

Ottawa Police Services Board

October 26, 2015

Chief's Verbal Report

Good evening,

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

Recent Passing of Two Retired Members

I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the recent passing of two former members of our police service. Patricia Kachmar passed away at the age of 77. She joined the Ottawa Police in 1980, and enjoyed a 26-year long career, working in Comm Centre, at the Info Desk, and in Courts. She retired in March 2006.

We also lost Jan Dumais this month, one of the first policewomen to join our Service. She died at the age of 78, after a 41-year career with us. She retired in 2002.

In policing, we have many members who dedicate a good portion, and even their entire careers, to their profession. Their contributions continue to be felt long after they've left our Service. This was the case with both Patricia and Jan.

October 22 Commemorative Ceremony

This month was also an opportunity to reflect on the loss of another life - Cpl. Nathan Cirillo who was shot on Parliament Hill on October 22, 2014. A Commemorative Ceremony was held at the Cenotaph on October 22, marking the first anniversary of the shooting. What took place that day embodied the essence of what many of our members sign up to do when they choose to become part of a law enforcement profession. I want to acknowledge all those who participated in the ceremony, as well as those who assisted with logistics and security presence.

Violent crimes

We've laid a number of charges this month in relation to some violent crimes that have taken place in our community.

Shooting on Montreal Road

Our Guns and Gangs Unit recently investigated and laid charges in relation to a shooting on Montreal Road. There was an altercation at the intersection of Montreal Rd and Cantin Street involving several males on October 16. During the altercation, a 30-year-old male was shot in the abdomen. He was taken to the hospital, treated, and has since been released. A 23-year-old male has been charged with attempted murder and several firearm related offences.

Robbery/Stabbing near Hunt Club Rd/Lorry Greenberg Drive

On August 10, a male victim was stabbed in the shoulder in the area of Hunt Club Rd and Lorry Greenberg Drive during a robbery. Two unidentified suspects were seen fleeing the scene in an SUV. In early October, an 18-year-old male was charged in relation to this incident.

Stabbing on Cedarwood Drive

On October 21, East Patrol officers responded to a disturbance on Cedarwood Drive where a stabbing had taken place. Two adult males were arrested and transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Our East District Investigators have subsequently charged a 25-year-old male, and a 20-year-old male with numerous charges related to this incident. When crimes such as these occur, they can shake up a neighbourhood and the community's sense of safety. Their quick resolution not only holds those responsible accountable for their actions, but also helps to restore this sense of safety. I'd like to commend all of the members involved in these investigations for their hard work.

Successful Robbery Investigations

I'd like to highlight some recent work of our Robbery Unit in relation to 15 separate investigations which successfully led to charges. Between September 15 and October 4 in the areas of Tartan Drive, Carbrooke Street, Debra Avenue, and Merivale/Shillington, 5 separate robberies took place. Upon investigation, the Robbery Unit charged a 21-year-old male in relation to all 5 incidents. Two of the robberies involved a second, unidentified female suspect, who remains outstanding.

As well, between October 9-13, an additional 5 robberies took place. These incidents occurred on Bank St, Woodroffe, Bronson, and Catherine. A 35-year-old male was subsequently charged in connection with these robberies. And finally, between

September 29 and October 9, two suspects, typically armed with knives, robbed five businesses, taking cash, cigarettes, and lottery tickets. One of the suspects has since been charged, while the second remains unidentified.

The successful outcomes of these investigations would not have been possible without the work of the Robbery Unit, Patrol, the Communication Centre, and the Identification Section.

Marihuana Grow Eradication Program

The Drug Unit recently conducted its fall 2015 outdoor marihuana eradication program. During the course of the investigation, police identified 15 locations across the southern rural areas of the city. A total of 1,505 marihuana plants (approximately 2000 kgs) - valued in excess of \$1,505,000.00 - have been seized.

Operation Northern Spotlight IV

From October 5-8, our Human Trafficking Unit participated in the fourth edition of Operation Northern Spotlight (ONS) -- a national initiative to combat Human Trafficking involving more than 40 police services from across Canada. In Ottawa, 11 sex trade workers were contacted during this month's Operation Northern Spotlight. Two adult males were charged, and a total of 11 criminal charges were laid.

