

OPP looking to keep everyone's head above the water this weekend

Police officers within the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Central Region will continue with a summer long seasonal education program which is focused on water safety.

The 'OPP Challenge' is focused on boat owners and boaters with the aim of making sure they wear a personal floatation device (PFD) at all times while out on the water.

'Water safety is a shared responsibility and any water related death that involves drowning is preventable as long as life jackets or PFDs are properly used,' said Chief Superintendent John Tod, commander of Central Region. 'Having a PFD available on your boat is simply not enough - you need to be wearing it at all times.'

With the last official long weekend of the summer quickly approaching, OPP wants everyone to keep their heads above the water and wearing a PFD will allow people to float until help arrives in the event of an unexpected water related incident. In one such occurrence where a PFD was properly worn this summer, an operator of personal watercraft was rendered unconscious after a collision with another vessel. Responding officers determined that the outcome could have been fatal if a PFD was not utilized.

'Our message to boaters in Central Region is simple, please wear your PFD and by doing so, you will be contributing and responsibly doing your part in making our water ways safer for all those who use them,' Todd remarked.