



A Newsletter from the Ottawa Police Services Board

The Ottawa Police Services Board:

Chair: Eli El-Chantiry (City Councillor)
Vice Chair: Jim MacEwen (Community Rep)
Members: Des Doran (Community Rep)
 Diane Guilmet-Harris (Community Rep)
 Henry Jensen (Community Rep)
 Maria McRae (City Councillor)
 Bob Monette (City Councillor)

Executive Director: Wendy Fedec
Board Assistant: Lynn Kennedy

Address: 110 Laurier Avenue West
 Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Phone: (613) 560-1270
Fax: (613) 580-2728
Email : Wendy.fedec@ottawa.ca or
 Lynn.kennedy@ottawa.ca
 ottawapoliceboard.ca

Web: ottawapoliceboard.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to the June 2010 issue of the Ottawa Police Services Board's newsletter. The last three months have been very busy for both the Police Service and the Board, as you will see from the list of reports the Board considered in the second quarter of 2010. We started our 2010 "public interest agenda" this month with a frank and informative discussion about Child and Youth Mental Health that was very well attended. This issue includes:

- A report on the Child and Youth Mental Health session held on 22 June 2010
- Resources available to assist youth who are experiencing difficulties
- Information for parents at the end of the school year
- A list of some of the reports received by the Board in March, April and May that may be of interest to you.

I hope you find the newsletter informative; additional information about the Board and its work is always available online at www.ottawapoliceboard.ca.

Eli El-Chantiry, Chair

CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH: WHAT CAN **YOU** DO ABOUT IT?

On 22 June 2010 the Board held a special information and dialogue session on Child and Youth Mental Health that covered: understanding the implications of child/youth mental health, its connections to crime prevention, destigmatizing mental health illness, and some of the resources available to youth and children in need. Attendees were privileged to hear from:

- **Dr. Ian Manion**, Ph.D., C. Psych, Executive Director, the Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health at CHEO. Dr. Manion shared his knowledge about the current state of youth mental health in Ontario, how youth afflicted by mental health illness are stigmatized, and how that stigmatization can negatively impact them and their caregivers. He also talked about what each person in the community can do to help combat stigmatization and promote mental health wellness.
- **Ms. Fiona Cooligan** and **Ms. Alyse Schacter** are courageous young women who generously shared their own stories with the audience. They talked about the challenges they faced as a result of mental health issues and how they were able to overcome those challenges. It was very moving to hear their first-hand accounts of what it is like to suffer from a mental illness, and inspiring to see how successfully they have dealt with it and become vibrant contributors to their community.
- **Ms. Louise Logue**, Manager, Strategic Youth Initiatives, Ottawa Police Service, introduced a "Reflection Sheet" that each person in attendance had received. It posed a number of questions designed to get people thinking about what they personally could do to stop the stigmatization of mental health illness and promote mental health wellness. Ms. Logue also served as moderator and led the open discussion period.

A Newsletter from the Ottawa Police Services Board

- **Staff Sergeant Steve Bell**, Youth Intervention and Diversion Unit, Ottawa Police Service, concluded the session by providing information on services available through the Police Service in partnership with other community agencies, to assist those in need of help.

The Police Services Board gratefully acknowledges and thanks all the wonderful speakers who shared their experiences and expertise. Special thanks also to members of the **Ottawa Police Auxiliary Unit** for their help in facilitating this important meeting.

Resources for Children and Youth with Mental Health Issues

In April 2010 the Ottawa Police Service teamed up with Youth Net/Réseau Ado to launch a series of communication products aimed at increasing awareness about the challenges of youth living with mental health concerns. Youth Net/Réseau Ado is a bilingual regional mental health promotion and intervention program run by youth, for youth, within the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO).



Left to Right:
Board Chair El-Chantiry, Louise Logue,
Dr. Ian Manion, Fiona Cooligan, Alyse Schacter

Among the communications products developed are five Fast Fact Sheets about five different youth mental health concerns, a pocket-sized pamphlet containing crisis intervention information for youth seeking counselling or support, and an *Ottawa Youth Mental Health Resource List*. The *Resource List* is a comprehensive guide that will help those looking for resources to assist a youth and/or a family in need of counselling or crisis. These products were developed with funding from the Department of Justice Canada in the hope that increased awareness of youth mental health issues will help reduce youth crime and victimization in our City. The communications products are available in the Youth Section of the Ottawa Police Service website (ottawapolice.ca) and the CHEO website (www.cheo.ca), where you will also find links to many other resources. Concerned parents can also call 211 if they need help locating resources.

END OF SCHOOL YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The end of the school year is understandably a cause for celebration, but the Ottawa Police Service and Board want to remind parents and youth that when the celebrations go too far, there are consequences. Year-end school events are often a time when high school students gather in public areas such as local parks or neighbourhoods and where drug and alcohol use, mischief and general disturbances take place. Other activities can include car rallies and scavenger hunts, where violations of criminal, provincial and municipal laws occur. The Ottawa Police Service and Board wish to advise parents and young people that these types of events will not be tolerated and that Police will enforce all applicable laws that may be broken.

