



THUNDER BAY OPP – OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

DISTRACTED DRIVING CONTINUES CONTRIBUTING TO DEATHS AND INJURIES

Results of 2019 OPP Labour Day Weekend Campaign

Seven traffic and two off-road vehicle deaths made for a tragic holiday weekend on Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)-patrolled roads, trails and waterways.

Seven people died in six separate road collisions over the weekend - two more than during the same period last year - with one death attributed to inattention. Two people died in an off-road vehicle incident; one of the victims was not wearing a helmet. On a positive note, there were no occurrences involving marine fatalities during the long weekend, compared to two in 2018.

The OPP laid 263 distracted driving charges during their Labour Day weekend campaign. Over and above the campaign, officers were kept busy right through the weekend, laying a total of 8,179 charges throughout the province. Speeding topped the list at 5,021 charges, with an additional 174 charges laid for racing/stunt driving.

The OPP is reminding Ontario residents and visitors to take responsibility for their own safety and make better decisions regarding their use of hand held devices and other activities to help reduce the number of deaths and injuries on our roads, waterways and trails.

DID YOU KNOW

As of January 1, 2019 new distracted driving penalties include an increased fine up to \$1,000, three demerit points and a three-day licence suspension.



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

OPP REPORT 20 PER CENT INCREASE IN SEAT BELT RELATED DEATHS

OPP Conducts Fall Seat Belt Campaign (October 2 - 11, 2019)

Forty two (42) people who were not safely buckled up have died in collisions on OPP-patrolled roads so far this year, a 20 percent spike over the 35 seat belt-related deaths at this time last year.

As OPP officers gear up for their Fall Seat Belt Campaign, they are reminding drivers and passengers that being ejected from a vehicle is not the only threat people have to worry about if they are not wearing a seat belt and are involved in a collision.

Over the past five years, the OPP has investigated 233 motor vehicle deaths that were linked to lack of seat belt use. A breakdown of the total revealed that 103 of unbuckled vehicle occupants who died in the collisions were ejected from the vehicle while the remaining 130 victims were not ejected but died of injuries they sustained inside the vehicle.

"The OPP's front-line officers know first-hand from responding to tens of thousands of motor vehicle collisions every year that a driver or passenger's best chance of surviving a crash is by buckling up and benefitting from the proven, science-based protection a seat belt is designed to provide."

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

During the campaign, the OPP will be highly visible throughout the province as they conduct education and enforcement initiatives aimed at getting drivers and passengers to do their part to save lives by buckling up and ensuring children are properly restrained.

LEARN MORE

[Is your child properly secured?](#)



OPP CONTINUES TO LAY CHARGES IN OVERDOSE-RELATED DEATHS

Increase in overdose charges in 2019

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has had 13 occurrences where charges have been laid for Manslaughter and/or Criminal Negligence Causing Death in relation to fatal overdoses since 2016. Eight of these occurrences were this year.

The 13 overdose-related death investigations have led to 20 Manslaughter and 12 Criminal Negligence Causing Death charges. The OPP is not the only police service to lay charges of this nature. Other police services across the province are collectively sending the same message - there is no excuse for selling, distributing or trafficking drugs such as fentanyl when the deadliness of this drug is very well-known.

In light of the charges laid in August, the OPP will be releasing an article on opp.ca/news highlighting the statistics of the 13 investigations, and will also provide this information on various social media platforms (Twitter @OPPCommissioner, Facebook @ontarioprovincialpolice) to educate the public on the severity of selling, distributing and trafficking opioids.

Anyone with information related to overdose deaths may call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or their local police. To remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit information at p3tips.com.

QUOTE

"There are no excuses in today's environment to continue to allow this drug to be distributed through our communities. People are dying from opioid overdoses every day. We are continuing to hold those people who are knowingly trafficking harmful substances, such as fentanyl, in our communities accountable for these deaths." - Interim Deputy Paul BEESLEY, Investigations and Organized Crime, OPP



CRIME PROOF YOUR COTTAGE THIS WINTER

There's no more heart-sinking feeling than pulling up to your cottage on the May long weekend and seeing a door forced or a window broken. Even if thieves only make off with your 30-year-old VCR and a couple of Air Supply cassettes, you'll still have damage to repair, both to your property and your family's sense of security.

