

NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE



2009 Annual Report Traffic Section

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A. Mandate of the Unit

Ensuring the safety of motorists and pedestrians is a necessary responsibility of the North Bay Police Service. 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 Programme;
- 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 re-qualification 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 directed traffic initiatives. The PTO also partners with the Traffic Enforcement Officer to conduct directed traffic enforcement 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.

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 Traffic Section used directed 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.
- h. Festive RIDE Program – 6 week duration Nov/Dec 2009/Jan2010.
- i. Safety Lanes – 4 week inspection notice issuance, one day inspections at H.Q.

The Section continued to keep abreast of new provincial and municipal legislation that effected 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 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. Details of

complaints received were forwarded to uniform patrol to keep officers updated and zone cars aware of existing problems.

In 2009 the Traffic Office continued to administer the Taxi By-law on behalf of the North Bay Police Services Board, processing 214 taxi driver applications, conducting 87 vehicle inspections, investigating and completing appropriate documentation in support of 10 licence refusals and no suspensions for 2009. There were no enforcement projects, specific to determining compliance with the By-Law, conducted during the calendar year.

In 2009 the Section added the new stealth traffic cruiser, which has proved very effective in enforcement duties. Over all public support for this style of vehicle has been strong.

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;
- Conducted VCARS Training;
- Delivery of Training to Nipissing Transition House;
- Various Committee membership including MADD, Strategic Planning; Communications...etc.
- OACP Traffic Committee – Cst. Shantz sits on this provincial committee with Sgt. Warren as alternate member.

Training Received:

Members of the Traffic Section, in the calendar year, received training in the following courses; Traffic Supervisor; Spring Traffic Seminar; Child Restraint Inspection Certification and First Response to fatal collisions.

Training Given:

During 2009 members of the Traffic Section delivered training pertaining to Radar/Lidar and recertifications as well as in-service lectures were provided.

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:

- Number of traffic collisions reported;
- Number of provincial and local road safety initiatives in which the Service actively participates;

- Number of officers trained in specific traffic enforcement disciplines;
- Number of charges/warnings/equipment notices issued;
- Number of drinking and driving arrests;
- Person hours of dedicated traffic enforcement by patrol personnel; and
- Person hours of directed traffic enforcement by patrol personnel.

There were 1,251 calls for service for traffic complaints in 2009, in comparison to 1,182 in 2008 and 1,029 in 2007, which would indicate a continued, and increasing, concern of the public in regard to the habits and actions of motorists.

In 2009, our members documented 8,264 violations under the *Provincial Offences Act (POA)* in comparison to 8,463 in 2008 and 7,412 in 2007. In 2009 this would indicate an overall decrease of 2.35 % from 2008.

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 Programme, a significant increase of total Provincial Offence Notices were issued. Statistics collected indicate 2,420.5 officer hours were dedicated by the four platoons of the Patrol Section for the position of PTO and this attributed for 19% of all documented traffic enforcement.

The Traffic Enforcement Officer, who is assigned on a full-time basis to the Traffic Office, documented 481 *POA* violations, which translated into 8% of the total. Total directed enforcement measures (PTO and TEO) resulted in 2,086 documented offences or 27% of all *POA* Notices being written.

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

The 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 1,213 occurrences of motor vehicle collision in 2009, in comparison to 1,156 in 2008 and 1,145 in 2007. 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 1,213 collisions that were documented and/or investigated by the North Bay Police Service and Collision Reporting Centre (CRC) in 2009 compared to 1,156 in 2008 and 1,145 in 2007.

The significant measure of the accidents which occurred in 2009 are in those that resulted in personal injury and/or death. There were 136 personal injury accidents and no fatalities reported in 2009, in comparison to 128 personal injury accidents and one fatality in 2008.

Of the 436 accidents investigated by police in 2009, alcohol was identified as being involved on 19 occasions or 3.8%. This would indicate an increase over 2008 in which alcohol was involved in 14 of the 369 collisions investigated or 2.6%.

The NBPS continues to actively participate in the RIDE Programme, dedicating 256 patrol hours in 2009. The Service checked approximately 4,459 vehicles in the RIDE Programme in 2009. In cooperation with the Community Programs section, MADD, Operation Rednose, North Bay Focus and other community partners, the Traffic Office continued attempts to ensure the appropriate message was delivered to the motoring public. Suspensions, as a result of arrests for impaired related driving offences, remained slightly increased from 2008, with 86 incidents. There were eight vehicle impoundments in 2009, four from impaired operation and two from the Vehicle Impoundment Program (VIP), and two from stunt driving. The numbers in 2008 were; three as a result of criminal offences and one under the provincial stunt driving provisions.

In 2009 the North Bay Police Service began a new FESTIVE RIDE initiative. In just over six weeks impaired operation of vehicle detection in the form of sobriety checks were conducted each day commencing November 23rd to December 31st, 2009. During this time period the following statistical data was compiled: vehicles stopped – 8,712; roadside screening tests – 16; impaired driving charges – 1; BAC suspensions – 4 (3 day); HTA charges – 10; LLA charges – 1; other *Criminal Code* charges – 1; *CDSA* charges – 2; and warnings *HTA* – 11.

The program was conducted at times during the day and night out of the normal hours dedicated to RIDE. Comments from the public in general in regard to the amended time frames were very favourable, as they were also of the opinion that impaired operation occurs at times other than just before and after bar closings.

The North Bay Police Service is responsible for delivery of policing services to the Municipality of Callander. During 2009 the community experienced a 60% decrease in traffic complaints with officers responding to 31 calls in comparison to 43 in 2008 and 27 in 2008. The Police Service documented 260 *Provincial Offences Act* violations, which was a 30% decrease from the year previous. Thirty motor vehicle collisions were reported in 2009 with 11 directed to the CRC and 19 where an officer responded, which represents a very minor increase over the 31 motor vehicle collisions reported in 2008. Drivers involved in motor vehicle collisions in Callander still have the option of attending the CRC or have an officer attend to investigate.

E. Anticipated Issues for the Future

The continued dedication to providing training to our members will be essential in 2010. 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 will permit further enforcement opportunities that will allow concerted responses to the priorities identified through analysis of motor vehicle collisions or complaints from the public.

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 Programmes will assist with delivering the appropriate message to the motoring public.