



2008: Significant Events - Continued

Employer of Choice

For the third 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.

Two Officers Receive Order of Merit

Two members of the Durham Regional Police Service were appointed to the prestigious Order of Merit of Police Forces.

Deputy Chief Chuck Mercier and Superintendent Bob Chapman received their medals from Governor General Michaëlle Jean at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on May 22nd.

Deputy Chief Mercier was honoured for his involvement with youth in our community, his work with Special Olympics and his contributions as a senior officer with DRPS. Superintendent Chapman was recognized for his dedicated years of service with both the Canadian Forces and the DRPS.



Superintendent Bob Chapman



Deputy Chief Chuck Mercier

OWLE Award Winner

Civilian member Heather Murray won the Civilian Achievement Award at the Ontario Women in Law Enforcement Awards on May 2 in Mississauga.



The award is given to a civilian member of a law enforcement agency who contributes by way of outstanding or significant support to her colleagues. The 18-year-employee was recognized for her outstanding community service and volunteerism through her love of music. She created the first DRP Rock and Roll band called 'The Cruisers' as well as the DRP Choir. The band travels to various schools in the region, singing about the dangers of bullying, drugs and gangs.

Chief for a Day

Saluting police officers and handling media inquiries came naturally to 10-year-Nicholas McLaughlin as he rose to the occasion as Durham Regional Police Chief for a Day.



Nicholas, a Grade 5 student at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School in Oshawa swore an oath of office on October 20th before taking on the duties of his rank. It was all part of the annual Police Appreciation Dinner and Awards Night celebrations.

Classmates watched as Nicholas was escorted from school by DRP Constable Corey Walsh to assume his new role. Dressed in a custom-made uniform and police hat, Nicholas and his parents were driven to headquarters in a police vehicle for his official swearing in and oath of office.

Nicholas then headed to the Police Learning Centre where he learned about officer training. After he had his fingerprints taken by the Forensic Identification Unit, Nicholas got to have the experience of a lifetime – taking a ride in Air 1 to his school and waving to his classmates from high in the air.

He delivered his speech in front of over 600 community members on the evening of October 23rd at the gala dinner held in Ajax.



National Recognition

Detective Constable Deborah Knight was recognized for her outstanding efforts in helping young people at the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP) in Montreal.

Detective Constable Knight received a Certificate of Distinction for her work with the Youth in Action Program. Established in 2008, Youth in Action helps young people residing in low-income housing to interact with their local police forces in positive ways.

The certificate is part of the annual Minister of Justice National Youth Justice Policing Awards.

Youth in Action is a collaborative effort between the Durham Regional Police Service, Region of Durham Social Services and Durham District School Board Continuing Education. It doubles as a Grade 11 credit leadership course which is offered in the community rooms of housing developments. This has led to many youth re-enrolling in the school system and has allowed family, friends and community leaders to be closely involved in the lives and education of the participants.



New Courthouse Construction

Work continued throughout 2008 on the new consolidated courthouse for Durham Region. The 350,000 sq. ft. structure in downtown Oshawa will feature 33 courtrooms and house more than 500 employees. It will consolidate eight different courthouse locations in Durham Region and improve efficiency in the management of those in custody. In the new building, six courtrooms will have video remand conferencing and there will be two remote video testimony rooms for vulnerable and child witnesses.



Aerial view of the new courthouse in May 2008.

Welcoming New Citizens

Forty new citizens from around the world officially became Canadians at a Citizenship Ceremony at Durham Regional Headquarters in Whitby, hosted by the DRPS.

Judge Gaynor presided over the ceremony in the Council Chamber and welcomed the new Canadians, along with Regional Councillor April Cullen of the Health and Social Services Committee, Social Services Commissioner Dr. Hugh Drouin and Chief Constable Mike Ewles.

"Our members work tirelessly to make Durham the safest community to live, work and play and we are proud that you have chosen our region to begin your new lives," said Chief Constable Ewles. "At Durham Regional Police we aim to be leaders in community safety and we encourage you to do the same by setting examples and helping others in your communities."

Regional representatives, members of the Durham Regional Police Service, the Department of Social Services and local dignitaries were also on hand to welcome the new citizens and join them at a reception and cake cutting following the ceremony. Each new resident received a gift bag packed with information about Durham Region.

DRPS welcomes the newest residents of Durham Region to our communities.