

Monthly Report

Police Services

April 2023

TRAINING

EMO/ICS 300: Five APD staff were scheduled for ICS ECC training on March 9th but it was cancelled as a result of instructor illness. Several members were also initially scheduled to complete ICS 300 in March, but this course was also postponed.

Firearms/Carbine Training: Firearms and Carbine Training for APD members has been scheduled for May 2023. Deputy Chief Hunter is working with our two firearms/carbine instructors to prepare the training syllabus and materials required. This is a slight change from our normal routine of doing all firearms training in September. May is a better month as it is normally cooler and not as busy as September tends to be.

First Responders Terrorism Awareness Program: Chief Dwayne Pike attended the Halifax Regional Police training facility along with other FRTAP Facilitators and conducted a training session with the HRP Police Cadets on March 8th. The FRTAP training session covered various topics including Right-Wing Extremism, Critical Infrastructure, Radicalization & Mobilization, Women and Extremism and went over several case studies including an overview and presentation of the Halifax Shopping Centre Mass Shooting plot that was foiled in 2015.

OPERATIONAL

Arrest – Multiple charges: On March 19th, 2023, Amherst Police arrested a 28-year-old Amherst man in relation to a break and enter, failing to comply with release conditions, possession of break-in tools and possession of property obtained by crime. The male, Bradley Richard Hicks was the subject of a previous arrest on February 27th on more than 30 charges which included multiple counts of possession of property obtained by crime, theft, break and enter, breach of an undertaking, identity fraud, fraud, theft of a credit card, mischief and other related charges. He had been released on those charges after appearing in court on the matters. Hicks is currently in custody in relation to the numerous charges against him and is scheduled to next appear on April 18th, 2023.

Major Crime Unit: The Major Crime Unit continues to be busy with an assortment of responsibilities and tasks assigned to complete. One of the items that they completed this past month was a full audit of the APD Exhibit room with the assistance of a Platoon member. The Audit took 2 days and went through all the exhibits in APD custody. The audit was very successful and exhibits were accounted for.

Homelessness: We have started to see a rise in regard to complaints associated to homelessness. In February 2023, there were 11 files that were considered to have a nexus to the homelessness issue. This increased to 47 during the month of March with the majority of these complaints being generated by 2 or 3 people in which police often have multiple contacts with each day.

Complaints of thefts: Complaints of theft dropped off during the month of March 2023. In February, APD opened 49 files regarding theft under \$5000 which dropped to 29 in March. In March, there were 2 complaints received of theft from vehicles as compared to 21 in February. We have continued to see a general rise in these kinds of complaints over the last few months with some complaints (such as thefts from vehicles) often being impacted by the activities of 1 or 2 people.

Monthly Focused Enforcement: Patrols focused their attention on child safety seats/seatbelts for the month of March. This initiative resulted in over 24 hours dedicated to these issues and 11 tickets issued by patrol members. February focused on distracted driving and resulted in 8 tickets and 4 warnings. April's focused enforcement is being dedicated to speeding.

Taxi By-Law File: Our bylaw officer has been processing licenses under the Taxi by-law in preparation for the April 1st deadline for applications and inspections. Applications for Taxi Licenses and Owners licenses have been approved and numerous taxis for both Bakers' Taxi and Amherst Taxi have been inspected and approved. Taxi companies that are not in compliance are aware of the requirements and these issues will be the focus of enforcement initiatives over the next few weeks.

Mass Casualty Commission - Final Report: The Mass Casualty Commission Final report was released to the public on March 30th, 2023. Entitled "Turning the Tide Together" the report provides detailed information as a result of the 2 ½ year investigation into the incident and makes recommendations in regards to changes within RCMP oversight, processes and culture, a rethinking of the structure of policing in Nova Scotia and police practices across Canada, a national review of public alerting, greater focus on root causes of violence, especially gender-based violence and domestic violence and models to expand community safety and well-being. The report, which is contained in 7 volumes, is over 3,000 pages and can be downloaded from the link at <https://masscasualtycommission.ca/final-report/>. It will have an impact on policing and police agencies, both RCMP and municipal, in the near future.

OPERATIONAL STATS – MARCH 2023

Occurrences:	490	Criminal Code Charges:	113
Impaired by Alcohol:	1	CDSA:	2
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	1
Traffic Tickets:	44	PPA:	10
Traffic Written Warnings:	10	Vehicle Checks:	90
LCA:	0	Foot Patrol Hours:	42 hrs 34 min
Bike Patrol Hours:	0	Parking Tickets:	2
Parking Warnings:	7		

TASK UPDATES

Task: Marsh Trail ATV Issues: That staff be directed to install signs, barriers and cameras along the centennial walking trail, and further that Council approves funding for such.

Update: Cameras have been installed. Will be working with Tom McCoag and our Crime Prevention Coordinator on messaging and safety information

Status: In Progress

Task: Noise By-law changes

Update. 2023-04-05 Still reviewing this matter, have had some quick conversations with the CAO, but have not discussed in detail.

Status: In Progress

Task: Taxi By-law - Suggested changes to current bylaw

Update: 2023-04-05: Matter to go to COW on April 17th, 2023.

Status: In Progress

Task: Mobile Vendors By-Law

Update: 2023-04-05: Matter proceeding as required. Notice of intent to give second reading appeared in the Cumberland Wire on April 5th, 2023, with second reading scheduled for April 24th.

