

## **Ottawa Police Services Board**

**February 23, 2015**

### **Chief's Verbal Report**

Good evening,

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

#### **Good Work by E Platoon West**

In late January, Cst. Jonathan Gardiner attended a call of a Military Veteran, who said he was suffering from PTSD. He had reached out to Ottawa Police as he was lonely and feeling suicidal. Cst. Gardiner took the time to sit at the man's kitchen table and talk with him about his experiences in Afghanistan. The man's ability to speak at ease with Cst. Gardiner meant a lot to him. He said he has trouble speaking to his wife about his experiences. Rather than call for paramedics, Cst. Gardiner drove the veteran to the hospital and stayed with him until he was registered.

Our members are often the first people on scene to help a person in mental health crisis. Cst. Gardiner's compassion and professionalism that day is a great example of how our members are making a difference.

#### **Controlled Drugs and Substance Act Search Warrant**

In January, a street crime unit officer received information that an individual was selling crack cocaine, heroin and prescription pills in downtown Ottawa. He was using an apartment on Argyle Street to conduct his business. In the weeks following, undercover officers with the Street Crime Unit made several phone calls to the male suspect and purchased several types of drugs including crack and heroin. On February 17 a search warrant for the apartment was executed by tactical. Five people were arrested and a quantity of drugs, cash, stolen property and drug paraphernalia was seized.

Observations made inside the apartment were that this was a very busy location for drug dealing and using. Hundreds of used syringes and other drug paraphernalia were littered all over the apartment. Stolen property was also seized inside the apartment including two police badges from another service.

This investigation shows the work our Street Crime Unit does to address street level traffickers and how that drug trafficking and drug addiction is connected to other criminal activities.

## **First Degree Murder Charges Laid in three Homicides**

On February 20, we announced charges laid against Ian Bush in connection to the June 30, 2007 triple homicide of Alban Garon, Raymonde Garon, and Marie-Claire Beniskos. This case has always remained a priority for our police service. I would like to thank everyone involved who worked on this case, in particular investigators from Major Crime, Robbery, and the Forensic Identification Sections. They never gave up and relentlessly pursued this complex file to bring it to a successful conclusion.

## **Homicide on Forestglade Crescent**

The Major Crime Section continues to investigate the homicide that took place on Forestglade Crescent on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The 27-year-old victim, Yusuf Ibrahim, was a known gang member. Our investigators believe this homicide is street gang related and was targeted. They continue to search for those responsible.

## **Grandparent Scam**

A recent case involving seniors attracted significant media attention wherein an Ottawa man was arrested for a “Grandparent Scam”. The suspect had contacted an 86-year-old victim identifying himself as his grandson, advising that he was in need of money and making a request for a \$10K loan. The suspect attended the victim’s residence impersonating a courier who was to deliver the money to the victim’s grandson. He was arrested by Patrol at the scene and charged with several offences including Attempt Fraud Exceeding \$5,000. It was some excellent work by our officers. It also provided an opportunity to highlight the discussion about schemes aimed at seniors and how people can protect themselves.

## **Amber Alert Engaged**

On February 14, a father who has sole custody of a two-year-old child attended the mother’s residence to pick him up after a visit. The mother and the child were not there. Police began an investigation and an Amber Alert was broadcast. Investigative steps and a sighting generated from the Amber Alert led police to a residence in the Killaloe area. With the assistance of the OPP, the mother was arrested and charged with Abduction and Breach of Family Court Orders. The child was recovered unharmed and returned to the father less than 24 hours after the first call to police.

## **Sexual Assault**

On February 15, Ottawa University Security contacted us advising they had a suspect in custody for a sexual assault. The suspect had been visiting a friend’s room in a Residence at the University of Ottawa. The suspect left his friend’s room and entered a

residential unit belonging to a female student, where he sexually assaulted her. Officers responded and transferred the young offender suspect into custody. He has been charged with sexual assault and break and enter and the investigation continues.

### **Special Olympics – Polar Plunge**

The first annual Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympics on the weekend was a huge success. Several teams of officers and one Auxiliary officer took the Plunge in a freezing cold tank of water on the field at TD Place. Members of our Marine, Dive and Trail Unit spent the day in the tank ensuring that everyone was safe. A total of \$30,000 was raised smashing the goal of \$25,000.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored and contributed to the success of the Polar Plunge. Auxiliary members were on hand to help and make the day run smoothly and to get our plungers back inside as quickly as possible. A special thank you to all of our plungers who took on the challenge of not only jumping in freezing water, but also for fundraising so successfully for such a great cause near and dear to our hearts. The Polar Plunge was a major fundraiser in support of the 2015 Special Olympics Provincial Floor Hockey Championships in May.

I am happy to take any questions you may have.