



# **NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE**

## **2010 Annual Report Bicycle Patrol**

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## **A. Mandate of the Unit**

### General

The Bike Patrol Unit (BPU) is designed to complement the existing police patrols in North Bay and Callander, by allowing the public to have greater access to Police Officers and increase police visibility in public areas.

### Specific

1. Patrol of the downtown core, waterfront, bicycle paths, and other public areas, as well as more secluded areas, which include trails and alleyways that may otherwise be difficult to patrol in a police cruiser.
2. Enforce *Highway Traffic Act* and local By-laws.
3. Target specific infractions that have been highlighted as a problem (i.e. bicycles on sidewalk and bicycle safety).
4. Respond quickly to public complaints in the downtown area and/or waterfront.
5. Educate the public on safe bicycling practices.
6. Investigate *Criminal Code* and *Controlled Drug and Substances Act (CDSA)* occurrences.
7. Assist patrol with calls for service when required.
8. Allow for increased visibility and access at special public events.

## **B. Executive Summary**

The North Bay Police Service BPU was utilized from May 28<sup>th</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Members from the unit also attended events before and after the above dates. Continued positive feedback from the public in relation to the bike patrols was expressed throughout the summer months.

The Unit was formed to respond to community needs for increased patrol in seasonal locations, such as the waterfront, the bike paths, local parks and special events in North Bay and Callander. The use of the BPU provides flexibility and creates more opportunities to be accessible to the public. This in turn provides for greater instances of interaction with many members of the public. In 2010 the BPO focused much their efforts on promoting safe cycling habits, enforcing Federal and Provincial Statutes and City of North Bay By-Laws.

### **C. Deployment**

At present, the five-officer unit consists of the Traffic Enforcement Officer and one officer appointed from each of the four 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.

### **D. Equipment**

To allow the BPU to carry out its mandate, the North Bay Police Service has continued to use and maintain five Cannondale "Enforcement 1" bicycles, specifically designed to meet the rigours of police patrol. In 2010 the BPOs were issued new uniforms specific to the BPU. This included more comfortable bike shirts, shorts (which can be converted to pants in inclement weather), and foot wear.

### **E. Activities**

During the 2010 bicycle patrol season, the primary focus of the BPU was conducting general patrol of the waterfront, the downtown core, bicycle paths and parks within North Bay and Callander. Interspersed throughout the summer were a number of special events that were attended by the BPOs that included Canadian Forces Appreciation Day, MS Walk, Relay for Life, JDRF Walk, Big Bike, Canada Day Parade, Summer in the Park, the Bike Train, charity golf tournaments and other community events.

A number of targeted enforcement and education initiatives were also undertaken by the BPU throughout the summer in order to increase public safety and awareness. These included; focused efforts on *Highway Traffic Act* bicycling laws as they pertain to safety equipment such as the use of helmets, lights, horns and brakes, and the enforcement of local By-Laws, such as the prohibited use of bicycles on downtown sidewalks.

One highlight of the 2010 season was the implementation of a new By-Law that required the use of helmets on local bike paths by children up to 18 years of age. A number of warnings were issued for this offence to ease the transition period.

The flexibility of movement of the BPO allowed for enforcement of a number of *CDSA* offences and the arrest of offenders involved in theft, mischief and those wanted on outstanding warrants. BPO officers also responded to calls for service when distance or priority was not an issue.

### **F. Performance Indicators**

The patrol season allowed for forty (40) deployments of officers on bicycles, resulting in two hundred and eighteen and a half (218.5) patrol hours. The BPO's addressed one hundred and sixty-five (165) infractions of the *HTA*, *Trespass to Property Act* and City of North Bay By-Laws, as well as *Criminal Code* and *CDSA* offences. Several Motor Vehicle Collisions were also investigated by the BPO during the 2010 season.

## **G. Anticipated Issues for the Future**

The BPO Unit is a dedicated seasonal program. The Service's continued commitment of assigning officers will enhance the development of the initiative and provide value to the police service and the public.

Attributed to the cost of operating the BPU are investments in purchases of new equipment and maintenance of it, coupled with training. In 2011 consideration for the purchase of an additional bicycle, high visibility vests and rain wear are to be addressed. Exploring training opportunities with other police services is also a consideration.

## **H. Performance Objectives for the Next Year**

In 2011, the statistical results of this program may be improved by enhancing the number of bike safety initiatives such as bike rodeos that can be co-ordinated through Community Programs and working other community partners and by expanding the operational season of the unit.

Bike training courses typically run in early May, so that should this proposal be implemented, the officers that are chosen for the BPU could be trained and ready for deployment by the long weekend in May. A continued practical and proactive approach to the Bicycle Patrol Unit will ensure its effectiveness in the community as a tool to promote public safety and enforce the law into 2011 and well beyond.

## **I. Appendices**

Appendix A Bicycle Patrol Totals

## APPENDIX A

### 2010 Bicycle Patrol *Provincial Offence Act* Enforcement Totals

	Shifts	Hours	POA	72hr	Warn
Platoon 1	9	43	2	10	16
Platoon 2	8	33.5	6	31	0
Platoon 3	12	74	13	14	28
Platoon 4	11	68	11	9	25
<b>Totals</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>218.5</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>69</b>

### 2009 Bicycle Patrol *Provincial Offence Act* Enforcement Totals

	Shifts	Hours	POA	72hr	Warn
Platoon 1	6	19	4	0	16
Platoon 2	6	27.5	5	2	2
Platoon 3	6	39	1	0	16
Platoon 4	15	92	28	2	35
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>177.5</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>69</b>