



Retired Chief Edwards Honoured

Members of the DRPS Marine Unit were proud to honour retired DRPS Chief David J. Edwards at a special ceremony in June.

The Service's new 34-foot HIKE marine patrol vessel was named after Edwards, who served as Chief from 1988 to 1993.

New Centralized Courthouse Announced

The DRPS applauded the announcement in December of a new Durham Consolidated Courthouse. The 350,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art structure will be built at Bond and Mary Streets in downtown Oshawa and will house 33 courtrooms, five motion rooms and related justice services. Final completion is estimated for the Spring of 2009.

The announcement fits perfectly with major advancements made by the DRPS regarding new technology. We led Ontario in the percentage of cases using video remand and we are ranked 4th in Canada in terms of submissions to the National DNA Databank.

Relocation of Headquarters

To make room for expansion at the Oshawa Community Police Office, our headquarters location moved from the second floor of 77 Centre Street to the new Regional Administrative Centre on Rossland Road in Whitby. Senior officers, Human Resources, Records, Planning and other support units had all made the move by mid-September.

New Tools to Fight Grow Ops

Our leadership in combating residential marihuana grow operations continued to pay dividends in 2005. The Province introduced the Law Enforcement and Forfeited Property Management Statute Law Amendment Act which assists communities in fighting these dangerous operations. Many of the recommendations came out of the Green Tide Summit in 2004, which was spearheaded by the DRPS.

Inspector Joins Provincial Body

Insp. Charlie Green was recognized for his ability to organize and co-ordinate major police parades and events. He was elected as a Director of the annual Ontario Police Memorial at Queen's Park and will organize the large memorial parade every May.



Eva Reti Acclaimed Internationally

S/Sgt. Eva Reti of the Oshawa Community Police Office received both provincial and international recognition in 2005 for her leadership, community service, mentoring and outstanding performance.

In May she was named the Law Enforcement Professional of the Year at the Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (OWLE) awards in Mississauga. She followed that up by being named the International Association of Women Police's Officer of the Year. She received the IAWP award in Leeds, England in September.

Community Recognized Sgt. Hewitt

Sgt. Jeff Hewitt, the friendly face of the south Oshawa Community Policing Centre, was honoured by the community. ASIS International presented him with the Community Policing Award for his ongoing efforts in developing community partnerships.

Happy Birthday KSV

The Kids' Safety Village, a miniature village where school children can learn about road safety in a controlled setting, marked its 10th anniversary. More than 100,000 children have passed through its doors and learned about street lights, stop signs, railway crossings and other road safety tips.





A Year of Significant Milestones - Continued

Chief for a Day

Ten-year-old Vanessa Foran of Florence M. Heard School in Whitby won on the 2005 Police Chief for A Day contest, part of the annual Police Appreciation Dinner and Awards Night.



Her speech on what it must be like to be a police officer was judged by a community panel to be the best. As Chief for A Day on October 17, 2005, she spent the day touring police facilities, riding in Air1 and learning more about policing from frontline officers. She was a special guest at the Oct. 20, 2005 Police Appreciation Night gala dinner, where she recited her speech in full uniform to a packed house of almost 600 people.

Engaging the Community to Help Domestic Victims

We began a new initiative to connect local services to improve services for victims of intimate partner violence. Durham Region's Intimate Partner Violence Empowerment Network (D.R.I.V.E.N.) aims to offer victims "one stop shopping" to help them through a traumatic time in their lives.

Reduction in Homicides

With only two homicides in 2005, Durham Region experienced its lowest level since 1999. The DRPS clearance rate on homicide investigations ranks among the best in Canada. By "front-end loading" homicide investigations, we have solved 95 per cent of our cases over the last five years. Our Homicide Unit under the leadership of S/Sgt. Rolf Kluem, won the prestigious Ontario Case Management Award in May for their investigative efforts on "Project Tod."

International Award for Prevention Program

DRPS received the International Chief of Police/Motorola Webber Seavey Award for Quality in Law Enforcement for our "Be Aware...Be Safe" program.

The program was a partnership with the Durham District School Board and the Lakeridge Health Corporation to educate young people about preventing sexual assault and violence. Resource kits, including a video and instructional guide, were distributed to schools in Durham Region.

Leaders in Forensic Identification

The DRPS Forensic Identification Unit and the Crown Attorney's Office were invited to the prestigious Public Sector Quality Fair for their advanced partnership in sharing digital crime scene images.

The DRPS is the first in Ontario to completely digitize its crime scene photographs and make them available in real time via a shared server with the Crown's Office. The new approach will save the DRPS upwards of \$200,000 per year in staff time, storage and film development costs.

We received a Silver Award at the trade show.

Focusing on Mental Health

Police officers are increasingly confronted by mentally ill citizens on the street. In order to find solutions to this growing problem, several strategic partnerships were developed in 2005 with community stakeholders.

In order to raise awareness about the issue, the DRPS hosted the annual Critical Incident Conference in Oshawa in November and built the agenda on the theme Emotionally Disturbed Persons. Approximately 300 police officers and other emergency workers from across Ontario attended and shared information on best practices.