



THUNDER BAY OPP – JULY 2019 NEWSLETTER

OPP REMIND MOTORISTS TO DRIVE SAFELY OVER CANADA DAY HOLIDAY

With the Canada Day holiday long weekend 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.

TWO DRIVER BEHAVIOURS LINKED TO 40 PER CENT OF TRUCK CRASHES

Operation Corridor- Focus on Commercial Vehicles (June 13-14, 2019)

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) conducted *Operation Corridor* from June 13-14, 2019. The OPP laid a total of 448 charges against commercial vehicle drivers during their annual Operation Corridor campaign.

The highest number of charges were related to equipment violations, with 148 charges laid during the 24-hour enforcement blitz. Speeding was the second highest offence at 114 charges. A total of 44 commercial vehicles were taken out of service for various offences.



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Newsletter

Other charges:

Seat belt:	44
Speed limiter:	31
Follow too close:	28
Hours of service:	24
Distracted driving:	13
Unsecure load:	11
Unsafe lane change:	5
Other hazardous moving violations:	29

The OPP are reporting that 40 per cent of transport truck collisions in 2018 involved a commercial driver who either made an improper lane change or was following a vehicle too closely.

The OPP responded to **7,674** transport truck collisions last year, with **63** lives lost and **1,142** of the crashes resulting in injuries. Nearly 75 per cent of the people killed in the collisions were passengers in other vehicles. Close to 80 per cent of last year's transport truck-related collisions were multi-vehicle crashes, making this a significant road safety issue.

"Road safety is dependent on commercial drivers who recognize that these large, heavy-load trucks need to be driven with the utmost safety in mind and are committed to flawless driving habits and meticulous vehicle maintenance practices. Reducing the number of transport truck collisions also requires that other motorists share the road safely with them."

-- Thomas Carrique, Commissioner, Ontario Provincial Police

"Collisions involving transport trucks and heavy passenger vehicles often result in injury and death. Big trucks cannot stop quickly so we need to be aware and leave room for them on the road. The OPP enforce strict laws to ensure Ontario roads remain the safest in North America. We each have a responsibility to drive with care and vigilance and it is imperative that all commercial vehicle drivers be trained to be among the safest motorists on the road."

-- Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General



QUICK FACTS:

Improper lane changes, inattentive driving and following too closely were factors in almost half of all OPP-investigated transport truck crashes over the past five years (2014-2018).

Operation Corridor is an annual 24-hour enforcement and education campaign conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation.

The initiative targets commercial vehicle drivers with the goal of reducing deaths, injuries and collisions that involve commercial motor vehicles.

OPP PARTNERS WITH MEDICALERT TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE PERSONS

24/7 access to vital information that may help save lives

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is partnering with MedicAlert Foundation Canada to better assist officers with their interactions with vulnerable persons. MedicAlert *Connect Protect* service gives police officers 24-hour access to a registered subscriber's photo, identifying information, past wandering history, triggers, de-escalation techniques and other medical information through MedicAlert identification in an emergent situation.

This service may also quickly locate lost or missing vulnerable individuals, such as those living with autism, Alzheimer's, dementia or other cognitive brain injuries, so they can be quickly and safely returned to their loved ones. Officers called to an emergency involving a MedicAlert subscriber will have access through dispatchers to vital information which could save a life.

OPP and MedicAlert introduced this partnership by holding six community focused information and registration sessions across Ontario on June 18th for the launch of MedicAlert *Connect Protect* service.

QUOTES

"This partnership allows police to work with a not-for-profit organization to provide the best possible service to our community. Our citizens benefit when the police and community work together. This partnership mobilizes the community members to ensure we are able to care for vulnerable persons across Ontario."

- OPP Commissioner Thomas Carrique



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

"MedicAlert's identification services and electronic health information database is a vital link between first responders and the community when faster, informed action makes all the difference. We are pleased to partner with such a renowned organization as OPP and honoured to assist police services across the country in their emergency response work."

- CEO of MedicAlert Foundation Canada, Françoise Faverjon-Fortin

About MedicAlert:

MedicAlert Foundation Canada (MAFCA) is the largest membership-based registered charity in Canada and it is the leading provider of emergency medical information services. MedicAlert's mission is to ensure that all Canadians have access to high-quality health information at time of need, and has protected more than one million Canadians since 1961.

For more information on the MedicAlert *Connect Protect* service, visit medicalert.ca/connectprotect or call 1-866-696-0273.

SEE AN OVERDOSE? CALL 911

Even if you've taken drugs or have some on you, the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act can protect you.

Opioid overdoses are claiming the lives of thousands of people across Ontario and are steadily increasing. The statistics and numbers related to overdoses do not capture the profound distress being felt by those impacted. Observers may hesitate to call 911 in fear of police involvement. To encourage people to seek life-saving assistance the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is launching the *Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act* (GSDOA) public awareness campaign.

