



THUNDER BAY OPP – DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

OPP LAUNCHES 2019/2020 SEASONAL FESTIVE RIDE CAMPAIGN

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) works all year to keep Ontario roads safe from impaired drivers, and is making it a particular focus during its Festive RIDE campaign that officially begins this weekend.

Police services across the province take part in holiday RIDE programs aimed at taking alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers off our roads.

Thanks to new impaired driving laws phased in last year, the OPP is heading into the seasonal campaign with enhanced tools and authorities. Under the new law, police officers in possession of an approved screening device who lawfully pull over a driver in a RIDE initiative (or through any other lawful traffic stop) can now demand a breath sample without having reasonable suspicion that the driver has alcohol in their body.

The OPP has also acquired approved drug screening equipment which can detect cannabis and cocaine in a driver's saliva. The device can be used to enforce the provincial ["zero tolerance" sanctions](#) that now apply to young, novice and commercial drivers who are suspected of having the presence of drugs in their body.

Motorists are reminded that officers can demand a driver to submit to a Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) and a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Evaluation. SFST-trained officers and DREs have the expertise to detect impairment by alcohol, drugs or both in a driver.

Motorists are also reminded that RIDE checks happen throughout the year, not just the festive season.

"Whether a driver is impaired by alcohol, drugs or both, impaired is impaired - any time of year. Our frontline officers have never been more prepared than they are now to remove these dangerous drivers from our roads."

-Thomas Carrique, Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner

"With festive parties and holiday gatherings just around the corner, plan ahead and don't drive impaired. It is a serious criminal offence to drive while under the influence of drugs or alcohol and police officers across Ontario have the tools to detect impaired drivers. Please drive responsibly to help keep our roadways safe this holiday season."

- Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

Drivers and passengers are reminded to adhere to strictly-enforced laws that address [transportation of cannabis](#) in motor vehicles.

QUICK FACTS

In 2018, 56 people were killed in alcohol/drug-related collisions on OPP-patrolled roads.

Close to 600 people have died on OPP-patrolled roads in the past ten years in collisions that involved an alcohol or drug-impaired driver.

Every day, on average, four Canadians are killed and 175 are injured in impairment-related crashes.

The OPP Festive RIDE Campaign runs from November 23, 2019 to January 2, 2020.

HELPFUL LINKS

[Tips to avoid impaired driving](#)

[Penalties for impaired driving](#)



OPP REMIND MOTORISTS TO PREPARE FOR WINTER DRIVING CONDITIONS

Thunder Bay Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are asking motorists to drive with extra care and caution during the 2019/2020 winter season. The first significant snowfall of the season that the Thunder Bay area experienced resulted in numerous vehicle collisions and vehicles going into the ditch.

The OPP would like to remind motorists of the following vehicle and road safety tips to prepare for winter driving conditions;

Adjust your driving

- Slow down and drive according to weather conditions. Speed too fast for road conditions is the number one cause of winter collisions.
- Be prepared for rapidly changing conditions. Blowing snow may suddenly reduce visibility, and gusting winds can cause ice to form quickly.
- Leave extra space between vehicles. Stopping distances are at least double on snow covered roads and even longer on icy road conditions.
- Know where you are. Keep track of intersections and landmarks in case you need to call for help in an emergency situation.
- Monitor road and weather conditions. Check local weather and road conditions before heading out. If conditions are poor, consider delaying your trip until conditions improve.

Prepare your vehicle

- Have your vehicle serviced in preparation for the winter season.
- Have winter tires installed before the first snowfall.
- Have an ice scraper / snow brush in your vehicle to ensure windshield and headlights are clear of ice and snow.
- Fill your windshield reservoir and have extra available.
- Check your headlights to ensure they are working.
- Clean your windshield and have wiper blades checked, replaced if necessary.
- Ensure your gas tank is always at least half full.
- Keep a winter survival kit in your vehicle that includes blankets, flashlight, candle and some food / drinks.

The OPP reminds motorists and the public not to call the OPP for road conditions. You can call 5-1-1 or visit their website at <https://511on.ca/> for interactive up to date road conditions anywhere in Ontario.



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

CONVENIENTLY REPORT MINOR CRIMES ONLINE

Save Resources and Time

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) invite citizens to consider using Online Reporting - a secure, simple and convenient tool to report minor crimes.

In 2018, the OPP Provincial Communications Centres (PCC) received over two million 9-1-1, non-emergency and administrative calls. Of these, officers were dispatched to approximately 1.05 million occurrences. An increased use of Online Reporting will allow our frontline officers to focus efforts on urgent calls and crime prevention strategies within our communities.

