

Ottawa Police Services Board

June 22, 2015

Chief's Verbal Report

Good evening,

I have a number of items to update the Board on.

Arrests in Homicide

We continue to see success in our prevention, suppression and investigative efforts on the issues of guns and gangs. Just last week two arrests were made by Major Crime in connection with the homicide of Yusuf Ibrahim. Mr. Ibrahim was murdered in February. This was a challenging investigation but the arrests show the commitment of investigators to hold offenders responsible for their actions. There were many people involved in this investigation and I want to thank and congratulate them for their tenacity and their success.

Guns and Gangs

Our Dart and Guns and Gangs units continue to focus on suppression efforts. They continue to seize weapons, make arrests and conduct compliance checks. I want to thank them for their work.

MVC involving an officer

Earlier this month, one of our officers in West Patrol, was involved in a motor vehicle collision while responding to a call for service. It was a serious collision that sent him to hospital but I am pleased to report that he is recovering well and in good spirits. The other driver suffered minor injuries.

OPS assist RCMP with First Degree Murder investigation

In December of last year, the body of a 30-year-old Ottawa man, Adrian Gregory, was found in Edmonton. The RCMP contacted the OPS for assistance in locating an important witness. Members of our West NHO Team assisted in the investigation and in conducting a warrant in April. In early June we received news that the RCMP had successfully charged a man and a woman with the murder of Mr. Gregory and the assistance was integral to the outcome of this investigation.

Project Shadow

Earlier this month, our Street Crime Unit concluded a four month undercover investigation targeting drug trafficking along Rideau Street and the ByWard Market area. A total of 52 people were charged with over 200 offences related to the trafficking

of crack cocaine, prescription pills and marijuana. We will continue to investigate drug-related offences as part of many enforcement initiatives this summer.

Zero Tolerance Initiative in the Downtown Core

During the first week of June, our Central Neighbourhood Officers, with the assistance of OC Transpo Special Constables, Bylaw and our downtown Beat Squad, conducted a community safety initiative in the downtown core.

A total of:

- 59 criminal charges were laid; and,
- 339 Provincial Offence Notices were issued.

We received a number of positive comments from the public as well as business owners and employees in the area.

Cst. Stephanie Lemieux and Pleasant Park School

I want to highlight the work of one of our officers and the lasting impact she had on one of the schools she worked with. Cst. Stephanie Lemieux helped to launch an initiative at Pleasant Park School to paint a series of murals to honour First Nations people and Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The program was also designed to reduce graffiti. She assisted in making a successful application for funding with the parent council. The murals were recently unveiled at an event at the school. This is an excellent example of how our officers build relationships that have a positive impact on our community – particularly with our youth.

MERIT Launch

At the start of June, a multiagency pilot was launched in the southeast of Ottawa called MERIT. The program is designed to assist vulnerable individuals and families get the supports they need. Since the launch, frontline professionals have been meeting on a weekly basis to discuss high-risk cases. The program includes 20 agencies including the OPS, City of Ottawa, the Ottawa Carleton District School Board, and Local Health Integration Network. It holds a great deal of promise in terms of helping to address some of the root causes of crime and victimization.

Joint Forces MegaRIDE

This past weekend a joint MegaRIDE program was conducted. The Ottawa Police was joined by Gatineau Police Service, the OPP, the RCMP, and the Military Police. A total of 1750 cars were stopped, 13 drivers were asked to provide a breath sample and 2 were charged over the legal limit. Cst. Jeff Shields was one of the officers who participated in the RIDE that night. At about 2 a.m. on his way home in his personal vehicle, Shields observed a vehicle swaying from lane to lane on the highway. Constable Shields contacted the comm centre and followed the man to his residence

where patrol officers soon arrived. The individual showed obvious signs of impairment and was charged with refusing to provide a breath sample.

Doors Open Ottawa

Once again, our Service participated in Doors Open Ottawa. Visitors were taken on tours of our Elgin Street station and our Professional Development Centre. There were also a number of demonstrations of Canines, Defensive Tactics, Firearms and Controlled Energy Weapons. Doors Open Ottawa is a great opportunity to provide the public with an exclusive look at some of our facilities. I want to recognize the members who volunteered that day and made this event possible.

Grand Opening of Ottawa Police Memorial Cemetery – Phase 1

Just last week we celebrated another milestone in the creation of the Ottawa Police Service Memorial Cemetery. Phase 1 of the 4 phase project was completed – a front flower bed and a rock wall recognizing the five police services that form the present-day Ottawa Police Service. This project provides a means to honour members for their contribution to policing in our community. I want to thank our sponsors for their contributions, and committee members Inspectors Paul Johnston and Chris Rheaume for their hard work.

Recruit Ceremony

A reminder that tomorrow we'll be holding a Recruit Badge ceremony for the latest two classes of 22 recruits to join our service. Members of the Board are welcome to attend.

That concludes my update.

Thank you.