

Ottawa Police Services Board

July 27, 2015

Chief's Verbal Report

Good evening,

The summer months are always a busy time for our service.

July began with a safe and peaceful Canada Day. I want to thank all the members of the Service and partners who were a part of the planning and execution of the work involved in a safe and successful Canada Day.

Like most summers the remainder of the month did see quite a bit of activity in our community.

Mental Health Call

In our annual report we note the hundreds of thousands of calls for service receives every year. Those numbers don't always explain the complicated nature of the work our members do and the resources required to ensure the safety of residents and officers.

This past weekend our officers responded to a call in the east end. A man was threatening to blow up a neighboring business and harm and kill people. His spouse had fled the house and arriving officers were faced with an angry individual who was acting irrationally. The man threatened to fight with officers if apprehended and he had been apprehended two days earlier but released from hospital. Officers spoke to the man for about one hour outside the residence. He finally agreed to cooperate and was taken without further incident. The man was later assessed and released from hospital.

Our members did a great job ensuring that no one was injured. But it's important to note the amount of training and resources needed to respond to even one service call.

Another example was the missing person search in the Conroy Pit this weekend. That investigation ended with the individual found safe. Dozens of members were involved in that search over a period of several days.

Charge laid in fatal Hit and Run on Leitrim

At the end of June, a 39-year-old male cyclist was struck fatally by a motorist on Leitrim Road near Albion. The unknown driver had fled the scene in a White Ford Pickup.

Thanks to the work of our investigators as well as tips from the public a 39-year-old male was later arrested and charged in relation to this incident.

Fatal MVC on Riverside Drive

Less than two weeks later, another fatal collision took place involving an 18-year-old female pedestrian on Riverside Drive, south of Mooney's Bay. The investigation into this collision is ongoing. We continue to remind motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians of road safety as well as conduct regular traffic enforcement. Through the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program, we also highlight two safety priorities a month for additional enforcement.

This month the focus is red light running and cycling safety. Next month, we'll be focusing on speeding and pedestrian safety.

Homicides on Notre Dame Street and Anna Avenue

We also investigated two homicides in July. Charges were laid in both cases. On July 7, officers along with paramedics responded to a residence on Notre Dame Street in response to a 911 call. A 51-year-old man was found suffering from stab wounds. He was transported to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries. A 70-year-old man, who was related to the victim, was arrested and charged with second degree murder.

And on July 21, a 54-year-old woman was stabbed on Anna Avenue. She succumbed to her injuries. 45-year-old Gino Langevin was subsequently charged with first degree murder in relation to this incident. I want to commend the paramedics and the OPS officers who responded quickly to the call to ensure no further harm came to the community.

Attempt Murder Charge

A road rage incident on July 20th has lead to a number of charges. Officers were called to Walkley Rd. and St. Laurent Blvd. After a two car collision resulting from road rage. A quick patrol response led to the apprehension of one of the male drivers who was attempting to flee the scene, leaving a loaded 9 mm handgun behind in one of the vehicles. The subsequent investigation led officers to link the collision to a violent assault involving a gun that had taken place a few days prior. No shots were fired but a victim was sent to hospital in that incident. 20-year-old Khalif Shahareen was arrested and faces numerous charges including attempted murder, theft under \$5,000, and firearm charges. Dewin Sabir, also 20, has been charged with firearm offences.

Shootings

We have made the issue of guns and gangs in our community a priority. Our approach to this issue is multi-pronged. It involves community groups, partners and members of the community with strategies aimed at preventing young people from joining gangs. The Ottawa police portion of that strategy is enforcement and suppression and that enforcement continues every day.

Since January we have increased the resources in our guns and gangs units. That increase had an important impact. The work accomplished by officers during the six month initiative was important to this initiative, including:

- 55 seized guns taken off the street;
- Over 200 people associated with gang activity charged; and,
- More than 1,000 criminal charges laid against those people.

At the beginning of July we scaled down some of the additional resources assigned to our Guns and Gangs Unit and Direct Action Response Team. Our sustained efforts to combat gun and gang violence continue. It includes officers from across our service. That includes our patrol and district officers. And we continue to monitor this issue very closely to determine what sort of longer term investments are needed. But again, we know that enforcement is only one part of the solution.

Operation Northern Spotlight

Our Service must continue to adapt to the evolving nature of crime in our community. Some spikes in crime are temporary, while others are a symptom of a growing issue. This appears to be the case with human trafficking. Our Service recently joined 21 other police services in the third installment of a provincial human trafficking suppression project called Operation Northern Spotlight. As a result, police have ensured the safety of six young women who worked in the sex trade as a minor or against their will including:

- one 14-year-old;
- three 15-year-olds;
- a 16-year-old; and,
- a 19-year-old.

Four of the victims were identified by the Ottawa Police Human Trafficking Unit. We hope other victims will come forward as a result of this Project.

Lowertown Foot Patrol has Begun

The OPS Lowertown Foot Patrol Project is back in the ByWard Market and Rideau Street area. Our officers are working in partnership with Bylaw Enforcement Officers and OC Transpo Special Constables. This is our third year running this two-month, proactive enforcement strategy that targets areas that draw repeated calls for service and frequent complaints from the public, business owners and residents. Our efforts continue to be well received by businesses, residents, and tourists. It will be in place until the end of the summer.

1st Annual Diversity Celebration

Finally, at the end of June, the OPS hosted its first Diversity Celebration event, acknowledging Multiculturalism Day. Organized by our Diversity Race Relations Section, a number of communities came together to join with our members at 474 Elgin to celebrate our continued efforts to foster inclusion. There were a number of table displays, entertainment, great food and conversation. The event was well attended by members and the community. Events such as this are not only an important part of community engagement, they also assist our community safety efforts. I would like to thank the members of our Diversity Race Relations Section and all those who assisted in organizing this event.

Retirement of Supt. Terry Cheslock

Tonight marks the last Board meeting for Supt. Terry Cheslock. Terry was my Executive Officer when I became Chief. After 39 years of service to our community, I want to thank Terry for his dedication and support.

That concludes my update.

Thank you.