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## THUNDER BAY OPP – AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER

### OPP CONDUCTS MOVER OVER CAMPAIGN (AUGUST 2-5, 2019)

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is concerned by the number of drivers who ignore Ontario's Move Over Law and place police, other emergency personnel and tow truck drivers at risk on the roadside.

The OPP laid **1,891** charges last year against drivers who failed to slow down and move over, marking one of the highest number of annual OPP charges for this offence since the law was enacted in 2003.

The findings have the OPP conducting targeted enforcement of Ontario's Move Over Law during the Civic Day Long Weekend, as they ramp up their efforts to get drivers to comply with this important law.

"There have been close to **700** incidents in the past five years in which an OPP vehicle was struck by another vehicle while parked or stopped on the roadside. When our officers and emergency partners are assisting people on the roadside, please slow down and move over if safe to do so, and help them get home safely to their families."

-- Thomas Carrique, Commissioner, Ontario Provincial Police.

"When you see an emergency vehicle or tow truck helping someone in distress, reduce your speed and move over. This simple action will help first responders do their job safely. Stay alert, avoid driving distractions and always take caution while on the road for everyone's safety."

-- Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General

### **Quick Facts**

The law requires drivers to slow down and move over if safe to do so for all tow trucks, police, ambulance and fire emergency vehicles with their emergency lights activated.

Since 1989, five OPP officers have been killed after being struck by an approaching vehicle while carrying out their duties on the side of the road.

The OPP has laid more than **9,000** Move Over charges in the last five years.



## WHAT TO DO WHEN ENCOUNTERING AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE

There are certain steps you need to take when an emergency vehicle is approaching in either direction. Find out what you need to do on different kinds of roads.

### On a multi-lane highway

- Slow down, signal and move to the right.
- If possible, pull as close as you can to the right side of the roadway and stop when safe to do so.
- Don't move onto the shoulder.

### On a two-lane road

- Signal and move to the right.
- Pull as close as possible to the right edge of the road, clear of any intersection, and stop.

### On a one-way street

- Signal and pull to the right or the left side of the street, clear of any intersection, and stop.

### In an intersection

- Traffic in all directions must yield to emergency vehicles.
- Don't block the intersection.
- If an emergency vehicle is approaching from behind you, don't make a left turn - proceed straight through the intersection, then pull to the right and stop.

### Approaching a stopped emergency vehicle

"Slow Down, Move Over": If you see an emergency vehicle or a tow truck with its amber lights flashing stopped facing the same direction you are going, slow down and pass with caution.

If the road has two or more lanes, you must leave a lane of space between you and the emergency vehicle, if you can do so safely.



Ontario Provincial Police

# Newsletter

## Tips

- stay alert
- avoid distractions
- keep the noise level down in your vehicle
- use your signals to alert other drivers you intend to pull over
- check your rear-view mirrors, and look in front and on both sides of your vehicle
- don't drive on or block the shoulder on freeways
- when the emergency vehicle has passed, check to make sure the way is clear and signal before merging back into traffic
- it's illegal to follow a fire vehicle or ambulance responding to a call, within 150 metres

## Penalties

Drivers can be charged if they don't slow down, or move over when safe to do so, near emergency vehicles or tow trucks that are stopped with sirens or lights flashing.

First offence:

- \$400 to \$2,000
- 3 demerit points upon conviction
- possible suspension of driver's licence for up to 2 years

Subsequent offences (within 5 years):

- \$1,000 to \$4,000
- 3 demerit points upon conviction
- possible jail time (up to 6 months)
- possible suspension of driver's licence for up to 2 years

Preceding information provided by the Ministry of Transportation



## OPP CHARGE THOUSANDS OF AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS DURING AGGRESSIVE DRIVING CAMPAIGN

What the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) hoped would be a safe, enjoyable Canada Day Long Weekend for everyone, ended up taking a tragic turn on and off the road for some families.

The OPP responded to four **(4)** fatal (motor vehicle) collisions in which five **(5)** people lost their lives. Two motorcyclists were among those who died. The deceased, all males, ranged from 26 to 61 years of age.

