

August 6, 2010

Mr. Paul Graham
Chief Administrator Officer
The Town of Blue Mountains
26 Bridge Street
P.O. Box #310
Thornbury, Ontario
NOH 2P0

Re: Community Watch Update

Dear Mr. Graham,

The Community Policing Committee is pleased to provide you and your colleagues an update on the Community Watch Program in the Town of the Blue Mountains. As you know the program has four components: Neighbourhood Watch, Rural Watch, Business Watch and Road Watch. Let's start our *Update* with Neighbourhood Watch.

Craigeleith Launch – August 2009

Neighbourhood Watch is designed to engage the community in a partnership with the OPP to minimize and prevent crime (primarily burglary and thefts), vandalism and rowdyism. The Committee chose the Craigeleith area around the Blue Mountains Resort as the location to launch the Neighbourhood Watch pilot because of the perceived (supported by OPP calls for service analysis) numerous problems with petty thefts, vandalism and rowdyism. The Committee scheduled an August 2009 Community meeting at the Craigeleith Community Centre. More than 55 concerned members of the Craigeleith Community attended. Their complaints were voiced strongly and consistently about unacceptable incidents emanating, according to the attendees, from the Resort and rental properties around the Resort.

Sergeant Watts and Inspector Trude representing the OPP responded to the concerns, encouraging the community members to involve the OPP, report incidents and to become actively involved in neighbourhood watch.

Community Policing Committee member, Michael Seguin, volunteered to serve as the interim Craigeleith Neighbour Watch Zone Coordinator. He recruited a cadre of neighbourhood coordinators to cover the streets most affected by the reported problems. Michael and his team have reached into the community encouraging more aggressive reporting to the police of incidents by the citizens of Craigeleith. Michael has also reached out to the Town by-law enforcement staff to partner in prevention and enforcement activities. The Committee's choice of Craigeleith as the launch community for neighbourhood watch proved to be appropriate and timely!

Blue Mountain Rate Payers Association Submission

On July 21, 2010 the Community Policing Committee convened to receive a Blue Mountains Ratepayers Association Submission, Effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Watch is Seriously Jeopardized by the STA Issue (attached). Committee Member, Michael Seguin, asked to be recognized in his other role as President of the Blue Mountain Rate Payers Association and presented the Submission for discussion with the Committee.

The Committee recognized that the original problems identified in the August 2009 Community meeting were still present, perhaps intensified since the original meeting. The petty thefts, vandalism and rowdyism in Craigeith remain the single most important issues for neighbourhood watch in the Town. The Committee resolved to actively support the neighbourhood watch program in Craigeith. Prior to the meeting, the Committee Chair forwarded the Rate Payers' Submission to OPP Inspector Trude. On July 21st, the Chair shared with the committee the OPP response, which outlined the detachment's protocols to respond to Craigeith incidents – protocols that address at least some of the issues in the Rate Payers submission. In addition, the Committee encouraged the Zone and Neighbourhood coordinators to broadly circulate the recently produced 'fridge' magnets with OPP response numbers 911, 310-1122 and *OPP along with Neighbourhood Watch decals. The Committee also recommended that the Craigeith team convene a meeting with the Rate Payers Association and enforcement stakeholders: the OPP and Town by-law enforcement officials. Blue Mountain Resorts Security is also a player in prevention and enforcement in the area, but has a conflict of interest as a contractor to at least one STA owner (as confirmed by Committee member Rick Ouellet). In its role as liaison between the community and the OPP, the Committee proposes to facilitate such a meeting and has suggested that representatives of the Town's Police Services Committee attend this meeting.

Michael Seguin, in his role as President of the Blue Mountains Rate Payers Association, asked the Committee to endorse the Rate Payers position on unregulated STA's in support of the Town in the pending OMB hearing. The Committee concluded that the Committee's Mandate did not include taking positions on legislative or legal matters outside of this mandate (also attached). As noted above, however, the Committee continues to believe that the single most important neighbourhood watch issue in the Town as a whole is the unacceptably high incidents of petty crime, vandalism and rowdyism at least partially and chronically caused by occupants of STA's..

Lora Bay Neighbourhood Watch

The next step in the Neighbourhood Watch program is Lora Bay zone implementation. Committee members, Martin, Huber and Seguin have recruited Neighbourhood coordinators and Rob Potter has produced a full set of updated materials to support the launch in August/September.

Business Watch

Early in 2010, under the leadership of Committee member, Rick Ouellet, Business Watch was introduced to the businesses in the Blue Mountain Resorts with immediate success. The OPP Business Crime Prevention Kit is in wide use in the Village. The local Chamber of Commerce has been engaged and is fully supportive of the Program. Currently, Committee member, Meredith Brown, is leading the Business Watch program implementation in Thornbury/Clarksburg.

Rural Watch

In May of this year, the Chair with Rob Potter met with the Town's Agricultural Advisory Committee to present the proposed Rural Watch program. The Committee was supportive of the initiative and recommended a Community introductory meeting in the Ravenna Hall in mid-summer or late fall. Rob Potter is managing the logistics of this launch and the Chair is seeking program leader.

Traffic Watch

Traffic Watch involves sign design and placement supported by a publicity campaign. Sergeant Watts is managing the program for a September launch. The MOT has also agreed to institute a 70km buffer speed zone at the Eastern entrance of Thornbury. Representatives of the MOT recently reported a late fall installation.

Committee Priorities and Organization

In September, the Committee plans to focus on the introduction of Neighbourhood Watch to Thornbury / Clarksburg, the implementation of the assignment of OPP officers to zone responsibility (Community Based Policing Lecture #1) and to recruit program leaders and new membership on the Committee. With financial commitments from the Town and Rotary, the Committee has named Rob Potter the Budget Coordinator to report regularly to the Committee. The Committee intends to become more formal with the appointment of a recording secretary to document Committee proceedings.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any one of the Committee members, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Larry Hall

Chair Community Policing Committee -- Town of the Blue Mountains

Cc: Committee Members, Rod Knott (Chair – Police services Board), Inspector John Trude (OPP Collingwood/Blue Mountains)

