



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2008 Annual Report Bicycle Patrol Officer Unit

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A. Mandate of the Unit

General

- Increase the visibility of NBPS patrol officers while allowing greater accessibility, for the public, to police assistance and interaction;
- Enforcement of applicable Provincial Offences and City By-Laws.

Specific

- Increase patrol in restricted access areas such as bicycle paths, alleys and parks;
- Increase the ability to complete targeted enforcement initiatives (bicycles on sidewalks);
- Respond to public complaints specific to bicycle usage;
- Educate the public on safe bicycling practices;
- Investigate CDSA occurrences; and
- Efficiently meet the needs of the patrol function at special events.

B. Executive Summary

The North Bay Police Service Bicycle Unit commenced patrols on 23 June 2008, coinciding with the completion of the school year, and was completed on 02 Sep 2008. Immediately, and throughout the summer, the positive feedback from the public in North Bay and Callander was heard at all levels. The Unit was formed to respond to community needs for increased patrol in seasonal locations, more frequented by the public, such as the Kate Pace Way, city beaches and special events in North Bay and Callander. The Bicycle Patrol Officer (BPO) also affords the opportunity to be more accessible to the public and to assume the role of ambassador to the North Bay Police Service and to promote safe cycling habits while enforcing Federal Statute, Ontario Provincial Offences and City of North Bay Traffic By-Law provisions specific to the safe use of bicycles.

At present, the five-officer Unit consists of the Traffic Enforcement Officer and one officer appointed from each of the four Uniform Platoons. This structure was utilized in order to facilitate the availability of BPO's while responding to the need to ensure staffing levels on Patrol are maintained.

Traffic Enforcement Officer:	Cst Merv Shantz
Platoon 1:	Cst Steve Sproule
Platoon 2:	Cst Steve Taylor
Platoon 3:	Cst Steve Trahan
Platoon 4:	Cst Paul Trahan

To assist with the Unit's ability to carry out its mandate, three Cannondale bicycles, specifically designed and built to meet the needs of police patrol, were purchased. This purchase allowed the BPO's to safely patrol, without any downtime associated to maintenance of the units, while the appearance of the unit projected the commitment and professionalism of the North Bay Police Service to the public. A number of the bicycles, purchased in previous years, were no longer in a suitable condition or repairable in a cost efficient manner and were liquidated.

C. Activities

During the 2008 bicycle patrol season, the BPO's were primarily engaged in conducting general patrol of the waterfront, the downtown cores and bicycle path areas in North Bay and Callander. The ease of movement of the BPO's also facilitated patrol at a number of special events such as the Big Bike, Canada Day Parade, Summer in the Park, North Rocks the Bay, charity golf tournaments and assistance to the YMCA.

The BPO's were also engaged in a number of targeted enforcement initiatives, in particular, the enforcement of bicycling laws in accordance with the HTA and the Traffic By-Law specific to the movement of bicycles on downtown sidewalks and streets. The ease of movement of the BPO also allowed for the enforcement of a number of CDSA offences and the arrest of offenders involved in theft, mischief and wanted on outstanding warrants.

D. Performance Indicators

The patrol season allowed for fifty- seven (57) deployments, of officers on bicycles, resulting in three hundred and twenty-six (326) patrols hours. The BPO's addressed two hundred and forty-six (246) infractions of the CCC, CDSA, HTA, TPA and city by-laws

with the completion of Provincial Offence Notices including the completion of 72 Hour reports, warning notices and/or the arrest of the offenders.

Reported Number of Deployments of BPO/Assignment:

Traffic Enforcement Officer:	13
Platoon 1:	7
Platoon 2:	15
Platoon 3:	17
Platoon 4:	2

See attached spreadsheets for details.

E. Anticipated Issues for the Future

Staffing:

The BPO Unit is in its infancy as a dedicated seasonal program. The Service's commitment to the assignment of suitable officers will ensure the proper development of the initiative and ensure the continued success of this program. The assigned officer, properly considered through the "Expression of Interest" process, has the opportunity to facilitate the success of the program or contribute to its demise.

Secondary Duty vs. Temporary Reassignment:

More often than not, the BPO was utilized, by the Platoons, to assist with calls for service, prisoner escorts and/or other duties that removed them from their function for the remainder of or a considerable amount of their tours of duty. The temporary reassignment of four officers, to work under the control and direction of the Traffic Sergeant, would allow for the proper use and greatest ability to address the mandate and intended activities of the BPO's.

Equipment:

The purchase of the Cannondale bicycles, individual helmets, riding gloves and bicycle shorts was absolutely necessary and beneficial to the success of this unit. The purchase of a further two bicycles for the 2009 season will continue to ensure that the

safety needs of the officers and the ability to respond to the demands for patrol will be met.

In order to be compliant with MOL safety guidelines and to ensure the visibility, safety and comfort of the officers, the purchase of high visibility vests, which are issued to each officer, satisfies the requirement for the officer to be easily seen. The purchase of police specific shorts for cycling would ensure that the comfort needs are also met.

F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year

In 2009, the statistical results of this program, will easily be improved as there will not be a need to organize and develop the implementation of the unit's mandate or ensure the basic infrastructure of equipment is available.

There will be a need to post through RO, a request for Expressions of Interest with a general description of scheduling and reporting requirements, early in the year so that members can adequately assess and determine whether they would seek this assignment. The seamless implementation and reassignment of officers will ensure that the unit is immediately staffed at an acceptable level that will allow for the fulfilling of the mandate.

G. Other

NIL

H. Appendices

Monthly deployment details for BPO's.