The OPP is upholding its commitment to the Ontario Mobilization and Engagement Model of Community Policing and is using a collaborative approach to disseminate this public awareness campaign. Partnering with other community organizations will help the OPP better connect with people that are directly impacted by this Act.

The OPP has created posters, information cards and community safety videos to help educate the public and community agencies. These resources as well as other additional information about the GSDOA can be found by visiting: www.opp.ca/overdose and OPP social media accounts.



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

The law does provide protection against charges for:

- Possessing drugs for your own use
- Violating conditions of your parole, bail, probation or conditional sentence for a simple drug possession charge

The law does not provide protection against charges for:

- Trafficking illegal drugs
- Offences other than drug possession
- Any outstanding arrest warrants
- Violating conditions of your parole, bail, probation or conditional sentence for an offence that is not simple possession

"At the centre of the OPP's response to the opioid crisis is the spirit of the *Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act*, which is intended to save lives. The OPP is determined to take every step possible to help our citizens, our communities and our partners who are impacted by the opioid crisis."

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

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES AND PROPERTY

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) would like to remind citizens how to protect your valuables and property.

When you purchase new property, it is important to copy down the make, model and serial numbers of your property. If there is not a serial number, then the property should be marked in some way to identify the owner. In the event the stolen property is recovered, the police can contact the rightful owner.

At times, thieves will alter the serial numbers, so it is important to add an identifying feature on your items so it is easier to identify. It is also important to register your warranty with newly purchased items, this is another way to track your personal belongings.



What you should do:

Create a home inventory list. Catalog your belongings with detailed information such as make, model, serial number, value, purchase date. Take photos, create a video walkthrough of your home, write a list of your property in a notebook or a computer file and keep your list in a safe, secure location in your home or a security deposit box.

If a person is found with suspected stolen property, the serial number can confirm that it is stolen. This then allows police to solve current and past crimes and gather information about who is doing what.

The most valuable reason for recording serial numbers is that it allows police to return property to the rightful owner and aids in any insurance claims if you experience an emergency in your home.

CONFIRM EMAILS AND BE PATIENT WHEN DEALING WITH CREDIT CARD NUMBERS

Police Warn of 'Business Executive' and 'Card Not Present' Scams

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Anti-Rackets Branch and Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) are warning Ontario businesses to confirm their emails and phone messages. These are tools criminals use to extort money and personal information from you and your company.

Ontario businesses and municipalities are being targeted by two types of scams: the Business Executive scam and the Card Not Present scam. In the Business Executive scam, also known as the Business Email Compromise, the potential victim receives an email that appears to come from an executive or supervisor in their own company who has the authority to request money transfers. In some cases, the fraudsters create an email address that mimics that of a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or the fraudsters have compromised and used the CEO's or CFO's actual email account. The spoofed email message is then sent to an employee who is authorized to conduct wire transfers. The email indicates the "executive" is 'working off-site' and has identified an outstanding payment that needs to be paid as soon as possible. The "executive" instructs the payment be made and provides a name and a bank account where the funds -- generally a large dollar amount -- are to be sent. Police report typical losses in excess of \$100-thousand.

In the Card Not Present scam, Ontario businesses are targeted by fraudsters who claim to represent a regular supplier or an existing contractor. The scam targets businesses that have existing relationships and accounts with suppliers, wholesalers or contractors.



The scam usually involves a spoofed email informing the buyers of a change in payment arrangements. The email notice provides 'new' banking details and requests that future payments be made to this 'new' account. Fraudsters are also calling local businesses and providing stolen credit card information in order to make large purchases. The spin is the urgency that is placed on the purchase and the supplier falls victim when they should have waited the proper time in order for the purchase to clear. In many cases, the business owner is responsible for the outstanding amount.

TIPS TO PREVENT BUSINESS SCAMS

- Beware of irregular email requests for urgent fund transfers.
- Prior to sending any funds or product, make contact with the requestor in person or by telephone to confirm that the request is legitimate.
- Watch for spelling and formatting errors and be wary of clicking on any attachments as they can contain viruses and spyware.
- Always wait the prescribed time from the specified credit card company before the items are delivered.

If you or someone you know suspect they've been a victim of a Business Executive Scam the Card Not Present Scam, contact your local police service and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre by phone at 1-888-495-8501 or through their website.

"Recognize, Reject and Report Fraud"

LEARN MORE

For more information on this scam and others, visit the OPP or the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre websites for preventative tips and fraud awareness. The Competition Bureau of Canada also offers The Little Black Book of Scams for additional educational and preventative tips to prevent fraud.

BOATING SAFETY TIPS: BOATER EDUCATION AND RESOURCES FOR SAFE FAMILY FUN

No matter how much experience you have, it's always a good idea for everyone to review boating safety rules before departures. Read below to familiarize yourself with these 10 basic boating safety tips:



Be Weather-wise

Always check local weather conditions before departure. TV and radio forecasts can be a good source of information. If you notice darkening clouds, volatile and rough changing winds, or sudden drops in temperature, play it safe by getting off the water.

