

FOCA and Safe Boating

FOCA recognizes that a large number of the roughly 250,000 waterfront landowners in Ontario enjoy boating in many forms. FOCA has a long-standing interest in ensuring that all activities on the water are done safely.

As rural residents we recognize the onus for safe operation of recreational watercraft is on each of us.

There are some best practices to follow and also agencies and support to help make our communities safe for all who enjoy the water.

Drowning is consistently link to three factors:

- PFD use – about 9 out of every 10 drowning victims were NOT wearing a PFD
- Alcohol – about 40% of boating fatalities each year are linked to alcohol consumption
- Smaller watercraft

Make safe boating a priority on your lake, and with your family.

We all are responsible for making good choices as boaters, and by encouraging safe practices in your community we can all enjoy our time on the water.

Problems?

For chronic or dangerous issues, including those related to careless boating, or towing after dark, the OPP marine unit is available to respond. Despite having a huge territory to cover, OPP encourages people to contact them so they can record the incidents, and hopefully deal with problems before they happen. The more detail you can provide the better.

The OPP Field Operations Command structure consists of 155 detachment and satellite locations, administered by five Regional Headquarters in London, Smiths Falls, Orillia, North Bay and Thunder Bay. Policing services are provided to over one million square kilometres of Ontario, and over 20,000 km of highways are patrolled.

This Command is staffed by 3,500 uniform members and 1,150 civilians, and is proud of its active Auxiliary force of 680 members.

OPP Field Operations Command is charged with providing policing services for virtually all navigable bodies and courses of water in Ontario.

The OPP fleet consists of 3,880 pieces of equipment, including general patrol vehicles, motorized snow vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, marine equipment and aircraft.

Contact OPP at your nearest Provincial Communication Centre:

London (519) 668-7191

Orillia (705) 329-1835

North Bay (705) 475-3300

Smith Falls (613) 283-2313

Thunder Bay (807) 343-3075



Tips and more information:

http://www.opp.ca/Community/DriverSafetySection/opp_002373.html

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/TP/TP511/environment.htm>

<http://www.csbc.ca/html/KeyLinks.html>