

ABPC Chief's Report

Amherst Police Department

November 21st, 2018

This report covers months of September & October 2018

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING

Domestic Violence Educator: Cst Michelle Harrison attended Domestic Violence Educator training on October 16th and 17th. This training provides officers with up to date information on policies and procedures for domestic abuse investigations. The APD Domestic Violence Educator is also responsible for reviewing all domestic files, providing guidance and direction and ensuring that standards are met.

Interoperability Forum: A/Chief Pike, A/D/Chief Hunter and Executive Assistant Nancy Guiderson attended an interoperability forum in Dartmouth on October 16th. This forum highlighted many of the issues relating to public safety and communications and included presentations on the TMR2 network used by the majority of Policing and public safety agencies in the Atlantic Provinces.

FOIPOP Training: Acting Chief Pike and Acting D/Chief Hunter attended a one day session on FOIPOP in Truro Nova Scotia on October 25th. The training included a review of legislation under the Municipal Government Act as well as strategies to streamline the process and make decisions relating to the release of personal information. Various scenarios were reviewed as group exercises as well as a panel discussion with representatives from different departments.

Property Crime Examiner Course: Sgt Kevin Girouard attended the PCE course in Halifax from October 15th to the 19th. This course provided instruction on examining crime scenes of property crimes and included exhibit examination, fingerprinting, DNA, footwear and tire tracks and photography. The ability to have a member trained in Property Crime Examination reduces the need to rely on RCMP IDENT members for assistance on Property Crimes.

Firearms Training 9mm/Carbine/Shotgun: All officers completed their mandatory annual firearms qualifications in 9mm pistols, shotguns and carbine rifles. The training is provided by Sgt. Tim Hunter and Cst. Chris Jobe. The carbine officers receive 2 days training while the non-carbine officers receive 1 day of training. Officers are required to successfully complete the department's qualifications and are trained on tactical deployment, containment and working in teams. Each officer is also required to complete a use of force scenario which includes legal articulation. The officer must articulate the factors they considered when making their decision whether or not to use force and if so how they assessed the level of force required. The articulation by the officer is an important component of the training. Even if their use of force was appropriate, if they can not effectively articulate their decision process important information could be missing and could impact the findings of a review of their actions.

Containment Training: All members completed a 12 hour day of containment training. Containment is a response to a high risk situation in which the goal of police is to 'contain' the threat. This may include barricaded persons or a hostage situation. Training consists of classroom review of terminology and tactics and several live action scenarios. This year our members conducted training in Warren and Hastings as well as in the industrial park utilizing a property and a building provided by Atlantic Commercial Properties.

Human Source Management: Costable Derek HEBERT, who has been assigned to the Cumberland Street Crime Unit, attending the Human Source Course in Halifax from September 23rd, to the 28th. The Street Crime unit utilizes information through many different types of forms, the most important of which is the cultivation of human sources. This course teaches the candidate all the skills required to utilize human sources and includes scenarios with actors to ensure that proper procedure is followed and case law requirements are met.

NSCPA Fall Conference: The NSCPA/NSAPB Fall Conference was held in Bridgewater on September 13th and 14th. Acting Chief Dwayne Pike attended along with ABPC members Paul Calder, Sandy Fairbanks and

Darrell Jones. The agenda included presentations/discussions on Cannabis legislation and impaired driving, policing standards, the additional officer program and workplace drug/alcohol issues. The honourable Stephen McNeil, premier of Nova Scotia, was the speaker at the Gala Dinner.

PERSONNEL

Long Service Awards: Acting Deputy Chief Tim Hunter received his Provincial 25 year long service award on September 25th. Tim started his career in policing with the Springhill Police before working in New Glasgow for his APA On the job training and then in Lunenburg before coming to Amherst in August of 1992. Acting Chief Dwayne Pike attended the ceremony and along with Justice Minister Mark Furey, presented Tim with his medal. Constable Tom Wood also attended and was part of the honour guard, carrying the Amherst flag.

OPERATIONAL

Substance Use Policy: A/Chief Pike attended a meeting with several other chiefs of Municipal Departments for a discussion on the issue of the use of substances that impair by employees. Those in attendance agreed that a 'fit for duty' policy for cannabis should remain consistent with our current policies on substance use. As a result, the expectation is that officers are expected to report for duty alert, professional and not displaying any signs of impairment. The public expectation is that police officers will be in the right frame of mind to make good decisions. We trust our officers to make the right decisions regarding healthy lifestyle choices, which includes showing up for work fit for duty.