While the OPP is relieved to report zero boating deaths, officers did respond to three **(3)** drownings over the weekend. All three victims were males between 25 and 37 years old. The OPP also reported one **(1)** fatal off-road vehicle incident in which a 21 year-old male died.

Among the OPP's efforts to keep people safe, the OPP conducted a long weekend Aggressive Driving Campaign, laying more than **8,800** related (and other) traffic charges. Among the charges were:

Speeding: **5,303**

Stunt, racing: **180**

Hazardous moving

violations: **573**

Seat belt: **418**

Distracted driving: **116**

Alcohol/drug-impaired

driving: **96**

With summer now in full swing, the OPP is reminding Ontarians and tourists to make safety their number one priority when travelling on roads and enjoying trails and waterways.



## POLICE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS FOR AMBER ALERTS

The Ontario AMBER Alert program continues to be an instrumental tool in assisting both the public and police with locating an abducted child who may be in danger.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) would like to remind the public that calling 911 or any emergency service communication centre is not an appropriate venue to complain about AMBER Alerts.

The decision to utilize the Ontario AMBER Alert is based on established criteria, and is not taken lightly. In 2019, there has been five AMBER Alerts activated. As a direct result of these Alerts, four assisted in the safe return of the child/children and one with the apprehension of a suspect. The OPP recognizes the inconvenience the Alert may have caused, but will not apologize for using all of the tools available to help locate a child.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) mandated the broadcasting industry to distribute emergency alert messages, which includes AMBER Alerts. As of April 2018, compatible wireless networks (wireless public alerting) were included in this mandate. The only option to not receive these alerts to a mobile device is to have your device turned off. However, if your device is turned off you will be unable to receive any emergency alert that may contain information of imminent danger in your area.

For more information regarding Canada's emergency alerting system please visit the [Alert Ready website](#).

## DO NOT LEAVE PETS IN HOT VEHICLES

Now that summer has arrived, the OPP would like to remind the public to not leave their pets in hot vehicles while unattended.

The temperature in a parked car, even in the shade with the windows partly open, can rapidly reach a level that will seriously harm or even kill your pet.

With only hot air to breathe, a dog's normal cooling process---panting---doesn't work. A dog can withstand internal body temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius for only a few minutes before heatstroke, brain damage or even death can occur. The older or more vulnerable the animal, the more susceptible they are.

It is against the law to leave a pet unattended in a parked vehicle in a manner that endangers the health or safety of the animal and the owner may face criminal charges. A hot car is no place for a pet. When it's hot outside, keep your dog at home with access to shade and lots of fresh water.



## BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR WILDLIFE DURING YOUR TRAVELS

The OPP is urging the motoring public to beware of wildlife including moose and deer along the highway while out driving.

The moose and deer are being driven out of the bush by the high number of bugs this year due to a wet spring. They are seeking relief and do that by leaving their normal habitat and making their way out to the highways where there are less insects pestering them.

Drivers can do the following things to help prevent and/or avoid collisions.

- Be sure to follow the speed limit. It is much easier to stop a vehicle that is not going too fast.
- Scan the shoulders of the highways so an errant moose or deer may be spotted before it makes its way onto the road. Have any passengers in the vehicle do this also.
- Be particularly vigilant during the hours of dawn and dusk when moose and deer are harder to see.
- Be aware of moose/deer crossing signage. Those signs are strategically placed where those animals are congregating.
- If a moose or a deer is on the highway, pull over to the right onto the shoulder, turn on your hazard lights and wait for the animal to move. Do not honk your horn or scare the moose.
- If your vehicle is involved in a collision with a moose or deer, phone your local police so both your vehicle and the moose/deer can be removed from the highway quickly.

## SILVER HARBOUR DAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SHUNIAH

On Saturday, August 24, 2019, the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) will host a fun-filled and educational day at one of the LRCA's most popular Conservation Areas, Silver Harbour Conservation Area in the Municipality of Shuniah.

Officers from Thunder Bay OPP and Thunder Bay OPP Marine Unit will attend and dock their boat at the Conservation area. Officers will be available to provide information and answer questions that the public may have.



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



August is.....

National Peacekeeper's Day  
International Youth Day

September is.....

World Suicide Prevention Day  
World Alzheimer's Day  
Police and Peace Officers National Memorial Day

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

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