

## Chief's Verbal

### Ottawa Police Services Board

September 25, 2017

#### **National Police and Peace Officers Memorial**

This past weekend, thousands of police and peace officers and their loved ones from across Canada gathered on Parliament Hill to remember those officers who have fallen in the line of duty at the National Police and Peace Officers Memorial. Ottawa Police led the march past this year. We also had many of our officers who chose to show their respect for those no longer with us by participating in both the Run and the Ride to Remember. They were joined by other officers from many other services in their journey from southern Ontario to Ottawa.

I think it's very telling about policing as a whole, that we all come together to mourn the fallen, and offer support, no matter which police service is affected by such a terrible loss. But in policing you're never alone. You are part of a larger family that stretches beyond the borders of any city or province. Given how challenging our profession can be, it's reassuring that we ultimately are there for each other.

I think it's important that we take the time each year to recognize the dedication of our officers and to thank them for their service and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice serving their communities. Thank you to all of you who came out to show your support.

I also want to thank the many officers from Ottawa and our partner agencies who were involved in the ceremony whether as marchers or providing security and logistics.

#### **Murder on Caldwell Avenue**

Our Major Crimes section is investigating a daytime shooting that occurred on Caldwell Avenue last week. A 20 year old man lost his life during this attack. This is just another example of the toll gun violence takes on our community. While Ottawa is a safe city, this gun violence continues and it needs to stop. But to stop it, we need the help of the community and we need witnesses to come forward. If you aren't comfortable calling police directly, you can leave anonymous information through Crime Stoppers. This is the best way we're going to hold these offenders accountable and let them know that we will not accept this in our neighbourhoods.

There will be a community rally to raise attention to the issue of safety in Caldwell this Wednesday and we will be there to show our support for the community.

This latest homicide has kept our major crime unit busy however, this weekend investigators also made an arrest in the homicide of Devon Labelle who was stabbed to death on Montreal Rd. this past April.

### **Off Duty Officer**

This past Thursday afternoon our 911 service received a call from off duty Sgt. Paul McIntyre was at a west end mall when he witnessed two men fighting. He intervened in the fight, identifying himself as a police officer and saw a handgun possessed by one of the men. McIntyre called 911 and officers arrived and arrested the man and seized a loaded 9 mm handgun. A 20-year-old man is facing several charges related to the incident and the illegal handgun.

This was some excellent work by Sgt. McIntyre. It shows the dedication of our officers to keeping our community safe.

### **Opioids**

We continue to work with our partners in the health sector to deal with the ongoing opioid crisis. We are still seeing an increase of overdoses attributed to the use of drugs like Fentanyl compared with other years. We are also seeing the presence of Fentanyl in drug investigations. More than 600 Ottawa Police frontline officers have been issued Naloxone and trained on how to properly administer the life-saving drug in opioid overdoses.

There has also been a great deal of discussion regarding an unlicensed supervised injection site in Lowertown. The site is on city property and the City is having ongoing discussions to have organizers remove it. It's clear that a city park is not an appropriate place for this type of activity. Our officers are visiting the site on a daily basis and are specifically watching for drug trafficking.

Ottawa Public Health is opening a licensed supervised injection site in the Lowertown area tomorrow in collaboration with the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre.

We have met with Sandy Hill and Public Health and have offered them security planning assistance with the goal of helping them mitigate any negative impacts these sites could have on the local community. They have taken those suggestions into account as part of their operational plan.

## OPS Gala

We are proud to have chosen both Big Brothers Big Sisters Ottawa and Ottawa Victim Services as our beneficiaries for this year's gala on October 28th. These two agencies share the values of the OPS in our efforts to help the most vulnerable in our community, but they also do such extensive work in providing a solid foundation for those who need it most, that they really were a perfect choice for us as a police service.

I ask that you come out this year and help to celebrate. You can still get tickets to the gala through either of these organizations, just visit [ottawapolice.ca/OPSGala](http://ottawapolice.ca/OPSGala) for more information.