Payroll transition to City

I'd like to update the Board on another partnership – this one being with City Services. In April of this year, work commenced on transitioning our payroll responsibilities to the City of Ottawa Payroll Branch. As of today, the City has full responsibilities of processing all pay implications for the Ottawa Police Service. This transition will allow our Service to focus more on core functions and improve services provided to our members and front line services. In particular, it will allow us to focusing on employee scheduling and attendance, which will better support our operations and our new Control Centre, which you'll hear more about during the Service Initiative presentation. I would like to thank OPS Financial Operations and Human Resources employees who worked on this transition along with the City Payroll Branch employees.

Thomas G. Flanagan S.C. Scholarship Award

Earlier this month we began accepting applications for the 2016 Thomas G. Flanagan S.C. Scholarship award. The Scholarship is awarded annually to a racialized or

Aboriginal woman who expresses an interest in policing as a career with the Ottawa Police Service, following a period of post secondary study. The \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at the 2016 Community / Police Awards Ceremony. Applications can be found on the [Ottawa Police website](#).

Mouth Swab Clinic in honour of Retired Sgt. Wayne Niemi

On October 20, a number of our members came together to support a fellow colleague. Retired Sgt. Wayne Niemi was diagnosed this past year with lymphoma. His particular diagnosis required a stem cell transplant. A mouth-swab clinic was held at Elgin to help find a match. OPS exceeded the expectations of Canadian Blood Services and a total of 96 swabs were completed during the 2-hour clinic. I want to thank everyone who came out for this worthwhile cause.

Fire Prevention Week Opening Ceremony 2015

The Department of National Defence hosted a ceremony to launch Fire Prevention Week. During the ceremony, our Arson Unit received the 2015 Fire and Life Safety Prevention award. The award is for those who have gone above and beyond in respects to fire and life safety in supporting the Department of National Defence in the National Capital Region. I'd like to congratulate the Arson Unit on a job well done.

Ottawa Police Android App

Also this month, we introduced a new and improved compatible version of the Ottawa Police app. In addition to having access to features such as news, traffic disruptions, police station listings, and a collision toolkit, users can also:

- browse updated photos of persons wanted by the Ottawa Police;
- access police contact information with one click; and
- be reminded to "Leave The Phone Alone" while driving.

To date our initial Apple app has been downloaded 5500 times. A special thank you to Ottawa Police Sgt. Anthony Skinner and Colin White, a student from the University of Toronto who grew up in Ottawa, who developed the new Android app.

Upcoming events

Finally, I'd like to remind the Board about a few upcoming events.

United Way Launch

This coming Wednesday we'll be having our annual United Way campaign launch BBQ in the lobby of 474 Elgin Street. Everyone is welcome to attend. Funds raised will go towards the United Way Ottawa campaign which has been helping individuals and families in our community for more than 75 years. A special thank you goes out to this year's Senior Officer sponsor, Inspector Paul Gallant, and Campaign Chair Constable Candice Lohe.

Let's Chat: Priorities 2016-2018 Business Plan

On November 5 the community consultation on the 2016-2018 Business Plan is taking place. The consultation is an opportunity for the OPS and the Ottawa Police Services Board to hear from community policing partners and residents on the priority areas informing our three year plan: Community, Members and Service. It is also an opportunity to explore questions and issues that matter to the community in small group table chats. Those wishing to attend are asked to register through ottawapolice.ca.

Crime Prevention Week Nov 1-7

Between November 1-7, a series of events will be held to celebrate Crime Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Personal Safety". Members of the Board are welcome to join us for a BBQ lunch on Monday, November 2, for the official launch. All proceeds will be going to the United Way.

OPS Gala

And lastly, on November 7, the 6th annual Ottawa Police Gala is being held at the Shaw Centre. This year's Gala will feature former Sergeant at Arms and Canada's newest Ambassador to Ireland, Kevin Vickers, as the keynote speaker. In the past five years, the Gala has raised over \$450,000 for local charities in our community. This year's proceeds are going to the Ottawa Food Bank and the Caring and Sharing Exchange. Tickets are \$175 and can be purchased from either of the charities.

That concludes my update. Thank you.