



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2008 Annual Report Traffic Section

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A. Mandate of the Unit

The Police Services Act of Ontario mandates that police services establish procedures on traffic management and road safety.

The mandate of the Traffic Section includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) Oversee enforcement and prosecution of all Provincial Offences and Municipal By-Laws;
- b) Conduct and coordinate provincial and local road safety initiatives;
- c) Train and re-qualify personnel in RADAR and LIDAR operation;
- d) Coordinate administration of the 72 hour report program;
- e) Coordinate and report on the administration of the RIDE Program;
- f) Oversee administration and enforcement of the Taxi By-Law and the taxi licencing process;
- g) Advise staff of changes to Provincial and Municipal Legislation;
- h) Oversee investigations of traffic complaints and determine resolutions to those complaints;
- i) Review and approve all motor vehicle collision reports;
- j) Ensure statistical accuracy and reporting of motor vehicle collisions;
- k) Record and report on officer performance measures;
- l) Coordinate the towing application process and ensure compliance with appropriate Service Standard Operating Procedures.

B. Executive Summary

The Traffic Section is responsible for the education and enforcement of provincial and municipal legislation, responding to the traffic concerns of the general public and the administration and enforcement of the Taxi by-law. As a result, the section compiles statistics relating to traffic collisions and the enforcement of offences under the Provincial Offences Act of Ontario. The office acts as a liaison with different organizations and community partners such as the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Ministry of Transportation, area schools, municipalities, other police agencies and the North Bay and Parry Sound District Health Unit.

The Traffic Section must keep abreast of new provincial and municipal legislation to inform our members and, through the assistance of our Community Programs Section, educate the public of changes. Traffic Section members are responsible for the training and requalification of our members on speed detection devices as mandated by the Province of Ontario.

Business and strategic planning “town hall” meetings have consistently identified traffic and/or road safety as one of the top priorities of the citizens that we serve and, as a result, the North Bay Police Service has committed to participation in the Safer Communities - 1000 Officers Partnership Program through the hire of four officers. This allows for one officer from each platoon to be assigned as a Platoon Traffic Officer (PTO). The PTO addresses issues related to road safety, general enforcement and traffic initiatives. The PTO also partners with the Traffic Enforcement Officer to conduct directed patrols through the implementation of timely road safety initiatives. The

implementation of the PTO has been a great success and has greatly contributed to the overall increase in traffic enforcement.

The Police Service was involved in directed patrols including; Spring Seatbelt Campaign, Fall Seatbelt Campaign, School Bus Campaign, Operation Impact, the Winter Driving Initiative, child restraint clinics and the RIDE Program.

C. Activities

Activity Directly Related to Mandate

The Traffic Section continues to deal with public education and enforcement of provincial and municipal legislation, traffic concerns and complaints from the public as well as compiling statistics of enforcement and motor vehicle collisions.

The Police Service used targeted enforcement operations and the media to educate the public on legislation regarding seat belts, school buses and safe driving measures. The Service used the following campaigns to educate the public:

- a) Seat Belt Campaign
- b) Operation Impact, safe driving measures
- c) September Traffic Project: School Buses
- d) Winter Driving Safety Initiative
- e) Road Safety Week
- f) Child Restraint System
- g) Bicycle Helmet Participation

The Section continued to keep abreast of new provincial and municipal legislation that affected policing and relayed this information to the members of the police service through memorandums and/or in-service training. The front line officers are re-qualified by the Section on the RADAR and LIDAR speed detection devices on a continual basis as mandated by provincial regulations. The Service has obtained four new Genesis Handheld Radars and one new Genesis II mobile radar in 2008.

The Traffic Section continued to review and approve all motor vehicle collision reports and collected information to determine areas of concern in the city for motor vehicle collisions. The Collision Reporting Centre assisted the Service by completing the reporting procedure for the majority of motor vehicle collisions that are solely vehicle damage related. The Centre collected data and provided reports to the Service in relation to those areas in the city with the most collisions in order to assist in targeted enforcement for safe driving measures.