Preventing an off-season break-and-enter starts now, before you've closed the cottage. Follow these tips to help make your home-away-from-home as safe as possible.

Lock everything

It sounds pretty obvious, but did you make sure the second story windows were locked? How about the shed? Did you lock away your propane tanks? Any open door or window is a temptation for thieves, even ones that look like they might be inaccessible.

Remove all valuables at the end of the season

Take home anything that could be temptation for thieves, TVs, microwaves, cameras, video games, jewellery, and anything else you couldn't bear to lose. As well, remove any alcohol you may have lying around. Yes, it's a pain, and yes, it's more to pack, but better not to tempt burglars in the first place. If you do leave things at the cottage, engrave them with an identification number, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) suggests using your driver's license number or your license plate as an identifier. Use an electric engraver on electronics, and a ballpoint pen on the inside of expensive clothing. For more information on marking your property, check out the OPP's fact sheet.

Invest in some DIY tweaks to secure doors and windows

Make sure your doors' strike plates and hinges are secured with three-inch screws, rather than the standard ½-inch ones. (You'll likely have to replace them yourself). Your deadbolt should penetrate at least one inch into the doorjamb, if it doesn't, replace the lock. And exterior doors should be solid rather than hollow.

For patio doors, install screws in the top track about 10 inches apart, far enough in so the screw heads sit just above door level. This stops someone from lifting the door up and out. And jam the door with an old hockey stick or broom handle to prevent it from sliding.

Secure double-hung windows by drilling a downward-slanting hole from the top corners of the inner sash into (but not through) the outer sash. Slide a nail or screw into the hole when you leave to prevent the windows from being opened. Finally, add security film to patio and French doors, and to the sidelights around your door. This prevents your windows from being easily broken.



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

Make friends with your year-round neighbours

If you have neighbours who live in the area year-round, ask them to keep an eye on the place for you. Give them an extra key and make sure they have your city contact information just in case anything goes wrong.

Also, if your area has a winter cottage watch program, make sure you sign up. Some cottage-country property management companies offer a regular winter check-in service, which could be a good investment for peace of mind.

Keep your exterior (and possibly your interior) nice and visible

Put away storage benches and deck furniture and trim your hedges, don't give thieves a place to hide. There's some debate about whether or not to pull your curtains, if you're leaving appliances and electronics (even though you shouldn't), it's probably best to hide them from unwanted visitors peering through the windows. On the other hand, if your cottage is mostly empty, keeping your curtains open may show thieves there's nothing to steal, and may save you a broken window.

The preceding information was provided by [Cottage Life.com](http://CottageLife.com)



HUNTING THIS FALL? HERE ARE TIPS FROM THE LOCAL MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY CONSERVATION OFFICERS

The opening of another fall hunting season focusses the interest of hunters on the outlying areas of the City of Thunder Bay.

A very high percentage of hunters are respectful and appreciative of private property rights. A small fraction are not. As a private property owner, it is your right to post your private property to limit or restrict access for any reason.

The Trespass to Property Act of Ontario, allows you to sign your property with a 10 centimetre red dot at all normal points of access, to send your message "you are not welcome here".

The presence of a crop, fenced livestock, a boundary fence (regardless of condition), obvious occupation, gates, specific signage are all cues to the hunter that permission must be obtained before hunting that parcel.

Hunters need not step onto the private property in order to trespass; the bullet travelling from their rifle forms the trespass. Walking onto that private property, to retrieve game harvested, also constitutes a trespass.

Yes, a hunter harvesting an animal on an adjacent property (perhaps Crown land) that ends up on someone's private property, must receive permission to retrieve it.

For the private property owner who is the victim of hunting trespass issues, the single best piece of information to assist conservation officers, is the offenders licence plate.

