

Chief's Verbal Report

January 22, 2024

I would like to begin by thanking Chair Fakirani and Vice-Chair Carr for stepping forward to offer your leadership to the Board and the Ottawa Police Service. I look forward to working with both of you in 2024 and know that together, we'll advance many of the important issues that we need to navigate this year.

Over the Christmas season, a tragic incident took place on the Rideau River. Two youths lost their lives when they fell through thin ice on the river.

Our deepest condolences go to the families for the loss of the two young lives involved. Our hearts go out to those who are grappling with this unimaginable loss.

I want to extend our sincere appreciation to the first responders that responded to this call for service. In particular, the dedicated members of the Ottawa Police Service Marine Team who worked tirelessly and courageously during the extensive search effort.

Underwater recoveries are inherently dangerous and made more difficult in frigid temperatures.

The scene they encountered was extremely challenging and their commitment to the task at hand did not go unnoticed.

I want to address the continuing issue of gun violence in our City and point out some great work by our team in removing illegal firearms from our streets and those people that are carrying them.

Last week, at Cumberland and Murray a Neighbourhood Resource Officer initiated a traffic stop. A search of the vehicle was conducted and officers discovered a concealed firearm. The driver was charged by the Guns and Gang Unit.

In another traffic stop on McCarthy Road, another arrest of a driver and the recovery of a loaded firearm and drugs from the vehicle.

Recently near Bank and Heron, officers were faced with a fleeing driver. Both the driver and passenger were found in possession of a loaded firearm.

A routine patrol in Orleans on a Sunday afternoon led to the discovery of a stolen vehicle. A subsequent search uncovered two loaded hand guns.

I'm real pleased with the proactive nature of these examples that resulted in the seizures and charges and emphasizes our commitment to tackling firearm-related offences in Ottawa.

We continue to encourage the reporting of Hate Crimes. In 2024, we saw 460 hate crime incidents reported, which is nearly a 20% increase from the year before.

All cases are treated seriously and fully investigated.

Last week, Mayor Sutcliffe and I joined the Solicitor General for an announcement on the rise of hate incidents in our city and the launch of a provincial grant initiative.

The Ontario government has committed over \$1.7 million dollars to tackle hate-motivated crimes across the province. This commitment will be delivered through the Safer and Vital Communities Grant program over the next 2 years. The initiative is a crucial part of the province's broader plan to foster safe and inclusive communities.

One of the items on today's agenda is a briefing for the new Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019. The legislation introduces 30 proposed Regulations that extend to municipal police services, with final versions expected by April 1, 2024.

The CSPA is set to replace the current Police Service Act (1990) offering transition periods to facilitate compliance with updated provisions. This will involve mandatory training and equipment obligations.

A few of the changes include:

- updated requirements for police service delivery and training,
- the establishment of the Inspector General of Policing
- Replacing the OIPRD with a new agency called LECA
- alterations to the police discipline/complaint process
- changes to Labour Relations,
- new equipment for officers and
- requirements for Police Services Boards

Acting Superintendent Nancy Murray will lead the implementation for the Ottawa Police Service. The primary objective is to shift the way we provide police service to align with CSPA requirements. This is a significant legislative change that has been needed for years and we look forward to working with the Board on this important initiative

Last year, I went to the community of Kitigan Zibi located outside of Maniwaki. I was there to meet with the Grand Chief, elected Chief, Elders and other community leaders. This was to establish a relationship with them given that the Ottawa Police Service work and live on their traditional territory.

I have what is called a Chief's Challenge Coin. The old coin has the crest of the OPS on one side and my rank, what's on my shoulders on the other side. At our meeting last

year, I showed the Algonquin leaders the coin but wanted to work with an local artist that would create a coin that included/acknowledged the Algonquin nation. I committed to creating the Coin and returning to give it to them.

I worked with local artist Jay Odjick to design the coin and last Tuesday, I returned to the community and we had a ceremony at the local high school and I was able to present the coin to the Grand Chief, their elected Chief and 13 other community leaders. It was an incredible event and I can't say enough about the people of Kitigan Zibi, how generous they are and willing to work with police. Certainly, one of the highlights in my first year on the job.

I would like to highlight an incident that underscores the dedication of our officers. Recently, an off-duty officer, willingly assisted an on-duty colleague when an elderly woman required urgent help.

On December 10th, Officers responded to a call from Paramedics about a woman walking down the street who appeared lost and confused.

They located an 86-year-old woman, who was later found to be in the early stages of dementia. She was not dressed for the cold weather, did not appear to know where she was, and only spoke Cantonese. They were unable to positively identify her and where she lived. Cst. Trebinskie comforted her while a kind community member provided warmth with a chair, blanket, and tea.

Facing language barriers with the woman, Sgt. Walker attempted to locate a Cantonese-speaking officer but there wasn't an officer working at the time.

Knowing that Sgt. Even Jung spoke Cantonese and could quickly assist the woman, Sgt. Walker made a phone call to Sgt. Hung, who, **though off duty**, was gladly willing to assist and came to the scene.

Officers used the information they obtained to narrow down the search and identify the woman. With Paramedics still on the scene, they assessed her and brought her to the hospital.

Officers then visited her home, where they met her husband. Sgt. Hung ensured her husband was informed about the situation and her whereabouts.

Thanks to this rapid response and collaboration, tragedy was averted, and the woman was safely reunited with her family.

Kudos to our officers and Ottawa Paramedics for their quick thinking and dedication to community safety and well-being. I've gotten to know Sgt. Hung during the past year.

He's actions on this file, during his time off, I'm not surprised a bit that he did this.
Thanks Evan.