This office received traffic complaints and concerns from citizens and officials from the administrations of the municipalities of North Bay and Callander. The Traffic Enforcement Officer investigated the complaints and sought resolutions through education or targeted enforcement of the applicable laws. Complaints were forwarded to uniform patrol to keep officers updated and zone cars aware of existing problems.

In 2008 the Traffic Office continued to administer the Taxi By-law, on behalf of the North Bay Police Services Board, processing 243 taxi driver applications, conducting 100 vehicle inspections, investigating and completing appropriate documentation in support of two licence suspensions. There were no enforcement projects, specific to determining compliance with the By-Law, conducted during the calendar year.

The Police Service's participated in the Safer Communities - 1000 Officers Partnership Program and received a grant to hire four additional officers. The goal was to add one traffic enforcement officer to each platoon in order to address specific issues related to road safety and target traffic enforcement. The Platoon Traffic Officer was established and was utilized for general traffic enforcement and targeted traffic initiatives.

Activity in Addition to Mandate

The Traffic Office also had assumed the following added responsibilities:

- Alarm Coordinator,
- Bicycle Patrol Implementation and Coordination,
- Paid Duty Coordinator,
- Snowmobile Patrol,
- Assisted with coordination of Annual Provincial CISO Conference,
- Conducted VCARS Training,
- Delivery of Training to Nipissing Transition House,
- Various Committee membership including MADD, Strategic Planning, Communications...etc.

Training Received

Members of the Traffic Section, in the calendar year, received the following training courses:

- Front Line Supervisor (OPC);
- Spring Traffic Seminar (OPC);
- Child Restraint Inspection Certification;
- Crisis Negotiator Refresher;
- First Response to Fatal Collisions.

Training Given

Members of the Traffic Section, in the calendar year, delivered the following training:

- Lecture to the Ontario Injury Prevention Conference (Toronto),
- Lecture to the CISO Human Source Development Course (North Bay),
- Radar/Lidar training and recertification,
- In-service lectures.

D Performance Indicators

The North Bay Police Service 2007 – 2009 Business Plan identifies that our goal, in addressing concerns for road safety, is to fully implement the Platoon Traffic Officer program and has recognized the following performance measures:

1. Number of traffic collisions reported.
2. Number of Provincial and local road safety initiatives in which the Service actively participates.
3. Number of officers trained in specific traffic enforcement disciplines.
4. Number of charges/warnings/equipment notices issued.
5. Number of drinking and driving arrests.
6. Person hours of dedicated traffic enforcement by patrol personnel.
7. Person hours of directed traffic enforcement by patrol personnel.

There were 1182 calls for service for traffic complaints in 2008, in comparison to 1029 in 2007 and 971 in 2006 which would indicate a continued, and increasing, concern of the public in regard to the habits and actions of motorists.

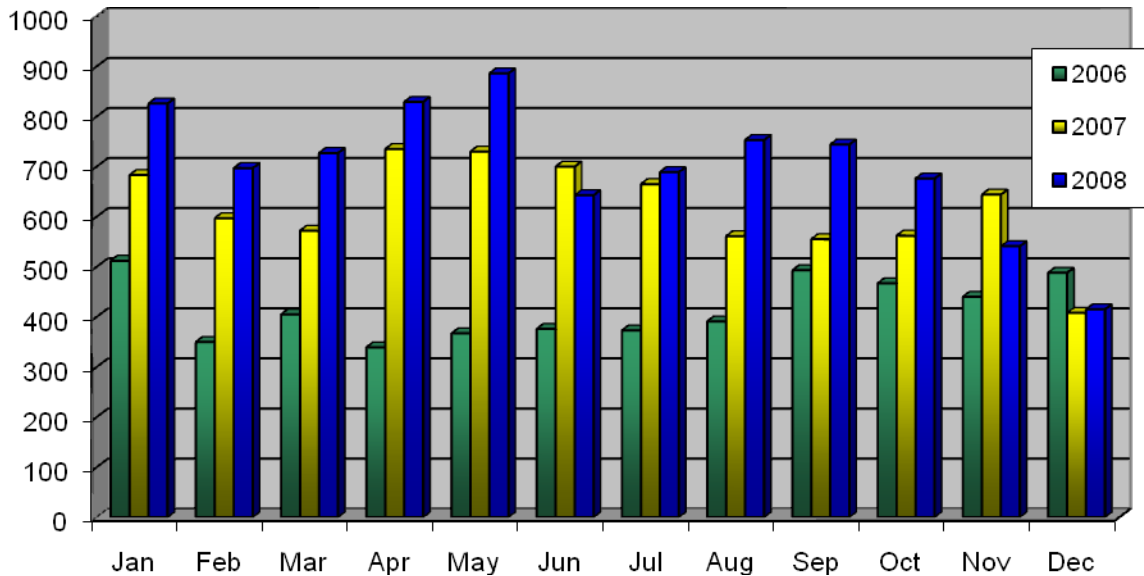
In 2008, our members documented 8463 violations under the Provincial Offences Act (POA) in comparison to 7412 in 2007 and 5000 in 2006. In 2008 this would indicate an overall increase of 14.2 % from 2007 and an increase of almost 70% over a two-year period (see chart).

