

Summer 2019 Newsletter



www.brucepensafe.com

From the Chair's desk

Welcome to what we hope will be an annual update and newsletter from the Bruce Peninsula Safe Communities Committee.

It's been a busy year for the Committee. We held a second series of community meetings regarding the concerns of traffic safety on highway 6 this past November. The numbers released from the OPP, collected by our SpeedSpys, really spoke to the challenges we are facing in addressing this issue. You can find the full report through www.brucepensafe.com. Key to addressing these issues is the continued engagement of our community reporting dangerous or high speed driving.

Thank you to the donors who have supported all of our programming. You can see the impact your gifts are making in the community throughout this newsletter.

In addition to the highway 6 safety initiative, we celebrated our hard working crossing guards and held an art contest with Peninsula high school students. We've leased 2 bikes to help the OPP better patrol the beach and super crowded areas of the peninsula.

As a reminder, generally, we meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 4 pm at the Wiarton OPP detachment. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Terry Bell
Chair Bruce Peninsula
Safe Communities Committee
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In **2017** Bruce Peninsula OPP officers charged **43 drivers** with Stunt driving-50km/h or more over the posted speed limit - Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2017

In **2018** Bruce Peninsula OPP officers charged **130 drivers** with Stunt driving-50km/h or more over the posted speed limit - Jan 1 to November 12 2018

The **Ontario Provincial Police** are committed to Public Safety and Traffic Safety. Grey Bruce OPP detachment are working with our community partners and the public to change driver behaviour on Highway 6, Bruce Pen.

In all of 2018 we charged 130 drivers with Stunt driving-50 km/h or more over the posted speed limit.

Unfortunately, we are only at the start of August, part way through the summer, and we have charged **over 100 drivers** with Stunt driving.

Drivers operating their vehicle on Highway 6 need to understand that their actions directly effect, positively or negatively, the other drivers around

them. Drive your vehicle responsibly, your life and the life of those around you depends on it.

Grey Bruce OPP officers are out on our area highways enforcing the Highway Traffic Act. If you see a careless or dangerous driver, call police and report it.


Provincial Constable Adam Belanger
 Grey Bruce OPP—Community Safety Officer



Highlights from the report back to the community issued November 2018

What would it take to have a safe highway 6?

Traffic complaints, made by the public, for unsafe driving on Highway 6	
2017 (JAN 1 – DEC 31)	2018 (JAN 1 – NOV 12)
South Bruce Peninsula 141	South Bruce Peninsula 190
Northern Bruce Peninsula 109	Northern Bruce Peninsula 160
Total – 250 traffic complaints	Total – 350 traffic complaints



Speeding: While there are many aspects to safe driving, excessive speeding was identified as an issue in 2017 as the number of stunt driving charges had grown significantly (driving more than 50 km/h over the speed limit) .

The Safe Communities Committee embarked on fundraising efforts to raise funds to purchase SpeedSpy devices for the OPP. SpeedSpys use radar technology to measure 3 data points of traffic: date, time of day, and speed. The device is not used for enforcement and does not differentiate between a first responder vehicle responding to a call and a vehicle stunt driving. It simply measures the vehicle speed, time and date.

This data collection is important as it can pinpoint where and when excessive speeding is or is not happening. It then allows the OPP to deploy its resources accordingly.

Due to a significant response to the call for donations, the Committee was able to purchase 2 devices, a value in excess of \$7 000. We thank those who stepped forward and helped fund these devices.

The SpeedSpy tracked 354 vehicles stunt driving in the 18 days the devices were deployed.

The OPP airplane was in the Western Region for 6 days in 2018, just 2 days on Highway 6.

Despite only being in the region for 33% of the time, Highway 6 was responsible for over 50% of the charges laid in the full 6 day time frame.

Tackling the issues is a community wide response!

The OPP increased the number and presence of traffic enforcement officers on Highway 6 during recognized peak times of day and times of the week.

The OPP obtained a LIDAR device for deployment. The device uses laser technology rather than radio technology. The deploying office can pick a car out of a group of vehicles and put the dot directly on that vehicle, and it measures the speed with extreme accuracy.

The MTO reviewed the centre lane road markings and extended 2 no passing zones.

