



COBOURG POLICE SERVICES BOARD CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS JANUARY 19, 2021

Welcome to the first Cobourg Police Services Board Meeting of 2021.

Thank you to all the Cobourg Police Service members for their dedication to serving the community over the past year. With the start of a new year comes new possibilities and opportunities. COVID-19 has not slowed Cobourg Police Service in moving towards our mission to provide excellence in policing and quality service through our people, our partnerships, and our work.

Cobourg police stopped a total of 1,867 vehicles as part of the Festive R.I.D.E. Program. Five impaired-related charges were laid, which is five too many. We hope residents will commit to driving sober in 2021 and onward.

With the continued anxiety and stress caused by the pandemic, our M-HEART team continues to be busy. They are doing a fantastic job responding to increased mental health calls and follow-ups while still providing proactive outreach opportunities.

The Cobourg Police Service Criminal Investigations Branch and Forensic Identification Services continue to do excellent work providing ongoing enhanced enforcement targeting illegal drug activity affecting our community. Last week, in partnership with Port Hope Police Service, they executed a joint Controlled Drugs and Substances Act search warrant in the Town of Cobourg, taking dangerous and illegal drugs and weapons off the streets.

The Next Generation Community Safety Strategy continues to move forward through the V13 Policetech Accelerator (a partnership between CPS and Northumberland CFDC). The Request for Proposals for Video Management System Specifications is currently open for submissions. We look forward to engaging the community on this project in the near

future.

Another Policetech Accelerator pilot is gaining momentum. The Monitio Essential - Self Assessment Screening Station recently received Health Canada authorization under the category of Medical Device for Use in Relation to COVID-19. The unit automates active triage health screening with temperature check, comprehensive self-assessment COVID-19 questionnaire, and contact tracing. The Monitio Essential is one tool that has helped protect the health and safety of our members.

As we collectively work to protect our community's health, safety, and wellness, the Cobourg Police Services Board and the Cobourg Police Service will continue to look for ways to provide interactive opportunities to engage with residents as we continue to address local issues.

The Cobourg Police Services Board and Service support all measures necessary to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our community, and we continue to work with local public health and the Town of Cobourg to stop the

spread. With the current stay at Home Order, we recognize that this is a stressful time for everyone.

As they have done from the onset of COVID, Cobourg Police Service members will continue to take a proactive and educational approach, seeking compliance.

It is everyone's responsibility to do their part. Please take the necessary precautions to protect yourself, your family, and others – if it's not essential, please stay home.

As a final note, I would like to send a heartfelt congratulations from the Board to Constable Frank Francella.

After 23 years of service, Constable Francella #242 has retired. Frank joined the Cobourg Police Service in January of 2001 from Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service. In his time here in Cobourg, Frank was part of several initiatives, provided leadership and built positive community partnerships. He was seconded to the Criminal Investigations Branch, where he gained expertise in sexual assault investigations, being asked to

present (on multiple occasions) at the Ontario Police College.

Later, he helped lead the Community Engagement and Response Unit spearheading several initiatives, including self-defence training in local high schools, Bike Up Northumberland, and anti-bullying campaigns. Frank also spent time as the Acting Sergeant on a Platoon before being elected President of the Police Association of Cobourg Police Service.

On behalf of the Cobourg Police Services Board, I would like to thank Frank for his years of service and sacrifice – living each day protecting his community.

We wish him and his family all the very best of health and happiness in his next chapter.