

Chief's verbal report for March 25, 2019

Good afternoon,

I have a brief verbal update for this month.

We all know how important it is to be a good neighbour and look out for one another. But that lesson was never more apparent after officers from our F Platoon responded to a wellness check from a concerned neighbour at an East end home.

When they arrived, the property looked uninhabited; an entire season of snow left unshovelled. After our officers made their way to the door, they discovered an elderly man stuck inside, unable to get out. He had been subsisting on items of food that he had in the house and had been trapped inside since Christmas.

Our officers diligently dug him out and replenished his groceries, and ensured that he was safe.

This is just one example of the great work our members do. There are hundreds of stories like these that don't make the headlines, but are just part of doing our job to serve and protect the residents who live here.

Problem addresses

We continue to target problem addresses around the Vanier area. These addresses have been creating issues related to crime and social disorder and often involve drug trafficking and consumption.

I want to thank residents for their help with these initiatives and for providing information to the area's Community Police Officer.

St. Patrick's Day

Over the St. Patrick's Day weekend, officers from Frontline Patrol, Traffic Services, Bikes and Beats, and Emergency Operations were out in a collaborative push to patrol areas to ensure public safety. We worked together with our City partners.

In total 78 Provincial Offence Notices and Liquor Licence Act offences were issued.

Dog attacks

There have been two recent incidents involving dog attacks.

In the first instance, Constable Amanda Munro was viciously attacked outside a residence sustaining serious injuries to her arm. She was able to neutralize the imminent threat and the dog was shot by her while she was trying to fight it off.

Another incident occurred last week when we received a 911 call of a woman screaming. Once on-scene, a large aggressive dog was mauling a 44-year-old woman. Officers shot and killed this dog to prevent it from further injuring this person.

Using a weapon is always a very difficult choice for any officer to make. It's important to know that the safety of residents and our officers will always be paramount, and I am satisfied that these officers responded in an appropriate way.

OPS Gala

We have received a record number of submissions for our 10th anniversary of the OPS Gala. In total, we received 46 applications from worthy Ottawa charities and it will be a difficult decision for the selection team to narrow it down. The selected applicants will be announced in the coming months.

Traffic stop yields guns

We also continue to focus on gun violence suppression. Already this year we have seized 14 crime guns. We have also seen a reduction in the number of shootings (with 15 YTD compared to 23 in the same time frame of 2018), though that number fluctuates throughout the year.

The presence of illegal firearms is still very real and poses a threat to our community and officers.

In one recent traffic stop our officers seized two hand guns.

In another, officers pulled over a vehicle over for possible impaired driving. After questioning the man, officers discovered drugs and a shot gun inside the vehicle.

Elder Jo MacQuarrie

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Elder Jo MacQuarrie on March 13th.

Jo was one of our Chaplain/Spiritual Leaders since 2011 and was long-time COMPAC Member and most recently Elder to our new CEC.

Her presence and work with us will be missed.

Automatic Licence Plate Recognition Systems (ALPR)

I also want to update the Board on our use of the Automatic Licence Plate Recognition system. We have operated these devices since August, 2016. They can scan up to 5,000 license plates per hour and helps our officers identify vehicles that are stolen, persons wanted on warrants, suspended licences or prohibited drivers.

Safer Roads Ottawa recently assisted us in purchasing an additional two more devices. The OPS now has four of the device in operation with a fifth unit to enter into operation in 2019.

Over 70 frontline officers received training on how to effectively use the ALPRs, and since obtaining the devices our Service has issued penalties for 500 prohibited or suspended drivers, discovered eight persons wanted on warrants, removed 726 unlicensed drivers from our roads, retrieved 15 stolen vehicles, and found 3,400 plates with expired validations.

DG Frazer

And finally Mme Chair, this marks the last official Board meeting for our Director General Debra Frazer.

Debra started her career with the Ottawa Carleton Regional Police Service as Director of Finance in 1995 until her appointment as Director General in 2000.

She has worked with 4 Chiefs of Police including myself. Debra has lead and worked on many files and initiatives that have left a positive legacy with our police service.

She has supported the civilianization and professionalization of our service, she has moved the yardstick on technology, facilities, recruiting and diversity.

She has been the go to person for corporate knowledge and history on many files.

On behalf of the police service and your colleagues on Executive, Debra I want to thank you for the significant contributions you have made over the past 24 years. We wish you all the best as you begin to enjoy spending more time with family, friends and Chadwick and Snuff.