



A Newsletter from the Ottawa Police Services Board

The Ottawa Police Services Board:

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LET'S CHAT ABOUT 2012... Help us plan for a safer Ottawa

In May the Police Services Board and Police Service co-hosted four very successful "Let's Chat" coffee shop sessions as part of the 2009 Partnership in Action program. The sessions invited community members to contribute their thoughts on the future direction of the Ottawa Police Service, so community needs and priorities can be reflected in the 2010 - 2012 Business Plan for the Ottawa Police Service (OPS). Participants were asked to discuss and provide their comments on the question "What does a safer Ottawa for all look like?"

Some common themes that arose from the coffee shops were:

- **Long Term Police Presence and Engagement:** Participants noted the need for police presence and involvement in their neighbourhoods. Proactive police presence and participation in community events helps enhance the relationship between the police and the public, builds trust and decreases calls for service.
- **Community Engagement and Partnerships:** Participants recognized that the community has a large role to play in helping to make the city safer for

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to the September issue of the Ottawa Police Services Board's newsletter, "Board Matters" - a vehicle for providing information about the work of the Board and highlighting public safety issues of community concern. The main focus of this issue is the process currently underway to develop the 2010 - 2012 Business Plan for the Ottawa Police Service, including how you can help by providing your input on what it will take to create a safer Ottawa for all over the next three years. Also in this issue we profile the very successful crime prevention program, Neighbourhood Watch. 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
Eli El-Chantiry, Chair

everyone. Partnerships are especially important in aiding seniors, the homeless, women, those with disabilities, youth and first nations/aboriginal peoples.

- **Communications and Outreach:** There was wide support for enhanced communications and outreach that utilizes recent technology to share success stories and events.
- **Recruiting, Promoting and Retaining:** The ability to deal with our diverse, multicultural community needs to be reflected throughout the Police Service as police are recruited, promoted and retained in their positions.
- **Focus on the Root Causes of Crime:** People recognized the importance of getting to the root causes of problems as a better way of eliminating them, rather than simply reacting and enforcing the law.

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Since the coffee shops were held, extensive work has continued to prepare a draft Business Plan based on the community feedback we received and other external and internal inputs such as the 2008 public survey on policing services, demographic trends, crime trends, and trends in policing. Taking all of the contributions into account, four strategic priorities have been identified by the Board and OPS Executive Team as the pillars of the draft Business Plan. With an overarching theme of “Service, Ethics and Excellence”, the four broad priorities are:

1. Preventing, Reducing and Investigating Crime
2. Investing in Our People
3. Enhancing Partnerships and Interoperability
4. Expanding Community Engagement, Education and Mobilization.

Now we want to hear from you...

On November 2, 2009 the Police Service and Police Services Board will be launching “Let's Chat II”, with the first of four fun and interactive coffee shops to find out what community members think about the draft 2010 - 2012 Business Plan that has been developed from their earlier input. On behalf of the Police Services Board and Chief of Police, I hope you will join us for one of the following sessions:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Monday November 2	12:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Jean Piggott Hall (main floor) Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West
Thursday November 5	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Hall A, Bob McQuarrie Recreation Complex 1490 Youville Drive, Orleans
Monday November 9	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	John Mlacak Recreation Centre 2500 Campeau Drive, Kanata
Thursday November 12	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Hall C/D, Nepean Sportsplex 1701 Woodroffe Avenue

To register for a coffee shop, please visit ottawapolice.ca/2012 or ottawapoliceboard.ca; registration opens October 1st. This is your opportunity to make a positive contribution to the future safety of your neighbourhood. Please plan to join us for one of the Let's Chat II coffee shops - we really want to hear what you have to say.

CRIME PREVENTION WEEK

The week of November 1 to 7, 2009 has been designated **Crime Prevention Week in Ontario**, with a theme of: **“Prevention Pays - Get Involved. It's Your Community. It's Your Future”**. Police, government and communities will be encouraged to continue to work together to create strategies that address local issues and reduce crime. The Ottawa Police Service will be organizing some special events to mark the occasion and promote personal and public safety; look for more details closer to Crime Prevention Week.

To mark National Crime Prevention Week the Province of Ontario has published an excellent Home Security Audit Guide to help homeowners identify areas in their home security that need improvement. Using sketches and photographs, the new Guide incorporates strategic approaches and practical actions you can take to increase the safety of your home.

The Guide is downloadable from: http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/police_serv/HomeSecurityAuditGuide/home_security.html



Your Home, Your Community... Keep it Safe!

Neighbourhood Watch is a program to help neighbours watch out for neighbours.

What started as a pilot project in 1979 is now a citywide community driven crime prevention program supported by the Ottawa Police Service. It aims to get citizens involved in discouraging and preventing crime at the local level. The ultimate success of Neighbourhood Watch depends largely on a commitment to cooperate between area residents and the police - and more importantly, between residents themselves.

How does it work?

The program combats crime in the most effective way - before it starts - by reducing the opportunities for crime to occur. The program thrives on mutual aid. Your neighbours know who you are, what type of car you drive, and may be the first to notice a suspicious person at your door or window. A police officer patrolling your community may not recognize a stranger in your yard - but your neighbour will. By simply getting to know the neighbours around you, you'll be well positioned to recognize someone or something that's suspicious.

The Neighbourhood Watch encourages participation in crime prevention. As part of the program, you can learn:

- how to make your home less inviting as a target for thieves;
- how to participate in Operation Identification, an engraving program to protect your valuables; and

- how to recognize and report suspicious activity in your neighbourhood.

How to get involved

Getting involved is easy and free.

To find out if a Neighbourhood Watch exists in your neighbourhood or to start a new one, contact your local Community Police Centre. Your Community Police Centre can provide you with more detailed information, basic start-up assistance and resources.

Tools & Resources

- **How to Get Involved.** A useful outreach tool to promote the program, this pamphlet provides an introduction to Neighbourhood Watch
- **Neighbour Card.** Do your part, and get to know your neighbour. Complete a Neighbour Card and keep it on hand
- **Your home, Your community... Keep it Safe!** Join Neighbourhood Watch - Promotional Poster
- **Neighbourhood Watch: Member Guide** - Your guide to neighbourhood safety
- **How to Get a Watch Going, and Keep it Going: An Introductory Manual.** This manual offers an introductory look at the Neighbourhood Watch program and is intended as a guide for anyone interested in coordinating a Neighbourhood Watch in the city of Ottawa.

To find out more information please visit:

http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/crime_prevention/neighbourhood_watch/tools_resources.cfm

The Ottawa Police Services Board is the 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 Commission on Police Services. If you are interested in viewing past issues of the "Board Matters" newsletter or other information about the Ottawa Police Services Board, please visit ottawapoliceboard.ca.

The Police Services Board 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). 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 in 2009 is available online.