This fall, conservation officers will be deploying wildlife decoys to determine compliance with public safety, private property rights and licencing requirements. When you come across wildlife that you are interested in hunting, ask yourself;

Do I have the appropriate licencing (with me) to harvest this animal?

Am I (and the wildlife) in a location where I may lawfully hunt this animal?

Is this a safe location or will I jeopardize someone's safety or anyone's property by hunting here?

Will my intentions create complaints and hard feelings in the area?

Am I wearing my hunter orange garments, as required?

Expect to be met and checked by a field conservation officer when out hunting this fall and make sure you have met all of your obligations prior to setting out. Poor preparation is not an excuse for unlawful behaviour. Respect private property owner rights.

The preceding information is provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Walk Safely

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
- Put electronic devices down and keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

Trick or Treat With an Adult

- Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.

Keep Costumes both Creative and Safe

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

Drive Extra Safely on Halloween

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Eliminate any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so be especially alert for kids during those hours.

The preceding information is provided by Safe Kids Worldwide.



OPP CIVILIANS TAKE PART IN MOTORCYCLE JOURNEY

Several civilian members from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) participated in the Women Riders World Relay (WRWR) recently. Carolyn Tessier, a Communications Operator from the Provincial Communications Centre in Thunder Bay, Karen Golec, Pickle Lake Detachment Administrative Clerk, Sandra Lee and Deanne Ruest, both guards at Pickle Lake Detachment met up with riders from across Canada.

WRWR is a global female motorcycle relay, covering even the remote and vast parts of our world. This involves women passing a handcrafted baton via “legs” of a journey across the world woman to woman, country to country.

The goal of this massive endeavor: To unite and inspire women globally and to show the motorcycling industry that women are not only the fastest growing market segment but that women are already a viable market and deserve consideration from the manufacturers and retailers!

The relay started on 27th February from John O'Groats, Scotland and comes to a close in January 2020 in UAE. The baton arrives in Canada, in Vancouver, British Columbia on September 14th, 2019.

In an ambitious 11 day, 6500km ride the baton will travel with the women Guardians via legs across the country from British Columbia to New Brunswick where it will be passed on to WRWR USA at the Saint Stephen-Calais border crossing on September 24th, 2019.

“I wanted to ignite a global sisterhood of inspirational women to promote courage, adventure, unity and passion for biking from all corners of the world and do something that’s never been done before to this scale. I want to show the industry the force behind the market that is so blindly overlooked. I am doing this because women bikers can make this happen.” Hayley Bell, Founder

WRWR was created on August 29th, 2018. 4 weeks into its creation and the group already had 10,975 members from 100 countries. Today, just short of a year later, there are 19,030 members from 102 countries. There are 300 plus press publications, 13,000 website users per month, 100,000 website sessions, 1 million Facebook interactions.

Canada has 1,361 members. Over 279 unduplicated registered female Guardians will carry and protect the baton on its journey across the country.



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

OPP ATTEND DEDICATION SERVICE TO HONOUR 52nd BATTALION

On September 21, 2019, the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment held a military parade as part of the dedication services for the new civic monument constructed this summer to honour the 52 (New Ontario) Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

The monument commemorated the contribution of one infantry battalion from Northwestern Ontario, which is an important part of our regions legacy of service during the First World War. The monument which includes the names of the battalion's war dead is an example where citizens of all walks of life, include many First Nations individuals, came together to serve Canada at a great sacrifice.

The funding for the monument was raised from donation by many private individuals, corporations and government agencies, and will preserve that story to educate future Canadians.

Provincial Constable Diana Cole and numerous dignitaries from across Northwestern Ontario attended the service.

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

September is.....

World Suicide Prevention Day

World Alzheimer's Day

Police and Peace Officers National Memorial Day

October is.....

Cyber Security Awareness Month

National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month

Car Safety Month

Women's History Month

International Day of Older Persons

National Safe Communities Day

Mental Illness Awareness Week

World Mental Health Day

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

P/C Diana Cole

Thunder Bay OPP Community Safety Officer

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