

June has been a deadly month on roads

OPP reported last Wednesday (June 24) that 27 people had died on OPP-patrolled roads in June, and that the same poor driver behaviours were behind the majority of the deaths.

The 27 deaths were the result of 23 road collisions that occurred between June 1 and 21. Four of the collisions involved double fatalities and one of the crashes resulted in the deaths of two motorcyclists. Two other fatal collisions in June led to the OPP charging two drivers with impaired driving causing death.

‘These senseless road deaths are revealing the same causal factors over and over again,’ said OPP Deputy Commissioner Brad Blair, provincial commander of traffic safety and operational support. ‘Until all drivers stop speeding, driving impaired or distracted and ensure that everyone in their vehicle is buckled in, history will continue to repeat itself and innocent people will continue to die on our roads.’

With summer now officially under way, police are urging all drivers to take Ontario traffic laws seriously and to recognize that they play a significant role in preventing these categories of collisions and deaths from occurring.

They are encouraging passengers to speak up when being driven by someone who is using their cell phone or engaged in some other distracting activity behind the wheel. They are putting lives at risk.

Whether one is a driver, a passenger, a cyclist or a pedestrian, they should call 9-1-1 if they suspect that someone is driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. By doing so, they could be preventing more deaths on Ontario roads.