

# OPP warn of boating hazards associated with drinking



Statistics show that one out of two Ontarians will be involved with boating this year. With that in mind, the Ontario Provincial Police have prepared information designed to alert the public to dangers related to boating.

Last year, fatalities were up, with 64 killed compared to 43 in 1987. Approximately half of fatal accidents are alcohol related.

"Alcohol consumption is more hazardous on a small boat than on shore," said Staff Sergeant Larry Smith.

"It throws off coordination, balance and judgement, which are

very important factors in safe boating."

A total of 85 per cent of those killed were not wearing life jackets.

"Life jackets won't work if you don't wear them," said Smith. "It is difficult even for a good swimmer to locate a jacket and put it on after capsizing."

Hypothermia is another dangerous factor that should be considered. Most lakes have an average temperature of 2 degrees Celsius in May, and at that temperature, life expectancy can be measured in seconds.

"Cold water chills 25 times faster than cold air. If your boat capsizes, you should try to get as much of your body out of the water and onto the boat as you can. Of course, you should also dress warmly for this kind of weather. Even though the air may feel warm, the water isn't," said Smith.

More than 3/4 of the fatal accidents that occurred last year could have been prevented if boaters had respected basic safety rules and used proper safety equipment, according to Smith.

# R.I.D.E. program in effect

Victoria Day weekend will kick off the first of long weekend R.I.D.E. blitzes this summer.

For the first time, the Ministry of the Solicitor General, in conjunction with the Ontario Provincial Police, regional and municipal forces, is sponsoring a cooperative R.I.D.E. program, to take place on the long weekends during the summer.

The concept, initiated by a coordinated traffic management group looking at ways to solve common accident-causing problems affecting forces throughout the province, will continue through until Thanksgiving Day weekend.

R.I.D.E. teams will be out in full force in towns and cities and on roads leading to cottage country, beaches and resort areas.

The goal is to reduce drinking/driving motor vehicle accidents by increasing the risk of apprehension. The program has already proved effective in influencing driver behaviour during the Festive Season. Long weekends in the summer are traditionally a time when accidents due to impaired driving occur.

For more information, contact your local police force.

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Margaret Rickert, Area Councillor, Alma, Ontario



Alma Area Councillor, Margaret Rickert, is one of a growing number of municipal leaders to endorse Retail Postal Outlets. Over ninety percent of our customers say service at Retail Postal Outlets is as good as or better than the former post office.

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In many rural communities across Canada, where postal services have been converted to a local business, community leaders appreciate the benefits the town receives from increased access to postal products and services.

Overall the change from a corporately-operated post office to a Retail Postal Outlet run by local business means:

- Longer hours of service**, often including weekends and evenings.
- More outlets**. Over the next few years the number of outlets will grow from 5,000 to 7,000 across rural Canada.
- More business**. Retail outlets, operated as part of a local business, help strengthen the business base of the community.

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Guess who's 40?**

**Happy  
Birthday**



**Guess Who's  
30?**

**Happy Birthday  
Sweetheart!**



**Some may say  
the trick is dirty.  
We don't care,  
We know he's thirty!  
Happy Birthday  
SLUGGO**