Follow a Pre-Departure Checklist

Proper boating safety means being prepared for any possibility on the water. From compliance with fire safety regulations to tips for fueling up, following a pre-departure checklist is the best way to make sure no boating safety rules or precautions have been forgotten.

Learn more »

Get your Pleasure Craft Operator Card

Your Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) is a bit like a driver's licence and once you have your PCOC it's yours for life. The PCOC is mandatory for anyone operating a pleasure craft with any type of motor, and the operator should be sure to have their original PCOC card "on board". There are a lot of options for your get your PCOC card and you can find a list by using this link to get to a current list of Transport Canada approved course providers. You can take the test from any of these approved companies and once you pass, they will provide you with your PCOC.

Use Common Sense

One of the most important parts of boating safety is to know the rules and to use your common sense. This means operating at a safe speed at all times, especially in crowded areas. Be alert at all times, and steer clear of large vessels and watercraft that can be restricted in their ability to stop or turn. Also be respectful of buoys and other navigational aids, all of which have been placed there for one reason only, to ensure your own boating safety.

Designate an Assistant Skipper

Make sure more than only one person on board is familiar with all aspects of your boat's handling, operations, and other boating safety tips. If the primary navigator is injured or incapacitated in any way, it's important to make sure someone else can follow the proper boating safety rules to get everyone else back to shore. Remember that anyone operating the boat must have their PCOC.



Develop a Float Plan

Whether you choose to inform a family member or staff at your local marina, always be sure to let someone else know your float plan. This should include where you're going and how long you're going to be gone.

A float plan can include the following information: name, address, and phone number of trip leader; name and phone number of all passengers; boat type and registration information; trip itinerary; and types of communication and signal equipment onboard. Learn more

Make Proper Use of Lifejackets

Did you know that the majority of drowning victims resulting from boating accidents were found not to be wearing a lifejacket (also called a personal flotation device or PFD)? Make sure that your family and friends aren't part of this statistic by assigning and fitting each member of your onboard team with a lifejacket-prior to departure.

Learn more »

Don't Mix Alcohol and Boating

Practise boating safety at all times by saving the alcohol for on land. The probability of being involved in a boating accident doubles when alcohol is involved, and studies have also shown that the affect of alcohol is exacerbated by external effects such as sun and wind. Just like driving under the influence, boating under the influence of alcohol is an offense under the Criminal Code of Canada. If you are planning to consume alcohol on your boat, then in most provinces you must be anchored and have permanent sleeping, kitchen and toilet facilities on board. Check with the appropriate provincial authorities (OPP for Ontario, SQ for Quebec, RCMP for all other provinces and territories) for carriage restrictions.

Learn to Swim

If you're going to be in and around the water, proper boating safety means knowing how to swim. Local organizations such as the Canadian Red Cross and others offer training for all ages and abilities - check to see what classes are offered in your area.

Take a Boating Course

Beginning boaters and experienced experts alike need be familiar with boating safety rules of operation. In addition to the mandatory PCOC for any boat operator, you should also consider additional courses so that you can boat with confidence. It's always important to be educated, aware and prepared for every circumstance that might arise.

Learn more »



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

Consider a Free Vessel Safety Check

The Office of Boating Safety is working to raise awareness of boating safety issues and encourage all pleasure craft operators to follow safe boating practices. Qualified Boating Safety Specialists are available to conduct a FREE Courtesy Check of your recreational vessel (sail, power, personal watercraft or canoe.) The reviews are confidential and there are no penalties for deficiencies.

Take advantage of a free Vessel Safety Check from the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron (CPS-ECP) working in partnership with the Office of Boating Safety. They offer complimentary boat examinations to review all the safety equipment required by law. Free of charge, they'll provide a specialist to check out your boat and make helpful boating safety tips and recommendations

The preceding information was provided by discoverBoating.ca

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, and grade 6/7 students at Whitefish Valley 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.

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, and Whitefish Valley Public School celebrated their hard work with a graduation. Each student received a diploma certificate, along with other OPP items. 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 19, 2019, local OPP veterans gathered for a BBQ in their honour at the Thunder Bay OPP Detachment. Members from North West Region Headquarters and the Provincial Communication Centre also attended.



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

This year, over 40 people were in attendance for the luncheon including veterans, spouses, current serving officers and civilians. Detachment Commander, Inspector Al Gordon hosted the event.

NEEBING FIRE RESCUE TAILGATE SALE

On Saturday, June 15, 2019, P/C Diana Cole, P/C Greg Lathem, Emergency Response Team (ERT) officer, along with Auxiliary Officers, Deb Muller and Maksym Kuznierz attended the Neebing Fire Rescue Tailgate Sale and fundraiser in support of the Neebing Fire Department.

The officers interacted and provided information to the public and also provided tours of the OPP Mobile Support Unit (MSU) which is utilized as an onsite Command Post during serious incidents.

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



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.

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Newsletter