Crimes that are eligible for Online Reporting are occurrences that include:

- Theft Under \$5000;
- Mischief / Damage to Property Under \$5000;
- Mischief / Damage to Vehicle Under \$5000;
- Theft from Vehicle;
- Lost / Missing Property Under \$5000;
- Stolen License Plates; and
- Driving Complaints (after the occurrence)

Online Reporting is a user friendly process that can be completed from any mobile device, laptop, tablet or computer with internet access. To access the system, a user can go to opp.ca/reporting, choose their location and click on Start a Report. This will take the user to a secure link where they will be given precise instructions on how to fill out the report.

LEARN MORE

View the Online Reporting video at: youtu.be/jop9IN2ePOY To report a minor crime and for more information: opp.ca/reporting

QUOTE

"The Ontario Provincial Police continually strives to improve efficiency in processes and service delivery, including effectively using technology to better serve the public. By using Online Reporting to report minor crimes, such as thefts, minor damage to property and vehicles and graffiti, you are increasing the availability of officers and communications operators for the most urgent calls."

- Chris Harkins, OPP Deputy Commissioner



OPP OFFICERS SAVE OVER 100 LIVES BY ADMINISTERING NALOXONE

121 per cent increase in overdose occurrences

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has saved 102 lives using naloxone, since frontline officers began carrying it in September 2017. The severity of the opioid crisis is evident in the increase of opioid-related overdoses and the number of incidences where officers have had to administer naloxone to save a life.

Key statistical information from September 2017 to November 2019 includes:

- The majority, 66 per cent, of naloxone recipients were male and 34 per cent were female.
- The average age of naloxone recipients was 31.5 for females and 32 for males.
- Most incidences occurred inside a residence.
- The majority of opioid-related overdoses occurred in OPP's Central and West Regions.
- There was a 121 per cent increase in overdose occurrences attended by the OPP from 2016 to 2018.

The OPP continues to save lives by providing victims with referrals to community specific resources and advising the public about harmful substances. See opp.ca/opioids for additional information.

Additionally, the OPP is determined to hold drug traffickers accountable by laying charges for drug-related deaths. Charges have been laid for manslaughter and criminal negligence causing death in relation to fatal overdoses, with 13 occurrences during the last four years. Eight of these occurred in 2019.

QUOTE

"The OPP recognizes lives are being lost due to the opioid crisis and we are taking action. Saving lives by administering naloxone is just one step. Our officers embody the spirit of the *Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act* as they assist and protect overdose victims while continuing to criminally charge those responsible for trafficking substances that are causing overdoses and sometimes death."

- Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Thomas CARRIQUE

"At the centre of our response to the opioid crisis is the *Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act*. If you see someone experiencing an overdose, we ask that you call 9-1-1 and stay with the victim to provide support. You could be saving a life." - Ontario Provincial Police Superintendent Bryan MACKILLOP *

These numbers are a reflection of the OPP Niche Records Management database only.



SMALL DOLLARS ADD UP FOR CRIMINALS

Tips for Online Shoppers

There are ways to maintain online security and avoid being scammed when shopping online, according to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

Online shopping is convenient and popular with consumers, but it also increases the likelihood shoppers will be financially victimized. Last year, 1179 Ontarians lost more than \$1.2 million through online shopping transactions, according to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. This is nearly half of the total \$2.7 million lost by all victims in Canada. These transactions occurred on online shopping, trading, selling, renting and social media sites. So far this year, 607 victims have lost more than \$862,000. This number is expected to rise, especially during the holiday buying season.

There are ways to stay safe while shopping online. These include:

- Verify the business and read their reviews
- Check that the URL for the site begins with 'https', making it secure
- Understand the terms and conditions for payment, returns and warranties
- Monitor your financial statements regularly for any fraudulent charges
- Create strong passwords and change them frequently
- Use private WI-FI for transactions

Personal safety is important, particularly for shoppers who use sites where property transactions are expected to occur in person. A number of OPP detachments are inviting members of the public to use OPP Detachment parking lots to facilitate transactions at designated parking spaces. For more information visit opp.ca/safetrade.

For helpful tips and links, follow the OPP on [Twitter](#) (@OPP_News), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use the hashtag #CyberAware.

For scams and/or fraud, contact the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#). If you or someone you know have been a victim of digital or online cybercrime, contact your local police service or local OPP detachment.

LEARN MORE

[Get Cyber Safe](#) is a national, multi-jurisdiction, public awareness campaign created to educate Canadians about Internet security and the simple steps they can take to protect themselves online. Visit getcybersafe.gc.ca/

[Cyber Security Risks](#) (courtesy of Public Safety Canada)



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

OPP WARNING PUBLIC OF SCAMMERS IMPERSONATING POLICE OFFICERS OR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

As digital technology advances, the cyber realm becomes easier for criminals to exploit and extort victims.

