



...from the March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting

## Preparing for Marihuana Legislation

The DRPS continues to get ready for new marihuana legislation while waiting for further details from the federal and provincial governments.

Chief Paul Martin provided the Board with an update on DRPS actions as the Service does everything it can to prepare for the new rules. A total of 90 officers have received Standard Field Sobriety Training and five officers have the specialized Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training, with a sixth being trained by the end of this year. The Service is also sharing information with other municipalities who are working not only on enforcement strategies, but also internal rules around recreational use by employees.

In York Region, a study estimated the overall cost to the community (health care, bylaw enforcement, training) could be \$15 per capita. York Regional Police have estimated they would need \$20.7 million over three years for training and preparedness costs.

The Chief is planning a meeting with federal MP Bill Blair to discuss costs, training and other preparation issues. He continues to work with the CACP and the OACP, who are tracking the progress of the legislation and advocating for implementation funding.

“I don’t think it’s going to be as seamless as it’s portrayed,” the Chief said. He promised to keep the Board apprised of any new developments throughout the year.

## 2017 Budget on Target

Despite nine homicides and increases in reported crime, the DRPS stayed on budget in 2017.

A report indicated net expenditures were within 0.02 per cent of the approved budget of \$193.1 million. Higher than expected professional and consulting fees were offset by savings found in equipment, maintenance and vehicle costs.



**K-9 Calendar Proceeds:** Members of the DRPS K-9 Unit presented a cheque worth \$37,663 to three local charities at today’s PSB meeting.

## K-9 Calendar Helps Local Charities

D/Cst. Wes King and other members of the DRPS K-9 Unit presented over \$37,000 to three local charities from the proceeds of the 2018 DRPS K-9 Calendar.

The wall calendar was sold in support of the Alzheimer Society (Durham Chapter), The Animal Guardian Society (TAGS) and Epilepsy Durham. The calendars, created with the help of the DRPS Corporate Communications Unit, featured dynamic photographs of all nine DRPS police dogs and lots of crime prevention tips.

At today’s Board meeting, a cheque for \$37,663 (in the shape of a doggie treat) was presented for all three agencies to share. Over \$125,000 has now been raised for local charities since the K-9 Calendar was introduced four years ago.

D/Cst. King said one the best parts of promoting the calendar are the hundreds of citizens K-9 officers meet at shopping malls and stores. They always stop to say hello and thank the officers and the dogs for their service to the community.

Board Vice Chair Randy Wilson thanked the K-9 team for its hard work in supporting the local charities and thanked the officers for their efforts in keeping our communities safe.

## **Continuous Improvement Update**

The Board received an update on the progress of the DRP's Continuous Improvement (CI) initiative, an ongoing commitment to find effectiveness and efficiency throughout the police service.

The program has been active for almost four years and has made numerous improvements that have saved costs and made processes more efficient. Some of the successes have been:

- Enhancement to response times for FOI requests
- Smaller but more frequent Block Training classes, which reduces queuing time and returns over 3,000 hours of staff time back to investigative and administrative units
- Changing ratios of Detectives to Detective Constables in CIB offices that resulted in a savings of \$70,195

## **Cost of Policing**

A staff report once again confirmed the cost of policing in Durham Region is amongst the lowest of similar sized services. Durham ranked the third lowest in operating cost per capita at \$280 for 2016.

Durham's cost per capita is 8.4 per cent lower than the average of other comparable police services in Ontario. Our increase in cost per capita between 2012 and 2016 was \$22, which represents the median position between the lowest growth (\$-4) and the highest growth (\$45) in the comparator group.

The DRPS comparator group includes the police services in Halton, York, Waterloo, Hamilton, Niagara and Toronto.

## **Investing in Community Groups**

The Board will be supporting two local charitable initiatives to keep our communities strong.

They will invest \$2,000 in support of Pro-Action Cops & Kids (Durham Chapter) and \$4,000 in support of the Lakeridge Health Foundation.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, April 9, 2018 at 8:30 a.m., Regional HQ, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario in the Regional Council Chamber. ■