

A second look for a motorcyclist might save a life

The first full week in May has been proclaimed by the Province as Motorcycle Awareness Week.

Caledon OPP would like to remind motorists to be extra aware of motorcycles during this time of the year. Motorcycle riders have been waiting all winter to bring out their bikes and the warm weather is here.

Local police have a few safety tips to assist both riders and non-riders.

Motorcycle riders

? Dress to be seen and protected. Most riders wear approved helmets, gloves and jackets; consider wearing bright colours that are easily seen by other motorists.

? Slow down. Driving at or near the posted speed limit will give the rider extra time to react to a situation on the roadway.

? Drive defensively. Assume other motorist don't see you. Get eye contact with vehicles that might pull out in front of you.

? Take it to the track. The street is no place to test the limits of your sport bike. Take a lesson at a local race track or sign up for a track day.

Passenger vehicles

? Look twice, at intersections and when changing lanes. Motorcycles are small and easy to lose in a blind spot. It is also easy to misjudge the speed of an approaching motorcycle.

? Back off. Having a rear end collision with a car is one thing, but having one with a motorcycle could have fatal consequences.

? Give them room. Leave yourself time to react when motorcycles are around. If a rider were to fall off, could you avoid the downed rider?

? Let them swerve. Motorcyclists will often be active in their own lane. Many times moving, to avoid pot holes or road kill. Hitting any of these could cause an issue for the rider.