



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2008 Annual Report Joint Forces Snowmobile Patrol North Bay Police Service and O.P.P.

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A. Mandate of the Unit

The Joint Forces Snowmobile Unit is joint endeavour between the North Bay Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police, which has been in service for 15 years.

The unit's mandate is to:

- 1) Patrol North Bay and area OFSC snowmobile trails providing a high police presence.
- 2) Enforce the MSVA and various other statutes on trails, roads and frozen bodies of water.
- 3) Investigate MSV accidents and conduct search and rescue operations with other agencies.
- 4) Investigate Criminal Code complaints, Trespass to Property Act and other applicable acts.
- 5) Conduct training for S.T.O.P officers for phase 1, 2, 3, and provide driver training for other police officers.
- 6) Participate in safety presentations to various community groups and schools.
- 7) Attend Media events and North Bay and area snowmobile club meetings.

B. Executive Summary

In the 2008 snowmobile season approximately 918 snowmobiles were checked. Of that, a total of 9 charges, 13 Three Day Reports, and 5 written warnings were issued.

The Joint Forces Snowmobile Patrol Unit investigated 2 serious MSV accidents and assisted in a search for a missing snowmobiler.

Assistance was provided to the North Bay Police Criminal Investigation Section with regards to a search of a missing person and assistance was also provided to the North Bay Police and O.P.P. patrol section for certain details.

C. Activities

In January 2008, the JFSP unit was involved in a Snowmobile Safety Media Day, which was held at the North Bay waterfront. This was the annual winter safety kick off which was put on by the Road Safety Committee and all emergency services were in attendance.

On January 19th, the unit did a snowmobile safety presentation at the Bonfield Fire Station for a Snowmobile Operators Course held by the OFSC.

The Unit investigated an Ice Hut dispute on Lake Nipissing, where the victim's ice shack was pulled away from his fishing spot. The investigation ended with some parties cautioned.

On January 20th, assistance was provided to the O.P.P with regards to a search of a suspect, who was later located by the canine unit.

A serious MSV accident at the rear of the Clarion Resort was investigated. The victim sustained serious injuries and was hospitalized for some time.

In February 2008, the unit investigated numerous break enter and thefts from ice shacks on Lake Nipissing. The shacks were damaged and various items taken. No suspects were identified as the incidents took place after dark.

During the month of February, the unit investigated one TPA complaint, which was resolved.

On February 25th, the unit assisted the O.P.P S.A.V.E Unit and the helicopter in a search for a missing snowmobiler. The snowmobiler was located after a 5-hour search near the French River on Lake Nipissing. He seemed to be disoriented, but otherwise in good health.

In March 7, 2008, the unit was dispatched to Sunset beach, Lake Nipissing with regards to a partially submerged vehicle. The driver sustained minor injuries when he hit a pressure crack with his truck. The vehicle was removed.

On March 10th, the unit was requested to assist with a search for a missing person from North Bay. The person was suffering from some depression and was going to walk to his camp via the abandoned rail line to Crystal Falls. A search from Crystal Falls to North Bay was conducted and the male was unable to be located.

On March 16th, a single snowmobile accident occurred on the power line approximately 2 miles east of Stanley's Rd, North Bay. The victim sustained a broken leg as his snowmobile went off a cliff. The unit along with the North Bay Fire Dept rescue sleigh unit and paramedics attended the scene and rescued the victim.

D. Performance Indicators

See Appendix " A "

E. Anticipated Issues for the Future

The Joint Forces Snowmobile Patrol is an important part of the North Bay Police Service. As there is a continued working relationship/agreement between the two police services. The success rate of the unit can be seen thru a statistical compilation of data logged thru enforcement and calls for service.

The use of snowmobile trails can be very busy at times. There are still a small percentage of snowmobile operators who drive their snowmobiles in a manner that is dangerous to themselves and other people that are enjoying the trails. A few other related enforcement issues tend to surface from time to time and will be addressed.

The North Bay and area snowmobile trails are well patrolled thus making it a safer environment for snowmobilers. With ongoing efforts such as media safety days and presentations to the various community groups it sends a message to the public who participate in the sport to act responsibly.

F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year

In 2008, a small decrease in snowmobiling related charges can be attributed to the police presence on the trails and public awareness with regards to safety. It is with a continued effort from the unit that the snowmobiling season will improve with regards to public awareness and enforcement issues. A continued effort to work with various agencies related to snowmobiling will provide a safer snowmobiling community.

G. Other

H. Appendices

Appendix " A " - (Performance Indicators 2008)