



Ontario Provincial Police
Police provinciale de l'Ontario

News Release/ Communiqué

FROM: Highway Safety Division

DATE: April 26, 2011

OPP WRAPS UP ANNUAL SEATBELT CAMPAIGN

(AURORA, ON) – With the 2011 Spring Seatbelt Campaign coming to end, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have taken a close look at how attentive Ontario motorists are being, 35 years after seatbelt laws were introduced in Ontario.

The annual campaign ran from April 13 to 23, 2011 and during that time, the OPP maintained a strong presence on roads and highways throughout the province, ensuring that motorists and vehicle occupants were properly buckled in.

OPP officers paid special attention to how children were restrained, making sure that child safety/booster seats were in accordance with age, height, weight of the child and that they were properly installed.

Preliminary results show that over the course of the campaign, officers checked **1,050,329** vehicles, laid a total of **5,622** charges against drivers and a further **1,791** charges against passengers who were not wearing their seatbelts. A total of **140** charges were laid against drivers for not having a properly installed/secured child restraint.

Over and above the seatbelt campaign results, the OPP's statistics reveal that as of March (2011), lack of restraint was a causal factor in almost 900 motor vehicle collision injuries and these numbers concern the OPP's traffic safety provincial commander.

"People continue to endanger their lives, those of their passengers and even their children by ignoring important seatbelt and child restraint laws. The motoring public should know that as part of our Provincial Traffic Safety Program, the OPP will continue to aggressively enforce traffic safety laws throughout the year, and seatbelt laws will continue to be at the forefront of our award-winning strategy." - OPP Deputy Commissioner Larry Beechey, Provincial Commander, Traffic Safety & Operational Support.

Seatbelt non-compliance remains one of the four major causes of persons killed in fatal motor vehicle collisions along with speeding, impaired driving and driving while distracted.

The OPP are reminding motorists to take their responsibility as a driver seriously and ensure that everyone is buckled up every time they take to the road.

(more)



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For more information about proper child restraints, go to: Ontario.ca Smart Love

For OPP information on Driver Safety tips go to: OPP.CA/ Driver Safety Tips

Contacts by OPP Region:

Highway Safety Division:	Sergeant Dave Woodford	Phone: 416 553-5471
Central Region:	Constable Peter Leon	Phone: 705 329-7414
East Region:	Sergeant Kristine Rae	Phone: 613 284-4557
Northeast Region:	Inspector Mark Andrews	Phone: 705 475-2620
Northwest Region:	Sergeant Shelley Garr	Phone: 807 473-2734
West Region:	Sergeant Dave Rektor	Phone: 519 652-4156

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