



HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE MARINE UNIT 2021 NEWSLETTER



It is hard to believe that 2020 is over! This has been a year of many challenges, and the marine world is no exception. It was an extremely busy year on the water with more vessels and new operators than ever before. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep the people in our area informed on some of the trending issues on the water and how we have, or will combat these issues. We hope it also serves as an invitation to our community to contact us when they have concerns about our waterways. We would like to open the lines of communication between the marine police and the people we serve and protect.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

This year we received more complaints about the operation of PWC's (Personal Water Craft) than ever before. The concerns came mainly from other boaters and swimmers in the areas of our busiest beaches. After receiving some several complaints early in the season, we switched gears and created a project called "**Sea Don't**". During this project we stopped **248** PWC's in order to check their safety compliance and educate the operators on how to manoeuvre in and around busy areas. The common theme was that the PWC's were new and the people operating had little to no experience. The project was successful as we saw complaints decrease as the season went on.

EDUCATION

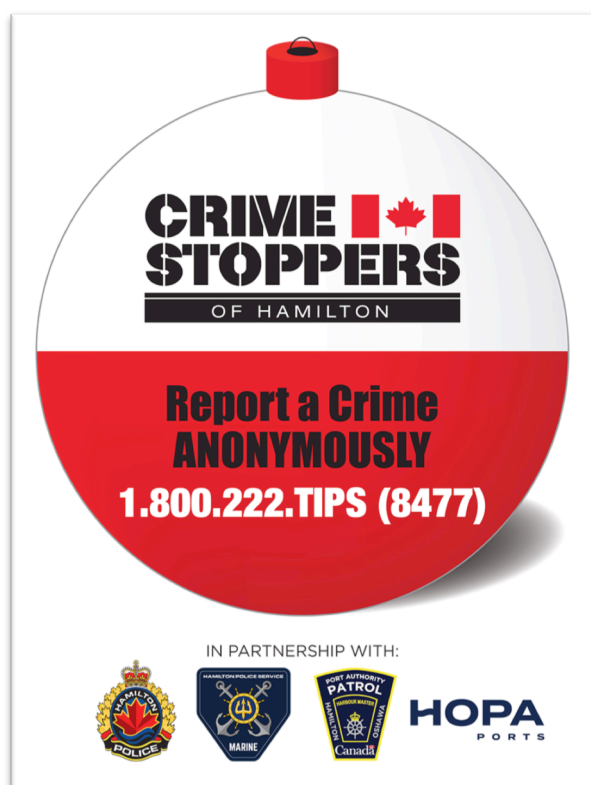
Our expectation of vessel operators and passengers is to be prepared! Having the required safety equipment on the vessel is not only the law but will also save your life. Know where your equipment is and make sure it is accessible. It is your responsibility to check your equipment frequently and ensure it is in good working order.

During our safety checks, we often find operators who do not have the required paper work such as vessel licence and proof of competency. Owners/Operators of vessels need to ensure that they have this information readily available. For more information visit: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation>

CRIME STOPPERS **HAMILTON ON THE WATER**

Another new project we started this year was in partnership with Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA) and Crime Stoppers Hamilton. The project and partnership will bring awareness to the marine world that Crime Stoppers Hamilton is now "On The Water"!

We encourage people to share information anonymously with police. We posted signs at marinas in the area and are using social media to reach as many people as possible. Crime Stoppers is a valuable tool that is often underutilized. If you have information please call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)



FLARE DISPOSAL

In September 2020 we teamed up with HOPA and Brewers Marine Services to provide a drive thru flare disposal at the Hamilton Police Marine Unit at 110 Harbourfront Dr. It was a successful day with approximately **1300** expired flares turned in. Our goal is to have a flare disposal day every couple of years. Flares expire every 4 years and it is not safe to dispose of them in the garbage. The oldest flare turned in was from 1971.

We received a few requests for a flare demonstration day. Some people have never seen an ignited flare and are unsure how to use them. We are looking into the feasibility of an event focused on flare use. Safety is always our priority.

CONTACT US

The Hamilton Police Marine Unit wants to keep our community informed. Check us out on our twitter account @HPSMarine, our website hamiltonpolice.on.ca and now watch for this newsletter. If you or someone you know would benefit from this newsletter we can add them to our address book.

Contact us at our email marine@hamiltonpolice.on.ca

or by phone, 905-546-4941 (**not monitored 24/7, in case of emergency call 9-1-1**).

