



NEWS RELEASE/COMMUNIQUÉ

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

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Detachment Commander's Message on Bears

Noëlville OPP Detachment Commander Staff Sergeant Tim Foster would like to remind the public again, that bears are cute and cuddly, but very dangerous. Black bears are usually active from mid-April to late fall. There has been some sightings of bears in the area and although generally timid, bears can come into conflict with people especially when food is scarce. Natural foods vary greatly in abundance from year to year.

Bears may look for other food sources more actively in the spring if the previous year's food supply was poor and they are in poor condition. They may also look for alternate food sources such as food or garbage around homes, cottages and campsites. The majority of bear problems occur as a result of improperly stored household garbage.

Bears quickly learn to associate human residences with a readily available food source. Bears are also attracted to pet food that is left outdoors, bird feeders, barbecues, composters, fruit trees, sweet corn and grain fields.

Here are some tips on what you can do to eliminate any bears visiting your yard.

- ◆ Keep garbage inside a bin or in your garage until garbage day.
- ◆ Do not leave pet food outdoors
- ◆ Thoroughly clean outdoor grills after use and if possible, store your Bar-B-Q indoors.
- ◆ Fill bird feeders only through the winter months
- ◆ Do not put meat, fish or sweet food (including fruit) in your composter.
- ◆ Keep meat scraps in the freezer until garbage pick-up day.
- ◆ Pick all ripe fruit off of trees, and remove vegetables and fallen fruit from the ground.
- ◆ Use electric fencing to protect valuable trees, orchards, vegetable and berry patches.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has established a toll free line 1-866-514-BEAR (2327) that will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Trained staff will handle calls and determine the appropriate response to the call.

MNR will respond to non-emergency nuisance bear calls, but police or 9-1-1 should be called in emergencies. Ministry staff will assist the police with.

Did You Know?

It's hard to resist the beckoning, ice-free water of your favourite lake or river. The Ontario Provincial Police urge boaters and paddlers alike to be aware of the reality of coldwater dangers.

The Cold – Hard – Facts...

Immersion in cold water causes a powerful gasping reflex. If the victim is underwater, due to lack of a personal flotation device (PFD), water may be inhaled resulting in drowning. **The victim may never surface.**

Hypothermia develops more slowly than the immediate effects of cold shock. Water removes heat from the body 25 times faster than cold air. About 50% of that heat loss occurs through the head and neck. An adult dressed in average clothing may remain conscious for 30 to 60 minutes at water temperature of 4 - 10° C and perhaps 1 – 2 hours at 10 - 15° C.

The situation is more serious than these numbers suggest. Any movement at all greatly increases heat loss and shortens survival time. Hands become numb and useless in minutes and swimming is next to impossible. The victim is soon helpless, though still conscious. Subsequently, unconsciousness leads to drowning.

Stowing your PFD under the seat of your boat won't do you a whole lot of good when you lose your balance and fall overboard. Increase your chance of survival and reduce your drowning risk by wearing an approved lifejacket.

2008 Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics

On Wednesday, May 28th, 2008, the Torch Run will be held in Alban and Noelville. The run will start at the Jarret Centre in Alban at 10:00 am and end at Nellie's Restaurant. It will continue on to Noelville for 11:00 am and proceed through town. It then continues to Sturgeon Falls at 1:00 pm and onto North Bay for 4:30 pm.

From May 29-31, 2008, more than 1000 athletes, trainers, coaches, volunteers, families and friends across Ontario will be in Durham Region to take part in the 2008 Provincial Spring Games. The athletes will be competing in swimming, 5 & 10 pin bowling, powerlifting and basketball in Oshawa at the Durham College/University of Ontario Institute of Technology, North End Bowl, Leisure Lanes and the Pickering Recreation Centre.

The French River community will be represented by three coaches and five (5) athletes. The athletes are: for bowling – Jaclyn BEAUDOIN, Richard GAUTHIER, Carole DAOUST and Laurent LAPENSE. For swimming – Crystal CONSTANTINE.

The OPP would like to wish all the athletes good luck at the games.

Special Olympics Oath – “Let me Win, but if I cannot win, let me brave in the attempt”

For more information on the Special Olympics and the Torch Run, visit the website at www.ontario.torchrun.org