

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

23 APRIL 2008

Volunteer of the Year Award

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the board receive this report pursuant to Auxiliaries and Volunteers Board Policy No. 03/02.

SYNOPSIS

York Regional Police is recognizing Mr. Hans Uhr with the Volunteer of the Year Award for his many years of commitment and ongoing dedication to the York Regional Police Auxiliary Unit, the Pipes and Drums and the Rovers.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND

As the Board is aware, the week of April 27, 2008, has been declared National Volunteer Week by the Government of Canada. National Volunteer Week was first proclaimed in 1943. This is a special time set aside in April of each year to honour and recognize Canadians who donate time and energy to their fellow citizens. National Volunteer Week also raises awareness of the vital contributions volunteers make to our communities and our country.

York Regional Police are fortunate to have over 250 dedicated volunteers that participate in Pipes & Drums, Male Chorus, Auxiliary, Venturers, Rovers, Project Lifesaver, the 3 District Community Policing Centre and various other community initiatives and programmes. These individuals dedicate themselves to helping their fellow citizens and act as our ambassadors in the community.

In 2007, the dedicated volunteers of these groups contributed over 58,000 hours in community service. As a token of appreciation, York Regional Police recognize the contributions that volunteers make to this organization with an appreciation dinner every year. The dinner includes an award ceremony which acknowledges individuals within each individual Volunteer Group who have gone above and beyond their role as a volunteer. In addition to this recognition, a Volunteer of the Year Award was introduced in 2005. Although York Regional Police recognizes the many people in our region who donate their time and effort, one person in particular is honoured as Volunteer of the Year. This very special award is presented to a Volunteer who has contributed many hours to the York Regional Police Volunteer Programme, and in the community.

The individual selected as the 2007 Volunteer of the Year is Mr. Hans Uhr. Hans joined the York Regional Police Auxiliary Unit on October 19, 1994. He was promoted to Auxiliary Sergeant in 1998 and to Auxiliary Staff Sergeant in October 2002. He has been an active member of the York Regional Police Pipe Band for 10 years and he also serves as an advisor to the York Regional Police Rovers. He organized the Pipes and Drums Austria trip in 2002 and worked tirelessly on the 2005 Europe trip.

Hans has been recognized for his invaluable contribution to the Ontario Law Enforcement Motorcycle Ride for the Prevention of Child Abuse. He volunteered many hours by planning, coordinating and mapping the route of the ride, consisting of 200 officers on motorcycles. They traveled from Queen's Park to Sibbald Point Provincial Park in Sutton in 2001 and 2002 and from Queen's Park to Fairy Lake in Newmarket in 2003. As an Auxiliary Member, Hans has been very instrumental in organizing the Auxiliary officers for the Persechini Run, as well as assisting with organizing the route for the run. Hans also has assisted with organizing the Auxiliary, Rovers and Community Volunteers for the York Regional Police Military Tattoo 2008.

As well as volunteering for the York Regional Police Auxiliary, Hans is a member of many clubs including the Swiss Club and the Campbell Clan Canada (Scottish Society). He has been involved with Scouts Canada since the age of 8 and is currently the Assistant District Commissioner of the South Lake Simcoe Boys Scouts of Canada and is an Honorary Assistance Scout Leader for Boy Scouts of America (Transatlantic Council). He also has the advanced Scout Leader training "Gilwell Wood Badge". Hans even finds time to volunteer as an usher at his church.

Hans has received training in the past from the Swiss Army, Civil Defenses and Switzerland Police Force. This training included Extended Army, Firearm and Sniper courses, extended medical training, the Instructor and Commander course for Civil Defense in Switzerland, Search and Rescue and he is a Certified Ambulance Driver.

These are just a few of the ways Hans demonstrates his outstanding organization and leadership skills. Hans truly brings to life our motto "Deeds Speak" and he inspires by example. We are pleased to recognize Hans Uhr as this year's Volunteer of the Year.

APL/ac

Armand P. La Barge, O.O.M.
Chief of Police