

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**OPP – RENFREW – NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2017**

### **RENFREW OPP BATTLE IMPAIRED DRIVING**

**(RENFREW, ON)** - The Renfrew Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) will be tackling the dangers of impaired driving this holiday season by setting up numerous "Festive RIDE checks", on area roadways. The purpose of the check points is to ensure that drivers are not impaired by alcohol or drugs. The OPP will be checking drivers at various hours and at numerous locations, within the detachment area, including Renfrew, Arnprior, and smaller communities like Calabogie, Douglas, Cobden and points in between.

RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) Spot checks have been in place for years and are supported by Police Services across the country. The Supreme Court of Canada ruled in 1985 that RIDE spot checks do not violate the Charter of Rights and freedoms. Festive RIDE checks are simply RIDE checks conducted during the "Festive" holiday season.

As the holiday season approaches there will be more opportunities to celebrate with friends and family whether through parties, dinners or having a few people over. If a person has consumed alcohol or drugs, the OPP reminds people they have options. They can call a family member to pick them up, have a designated driver in their group, call for a taxi or stay the night. Remember if you are going to be drinking to plan ahead. Plans made after you have started drinking often result in poor decisions. If you consume a lot of alcohol remember you may still be impaired the next morning. You may need to plan ahead regarding driving the day after a big party so everyone makes it home alive.

The OPP is reminding citizens that we all have a role to play in ending impaired driving-related deaths. Make a commitment to never drive after consuming alcohol or drugs. If you suspect that someone is driving while impaired, call 9-1-1 to report them to police. In doing so, you could be saving a life.

**- 30 -**

**Contact:** Janice Sawbridge

**Phone:** 613-433-6365