

Chief's Verbal Report  
Ottawa Police Services Board  
24 April 2017

Good afternoon.

This month's report highlights some excellent work by the OPS members from across the service.

### **Overdose Prevention Strategy**

We all heard the warning from local hospitals regarding a spike in the number of patient overdoses being brought to emergency rooms in the past week. More overdoses were reported over the weekend. While we don't yet know the cause, drugs like Fentanyl and counterfeit pills are always suspected in these circumstances.

Our Drug Unit is investigating these overdoses to establish where the drugs came from. We continue to encourage the community to report any information related to drug trafficking and to use Crime Stoppers as a tool.

In April, the Guns and Gangs Unit arrested more than a dozen people after it executed a search warrant at a Centretown home. Found inside were a significant amount of drugs including Fentanyl, cocaine and methamphetamine. This is just one example of the excellent work this unit is doing in helping to make our streets safer.

Our Drug Unit will continue to work as part of the task force aimed at combating overdoses. But enforcement is only one part of this overall strategy. The focus needs to be educating people about the dangers of these drugs and counterfeit pills. The only pills you can truly trust are those that come from your pharmacist.

### **Arrest in Elmira Drive Murder**

I would like to highlight the hard work done by our Major Crime investigators that led to charges against Brayton Kennedy in relation to the September 2016 shooting death of Jacob Thompson. Kennedy was arrested earlier this month and charged with second degree murder.

Here are a few examples of the situations our front line officers find themselves responding to every day and how they save lives and make Ottawa a safer city.

### **Officers Rescue Woman**

In early April, Constables Marc Desjardins and Jason Murphy responded to a call from a woman in distress, threatening to harm herself. When they arrived, the woman's roommate told them she didn't think the woman was at home. However, Cst.

Desjardins did a quick search of the home and found the woman hanging in her closet as both officers rushed to get her down. I want to acknowledge the quick thinking by both constables that saved this woman's life.

### **Serial Break and Enter**

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, a Frontline officer, who was on a job shadow with the Break and Enter Unit, drove by the residence of a known break & enter suspect. He noted a vehicle in the laneway. At about 1 am that night a witness reported a commercial break and enter in progress on Industrial Ave and described the vehicle involved. Frontline officers were already nearby for a report of a vehicle fully engulfed by fire.

One officer, responding to the break-in, observed a vehicle travelling eastbound on Innes Rd. The officer instinctively proceeded to follow that vehicle. That decision culminated in the arrests of two suspects for the commercial break & enter following a pursuit. The vehicle found on fire was determined to be the one observed in the suspect's laneway earlier that day, and was determined to have been stolen but not yet reported.

The investigation that followed, by the Break & Enter Unit, cleared a number of cases in Ottawa.

### **E Platoon Makes Arrests in Taser Robberies**

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, officers on duty with E Platoon were quick to arrest two suspects after a series of robberies in Ottawa's South end. Several people called police saying they were attacked by multiple suspects using tasers, and robbed of their possessions.

At the last robbery, after interviewing the victims, police located and arrested two males, and the tasers. They were remarkably effective and found a speedy resolution to these incidents. Three people have now been charged.

### **Handgun Seized After shots fired**

You never know what any given day on the job will require of you. A great example of this is the pursuit Cst. Steve Brown had after shots were fired in a downtown neighbourhood on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Responding to the scene and interviewing witnesses, Cst. Brown determined who the shooter was and immediately gave chase by car and then on foot to apprehend him. Cst. Brown deployed his conducted energy weapon (CEW) to stop the suspect but he still managed to take off running again. Cst. Brown did not give up. He pursued, and with the help of other officers from B platoon, finally apprehended the suspect.

Upon returning to the area where the CEW was used, officers discovered a discarded revolver with five spent casings.

### **More than 500 charges against speeders**

From March 20 to 24, our Traffic Services team was busy conducting a week-long school zone safety project, issuing more than 500 tickets to speeders. One driver was caught speeding 70 km/h over the limit in a school zone.

### **Hate Crime reporting**

Finally, I want to remind the Board that our service now accepts hate crime reports online. We hope this will help those with language or other barriers let us know about incidents like these more often. This was requested by our community partners. We had one person turn himself into police on April 12 for vandalizing property at an Ottawa-area Mosque and Islamic Community Centre. We are also currently investigating a fire that occurred later in the week at the same Islamic Centre.

We take these incidents seriously and urge members of the public to file reports with us so we can investigate them fully.

### **Supt. D. Sweet**

This is Superintendent Don Sweet's last Board meeting. Supt. Sweet has spent 31 years with this police and has been charged with the Criminal Investigations Unit. He has been a tremendous asset to the Executive and has been the steady hand and calming effect at our discussions. His knowledge and networking ability as well as his ability to partner with various organizations across Ontario have been a tremendous support to Ottawa. He has made Ottawa a safer city and made our service a better police service. Congratulations Don on your retirement.

Thank you.