



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2009 Annual Report D.A.R.E. Program

**Report Date: 2010/01/02
Author: Cst. A. Northrup**

A. Mandate of the Unit

The D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program provides early education to Grade 5 and 6 students in North Bay and Callander. Students are introduced to numerous subjects and scenarios including drug and alcohol abuse, violence in the school setting and self esteem promotion.

One of the main goals of the program is to provide students with strategies to support them with day to day problems facing youths.

B. Executive Summary

Local schools continue to support this program and the assigned officers. Police officers in schools are regarded as role models that provide a credible resource to students about the topics of drug and alcohol abuse/awareness

The D.A.R.E. program introduces a police officer into a classroom setting with a focus on an interactive approach with the students. This permits the officer to virtually become part of the class, involving themselves in all types of school activities, including after school events.

The D.A.R.E. program complements the health curriculum taught in school and is widely accepted by parents as it engages their children in stimulating conversations with a police officer, not only about D.A.R.E. related topics, but about everything the police do, and how they do it.

The program is beneficial for the Service as police officers become part of the school and the school community. It also builds the foundations of positive and lasting relationships with young members of our society. The D.A.R.E. Officer acts as a liaison between the school community and Uniformed Patrol, assisting and facilitating problem solving for many issues.

D.A.R.E. is a nine week program that culminates with a graduation. This day is different for each school. In most cases, half a day is set aside for successful students who receive a certificate and a t-shirt. After graduation ceremonies have taken place, students continue with sporting activities with the officer, usually with a volley-ball or basketball game. This interaction reinforces the police/student relationship.

In 2009 Cst. Northrup taught English speaking schools while Cst. Bedard taught French speaking schools.

The goal of the D.A.R.E. program is to reduce/eliminate drug/tobacco and alcohol abuse, and to strengthen the bond between young people and the police.

C. Activities

In 2009, Constable Northrup taught twenty-three classes in twenty-one different schools with 559 students successfully completing and graduating from the program.

Constable Bedard taught in six French language schools with one hundred and seventy-seven students successfully completing and graduating from the program.

In April Constables Northrup and Bedard attended the 2nd annual D.A.R.E. Canada conference held in Niagara Falls, Ontario, where they learned more about D.A.R.E. and examined the potential to develop new strategies to enhance its delivery to the students.

In October 2009, the North Bay Police Association conducted a fundraising campaign with funds being directed to the D.A.R.E. program.

In December 2009, Constable Robin Boucher attended the Ontario Police College where he successfully completed the D.A.R.E. Officer Training course. He will commence teaching French D.A.R.E. in January 2010.

D. Performance Indicators

Feedback received from parents and other officers is overwhelming. Many parents speak highly of the program and encourage more positive interaction with youth. During conversations and interactions (outside the D.A.R.E. program) with other officers, students are proud and often quick to point out that they are D.A.R.E. graduates.

What is really noticeable is the new relationships created between young people and the Police, which cannot be measured.

E. Anticipated Issues for the Future

Members throughout the Service are continuously encouraged to actively participate both at work and on their own with volunteer groups, education providers; senior groups; victim services, multi-cultural groups and other entities that promote police and community initiatives. As with any community based program the proper selection and training of members selected to be of our link to school aged children and the various school Boards is vital. Identifying successors to deliver the D.A.R.E. program must be a good fit for all partners.

F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year

To continue to build relationships between the Police/Students and the Schools.

G. Other

Listed below is the statistical data for previous D.A.R.E graduates.

| | |
|----------------|------|
| 1997 graduates | 288 |
| 1998 graduates | 496 |
| 1999 graduates | 698 |
| 2000 graduates | 645 |
| 2001 graduates | 968 |
| 2002 graduates | 913 |
| 2003 graduates | 1095 |
| 2004 graduates | 602 |
| 2005 graduates | 691 |
| 2006 graduates | 819 |
| 2007 graduates | 635 |
| 2008 graduates | 734 |
| 2009 graduates | 676 |

A total of 9,260 students have graduated from the D.A.R.E. Program since 1997.