

**Chief's verbal for the OPSB meeting,
March 27, 2023**

First, I'd like to comment on the **two Edmonton Police Service members** that were killed last week when **responding to a family dispute at an apartment complex.**

Today, officers from across North America gathered in Edmonton to honour **Cst. Travis Jordan, 35, and Cst. Brett Ryan, 30.**

Several of our members have flown to Edmonton today to represent the Ottawa Police Service at the funeral. It's important that we show our support and mourn with the families who have lost these two young men.

Since September of last year, we have seen the deaths of eight officers in the line of duty across our country, five of them here in Ontario.

As officers, we **NEVER KNOW what we are going to encounter** when we answer a call for service, at a traffic stop or simply, when we are interacting with the public.

The oath to serve the public....that all police officers take.... is a serious one, and 8 heroes have paid the ultimate price in recent months.

Major events: We have been involved in a number of major events over the last few months that culminated with a successful Presidential visit. And that event went very well from a police perspective.

I wanted to take a moment to **thank our OPS leaders, the members on the ground, the planners**, (who are the real all stars this past week), for their time and dedication and professionalism in ensuring that everything went safely.

I'll say this....given what occurred during the Convoy over a year ago, when I arrived, I was questioning the abilities of the Ottawa Police Service to manage these major events and protests.

After a full 6 weeks of Convoy related protests, St. Patty's Day, the Presidential Visit and a number of other protests such as the two protests last week at the Indian High Commission: I **think I've seen enough of a sample size** to state to you that **the OPS does in fact**, have the skills, has the program, the processes and the relationships with partners to deliver for this community.

I can also tell you that our relationship with our major police partners, the OPP, the RCMP, **Toronto Police Service** and other major agencies like **York Regional, Peel and Waterloo**.....it's very strong and we worked extremely well together **BOTH at the executive level and the members on the ground** to get the resources needed for the various events.

We have also **forged a very strong relationship** with the **Parliamentary Protective Service** and working very smoothly with that agency as well.

We're working very closely with **our colleagues at City Hall: Emergency Services, Bylaws, Traffic**, and others. **This coordination has been inbedded in our Integrated Event Command Table** which allows us to share information and intelligence in real time with all partners.

To summarize, I think we have developed some solid **processes and relationships** that will serve us well in the future.

Despite the success we've seen in 2023.....it is still an incredible strain on the OPS and we **need to establish a permanent funded team** to continue to manage this **ongoing pressure to our agency** and to ensure success in the coming years.

Operation Interlude

Last week, Operation Interlude focused on school zone safety – primarily school zone speeding, school bus related infractions as well as motorists failing to follow the direction of the volunteer school crossing guards across the city.

We positioned officers in areas that did not have school zone speed camera system in place as well as locations where there were high complaint.

74 tickets were issued including 1 for stunt driving and two suspended drivers.

We continue to work with Safer Roads Ottawa and our own communications team to better ensure education and public awareness elements.

Grandparent scams

Our Fraud Unit is seeing a **significant uptick in the number of grandparent scam reports.**

Within the first week of March alone, we **received 10 different reports** from elderly residents who were targeted **and gave the scammers thousands of dollars.**

Typically a fraudster will call of the victim in desperate need of money because they have **and pretend to be a grandchild or loved one** been arrested by police.

In one case, the scammer said **he was being held at our Elgin police station** and needed money to be released.

In another file, they identified themselves **as an RCMP officer**, saying they were contacted by police in Texas about a loved one who had been arrested.

I want to encourage residents **to talk with their elderly parents** and tell them **to question any call that insists on secrecy or urgency to get funds.** Often these scammers will pressure their victim to respond quickly. When in doubt, have them call our partners at 211 Ontario who can help walk them through the next steps if they don't want to call police.

Intimate Partner Violence

I wanted to **reiterate our support for Ottawa City Council's decision to declare intimate partner violence an epidemic in our society.**

This declaration followed the 2015 deaths of three women in Renfrew County and **the subsequent inquest made 86 recommendations that included that Intimate Partner Violence be declared an epidemic.**

Several recommendations were directed at police services, and the OPS has begun the work to implement them:

- In 2022, we committed to **developing and implementing an IPV risk assessment tool and hiring civilian risk assessors.**
- We also began using **the term femicide** when discussing the murder of **women by a male perpetrator.**
- Our 2023 Budget includes **targeted funds to support local organizations in the VAW sector by assisting them with writing grant applications,**
- As well as **providing compensation for organizations** who participate in the Sexual Violence and IPV **Case Reviews. This is a great program, I visited a group that was reviewing our sexual assault investigations. They are simply making us better** and conducting both sexual assault and IPV investigations. **This is an excellent investment for the OPS.**
- We have also **committed to tracking data on homicides, including relationships between victim and accused.**

We have a lot of resources committed to IPV.....This 19 member team is extremely busy and responds to nearly 6500 files reported last year.

Officer resuscitates woman

Finally, I would like to end with a story about officers who arrived at a home to find a woman unresponsive.

Her husband and son had frantically called 911 after she collapsed at the breakfast table, and officers from East Platoon F were the first on scene.

When they checked her pulse and found her non-responsive, they moved her to the floor to begin CPR.

It was during that transition from chair to floor that her heart began to beat again.

Our officer credits the revival to his big bear hug, saying it must have put pressure on her chest, saving her life.

Paramedics arrived soon after and took her to hospital, where she is recovering.

The father sent us an email saying that the officer's bedside manners were impeccable and heartwarming, and how grateful he was that they got there so quickly. And like most of our frontline officer, the officer did not want to be named saying it's just part of the job.

Just yesterday, I read a briefing note where two of our members were called to a residence of a male with no vital signs. They performed both CPR and a Defib....turned over the male to OFD and OAC....the man is still with us. Excellent work.

Thank you and happy to answer any questions.

