

DRPS Launches 2026 Festive R.I.D.E. Campaign

Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) officially launched its 2026 Festive R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) campaign, reinforcing its commitment to keeping impaired drivers off our roads throughout the holiday season.

Over the next six weeks, officers will conduct R.I.D.E. checks across Durham Region, targeting impaired driving through proactive data-informed enforcement, education and prevention.

During the 2025 Festive R.I.D.E. campaign, officers stopped 12,465 vehicles and charged 85 drivers with impaired driving offences. An additional 53 drivers received three-day licence suspensions after registering in the WARN range.

While the number of impaired drivers charged declined in 2025, the proportion of drivers charged increased slightly, reinforcing the continued need for enforcement, education and prevention.

Plan ahead, arrange a safe ride and never drive impaired. “Impaired driving is not a mistake. It is a dangerous choice that can have devastating and life-altering consequences,” said Chief Peter Moreira. “Yet, we continue to see individuals making the same reckless choices. This year, 82 people charged with impaired driving had previously faced impaired driving charges by our Service. We will continue to hold impaired drivers accountable, but the best outcome is stopping anyone impaired from getting behind the wheel in the first place.”

Throughout the campaign, the DRPS Festive R.I.D.E. team will conduct strategic, data-informed R.I.D.E. checks across Durham Region to identify and remove impaired drivers from our roads.

“Last year, more than one in every 100 drivers stopped during our Festive R.I.D.E. campaign received either an impaired driving charge or a licence suspension for alcohol consumption,” said Staff Sergeant Jeff Hoover, DRPS R.I.D.E. Team Lead. “Our message is simple: if you plan to drink or consume drugs, do not drive. Plan ahead and make arrangements to get home safely. If you suspect an impaired driver, call 9-1-1.”

With holiday celebrations approaching, DRPS is reminding residents that there is never an excuse to drive impaired. Whether attending a gathering, hosting friends or celebrating with family, everyone has a responsibility to ensure they and those around them get home safely and never drive under the influence of any substance.

If you plan to consume alcohol or drugs, use a designated driver, public transit, taxi or rideshare, or stay overnight.

Residents are also encouraged to report suspected impaired drivers by calling 9-1-1. When safe to do so, provide the vehicle's make, model, colour, licence plate and direction of travel. Your call could save a life.

Impaired driving enforcement continues year-round. DRPS also works alongside community partners, including MADD Durham Region, to raise awareness about the devastating consequences of impaired driving and encourage responsible choices.

A list of individuals charged during the Festive R.I.D.E. campaign will be available at www.drps.ca under R.I.D.E. Results.

Lakeridge Health Recognized with Two Awards from Trillium Gift of Life Network

DURHAM REGION – November 10, 2026 – Lakeridge Health has been recognized for its continued commitment to organ and tissue donation after helping save and transform lives across Ontario in 2025/2026.

Over the past year, Lakeridge Health supported nine organ donors, resulting in 31 organs donated for transplant and 27 lives saved. An additional 88 tissue donors helped transform the lives of many more people through the gift of donation.

In recognition of this work, Lakeridge Health has received two provincial awards from Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN): the Provincial Eligible Approach Rate Award and the Award of Excellence.

The Provincial Eligible Approach Rate Award recognizes Lakeridge Health for ensuring that families or substitute decision-makers were offered a conversation about organ donation in every eligible case. This represents a 100 per cent eligible approach rate, exceeding the provincial target of 90 per cent, and marks the sixth time Lakeridge Health has received this award.

This marks the sixth time Lakeridge Health has received the Provincial Eligible Approach Rate Award. The award specifically recognizes hospitals that demonstrate leading practices by facilitating crucial donation discussions with eligible patients and families at end of life.

“Every donation begins with an extraordinarily generous decision by a donor and their family,” said Dr. Randy Wax, Chief of Staff, Lakeridge Health. “We are deeply grateful to the individuals and families who chose to give others the opportunity for more time, better health and hope. Achieving a 100 per cent eligible approach rate also reflects the commitment of our teams to ensuring donation is thoughtfully and consistently considered as part of end-of-life care.”

Lakeridge Health will also receive the Award of Excellence for the third time, recognizing the organization for meeting or exceeding the provincial eligible approach rate target for four or more consecutive years and demonstrating an outstanding commitment to leading donation practices.

Across Ontario in 2025/2026, hospitals collectively supported 372 organ donors, providing life-saving organ transplants to 965 individuals. An additional 1,965 tissue donors enhanced the lives of many others.

These achievements are made possible through the dedication of hospital and system partners across Ontario that continue to make organ and tissue donations a priority.

“The impact of organ and tissue donation extends far beyond our hospitals,” said Cynthia Davis, President and CEO, Lakeridge Health. “Behind every number is a person whose life has been saved or transformed and a donor and family whose generosity made that possible. We are proud of our teams and partners for their ongoing commitment to creating opportunities for donation and supporting patients and families through these important conversations.”

