

Take precautions now that spring is here

From the desk
of Chief Superintendent John Tod
OPP Central Region

With the current streak of warm weather in central Ontario and temperatures forecast in the double digits this week, many people will be heading outdoors to enjoy the weather after the long winter.

OPP would like to remind residents to be aware of open and fast moving water. As spring is upon us, we will see water levels rise and become unstable due to excessive snow runoff. Rivers will be moving fast with strong currents and the water is still very cold. We should all be aware of the dangers present around rivers and open water and certainly be mindful of children who might be curious and venture too close to these dangerous areas.

Many will be anxious to get out on the waterways and the trails these warmer days. A good reminder to take a minute and check and make sure all of the safety equipment is on board your boat before heading out. Take the time to ensure personal floatation devices are readily available for everyone on board. When they are the proper fit and in good condition, it will help reduce the unnecessary loss of life on our waterways. Do safety checks on your ATV before you ride, and wear the proper approved equipment and be in control of your off-road vehicle at all times.

In final, the nice weather brings out all summer recreational activities, including motor cycle and cycling activity. A reminder to all motorists that when they are exiting driveways and other roadways to check for these smaller vehicles that are out with the warmer temperatures. Riders should also be reminded that there are still some areas of the region that have snowbanks at the corners, and mounds of sand on the roadway. Take extra caution while out riding until the spring clean-up has been completed.

OPP officers remain dedicated to road, water and trail safety throughout Ontario and will continue to make safety a priority during the spring.