The Service has reached its objectives outlined in the application grant for the Safer Communities – 1000 Officers Partnership Program in a very positive fashion. With the continued deployment of the Platoon Traffic Officer program, there was a significant increase of total provincial offence notices issued. Statistics collected identify 2141 hours where a PTO was dedicated by the four platoons of the Patrol section and the position was responsible for 19% of all documented traffic enforcement.

The Traffic Enforcement Officer, who is assigned on a full-time basis to the Traffic Office, documented 699 POA violations which translates into 8% of the total. Total directed enforcement measures (PTO and TEO) resulted in 2291 documented offences or 27% of all POA Notices being written.

The Police Service enforced several provincial Acts, such as the Ontario Highway Traffic Act, Motorized Snow Vehicle Act, Trespass to Property and the Liquor Licence Act as well as a number of By-Law offences.

Provincial Offences Act Enforcement



The Police Service investigates motor vehicle collisions and shares the reporting responsibility with the Collision Reporting Centre (North Bay Accident Support Services Ltd). The Police Service received reports of 1454 incidents of motor vehicle collision in 2008, in comparison to 1427 in 2007 and 1499 in 2006. The collision information that is received by this Service is not always investigated or reviewed due to the dollar amount of damage. If there are no injuries, and the amount of the damage is less than \$1000.00, there is no legislated requirement for a motorist to make a report.

There were 1156 collisions that were documented and/or investigated by the North Bay Police Service and Collision Reporting Centre (CRC) in 2008 compared to 1145 in 2007 and 1344 in 2006. The number of collisions remained relatively unchanged in 2008 after experiencing a decrease of approximately 14% in 2007. The CRC received 787 of the reports while police officers investigated 369 collisions.

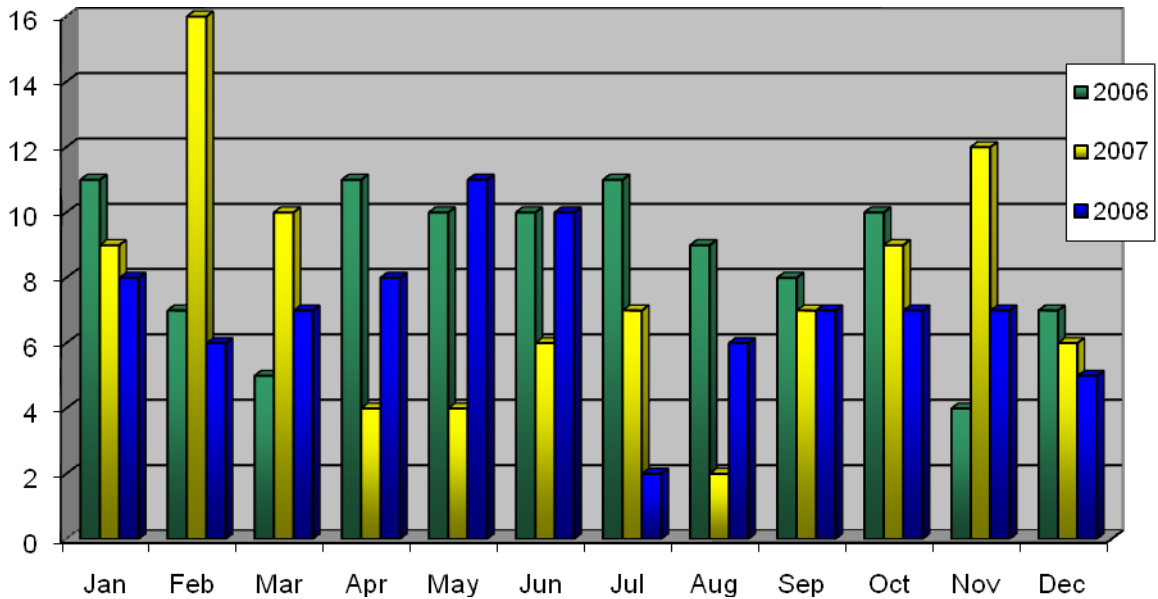
The significant measure of the accidents which occurred in 2008 is in those that resulted in personal injury and/or death. There were 128 personal injury accidents and no fatalities reported in 2008, in comparison to 181 personal injury accidents and one fatality in 2007, which translates into a substantial decrease of 30% in 2008.

