



AMHERST POLICE DEPARTMENT

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MEMORANDUM

To: Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

From: Acting Chief Dwayne Pike

RE: Motorized Scooter Strategy

Date: 2018-09-19

In the fall of 2017, Council directed that police to prepare a report on the laws/regulations that govern the use of motorized scooters on Nova Scotia highways and roads. This was in relation to safety concerns and local practices that have been observed.

On January 11, 2018 Chief Naylor provided his report to Council. I have attached his written report. Since that time, Cst Tom Wood has been tasked with developing our Motorized Scooter Strategy. The strategy designed was a combination of education and measured enforcement.

Constable Wood developed a 2 page Mobility Scooter & Wheelchair Fact sheet. This fact sheet (attached) provided information on the regulations regarding the use of mobility scooters and safety tips for users. These fact sheets were distributed to retailers who sold/rented or lent mobility scooters with the purpose of supplying the information to their clients. He also had discussions with the retailers and educated them on the Motor Vehicle Act.

In addition to this, a media release was prepared and sent to the media (attached). This article, while posted in the paper, was also posted online and shared via social medial, including the Town of Amherst Facebook and APD Facebook profiles.

Constable Wood also did two Public Service Announcements for both CKDH and CFTA.

Continuing with the education strategy, Cst Wood attended and spoke to staff and clients at several senior care homes and several senior housing areas including the following:

Centennial Villa 258 Church Street
White Birches 189 Fox Ranch Road
Centennial Manor 81 West Victoria Street
Fort Cumberland Manor 144 East Victoria Street
Tantramar Place 20 North Adelaide Street
Ridgeview Terrace 48 Summit
Lakeside Manor 1419 Blair Road
Marshview Estates
Gladstone Avenue

Victoria Manor 14 West Victoria Street
Shannex 189 Willow Street
Shiretown 2 Acadia Street
Havelock Terrace 64 Havelock Street
Marshview Terrace 7 Summit
Poplar Manor 6 Poplar
West Highland Manor 3 Anson Avenue
Long Leah Court
Sandstone Crescent and Paradise Avenue Area

During his patrols, he also stopped and spoke to several users, explaining the initiative and educating them about the Motor Vehicle Act and providing safety tips.

Constable Wood provided presentations to each of the 4 police platoons, explaining the initiative and its goals and providing materials and education to each of our members. Patrols were asked to stop motorized scooter users who were using the road and advise them of the requirement to use the sidewalk. As a result, our patrol members have also been stopping and speaking with users and providing them with the information on the initiative and strategy.

The information that Cst Wood compiled was provided to the RCMP so that they could also initiate change. Senior Safety Coordinator Ray Bristol was also provided with information and the fact sheet to distribute.

Most motorized scooter users were compliant and understood the concerns. Their main concern was that sidewalks are too bumpy when using a scooter.

Moving forward we will continue with this initiative by educating the public and keeping on top of legislation that is likely to be changing with the rewriting of the Motor Vehicle Act.

Dwayne Pike, Acting Chief
Amherst Police Department