Seniors Police Academy: The Police and Seniors Safety Academy started its 5 week run on October 10th and continued until November 7th. The Academy, which is partnered between APD and Furlong-Jones Funeral Service, provides information on a variety of topics which includes emergency preparedness, frauds and scams, winter driving tips and fall prevention. The workshops were held on Wednesday's from 09:30 to 11:30 with lunch provided. To date, presentations included information on Cannabis legalization, Town of Amherst Initiatives for Seniors, Housing NS, and YMCA programs.

Halloween 2018: The operational plan for Halloween 2018 included both mobile and foot patrols in various parts of town. Special attention was placed on the busier areas of town such as Winston Avenue and Abby Road by ensuring foot patrol coverage. Once again the Pumpkin Patrol, consisting of volunteers from the WestCumb Amateur Radio Club and the Amherst Fire Department, provided support by patrolling and keeping our children safe.

Head's Up, Helmets On: The Heads Up Helmets On program was held again this year. The goal of the program is to promote the use of helmets for persons operating bicycles, and skateboards. Persons observed wearing helmets received rewards in the form of redeemable coupons. Those observed not wearing helmets are could be issued a ticket but with an option to attend an information session on helmet safety to have the ticket withdrawn. A total of 30 people were processed under the program over the summer months with 21 referred to the information session. Over 150 coupons from MacDonald's and Dairy Queen for ice cream were passed out by police over the summer to people spotted in compliance with the bike helmet laws.

Stay At Home Compliance Checks: For the month of September, members of the Amherst Police Department conducted a total of 206 compliance checks on people who are currently on house arrest or curfews as a result of conditional sentence orders or court orders. As a condition of their release from custody, or as a measure to protect the public, people on these kinds of conditions are often required to present themselves at their door to prove compliance to a police officer. Those who are found breaching their conditions may be subject to further criminal charges, having their conditions tightened or having their release revoked completely.

Move Over/Franks Law: Members of the Amherst Police Department, Cumberland RCMP, Amherst Fire Department and other first responders gathered at the Amherst Centre Mall on September 12th in regards to promoting and bringing awareness to "Frank's Law", the provincial requirement that vehicle drivers 'slow down and move over' when approaching a stopped emergency vehicle. Approximately 10 APD members were in attendance.

CRIME PREVENTION/SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER

YMCA Youth Drop In: Cst Wood and Cst Harrison took turns attending the YMCA Drop in on Thursday nights. The number of youths attending is currently in the 70's and there have been numerous opportunities for our members to build a rapport and a relationship with our youth.

Race Against Drugs: Race Against Drugs was held at West Highlands School on October 22nd, and over 100 grade 5 students from schools in Cumberland County attended to learn about healthy choices and safety and includes representation from various community groups and agencies. The Amherst Lion's Club has been a long time partner in this initiative and their work on crime prevention and drug awareness has had an impact on our community.

Pumpkins for Poverty: This event was hosted at Victoria Park on October 19th in support of 'Empowering Beyond Barriers'. Pumpkins were given out for a monetary or food donation. Several members of the Amherst Police Department attended to assist, along with the PeeWee AAA Ramblers. The event raised over \$800.

MADD Road Rally: Held on October 6th, this years rally took 13 teams to various locations in both Cumberland and Westmoreland County. The rally is hosted by the Cumberland-Tantramar Chapter of Mother's Against Drunk Driving and included checkpoints with small challenges for extra points. Trophies were presented for the best scores as well as the best dressed teams.

Press Releases: Cst Wood prepared and released several press releases that included Halloween safety, Cram A Cruiser events, Counterfeit American \$20 bills, and The Amherst Bar Suspension Program.

Shift Coverage: September was a busy month for both Cst Wood and Cst Harrison as they were covering platoon shifts as a result of the shortages because of Carbine, Firearms and Containment Training during the month.

Mullins House Liaison: On September 27th, Cst Harrison met with Mullins' House Staff and their director from Halifax, discussing communication issues and challenges they are facing. Mullins house is interested in having a liaison officer who will attend on a regular basis, building rapport with the clients and staff.

West Highland School Community Night: On September 25th, Cst Harrison attended the West Highland School Community Night where she met with parents, students and staff, handed out booklets on on-line safety, cyberbullying and gave out some APD tattoos.

Mock Disaster: On September 17th, officers attended and participated in a mock disaster and evacuation exercise at Gables Lodge. The object of the scenario was to test the safety policies and the cooperation between emergency responders and staff.

