

Verbal Report

Acting Chief Bell

Good evening,

The summer time is always a busy operational period for our service. I want to highlight some of the important work being done by our members in this report.

CANADA DAY

A major focus for our Service is Canada Day as tens of thousands of people come to Ottawa to celebrate this great day.

Right now, preparation is underway for our role in safety and security with events occurring in five locations across Ottawa. We have requested assistance in policing from several police services including the RCMP, the OPP and Waterloo police.

I want to thank all of our partners for their efforts in coming together to make this a fun and safe day for all.

The major event is being hosted by Canadian Heritage and held at LeBreton Flats. Of course there are other Canada Day events throughout the City where we will also have a presence.

On Canada Day, hundreds of officers will be deployed to ensure public safety in our community.

We encourage people to plan their routes in advance, keep an eye on the weather, and plan accordingly.

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION—WOODROFFE AVENUE

On Wednesday, June 12th, officers responded to a call for the suspicious death of a 57-year-old woman located in a home on Woodroffe Avenue.

The following day, the death was deemed a homicide.

The victim was identified as Deborah Owen.

Her 25 years old son was arrested and has been charged with second degree murder.

VANIER NRT

We continue to see the seizure of firearms in several calls across the city.

In mid-June the Vanier Neighbourhood Resource Team stopped a vehicle near St. Laurent Blvd in the afternoon.

During the investigation, one of the occupants of the vehicle was found to be in possession of a controlled substance and a loaded firearm.

One man was arrested, and the investigation is ongoing.

Officers have seized 75 guns this year, and we continue to communicate with the public, asking them to report illegal guns so we can get them out of our community.

Anyone can contact Crime Stoppers and remain anonymous.

COMMENDATION FROM JUSTICE LIPSON

Often the great work of our officers is forgotten in the court system but recently Justice Lipson made some positive comments about some of our officers.

Detectives Benson and McEwen, along with officers Lamothe and Russell, were praised for their roles in the arrest of a man in November 2022.

The man was convicted of possessing a loaded handgun while wanted for attempted murder and having served time for previous drive-by shootings.

The arrest occurred in a east end public parking lot when Detectives Benson and McEwen noticed suspicious activity and called for backup.

When approached by the officers, the man attempted to hide a handgun, leading to a tense moment where all four officers drew their weapons.

Thankfully, the situation was resolved without tragedy, and an arrest was made with no injuries.

The handgun was found to have 13 rounds in the magazine, and one in the chamber, including a number of hollow-point rounds.

Justice Lipson commended the officers for their credible testimonies and effective actions as this case progressed through the court process.

This incident highlights the commendable instincts and composure of the officers involved, as well as the danger our frontline faces each and every day.

VEHICLE THEFT CHARGES

We continue to see auto thefts across the City. Already this year there have been more than 830 thefts of vehicles.

In the early hours of a Monday morning earlier this month, we received a 911 call for a vehicle that had just been stolen from a residence in the South end of Ottawa.

Officers responded and safely stopped the stolen vehicle and arrested one man.

Officers also located a secondary vehicle involved in the theft nearby where two additional men were arrested.

In the secondary vehicle police found specialized equipment used for the theft of vehicles.

Three men, ages, 19, 20 and 21, all of Montreal, were charged with a variety of charges, including theft of a motor vehicle, possession of break and entre instruments, conspiracy to commit an indictable offence and breaching probation and prowling at night on another person's property. They appeared in court later that week.

DROWNINGS

Tragically, since we last met, there have been two drownings. Both were children.

On Monday, June 3rd, a 9-year-old boy was found unresponsive in the water at Britannia Beach. Despite the efforts of people at the beach and first responders, the boy could not be revived.

On Sunday evening, June 9th, an 11-year-old boy jumped into the Carp River, not realizing how deep it was, and was unable to swim. Sadly, he was declared deceased at the hospital.

We continue working with our emergency services partners, Ottawa Public Health and the Drowning Coalition of Ottawa, to raise awareness about the dangers of water for non-swimmers or weak swimmers.

Not surprisingly, in both cases, passersby or other people in the area immediately started life-saving efforts. Their selfless actions were heroic and gave these boys the best chance possible.

If someone was part of the rescue efforts in either case and needs support, please reach out to your clinician or an organization like the Distress Centre of Ottawa.

On behalf of the Ottawa Police Service, our hearts go out to the families, friends and classmates impacted by these tragedies.

SIRENS FOR LIFE

All year round, but especially in the summer months, there is always a large demand for blood donations.

The Canadian Blood Services Sirens for Life blood drive kicked off on June 20th, in memory of Samantha Eastop, the daughter of retired member, Clint Eastop.

The official campaign runs from July 1st to September 1st with police, fire and paramedic services having a friendly competition to get the most donations.

So, I encourage everyone to honour Samatha's memory, or the memory of someone you love, and book an appointment to donate blood this summer.

Annual Report

The 2023 Annual Report was shared publicly last week and I invite you to read and share it as well.

Ottawa remains one of the largest geographical areas of coverage for any police service, nearly six times the size of the City of Toronto and about twice that of comparable populations in Edmonton and Calgary.

We are proud of the progress we've made and the dedication of our officers in ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents.

We continue to make significant progress in addressing mental health calls, redirecting them from frontline intervention to specialized support channels.

Traffic Enforcement

I want to close on an important note regarding traffic enforcement.

Speeding, dangerous driving and noisy vehicles are a major issue for residents so this past Friday our officers conducted a traffic enforcement effort in the south end and Barrhaven area.

In total, 94 tickets were issued for speeding, improper mufflers, failure to provide insurance and unnecessary noise.

Two drivers had warrants for their arrest.

We also charged multiple people with stunt driving including a 29 year old at nearly double the speed limit on Greenbank near Malvern Dr.

We know that Traffic Safety is a priority so we will continue with these enforcement efforts throughout the summer.

Thank you.