Parental Responsibility Act: Parents can be held responsible for property damage by their children under this Act.

Curfew Provisions for Youths Under 16 Years: Under the Child and Family Services Act, no parent of a child less than 16 years of age shall permit the child to loiter in a public place between midnight and 6 a.m. Police officers will use

this as one of their enforcement tools in order to encourage more parental responsibility. Officers have been directed to issue warnings and charges to parents who breach this Act, with violations punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine.

What Can A Parent/ Guardian Do?

- Communicate with your children about the dangers of participating in activities where alcohol, mischief or other violations of the law occur.
- Discuss the consequences of charges and convictions as well as the negative contact with the police in terms of their present and future goals.
- Be aware and monitor the activities of your children at all times.
- Involve yourself in end of the school year activities to ensure that your children's behaviour is safe and lawful.

Help the Ottawa Police promote a safe and peaceful community.

A Newsletter from the Ottawa Police Services Board

RECENT REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE BOARD

The Board has received reports on the following topics in March, April and May that may be of interest to you; all reports can be accessed through the Board's website (ottawapoliceboard.ca):

- **Ottawa Police Service 2009 Annual Report:** The “2009: A Year in Review” report presents organization achievements, operational initiatives and preliminary performance statistics on calls for service, crime and traffic statistics, cost of policing and authorized strength. Featured articles include: successes of the robbery section; efforts to reduce youth crime; continued support for victims of crime; and geographical highlights from around the City. (March)
- **Crime, Police and Traffic Statistics 2009 Annual Report:** contains more detailed statistical information than the OPS Annual Report released in March, allowing for city-wide and ward-by-ward comparisons. The information helps the Police and community to identify problem areas and target problem-solving efforts. (May)
- **Professional Standards Section (Public Complaints) — 2009 Annual Report:** presents statistics on the number and type of complaints made by either the public or the Chief of Police about the conduct of police officers. It also presents statistics on complaints about policies or service provided by the OPS. (March)
- **Financial Status Report — Fourth Quarter 2009:** presents the year-end financial position of the OPS and outlines operational issues that affected finances in 2009. The Service ended the year with a small surplus of \$22,796. (April)
- **Changes to the False Alarm By-law:** In October 2009 the Board approved the elimination of mandatory registration of alarm systems and the \$45 fee that went with it. To offset the resulting loss in revenue, in March 2010 the Board approved an increase in the fee for responding to a false alarm to \$130. (March)
- **Review of Fee Structure for Police Records Checks:** The Board agreed to include in the 2011 Budget a single standardized fee for all types of service related to police records checks, instead of the current system of varying fees depending on the type of records check required. Fees currently range from \$15 to \$53, with free checks for volunteers working in the vulnerable sectors. A standardized fee would be in the \$36 - \$40 range. (April)
- **Special Constable Program Resolution:** The Board approved a joint resolution prepared by the 12 largest police boards in Ontario, calling on the Provincial Government to conduct a comprehensive review of the Special Constable Appointment Program to provide for greater accountability and oversight. (April)
- **Update on the OPS Anti-Idling Initiative:** In 2009 the OPS became the first police service in Ontario to initiate an anti-idling program for its fleet of vehicles. This report provided an update on the success of the initiative after the first nine months. (May)
- **First Quarter 2010 reports on the following:** legal services, workforce management, Employer of Choice, complaints and financial status. (April)

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY..

The Ottawa Police Services Board places a high value on representing the public interest and to do that effectively, it must establish its own relationship with the community and regularly hear from the public. To assist in achieving these goals, the Board adopted a Community Engagement Strategy in 2008 to help establish links of its own with residents and community partners. The strategy includes public interest meetings, collaborations with targeted partners, this quarterly newsletter, and our website.

The Board values and needs community input to ensure the Police Service is meeting the expectations and requirements of residents. We encourage you to attend the various meetings and consultations held throughout the year and to share your thoughts with us. If there is a particular subject you would like to read about in our newsletter or have us address at one of our community meetings, please let us know.

A Newsletter from the Ottawa Police Services Board

The Ottawa Police Services Board is a civilian body established by provincial legislation that provides governance and oversight for the Ottawa Police Service. It is accountable to the community, the Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services, and the Ontario Civilian Police Commission. If you are interested in viewing past issues of the “Board Matters” newsletter or other information about the Ottawa Police Services Board, please visit www.ottawapoliceboard.ca

The Police Services Board usually holds regular business meetings on the fourth Monday of each month except August (there is no meeting in August) and December (the meeting is on the 3rd Monday). *There are some irregularities in 2010 please check the online schedule for details.* All meetings are open to the public and take place at 5:00 p.m. in the Champlain Room, Ottawa City Hall. Members of the public are welcome to speak to any item on the agenda or can speak to an issue not on the agenda but of concern to them, provided they give at least one week's notice to Board staff. A complete schedule of meetings is available online.