

Chief's Verbal for October 23, 2017 meeting of the OPSB

Good evening,

Here are some examples of the great work that has been done by the women and men of our service in the past few weeks.

Great Work by OPS Members

I want to start by recognizing the officers involved in the seizure of a handgun at Glebe Collegiate last week. The response was speedy and professional and led quickly to the arrest of an individual and the discovery of a gun. I also want to thank the school administrators, staff and students who worked cooperatively with us.

We have worked for years to build the strong partnerships with the school boards. These partnerships help ensure we can better deal with difficult situations like this when they arise.

Quick Thinking/Tourniquet Saves Gunshot Victim's Life

When Constables F. Roberge, P. Wiseman and I. Kemp responded to a call of shots fired on Concord St. North in the early hours of September 30th, they were not certain what to expect. Reports had indicated that the scene was an active shoot out that had started at a house party. Two people had been reported injured and when these officers arrived, they discovered one man inside the back of a car who resisted their assistance. That's when they saw blood on the back seat of the car. Our officers realized that the young man in the car was quickly bleeding out from a gunshot wound to his leg. They used a service-issued tourniquet and pressure to help stem the bleeding. Both paramedics and the emergency room doctor said that the use of the tourniquet is the reason why this young man is alive today.

The tourniquet was introduced by Constable Umer Khan, who had returned from a deployment in Afghanistan and saw how effective this simple device could be in saving lives. Khan was given a commendation for this initiative, and now all OPS officers now carry this device with them on patrol.

Two Plead Guilty to Manslaughter

We continue to see success in the prosecution of major cases. In 2015, 17-year-old Issaiah Clachar was stabbed to death on Jasmine Cr. Earlier this month, because of the diligence, professionalism and excellent police work by everyone who worked on the case, two men pleaded guilty to manslaughter in an Ottawa courtroom.

Guilty Plea in Homicide

Last week we also saw another man plead guilty to second degree murder in relation to the May 2016 homicide of Lonnie Leafloor. This case is reflective of how our service works as a team. Communication Centre members, Frontline officers, Forensic Identification officers, Imaging Services Unit, the Victim Crisis Unit, Emergency Services Unit, Central Investigations (GAS), Computer Forensics Unit and our Major Case Management staff should all be commended in supporting the investigation and the investigators from the time the call came in to the courtroom.

Supervised Injections Sites

We have heard concerns from community residents about the new Supervised Injection Sites in the city, including the pop-up site at Brunet Park. We have been closely watching the Brunet Park site for drug trafficking. The park where the popup site is located is owned by the City of Ottawa, and as landowner they must provide the authority for enforcement action to be implemented. We will be following the lead of City By-Law and will continue to provide support to those officers.

There is also discussion in our community about licensed supervised injection sites. The OPS is aware of applications by three different organizations in Ottawa for supervised sites. One has been granted. In all the cases, after reviewing the applications we have provided comments on the proposals, specifically about security planning and the possible impacts on the local communities.

The final decision on these sites is made by Health Canada.

9 Run Run Exceeds Previous Years

I would like to thank the organizers and participants in the 9 Run Run. We had enormous response to this year's 9 Run Run; so much so that organizers had to turn some people away because it sold out so quickly. This year the run had about 2,000 participants. The OPS was proudly represented with more than 80 families taking part in the run. The event brings together Ottawa's First Responders for a charity 10k and 2K marathon run to raise funds for local charities.

OPS Gala

This weekend we are holding our 8th Annual Gala at the Shaw Centre. We have raised almost seven hundred thousand dollars for various charities. This year's charities are Big Brothers Big Sisters Ottawa and Ottawa Victim Services. This is an opportunity for the Police Service and Community to come together and celebrate successes; while raising awareness and money for two great charities.