Of the 369 accidents investigated by police in 2008, alcohol was identified as being involved on 14 occasions (3.8%). This would indicate an increase over 2007 in which alcohol was involved in 11 of the 418 collisions investigated (2.6%).

The NBPS continues to actively participate in the RIDE program, dedicating 300 directed patrol hours in 2008 to address those who operate motor vehicles while their ability is impaired by drugs and/or alcohol. The Police Service checked approximately 6500 vehicles in the RIDE Program in 2008. In cooperation with the Community Programs

section, MADD, Operation Rednose, North Bay Focus and other community partners, the Traffic Office continued to attempt to ensure the appropriate message was delivered to the motoring public. Suspensions, as a result of arrests for impaired related driving offences, remained unchanged from 2007, with 83 incidents, after a decline from 102 in 2006 (see chart). There were four vehicle impoundments in 2008; three as a result of criminal offences and one under the provincial stunt driving provisions.

ADLS Suspensions



The North Bay Police Service is responsible for delivery of policing services to the Municipality of Callander and the following traffic issues were noted. There was a 60% increase in traffic complaints received in 2008 with officers responding to 43 calls in comparison to 2007 (27) and 2006 (33). The Police Service documented 302 Provincial Offences Act violations which is a 30% increase over the 229 provincial offence notices written in 2007. There were 31 motor vehicle collisions reported in 2008 (17 to CRC and 14 where officer responded) which represents an increase of 25 % over the 25 motor vehicle collisions reported in 2007.

E. Anticipated Issues for the Future

The continued dedication to providing training to our members will be essential in 2009. While some training is mandated by a predetermined provincial standard, constant changes and clarifications in the laws will necessitate the requirement that our members attend specialized training courses and benefit from frequent in-service training. The delivery of training locally would appear to provide the greatest benefit as more officers are able to attend, in a cost effective manner, thereby providing training and knowledge

to the front-line police officers who are responsible for the enforcement of the laws that involve the Traffic Office.

An increase in the partnerships between the TEO and the PTO, thereby providing greater targeted enforcement opportunities, will allow for appropriate response to the priorities identified through analysis of motor vehicle collisions or complaints from the public regarding traffic concerns. This would rely on the provisions of adequate staffing, of the PTO position, by uniform patrol.

F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year

The continued development and staffing of the Platoon Traffic Officer position, in accordance with the goal as identified in the NBPS Business Plan, would ensure appropriate response to traffic enforcement priorities as identified by the citizens of North Bay and Callander. This would easily be measured through the deployment hours of the PTO and the Provincial Offences Notices completed.

Continuation of public education through the media and targeted enforcement is required to ensure the safety of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. An increase in the amount of traffic campaigns for educating the public, targeted enforcements and RIDE programs will assist with delivering the appropriate message to the motoring public.

Increase traffic enforcement and Criminal Code driving offence enforcement, pursuant to the NBPS Business Plan 2007 - 2009, by 10%.