

O.P.P. start new bicycle safety program

By Angie Saunders
The News

Sgt. Andy Templar and Constable Bert Logan of Schreiber O.P.P. have started a new bicycle safety program in the schools to teach youngsters the rights and wrongs of driving bicycles in the town of Schreiber.

Const. Bert Logan started the two-week program which includes a 10 minute in-class safety session and a 45 minute on-road instruction on Monday, May 28th.

The safety program will include Grade 3 to 8 students

from both Schreiber Public School and Holy Angels School.

The 10 minute safety session included basic rules which young bike riders in Schreiber must follow. The students were instructed not to drive at night, not to go through stop signs and to use the proper hand signals.

Sgt. Templar stated, "I have encountered several deaths, injuries, and countless accidents in over 25 years of O.P.P. service, which were caused by negligent bicycle drivers. No one has been killed in Schreiber yet, but there have been minor injuries."

The policemen also stressed that if students continued to ignore stop signs on their bicycles, the bike will be taken away and the child will be taken home where his parents will be encouraged to sever bike privileges for three days.

Sgt. Andy Templar also mentioned, "The O.P.P. receives many complaints about bicyclers. If they continue to disregard bike rules they will receive a traffic violation and will appear in the over 12 youth court."

Bert Logan explained the new

right hand turn signal which is made by extending the right arm out before the turn is made. The left signal is made by extending the left hand out and the stop signal is made by holding the left arm down, pointing towards the ground.

A few other important bicycle safety rules include: riding single file, being extra careful at the highway where you should walk your bike across, and making sure you walk your bike down sidewalks and through the subway.

The students were then taken,

in groups made up of two grades, on a 45 minute ride through Schreiber where Const. Logan made sure the bicycle safety rules were put into use through practical experience. Sgt. Templar followed closely in the O.P.P. cruiser to ensure safety to the students from motorists.

Const. Bert Logan also mentioned that the students under grade three would be encouraged to stay off the roads and highways with their bicycles. The youngsters will also be taught tri-cycle safety.

Ministry grant to promote water safety in Ontario

The annual Water Smart Drowning Prevention Campaign received a boost today when Ontario Minister of Tourism and Recreation Ken Black announced a \$60,000 grant for the 1990 province-wide campaign.

Mr. Black made the announcement at the North York City Hall Council Chambers.

The Ontario branch of the Royal Life Saving Society Canada will use the Safety grant to develop, implement, and evaluate this year's Water Smart Drowning Prevention Campaign. The awareness strategy will foster a safe, healthy aquatic environment in the province.

- 96 per cent of water-related deaths involved recreational activities including; playing near water (30%), swimming (23%), power boating (22%), fishing (11%), and canoeing (7%).

- 97 per cent of water-related deaths occurred in nonsupervised conditions. And 97 per cent of the victims were not wearing a life jacket or personal floating device (PFD).

- In 32 per cent of the deaths, the victim was known to have been drinking alcoholic beverages.

- 47 per cent of aquatic fatalities occur when the victim is alone.

- Most aquatic accidental deaths occur in open water. (54% in lakes and 23% in streams and rivers).

- Men are four times more likely to die of drowning than women. (82% of aquatic fatalities in Ontario were males.)

- In 1987, 248 Ontarians died in water-related accidents. Only automobile collisions and falls or jumps resulted in more accidental deaths.

drowning is 2nd largest cause of accidental death

"Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death in Canada for persons younger than 55," Mr. Black said, "and the majority of the drownings occur in open waters such as lakes, rivers, and oceans.

"This campaign will help cut down the number of aquatic accidents and tragedies in Ontario and educate the public on how to avoid them."

The Water Smart Drowning Prevention Campaign is aimed at people who are at greatest risk - male boaters and anglers who are four times more likely to drown than their female counterparts. Ninety-seven per cent of drowning victims in Ontario were not wearing life jackets.

Other partners for this year's program are the Brewers of Ontario, Nissan Canada-Marine Division, Mustang Industries Inc., and the Ontario Provincial Police.

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