Scammers are now using local OPP numbers as a call display number to make the public believe that the police are phoning them. The scammers are trying to get personal information from the public under the guise of being an official member of the Ontario Provincial Police.

Phishing is a crime that targets victims by simulating a legitimate message from a bank, government department or some other organization, in an attempt to get confidential information that can be used for criminal purposes.

The public needs to be aware that the Police do not call and ask for personal information relating to banking information or your social insurance number nor do they collect money on behalf of the Canada Revenue Agency.

Although everyone is at risk of falling victim to these scams, elderly people are among the most vulnerable.

Anyone who receives these types of calls should hang up the phone immediately. Don't ever give out any personal information including identification numbers, passwords or financial information.

If you or someone you know suspects they have been a victim of phishing contact the If you or someone you know suspects they have been a victim of phishing contact the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#) or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or p3tips.com.



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

SIM SWAP SCAM

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), in partnership with the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC), are advising the public of a recent scam that has been reported.

Fraudsters are using SIM swapping and phone number porting to gain access to your email, social media and financial accounts. From there, they gain direct access to your personal information, calendar, contacts and money. Fraudsters may empty your bank accounts, apply for credit in your good name, or impersonate you to defraud your entire contact list. In the meantime, you lose access to your mobile service, are typically locked out of all your accounts, and are left scrambling.

Here's how the scam works:

Your SIM card connects your phone number and mobile service to your mobile device. You connect dozens of your accounts to your mobile device through the use of apps. Most of these logins are linked to your email address, phone number or both (if you setup two-factor authentication).

A fraudster will impersonate you to gain access to your mobile account and may claim that their phone has been lost or stolen. Your phone number will be linked to a new SIM and device that the fraudster controls.

The fraudster then downloads a series of the most popular and most attractive apps. They will select the 'Forgot Password' button on all apps. If an account is associated to your phone number or email address, the fraudster will receive a verification code. They will then use this code to confirm ownership of the account, create their own password and takeover your accounts.

Tips to protect yourself:

- Keep your personal information personal. It is as simple as not publishing your date of birth on social media.
- Do not answer phishing emails or text messages looking for you to confirm your password or update your account information.
- Use an offline password manager.
- Contact your phone provider and ask about additional security measures that may be available.
- If you lose mobile service on your device, contact your service provider immediately. Go with your gut. If a message seems fishy it probably is.

If you think you, or someone you know has been a victim of fraud, please contact your local police service. For those who wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or p3tips.com.



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

THUNDER BAY OPP 8th ANNUAL STUFF A CRUISER

This year, 2019, will mark the 8th Annual “Stuff a Cruiser” event in Thunder Bay. In previous years, law enforcement officers from various agencies across Thunder Bay including Thunder Bay Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Anishinabek Police Service, Nishnawbe-aski Police Service, OPP, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Police Services, Canadian Border Services Agency and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry joined together to collect food donations for those in need during the holiday season and beyond.

Officers will be located outside Odena in Kakabeka Falls, the Real Canadian Superstore, Walmart on Memorial Avenue, Metro stores on Arthur Street and River Street and the Safeway store on Arthur Street.

Officers will collect food items in support of the Regional Food Distribution Association (RFDA), as well as for the Rural Cupboard Food Bank (RCFB) to assist with the goal that everyone in our communities has food on their table over the festive season. The Stuff a Cruiser event will take place on Saturday, December 7, 2019 between 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

OPP FOUR-LEGGED HEROES STRIKE A POSE

To Raise Money for Charity

With more than 1,400 calls for support service so far this year, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Canine Unit is committed to keeping communities safe. Among their many duties, including providing support for search and rescue, tracking wanted persons, detecting narcotics and searching for firearms, explosives and physical evidence, Canine Unit members recently volunteered their time to shine a light on their four-legged champions.

The third annual OPP Canine Unit Calendar showcases the highly-trained canines that work to keep Ontario safe. Each month features photos of a different OPP canine from across the province. All proceeds from the 2020 OPP Canine Unit Calendar go to the [OPP Youth Foundation](#) and the [Friends of The OPP Museum](#). Last year's calendar sales raised more than \$27,500 for these worthy causes.

Each calendar costs \$10 and can be purchased at the OPP Off Duty Shop (777 Memorial Avenue, Orillia) or online at oppshop.on.ca.

About the charities

The OPP Youth Foundation provides funds to disadvantaged youth throughout the province of Ontario. 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 ppyouthfoundation.ca and ppmuseumfriends.ca.



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



December is.....

Festive R.I.D.E.

National Safe Driving Week

National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women

United Nations Human Rights Day

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

Members from the Thunder Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday festive season.

P/C Diana Cole

Thunder Bay OPP Community Safety Officer

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