

Chief's Verbal Report

November 26, 2018

Good evening,

Shooting in the City's South End

This past Friday, we saw a shooting occur at a busy south end shopping mall that left one man dead. The homicide highlights a continued national trend we are seeing with criminals arming themselves with illegal weapons and using them. Like most of our shootings, investigators believe this shooting was targeted. However, the location and timing is particularly concerning and our Major Crime detectives are seeking suspects.

Members from across OPS continue to focus on gun violence suppression in our community. We have been conducting investigations, seizing guns and targeting and arresting offenders known to be armed.

Arrest of Wanted Man

Just hours later on Saturday morning, Frontline officers arrested a wanted man who was armed with a loaded handgun. We have already seized almost 50 illegal guns this year.

Federal Funding

In anticipation of Federal funding that we now know will flow through the province, we have added new resources to Guns and Gangs. In addition we have asked for extra resources directly from the province as Toronto has seen to assist us with this growing issue. Those discussions are ongoing.

Robbery Unit

On November 13, the Robbery Unit laid criminal charges after Frontline officers arrested seven males responsible for a rash of cellphone robberies in the West end. The suspects posed as potential purchasers of cellphones using online classified ads. Once the suspects met with the sellers, they would take the phone on the premise of examining it, and then flee with the phone.

Cannabis Legalization

On October 17th, cannabis became legal across Canada. Our focus has been on impaired drivers and several RIDE programs have been carried out across the city including one on Friday night. We also continue to enforce new provincial laws related to selling cannabis.

This month Provincial Offences Act warrants were executed at four illicit cannabis storefronts. Products and proceeds were seized and 12 people were charged under the new provincial Cannabis Control Act.

Distracted Driving

Distracted driving continues to be an issue on our roads and we are always looking at enforcement strategies to assist us in modifying driver behaviour. Earlier this month police borrowed a school bus from Campeau Bus Lanes and were on the lookout for drivers using their cell phones. The project resulted in 36 distracted driving charges, 2 unlicensed drivers, 2 seat belt charges and 25 other HTA charges being laid.

New distracted driving laws will take effect in January with tougher penalties for violators. The fine will increase to \$1000, three demerit points and could result in a three-day license suspension.

White Ribbon Campaign

This year, the OPS will again be participating in the White Ribbon Campaign that runs from November 25 to December 6. Board members will find a ribbon on their desks. Ending violence against women is a priority for our service. Wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls.

Statistics report that 1 in 3 Canadian women experience sexual assault or psychological, emotional or physical abuse from males. The goal of the White Ribbon Campaign is to end violence against women by:

- Challenging everyone to speak out
- Educating young people, especially young men and boys, on the issue
- Getting people to think about their own beliefs, language and actions on this issue

Together, we can work to reduce and eliminate violence against women in the home, in the workplace and in our community.

That is my update.