

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

The Pembroke Police Services Board took the time to honour their own during its regular board meeting on Thursday.

Long serving police officers Sgt. Rob Dickie and Sgt. Les Carroll were each presented awards for 30 years of exemplary service to law enforcement in Canada, while Father Howard Chabot was honoured for more than 20 years of service as the chaplain for the Pembroke Police Service. He is stepping down from the position, which is being taken over by Father Patrick Tait. He too was recognized by the board.

Pauline Edmonds, police service board member, said the Pembroke Police chaplain volunteers his time and talents to assist the police and the community.

"Our chaplain may be called upon to assist officers in conducting death notifications, provide counselling to victims and offer support and counselling to the police service members and their families," she said, and may also be called upon to offer religious ceremonies and prayers for special occasions and memorial services.

"People may not be aware of this, but our chaplains are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, providing outstanding service to the Pembroke Police Service and the community. They are truly an integral part of this police service," Ms. Edmonds said.

Coun. Shirley White said Sgt. Dickie started his law enforcement career in May 1979 in Kingston before coming to Pembroke in March 1980. He was promoted to Acting Sgt. in December 1985 and a year later to his current rank.

Board member Michael LeMay said Sgt. Carroll commenced his career as a police cadet in Toronto in June 1978, and in March 1981 was sworn in as a fourth class constable, working in Toronto in uniform, plainclothes and as a member of training staff. In January 1994, he joined the Pembroke Police Service, being promoted to his current rank in October of this year.

Both officers had been previously recognized by the Governor General for 20 years of loyal and meritorious service to law enforcement.

CITY'S NEW TRAFFIC COP WASTES NO TIME AT JOB

Pembroke's new traffic enforcement officer has wasted little time getting down to work.

Police Chief David Hawkins told the Pembroke Police Services Board that Cst. Kirk Snider, who was designated to that position December 1, 2009, has been keeping himself busy on the city's streets.

Between Dec. 1 and Dec. 10, Cst. Snider has stopped 56 vehicles, in the process laying 42 speeding charges, five moving violations, two Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act charges and issued 21 warnings.

He also investigated four motor vehicle collisions.

"To his credit, he is busy and he is enjoying it," said Chief Hawkins.

Gary Severin, police board chairman, said traffic has been one of the main issues facing the police service as outlined in their business plan. He said he is glad to see this focus on it.

The business plan states the community considers traffic concerns a major priority. These concerns included speeding, impaired driving, careless driving and accidents.

On December 1, the police service officially launched a traffic unit, which will be concentrating on traffic enforcement, safety promotion and education. Its purpose is to work on reducing the number of incidents of accidents, speeding, dangerous driving and impaired driving within the city.