

Chief's verbal for September 23, 2019

It's with great sadness that I've learned that our Board Chair Diane Deans, has recently received some critical news about her health.

On behalf of the OPS, we wish her great strength to get through this – we know, if anyone can beat this, it's her.

She no doubt has the whole community's support rallying behind her.

So we wish Diane the best and look forward to having her back after this chapter of her life.

I want to personally thank her for all the support she has provided me as Interim Chief.

I also wanted to take a moment and thank all Members of the Board. The privilege of leading the Ottawa Police Service these past few months has been one I have not taken lightly.

I am proud of what we have accomplished, together.

We have made a strong commitment to community policing, starting with increasing our presence in targeted neighbourhoods.

Our Byward Market initiative has also yielded results, with a boots-on-the-ground approach to criminal disorder in our top tourist destination.

We also introduced a new Bikes and Beats team to help with this initiative, and I'm hearing lots of positive feedback about the great work they are doing, each and every day.

And that's really what policing is all about: working with the community to enhance the safety of everyone who lives here.

It's one of the main reasons why I keep doing this job. Because I know I have made a difference.

The strength of OPS lies with its members. I would encourage you all to read the commendation report we present each month. In it, you will read letters and emails we receive from residents of this city, praising the hard work that our members do in their efforts to serve and protect.

This month we received thank you's from a worried mom who's daughter didn't come home as expected, and had nothing but praise for one of our 911 operators, whose calm and steady support helped to reassure her.

We also received a letter from a person who witnessed two of our officers helping a man with mental health issues. She was amazed at the patience, professionalism and, more importantly, the kindness of the officers.

And we all know about Constables Genevieve Bolduc and Lisa Beaucage who went above and beyond helping a young mother mow her lawn – and in full police gear, too!

These are only a few stories of many that happen each and every day in policing.

It continually amazes me the depth of kindness and professionalism OPS members demonstrate each and every day.

And when you call us, it's probably not your best day. But we can at least try to help make it a bit better.

This is my last verbal as your interim chief. It has been a pleasure. And I want to

sincerely thank you for giving me the
opportunity to make a difference.