



COBOURG POLICE SERVICES BOARD

OPENING REMARKS

DECEMBER 15, 2020

Welcome to the Cobourg Police Services Board Meeting.

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of 2020. It was not an easy year. Everyone had to adapt quickly to an ever-evolving situation. I am thankful and so proud of the resilience and professionalism demonstrated by all the members of the Cobourg Police Service. Working day in and day out, ensuring the safety of the community throughout these extraordinary times. Thank you to the Town of Cobourg, Council and staff, for their continued partnership and leadership this year.

As the holidays approach, I am in awe of the positivity and generosity found in our community. Residents continue to support local organizations, fundraisers, and initiatives that go to support those in need.

CRAM-A CRUISER is one example of these Spirit of Giving campaigns with 3,622 pounds of food donated, \$3,944 collected

for the Northumberland Fare Share Food Bank, and 207 toys provided to the Salvation Army. Truly amazing.

The safety of all Ontarians is a focus for the province and they continue to look for collaborative solutions in the fight against crime.

Last month, The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General visited Cobourg's Venture13 Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre with MPP David Piccini to announce that Cobourg Police Service has received \$200,000 from the Province through the Ontario CCTV grant program.

We are proud to be one of the 18 police services to receive provincial support through the grant.

This funding, along with funding from the V13 Policetech Accelerator, Northumberland CFDC and CPS will support The Next Generation Community Safety Strategy, a local project to implement a mesh network paired with an advanced analytical solution and will set the foundation for a scalable mesh ecosystem aimed at prevention, interdiction and enforcement for enhanced community well-being.

The scope of the project will merge hardware (CCTV cameras) with advanced analytical capabilities that will integrate a Community Safety Network enabling rapid post-event response for victim identification and crime prevention. This first phase will lay the groundwork for a comprehensive solution that will look to eventually include data from a multitude of sources

including Police, Municipal and Private - allowing a local and collaborative response to deter violent crime and hold offenders accountable.

Crime prevention through education and enforcement continues with the launch of the festive RIDE campaign. With the cancellation of Operation Red Nose this year and a recent increase of impaired driving incidents in Cobourg and the surrounding areas, we were happy that from the close to 200 vehicles stopped on the first night there were no arrests or suspensions issued. We hope everyone will make the commitment to never drive after consuming alcohol or using drugs.

Lock it or Lose it campaigns also continue and in a one-month span, auxiliary members checked 750 vehicles and nearly 30% were left vulnerable to auto theft.

With an eye to the future, the Board continues to provide guidance on the upcoming budget. We are pleased with the direction and look forward to presenting a progressive budget for 2021 that is accountable to taxpayers. Thank you to all the staff who have worked to bring the budget together.

Last week, the Town of Cobourg, moved into the “PROTECT” yellow category of the COVID-19 Response Framework. As we continue to work to keep the community safe, we encourage everyone to continue their efforts in practicing health measures: wear a face covering, wash your hands thoroughly and often,

stay home if you feel ill. Be kind and patience with each other as we enter the holiday season.

We will tackle 2021 with renewed spirit and commitment to our mission of excellence in policing and quality community service. Working each day of the year to ensure a safe and secure community, a supportive and healthy workplace, community engagement and partnerships.

On behalf of the Board, I wish everyone a healthy, safe, and happy holiday season.