



Report to Council

Department: Office of the CAO
Division: Office of the CAO
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Report Number: Office of the CAO-2024-05
Subject: OPP Detachment Board Annual Report
Number of Pages: 7

Recommendation(s)

That Report-CAO-2024-05 entitled "OPP Detachment Board Annual Report" be received.

Purpose

In accordance with the legislative requirement, this report is provided to advise of the Essex County OPP Detachment Board #1 (Board) policing activities.

Background and Discussion

On March 26, 2019, Ontario passed the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA), as part of the Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019. As of April 1, 2024, the CSPA replaced the Police Services Act, 1990 (PSA).

Under the CSPA, Section 68 (1) (f) stipulates the OPP Detachment Board on or before June 30 in each year, provide an annual report to the municipalities and band council regarding the policing provided by the detachment in their municipalities.

In accordance with the legislative requirement, this report is provided to advise of the Essex County OPP Detachment Board #1 (Board) policing activities. Normally, this report would be prepared and submitted by the Detachment Board, however, given that the Board has only been able to meet once due to circumstances surrounding insurance, the Municipal Liaisons have collaborated with the OPP on this brief report for the purposes of meeting the legislative requirements above. In ensuing years, the Board will issue the annual report, in accordance with the intent of **the Act. For Council's information, this report has been provided to Board members.**

Comments

Board Activities

As of April 1, the nine-member Board was established, inclusive of three (3) Council and four (4) Community representatives from the three municipalities represented by the new Board. The provincial appointments (2) have since been made by the Public Appointments Secretariat.

The Board conducted its inaugural meeting on April 22, 2024. Under the advice of the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB), the Board meetings have been suspended while the Board indemnity insurance is reviewed and resolved. This is a provide-wide issue affecting all detachment boards that span multiple municipalities.

Additionally, board members representing all North board communities attended at the June OAPSB Conference. The Board Chair presented on a panel discussion regarding **'Professionalizing Police Governance in Ontario: The Importance of Staff to the Effectiveness of the Board.'**

OPP Policing Activities

During the period from April 1, 2024, to June 12, 2024, the Tecumseh, Lakeshore, and Essex units of the detachment have actively engaged in various special initiatives, programs, and

campaigns aimed at enhancing public safety and serving our communities. Notable initiatives are outlined below.

The OPP addressed concerns surrounding establishments in Tecumseh and Lakeshore by initiating discussions with the owners and partnering with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) to bolster both educational outreach and enforcement actions, ensuring the responsible consumption of alcohol and reducing associated risks.

Also, Lakeshore's detachment is working with the AGCO regarding "over serving" and noise at another establishment. The Municipality has been engaged and has sent out the warning letter to the owners. In Belle River, OPP are prioritizing marina and beach patrols on foot and in a vehicle, focusing on enforcement of Trespass to Property Act (TPA) and Liquor Licence Act (LLA), parking and showing an increased police presence with the intent of sending a clear message for the upcoming summer months.

The OPP's commitment to combating impaired driving was evident through 138 R.I.D.E. spot-check initiatives conducted across North board communities, aligning with the objectives outlined in the OPP Essex County 2023-2025 Action Plan. As a testament to their efforts, 25 motorists were charged with impaired driving/over 80 mgs, underscoring the importance of this proactive approach. Where possible, R.I.D.E initiatives are set up where OPP administer breath samples to all drivers that pass through, otherwise referred to as Mandatory Alcohol Screening (MAS).

