predictable- Ride in a straight line and signal your moves to others. Make eye contact with drivers. Assume that other drivers don't see you until you are sure they do.
- Be alert at all times – Use your eyes and ears, be on the lookout for potential hazards. Look and listen for traffic. Don't wear a headset when you ride. Scan the road behind you, learn to look over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving. Some cyclists use rear view mirrors.

NEEBING FIRE RESCUE TAILGATE SALE

The Neebing Fire Rescue Tailgate Sale will be taking place on Saturday, June 15, 2019. Officers from Thunder Bay OPP, and Emergency Response Team officers will be in attendance. The OPP Mobile Command Unit will be on display as well. The tailgate sale is in support of the Neebing Fire Rescue Association.

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





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June is.....

Seniors Month

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

National Aboriginal Day

National Water Safety Week

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

July is.....

Marine Safety Days

National Drowning Prevention Week

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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