

Police warn trespassers to stay off train tracks

Trespassing on railway property is both dangerous and against the law.

Caledon OPP is pointing out that while railway property may appear to present convenient routes to view sites, trespassing on railway property is very dangerous and is illegal.

It's simple ? trains cannot stop quickly.

Each year in Ontario, about 30 people are killed and another 10 are seriously injured in railway trespassing incidents. Entering onto railway property (including tracks, rights-of-way, bridges or other railway structures) is an offence under the Railway Safety Act (a federal statute). A person convicted of trespassing under this Act is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and or imprisonment for up to one year. Entering onto railway property is also an offence under the Trespass to Property Act of Ontario, which could result in a person being fined up to \$2,000 on conviction.

Police report they were called out Sept. 13, shortly after 3:30 p.m. to investigate trespassers on the Orangeville-Brampton Railway during the Credit Valley Explorer Run. The train conductor observed a photographer and a wedding party on the rail system taking wedding photos. The train was operating at a very low speed at the time and the trespassers left the railway without injury. Police have and will continue to enforce trespassing on rail property. This investigation is still on-going.

Freight trains travel at speeds of up to 90 km/h and passenger trains can travel at speeds as high as 160 km/h. It takes an average freight train, travelling at 90 km/h approximately 1,600 metres to come to a stop in an emergency. Trains cannot swerve to avoid hitting someone on the tracks. By the time a locomotive engineer sees someone on the tracks it is already too late to stop the train. The only place people or vehicles are allowed to cross railway tracks is at an authorized crossing. This may be in the form of an overpass, underpass or marked railway crossing. At a railway crossing, watch for and obey all railway crossing warning signs and signals. If a train is approaching, wait for the train to pass and do not start to cross until the crossing's warning lights have stopped flashing. At all crossings, yield the right-of-way to approaching trains and make sure that there are no other trains coming in the same or opposite direction before starting to cross. Remember ? where there is more than one set of tracks; there could be more than one train.

Police are asking anyone with information about the Sept. 13 trespass incident to contact them at 905-584-2241 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).