In response to reports of speeding and excessive noise on County Road 22 between Manning Road and Banwell Road, OPP conducted a focused two-week enforcement initiative resulting in the issuance of numerous offence notices as follows:

May 27 to June 2

- 19 tickets and 4 warnings

- 9 Provincial Offence Notices (PON) for Highway Traffic Act (HTA) Section 128 (Speeding)
- **3 PON's for HTA Section 7(1)(a) (Vehicle permits)**
- **3 PON's for HTA Section 62(1) (Vehicle lights related)**
- 1 PON for Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act Section 3(1) (No insurance Card)
- Warnings for HTA Section 9(2) (Documentation related), HTA Section 128 (Speeding), HTA Section 7(1)(a) (Vehicle permits)

June 3 to June 10

- 4 tickets, 1 Part III, and 1 warning.
- **4 PON's for HTA Section 128 (Speeding)**
- 1 Part III for Driving while suspended.
- 1 warning for HTA Section 128 (Speeding)

This enforcement initiative contributed to curbing the identified issues.

Currently, the OPP's attention is directed towards ensuring the safety of students and pedestrians on County Road 12 in Colchester, particularly near the Colchester North Public School, through focused patrols targeting speeding and other Highway Traffic Act offences. This initiative reflects their ongoing commitment to prioritizing public safety and addressing community concerns.

OPP's dedication to promoting traffic safety extended to a specific initiative targeting motorists disobeying school bus stop signs at a daycare on Advance Boulevard in Lakeshore, where multiple individuals were educated on the importance of compliance with this crucial law, emphasizing our proactive approach to enhancing public safety.

Attention was drawn to Lakewood Park in Tecumseh, where a significant number of calls regarding erratic driving within the parking lot had been received. In response, the OPP have undertaken concerted efforts to mitigate the negative impact on the community through heightened enforcement measures and continuous patrols. In collaboration with the OPP, the Town installed gate arms to restrict unauthorized access to the lot after hours, thereby enhancing safety.

During Police Week at the mall, OPP actively engaged with the public, raising awareness of available police resources and services, which garnered positive feedback and support from the community.

OPP have submitted a grant proposal for a new three-year Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) enhancement grant totaling \$360,000, which will bolster members' capacity to serve citizens in crisis situations and strengthen community partnerships with Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare.

Over the reporting period, the Community Safety Officers have been busy planning and coordinating the following:

- OPP KIDS Program Session (for all grade 6 students) and Graduation ceremonies (13 active schools)
- COPPS for Charity Fundraising
- Planning/ Meeting for Cop Camp
- Planning/Meeting annual Golf Tournament
- Bursary winners (promote/distribute/select/award)
- Eclipse Day – Traffic Control / Collision Response
- Our Kids Are Not OK Initiative
- Teen Drivers Positive Ticketing Initiative
- Meet a Machine
- Police Week
- Coffee with a Cop
- Victoria Day Fireworks Planning/Meetings
- Fraud Talks/Presentations
- Recruitment Ambassador training and event planning
- De-escalation Training Workshop
- Education Week – Open House school event
- Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch planning committee
- Canada Day Celebration planning /meetings
- Safety Village JK/SK Programming
- Sun splash parade and festival planning/meetings
- Hospice Duck Drop safety planning.
- Comber Fair and Parade planning
- Summer Camp prep training
- Police Liaison committee meetings
- Emergency Services Introduction to New Canadians (ESINC) Meetings
- **Traffic initiatives (St. Gregory's Road -St Andre and L'essor school; Riverside Drive Road closure/construction; ongoing school patrols during high traffic periods)**

- Elementary School Detachment Tours
- On demand school engagement talks for various topics (Respectful Relationships; Online Safety; Bullying)
- Impaired/Distracted Driving Presentation for PROM/GRAD season at high school
- On demand police assistance and engagement with school administrators and Safe Schools Principal for various concerns and incidents involving students (RE: potential violence; absenteeism; bullying/online safety)
- School Resource regional meetings
- **Positive Ticketing for youth “caught” behaving positively** in the community.
- Ongoing community resource support for officers

These initiatives underscore the OPP’s unwavering commitment to safeguarding the communities and fostering a safer, more secure environment for all residents.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Consultations

Ontario Provincial Police – Essex County Detachment

Senior Administration from Municipalities within the Essex County OPP Detachment Board #1

Link to Strategic Priorities

- Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.
- Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.**
- Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone **who makes Essex "home"**.
- Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.
- Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.