

CYCLISTS AND MOTORISTS MUST SHARE THE ROAD AND LEARN ROAD SAFETY RULES

(FORT FRANCES, ON) - The Rainy River District Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) wish to remind motorists that cycling is a fun and healthy activity, and it's a low-cost way to get around. It's also good for the environment. Before heading out on a bike, ensure that you learn the rules of the road, helmet information and safety tips for cyclists of all ages.

Rules of the Road: As a cyclist, you must share the road with other (e.g. cars, buses, trucks, and motorcycles). Under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act (HTA), a bicycle is a vehicle, just like a car or truck. Please visit the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to view the Ontario Guide to Safe Cycling at <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/bicycle-safety.shtml> for more information.

As it is for cyclists, it is equally important for drivers of motor vehicles to ensure that they share the roadway. Under the Ontario HTA, drivers must leave a minimum of one-metre distance when passing a cyclist. Do not follow too closely behind cyclists. They do not have brake lights to warn you when they are slowing or stopping. To avoid collisions with bicyclists at intersections, remember the following:

- When turning right, signal and check your mirrors and the blind spot to your right to make sure you do not cut off a cyclist.
- When turning left, you must stop and wait for oncoming bicycles to pass before turning.
- When driving through an intersection, be careful to scan for cyclists waiting to turn left.

Under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act, cyclists, motorists and pedestrians have equal rights and access to our roadways. All users have to share the road; share the respect.

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News Release/ Communiqué

FROM/DE: Rainy River District OPP

DATE: August 2, 2017

SAFETY TIPS WHEN OPERATING PERSONAL MOBILITY DEVICE

(FORT FRANCES, ON) – The Rainy River District Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), are reminding the public to exercise extreme caution when operating Personal Mobility Devices. The devices are designed and intended to be used by persons with mobility disabilities. Extreme caution should be exercised when meeting or passing pedestrians. Where no sidewalks exist the devices must travel along the left shoulder of the roadway facing oncoming traffic, like pedestrians. The motoring public are also reminding to keep observation of mobility devices when driving throughout the Town of Fort Frances and the Rainy River District.

We also like to remind pedestrians that they are responsible to follow rules while walking on Ontario's roadways. Under The Highway Traffic Act, it is an offence to walk on the same side as traffic; that is walking facing the same direction as traffic. This law is in place to protect pedestrians from being injured. Members of the public are urged to ensure their activities are lawful, and more importantly, safe.

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