Head's Up, Helmets On: On September 14th, Cst Wood held information sessions for the "Head's Up, Helmets On" program. This session is used to provide an alternative to charges under the Motor Vehicle Act and to educate people on helmet laws and the dangers of riding a bike without wearing a helmet.

Truck Show – Amherst Centre Mall: On September 8th, Cst Wood attended a Truck show at the Amherst Centre Mall and set up the Madd Pedal Cart course. The impaired driving goggles were utilized so that participants could see the different results in their driving when using the goggles.

School Parking Letters: Constable Harrison had prepared letters which were sent to student homes in regards to parking and posted signs at both Spring Street Academy and West Highlands Education Centre.

FOCUSED ENFORCEMENT

October: APD members focused on intersection safety for the month of October, ensuring that people are obeying traffic signs and signals in relation to intersections. In total there was over 79 hours dedicated to this initiative and 10 tickets and 29 warnings issued for intersection related offenses, with 6 tickets and 5 warnings issued for other infractions.

September: APD members focused on school zones for the month of September, ensuring that school areas were safe for youths returning to school. In total there was 21 hours and 41 minutes of time invested in this initiative. Very few infractions were noted with only 1 ticket and 1 warning issued.

OPERATIONAL STATS

October 2018

Occurrences: 442
 Impaired by Alcohol: 0
 Impaired by Drug: 0
 Traffic Tickets: 67
 Vehicle Checks: 283
 Foot Patrol Hours: 91hours, 59m

Criminal Code Charges: 57
 CDSA: 3
 Traffic Written Warnings: 78
 LCA: 5
 Bike Patrol Hours: 0

September 2018

Occurrences: 456
 Impaired by Alcohol: 1
 Impaired by Drug: 0
 Traffic Tickets: 28
 Vehicle Checks: 156
 Foot Patrol Hours: 64hours, 50m

Criminal Code Charges: 25
 CDSA: 1
 Traffic Written Warnings: 32
 LCA: 2
 Bike Patrol Hours: 0

Quarterly Stats 2018

1st Qtr = January 1st - March 31st 2nd Qtr = April 1st - June 30th								3rd Qtr = July 1st - September 30th 4th Qtr = October 1st - December 31st			
Offence Category	2018 1st Qtr	2017 1st Qtr	2018 2nd Qtr	2017 2nd Qtr	2018 3rd Qtr	2017 3rd Qtr	2018 4th Qtr	2017 4th Qtr	2018 Comparison 3rd period ending	2017 Comparison 3rd period ending	%
Assault	37	42	57	51	59	56		33	153	149	2.68%
Break & Enter - Business	6	2	1	1	7	1		7	14	4	250.00%
Break & Enter - Residence	7	7	8	9	15	18		14	30	34	-11.76%
Domestic Incident	50	56	48	35	42	61		43	140	152	-7.89%
Impaired Driving	17	13	20	10	22	8		9	59	31	90.32%
Liquor Act Offences	11	9	12	14	7	12		12	30	35	-14.28%
Other Criminal Code	66	63	89	64	120	101		78	275	228	20.61%
Possession of Stolen Prop.	3	2	2	4	1	5		6	6	11	-45.45%
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	-
Sexual Assault	3	2	3	2	2	4		3	8	8	-
Spousal Partner Abuse	12	15	17	11	10	12		13	39	38	2.63%
Theft	48	28	46	49	68	76		58	162	153	5.88%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	5	1	1	3	1	1		2	7	5	40.00%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	7	4	17	13	25	18		9	49	35	40.00%
MVA SOT's	90	48	109	141	118	106		93	317	295	7.46%
LCA SOT's	8	4	12	8	6	18		9	26	30	-13.33%
Traffic Warning Issued	55	78	84	123	126	118		64	265	319	-16.93%
Vandalism (Mischief)	12	10	7	8	18	6		5	37	24	54.17%
Occurrences	1106	1023	1378	1273	1561	1395		1213	4045	3691	9.59%
Vehicle Checks	396	399	475	591	590	569		426	1461	1559	-6.29%
Foot Patrol Hours	148h 24m	231h 21m	191h 55m	277h 44m	161h 28m	202h 39m		222h 36m	501h 47m	711h 44m	/
Bike Patrol Hours	0	0	0	11h 53m	7h 3m	6h 6m		0	7h 3m	17h 59m	/

Red indicates a decrease
 Blue indicates an increase

Updated: October 10, 2018