Parking near the Dorcas Bay Road and highway 6 intersection was banned to improve highway sightlines.

Chi-Cheemaun reservation agents would review the need to be at the ferry dock one hour prior to departure, as well as any ongoing road construction that could cause delays and result in passengers 'rushing' to catch the ferry.

A truck marshalling area was created in Tobermory so that the Chi-Cheemaun can off load a few larger trucks and or RVs who then park. The smaller vehicle traffic is then unloaded and sent along its way. This "uncorking" of the ferry ensures that the slower larger traffic is not at the front of the southbound traffic cluster.

Safety messaging to the Community and Visitors

We continue to drive home a message of safety and safe speeds on our local roads and highways. The OPP and partners created this graphic which is being used by area businesses to send a clear message of enforcement. This graphic is being used in emails that confirm reservations as one example. You can download the image from our webpage on the United Way's site at www.brucepensafe.com or email Francesca at execdir@unitedwaybg.com and it will be sent along.

safe communities™
bruce peninsula



During your visit to the Bruce Peninsula:

- ⇒ **Slow Down** - Obey the Speed Limits
- ⇒ **Drive Safe** - Respect Others on the Road
- ⇒ **Plan Ahead** - It's Not how Fast you Get to your Destination, Enjoy the Journey!

#JourneyResponsibly #DriveSafe #SlowDown

Ontario Provincial Police

Non-Emergency# 1-888-310-1122 Emergency Only# 911

Snapshot of other activities, workshops and engagements

- ☒ Supported Community Concussion Forum
- ☒ Hosted regional Bike Rodeo training
- ☒ Recognized area Crossing Guards
- ☒ Supported Cannabis Information evening in Wiarton
- ☒ We Love the Way You Drive events held at PSDS and BPDS
- ☒ Supported the donation of an AED to the Wiarton Curling Club
- ☒ Leased 2 'fat' bikes to pilot an OPP beach patrol for the summer 2019
- ☒ Sponsored "Swim to Survive" program for all peninsula based grade 3 students





Art Contest

An Art Contest was held for secondary students at PSDS and BPDS . Winning entries were awarded \$50 each and a pizza party sponsored for all participants.

Peninsula Shores was awarded \$300 towards their art program for top winning entry.

Twenty-four students from Bruce Peninsula District School and Peninsula Shores District School entered artwork depicting road, water, and fire safety, being prepared, wearing protective gear and hiking safety, as well as illustrating safe communities as those where people are safe to walk and cycle.

Mariah Scheidmiller of Peninsula Shores with her winning artwork.



Chi Cheemaun Spring Sailing

On May 4th the Committee set out from Owen Sound aboard the Chi-Cheemaun and raised over \$3 000 from ticket proceeds as well as on-board fundraising efforts.

Our new “selfie frame” was a hit and you can borrow this from the OPP for your event to help raise awareness of the issues of highway safety with our selfie frame.

Thank you to the Owen Sound Transportation Company for their continued support of the Safe Communities Committee.



Projects on the horizon

Internet Safe Exchange site—Once the OPP detachment in Wiarton is repaved, we are looking at designating a few spots as “Internet Purchase Safe Exchange Zones” so people can meet with strangers and exchange goods and make exchanges in a safe area. We will need to cover the cost of the signage.



AED s and Signage

We continue to monitor locations & opportunities to add to the inventory of publicly available AED sites & signage for these locations. Two new AEDs were placed in the community in 2019.

AED sponsorship costs are approximately \$1500 each.

The Bruce Peninsula Safe Communities Committee was accredited in May of 2017. The Safe Communities Committee is 100% donor supported. You can help us continue this valuable work by making a donation to the United Way.

Cheques are payable to: United Way of Bruce Grey: 380 9th street East Owen Sound ON N4K 1P1 Bruce Peninsula Safe Communities Committee in the memo

Online: www.donatetoday.ca— click on “Community Fund” then choose: Bruce Peninsula Safe Communities Committee from the fund list on the secure CanadaHelps portal Reg. Charity Number: 89876 8267 RR0001

For more information please contact Francesca Dobbyn at The United Way at 519-376-1560 or execdir@unitedwaybg.com



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