

BE WATER SAFE THIS SUMMER

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905-642-3642

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Ballantrae
905-640-2152

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Stouffville
1-877-410-AUTO • 905-642-2886
www.410auto.ca

Global Pet Foods
5892 Main Street
(Right beside the beer store)
Stouffville
905-640-4400

Dryvit Systems Canada
129 Ringwood Dr., Stouffville
905-642-0444 • 905-856-7310
Email: info@dryvit.ca

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Card's TV and Appliances
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Stouffville
905-640-3622

Stouffville Inn
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Stouffville
905-642-2929
Fax: 905-642-4242

THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR IN ANY LANGUAGE: 'MOST WATER RELATED ACCIDENTS ARE PREVENTABLE'

The water can be a source of great fun and activity in the summer. It can also be a source of tragedy. The increase in drownings across Canada this summer points to a need for increased awareness of the principles of water safety.

Accidental drownings are usually preventable and people need to be aware of the dangers BEFORE heading out around water. Often it just takes that extra thought about prevention that can eliminate a potential disaster. Sometimes people don't really think about their young ones around other types of water sources, such as: decorative ponds, washing buckets and bathtubs.

The Lifesaving Society has partnered with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to translate 10 important boating safety tips into 33 languages in an effort to reach out to Canadians whose first language is not English. Barbara Byers, Public Education Director with the Lifesaving Society says it is critical to reach out to new Canadians in their first language to ensure they receive important safety information before they go boating this summer. "We know that an average of 140 Canadians drown in boating incidents each year," says Byers. "More than 80 per cent of victims are men. More than 90 per cent are not wearing lifejackets."

Byers notes that many new Canadians are from countries where recreational boating is not part of their experience. "We want to ensure that they have a safe trip when they are out on the water," she says.

The tips have been translated into the following languages: Arabic; Simple Chinese; Traditional Chinese; Czech; Farsi; Greek; Gujarati; Hindi; Hungarian; Italian; Khmer; Korean; Macedonian; Pashto; Polish; Portuguese; Punjabi; Romanian; Russian; Somali; Spanish; Tagalog; Tamil; Twi; Ukrainian; Urdu; Vietnamese; and four First Nations languages – Cree, Ojibway, Ojicree and Mohawk.

The tips are posted at: www.lifesavingsociety.com

TOP 10 TIPS FOR SAFE BOATING

- 1 - Cold water is deadlier than you think. Prepare for the shock of cold water – always wear a lifejacket.
- 2 - Alcohol and boating do not mix. Leave the alcohol on shore.
- 3 - Check the forecast. Return to shore immediately if bad weather approaches.
- 4 - Obey all warning signs and buoys around hydroelectric stations and dams; waters can change in a matter of seconds from a scenic calm to a deadly torrent. "Stay Clear, Stay Safe."
- 5 - Drive powerboats responsibly – use appropriate speed especially when the water is choppy.
- 6 - Stay seated! You can easily fall out of a small powerboat, canoe, or kayak.
- 7 - Be prepared. Ensure your vessel has the required safety gear on board and sufficient fuel.
- 8 - Carry a VHF radio or cell phone with you when on the water.
- 9 - Always tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
- 10 - Get trained. Learn how to survive an unexpected fall into the water.

RESCUE TUBE RUN TO START IN STOUFFVILLE

On August 21 & 22, the York Region Aquatic Council (YRAC) and Lifesaving Society is doing a Rescue Tube Relay Run to raise money for the drowning prevention program. Lifeguards in each municipality will be running with the rescue tube, passing it through York Region like the Olympic torch. The run will begin in Stouffville on August 21 at 9 am. It will then travel to Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Aurora, Newmarket and ends at Georgina.

The businesses and services listed on this page urge you to become aware of the dangers involved in swimming and boating this summer, and to keep your children 'water' safe at all times.