



2007: Significant Events - *Continued*

A Tragic Loss

Well-known and well-loved DRPS Constable Greg Hearn was killed in a tragic off-duty snowmobiling accident on March 9th on Lake Scugog. Hundreds of police officers lined Russell Street East in Lindsay for the funeral, which was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church. An avid outdoorsman, PC Hearn was a dedicated police officer and a valuable member of 15 Division (North Durham) at the time of his tragic death.



Bravery Medals

Detective Constable Paul Stewart and Acting Sergeant Leon Sowa were presented with the Medal of Bravery by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada in June.

The two police officers, along with EMS workers, saved a distraught woman from her burning home, despite the fact she had barricaded herself and was hiding under a desk.

Employer of Choice

For the second year in a row, Maclean's/Mediacorp has chosen the Durham Regional Police Service as one of the Top 100 Employers in Canada and Top 50 Employers in the Greater Toronto Area.

The DRPS was chosen out of thousands of applicants for the honour in recognition of its Human Resource programs and services.



Chief for a Day

Ten-year old Matthew Kostuch had the time of his life in October when he was chosen as Police Chief for a Day, part of the annual Police Appreciation Night event.

His speech on what it would be like to be a Police Officer was judged by a community panel to be the best. As Chief for A Day on October 22nd, 2007, he spent the day touring police facilities, riding in Air1 and learning more about policing from frontline officers.

Matthew was a special guest at the October 25th, 2007 Police Appreciation Night gala dinner, where he recited his speech in full DRPS uniform to a packed house of over 600 people.

Children's Games Honoured

The City of Pickering honoured the DRPS Children's Games with an Access Award at a civic ceremony in May 2007. The Children's Games is an informal, friendly athletic event for physically disabled children in Durham Region that began in 1985. The City of Pickering donates space at the Pickering Recreation Complex and kids aged six to 16 participate in a day of fun, games and entertainment.



Grow Ops Seizure

For the first time in Durham Region, a house was seized under civil remedy law because it was used as a marijuana-growing factory. Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant was in Oshawa in January to give the media a tour of the Severn Street house.

It had been a grow op in the summer of 2005 when the DRPS seized 540 plants in various stages of growth, worth about \$500,000. The house was eventually sold and proceeds went into a provincial fund used to help victims of crime.



Canadian Forces Salutes DRPS

On several occasions in 2007, members of the Canadian Forces tipped their caps to the DRPS for our ongoing support of the men and women who serve our country.

On March 28th, Brigadier-General Guy Thibault presented the DRPS with a plaque and coin at a presentation before Regional Council. It was in appreciation for our "Support Our Troops" decals placed on all cruiser and for paying final respects at funeral processions as they passed along Highway 401 from Trenton to Toronto. In addition, the DRPS was thanked for hosting a "Support Our Troops" event held during an OHL hockey game at the GM Centre in Oshawa.



In April 2007, Sergeant Dorothy Wojtarowicz of CIMIC and Allan Cole of Contracted Mortuary Affairs for the Government of Canada presented the DRPS with a letter of thanks on behalf of Lieutenant-General J.C.M. Gauthier, Commander of Canadian Expeditionary Forces around the world. The letter thanks the DRPS for paying homage to fallen soldiers and its ongoing support of men and women in uniform around the world.



In October 2007, the Police Appreciation Dinner and Awards Night recognized the DRPS efforts and also praised the Canadian Forces. A live video feed connected the gala dinner audience with soldiers in Afghanistan. Special guest at the dinner, Lieutenant-General Walter Natynczyk, praised the DRPS for its active support of Canadian Forces personnel around the world.

Remembering Bert Dejeet

Police Services Board member Bert Dejeet passed away in June 2007 after a brief illness. Bert was Vice Chair of the Board and also the former Dean of Justice Studies at Durham College. His support of the DRPS and his commitment to public safety and the administration of justice left its mark on our community.



Inspector Receives Prestigious Recognition

In May, Inspector Charlie Green was invested into the prestigious Order of Merit of the Police Forces by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada. The Order was created in 2000 to recognize conspicuous merit and exceptional service by members and employees of Canadian police services whose contributions extend beyond protection of the community. Inspector Green began his career with the O.P.P. and joined the DRPS in 1975. He also serves as Aide de Camp to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

\$510,000 to Fight Gangs

The Province of Ontario committed \$510,000 to assist the DRPS in its ongoing fight against gangs and guns. The funding will be used to establish a high-visibility, uniform rapid response team to augment ongoing efforts to curb gang activity. After the funding was received, the DRPS set up a Durham Region Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (D.R.A.V.I.S.) program based upon a similar model used in Toronto.



Community Safety Minister Monte Kwinter was in Pickering to make the funding announcement.