

ARTICLE FOR COMMUNITY VOICES, NUGGET

THE YEAR 2000 IN REVIEW.

Every year brings with it a share of the good and bad. From the North Bay Police standpoint, it could be said that the year 2000 was a good one. Here are some of the reasons why.

-In March, we had a change of command ceremony where George Berrigan took over as Chief of Police from Ron Nagle, and Paul Cook became the Deputy Chief. Relations between the Police Services Board, management and the police association have one goal in mind, which is to continue serving our community in a professional and effective manner.

-The Whitehead murder received closure with a guilty plea on a charge of first degree murder, something that is extremely rare in Canadian jurisprudence. Perhaps the Whitehead family and those involved in the pursuit, apprehension and conviction of the person responsible can go on with their lives, as best as can be expected.

-The North Bay Police Service consecrated its new flag and finally is represented in a way that displays its proud history and heritage.

-Project Slowdown and the RSVP program attempted through enforcement and education to alter people's driving behaviour by having them slow down and to respect red lights in an attempt to reduce collisions and the associated costs related to damages and injuries.

-Cst. Pete Brunette was honoured by M.A.D.D. Nipissing for demonstrating leadership in the area of impaired driving by arresting several impaired drivers in the few years he's been working at the N.B.P.S.

-Impaired driving arrests have increased, indicating a greater commitment by not only patrol officers and management, but also the public who on several occasions in the summer, called in impaired drivers on their cell phones. This bucks the national trend which has seen a steady decline in the last ten years in the number of impaired drivers brought to court.

-Mark McLeod, a Scollard graduate, won the "toughest cop in Canada" competition in Ottawa. He then represented North Bay at the "Toughest Cop in the World" competition in Florida where he placed 5th.

-The hiring of seven new constables, eight part-time and one full-time civilian employee. This new blood brings enthusiasm, some naivete and lots of desire to policing in our area.

-A continuation of our agreement to police with the township of North Himsworth. This has proven to be a win-win situation for both parties.

- The naming of new City Councilor Al McDonald to the Police Services Board and the two year extensions of both Pat Cliché's and Bill Ferguson's appointments. They bring lots of good ideas and different insights into how police service should be rendered.
- Construction of a new third floor to the police administration building. When originally built in 1974 and 75, the technological and community based policing ideas of what a 21st century police service with 140 employees would require could not be visualized.
- Cops for Cancer on May 17th saw 28 North Bay Police Service members shave their heads for cancer research. A total of \$40,000 was raised.
- A tremendous growth in Community based policing measures and partnerships aimed at giving people a sense and measure of security in the place where they work and live. Internet access to N.B.P.S. police news and programs allows people from around the community and the world to see what we're doing and getting involved with.
- New measures to deal with any problems associated with our young people. A Chief's Student Advisory Board, the creation of a School Liaison Program staffed by two first class constables, the largest ever Teens and Cops tournament and a SAFE GRAD initiative in the high schools will have tremendously positive impact in the long run.
- Finally, statistics indicate that we currently are at the lowest rate of overall crime we've seen in the last ten years. North Bay and area is for all intents and purposes, a safe and secure haven to be living in. The North Bay Police Service wishes you a safe and Happy New Year 2001.