



Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board

17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, Ontario, Canada L3Y 4W5
(905) 830-4444 or Toll Free: 1-877-464-9675 (Ext. 7906)
Fax: (905) 895-5249 website: www.yrpsb.ca

To Make a Difference in the Community

MEDIA RELEASE **Police Services Board Meeting Highlights** **April 22, 2010**

Chief of Police Announces his Retirement	Chief Armand La Barge announced he will be retiring at the end of this year after 37 years of service. Chief La Barge has served as Chief of Police since December 2002. Chairman Danny Wheeler stated that the Police Services Board will be hiring a new Chief from within the ranks and an announcement will be made in November.
Vice-Chairman Appointment Extended	Chairman Wheeler announced that Vice-Chairman Joe Persechini's appointment to the Police Services Board was extended by the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services until such time as a new member has been appointed.
Board Honours Volunteer of the Year	Chairman Danny Wheeler and Chief Armand La Barge presented Mr. David Jeanneret with the Volunteer of the Year Award for his many years of commitment and ongoing dedication to the York Regional Police. Since 1991, Mr. Jeanneret has been involved in numerous initiatives including the Street Beat program, the Blue Ribbon Campaign and the Recruit Community Insight program. He currently serves as a member of the York Regional Police Community Crime Prevention Advisory Council and serves as a member of the Four District Community Liaison Committee.
Canine Unit Presentation	Inspector Norn Miles and Sergeant Daryl Holland made a presentation on the Police Canine Unit . The unit consists of 15 police dogs trained in the detection of drugs, explosives, cadavers, firearms and ammunition. The Canine Unit provides around-the-clock coverage. Ninety-three persons were located by the unit in 2009 including 22 persons wanted for robbery or weapons offences and seven missing vulnerable persons. The York Regional Police Canine Unit meets the highest standards in training, is the third largest unit in Ontario and is national and internationally recognized.
Promotions	Nineteen officers were promoted to the ranks of Sergeant/ Detective and Staff Sergeant or Detective Sergeant. The newly promoted officers were assigned to the front-lines, investigative services and other areas of the organization and reflect ethnic and gender diversity.
Crime Rate Decreasing in York Region	Chief Armand La Barge reported that the overall crime rate decreased for the sixth consecutive year , dropping 6.8 per cent in 2009. Chief La Barge stated the decline reflects the Police Services Board's and Regional Council's investment in the police service, a commitment to proactive policing and the strong partnerships with our many communities. The rate for both violent crimes and property crimes has been on the decline since 2005. The total number of reported hate crimes in York Region decreased by 6.3 per cent from 2008. Criminal traffic violations increased by 34.2 per cent due largely to a change in processing motor vehicle collision reports.



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Spirit of Community Dinner	The Police Services Board agreed to support the 7th Annual Spirit of Community Dinner to be held in Vaughan on June 2, 2010. Monies raised contribute to the work of The Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre . This year's Community Service Award will be presented to Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti . Mayor Scarpitti will be honoured for his over 20 years of leadership and service to the community. Mayor Scarpitti is a member of the York Regional Police Services Board and has served on the York Region Planning Committee, the York Region Inclusivity Action Plan and the Centre for Dreams for young adults with intellectual disabilities, as well as assisted in the establishment of the Markham Race Relations Committee.
Special Olympics Ontario	The Special Olympics National Games to be held in London, Ontario will host 10 athletes from York Region. The Police Services Board supports the initiative of our athletes with a financial contribution on behalf of each participant. The goal of the York Region athletes is to advance to the World Competition and the Board's financial contribution will encourage them to meet their goal.
Women's Support Network of York Region	The Police Services Board agreed to contribute to the Women's Support Network of York Region's Walk for Safe and Healthy Communities 2010 . This fundraising event encourages and supports public education and awareness of the issues of sexual violence. The Women's Support Network works in partnership with York Regional Police in reducing incidents of sexual violence in our communities.
Crime Stoppers Program	The Police Services Board approved sponsorship in support of Crime Stoppers of York Region's 19th Annual Wayne Snooks Golf Classic to be held at the Cardinal Golf Club in Kettleby on June 8, 2010. Crime Stoppers recently developed a language interpretation service. Through the Crime Stoppers program, the citizens of York Region are encouraged to assist the police in solving crimes.
Next Police Services Board Meeting	The next Police Services Board meeting will be on WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2010 , Committee Room A, Region of York Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge Street at 1:00 p.m. Chief Armand La Barge and his team will make a presentation on POLICE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING .

Contact: Mafalda Avellino, Executive Director, Police Services Board: 905-830-4444 or 1-877-464-9675, ext.7906 or psb@yrp.ca. Visit: www.yrpsb.ca for meeting agenda and minutes.