

**Information Report from the Chief of Halifax Regional Police
for the HRM Board of Police Commissioners' Meeting**

April 14, 2016

Personnel:

- HRP swore in 20 new officers on April 1 at a ceremony at the Halifax Central Library. There is diversity within the group: 2 are women, 2 are Aboriginal, 2 are Arab speakers and 4 are Francophones. This group was a 'lateral group' composed primarily of active police officers or recently trained cadets.
- We have 24 Atlantic Police Academy cadets arriving in late May/early June for their on-the-job training.
- We are in the process of screening for more experienced police officers who will be hired in June or July.
- Recognized our 120+ volunteers with a Volunteer Recognition Dinner during National Volunteer Week last week.
- Recognized our employees in Integrated Emergency Services (IES) as part of National Public Safety Communicators' Week last week.
- Recognized our sworn and civilian employees as well as our 2015 retirees at our annual Gala: To Honour Excellence over the weekend.

Training:

- The K-9 Unit recently received a new Police Service Dog and is conducting new training with both new recruits, including explosives and narcotics detection. We're also training Bridgewater's new K-9 officer and Police Service Dog.
- Four sergeants received training on Managing the Lost Person and two sergeants received Lost Person Behaviours training. Both courses were offered through Halifax Regional Search & Rescue and provide insight on how to be successful in finding the lost person.
- We are continuing with our Two-Day Block Training which features 3 areas: 1) First-aid refresher; 2) Road to Mental Readiness (R2MR); and 3) Active shooter training in enclosed and outside areas.

Operations:

- We had two homicides at the end of March. Investigators charged 33-year-old Nicholas Butcher with second degree murder for the homicide of Kristin Johnston. The investigation into the homicide of Joseph Cameron continues.
- Charged 80-year-old Melissa Shepard, a High-Risk Offender, with breaching her release conditions after she accessed the Internet and had in her possession a device capable of accessing the Internet.
- We assumed responsibility for airport armed response and policing services at Halifax Stanfield International Airport at midnight on March 31, and the transition has been going very well. We're continuing to collaborate with the RCMP as part of the transition given that the airport is situated in their jurisdiction.
- In March, there were 10 pedestrian/motor vehicle collisions in Halifax Regional Municipality. There continues to be a downward trend for 2016, decreasing from 23 incidents in January to only 10 in March (decrease of 56%). This downward trend continues what we observed in January to March of 2015.

Outreach Initiatives/Projects:

- The Newcomer Open House was held on April 7 at St. Andrew's Centre in Halifax, with five HRP officers in attendance, including three Arab-speakers. This event and our presence and was very well received by newcomers. We also gave a presentation to a group of Syrian newcomers on safety and rights/responsibilities while living in Canada at an event at Dartmouth High on April 10 in Arabic.
- April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the Chief and HRP Public Relations have been communicating about sexualized violence on our social media sites. Each day for 10 days, we shared one tip from Jackson Katz's 10 things men can do to prevent gender violence. We are also flying the Sexual Assault Awareness Month banner outside Police Headquarters this month.
- We will be marking Police Week in May with our Partners in Policing with a Police Day event at Mic Mac Mall on May 14. We will also promote the National Prescription Drug Drop-off Day on May 21. All Commissioners are invited to come by for a visit as there will be unique opportunities to learn more about HRP and Halifax District RCMP.
- We're hosting the joint Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association and Nova Scotia Police Governance conference here in Halifax from September 8-10.
- HRP will be hosting the joint Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association / Nova Scotia Police Governance joint fall meeting from September 8-10.

- Partners in Policing are hosting the 24th Annual Atlantic Women in Law Enforcement Conference in Halifax from October 25-28.

Communications:

- In response to media exposure about our patrol carbines, we shared a post on our social media sites about our preparedness for firearms incidents and active aggressors/shooters. The post had an overwhelmingly positive response on social media, with significant reach on Facebook (reach of 44,600 which is considerably higher than most of our posts).
- Fiscal year ended March 31st, 2016 our Integrated Emergency Services (Dispatch) dealt with 99,009 9-1-1 calls and 204,920 non-emergency calls. Note that this does not include self-generated calls by individual police officers. A one-month survey in 2015 determined that 88% of all calls were non-criminal in nature.