

## BLUE MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY POLICING COMMITTEE

### REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS – FEBRUARY 2012

*The Community Policing Committee was formed six years ago to help Blue Mountains implement Community Policing principles and programs, and to serve as a communications bridge between members of the community and the OPP. This report highlights the Committee's activities in 2011, outlines priorities for 2012 and argues for ongoing financial support from its stakeholders.*

#### Highlights – 2011

- **Highway #26 Speed Reduction Zone** – in 2010 the Committee, supported by Town staff, initiated dialogue with the MTO regarding traffic safety and a speed reduction zone at the Eastern entrance to Thornbury. The MTO agreed to introduce a 70 kmh zone beginning on Highway #26 close to the Indian River Bridge to the existing 50 kmh zone. With frequent follow up by Town staff, eighteen months later, the MTO has approved and installed the requested speed reduction signs. The OPP reports that significant speed reductions, at the entrance to Thornbury, have been achieved!
- **Integrated Short Term Accommodation bylaw enforcement** – in February 2011 the Committee presented a brief to the Police Services Board arguing for an integrated approach (OPP, Town Fire Service, Town by-law enforcement, and Blue Mountain Resorts security staff) to enforce the Town's STA bylaw in the Craigleith area and beyond. The Police Services Board submitted to Council a resolution asking for such integration. After the Municipal Board decision validating the Town's by-law, council and staff appear to be moving to implement the recommended integrated approach!
- **Community Watch** – as the attached brochure outlines, the Committee has introduced to Blue Mountains a four component **Community Watch** program – Neighbourhood, Rural, Business and Traffic Watch. **Neighbourhood Watch**: now introduced in Craigleith and Lora Bay, the Committee's focus has shifted to Clarksburg and Thornbury. An all households mailing is pending, (February 8-10) highlighting Neighbourhood Watch and inviting householders to join the program. The challenge remains recruiting

## ***CPC REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS (continued)***

- Neighbour volunteers to distribute Watch materials (Decals, “Call 911/310-1122” fridge magnets, household protection and valuables inventory guidelines). The Committee has commandeered the Canadian Cancer Society household annual fund raising campaign maps for the Town and awaits response from the all households mailing to find the required cadre of volunteers for the neighbourhoods delineated in the Cancer Society materials. **Rural Watch:** A Ravenna-based group of volunteers also awaits the all – households mailing to initiate distribution of Neighbourhood Watch materials as noted above. **Business Watch:** the Business Watch program with its emphasis on Robbery Prevention has been successfully introduced in the Blue Mountain Resort Village. In late fall, the local BIA sponsored the distribution of Business Watch materials to Clarksburg/Thornbury business owners by OPP auxiliary officers. Early this year, these business owners will be formally asked to sign into the program. **Traffic Watch:** In late 2011 Traffic Watch signs were installed at high traffic areas in the Town. The OPP has taken ownership of this program and plans to publicize both the program goals and the process to report careless, dangerous, discourteous, and most importantly, drunk (DUI) driving occurrences!
- **Community Watch** [www.bluemountainscommunitywatch.ca](http://www.bluemountainscommunitywatch.ca) – in 2011 the Committee commissioned Running Tide to develop the Town’s Community Watch website. Now operational, the Committee will use the new website to engage Blue Mountains residents and businesses in helping to prevent crime and maintain the high degree of citizen safety now existing in our community. The Committee will use partner websites (Town, BMRA, Chamber, Rotary, Huronia Alarms, etc.) to link to the Watch site as the four programs build support in the Community. The Committee is now taking steps to enrich website content particularly with incident reports requiring citizen awareness/support, and with tips to citizens to help minimize thefts, fraud, vandalism, rowdyism, and dangerous driving in our Community.
  - **False Dispatch/Alarms By-law** – As the attached chart illustrates, the introduction of the Town’s Alarms by-law program has helped achieve a substantial reduction in costly and time consuming false OPP dispatches -- close to 40% from 2008 through 2010. As experienced in other jurisdictions, the number of false

## **CPC REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS (continued)**

dispatches will resume growth as the program ages – and this unwelcome growth has occurred in Blue Mountains in 2011.

False dispatch reduction will return to Blue Mountains only with renewed attention by stakeholders. The Committee has passed on ownership of the false dispatch reduction challenge to Town staff, the OPP and Alarm provider companies. In 2012, the Committee will ask Town staff to re-publicize the program and to challenge Alarm Companies to ensure that their customers are participating in the licensing and false alarms prevention components of the program!!

### **2012 PRIORITIES**

- ***Community Watch*** – The continuation of the implementation of Community Watch remains the primary focus of the Committee in 2012. The Committee’s challenge to recruit program and neighbourhood leaders for Neighbourhood Watch is priority #1!
- ***Share the Road*** – Community leaders are rightly concerned about the safety of the growing contingent (some argue hoards!) of resident and visitor cyclists in our and neighbouring communities. In addition to safety, the Committee is concerned about the growing conflict between motorists and cyclists. The Committee calls this challenge “stop the finger”! What is required here is an awareness, education and enforcement program directed to both groups. The Committee through its linkage to several groups and organisations in the Town can help others implement the “Share the Road” program. The Committee will not have primary responsibility for this initiative.
- ***Committee Renewal*** -- In 2012 the Committee will continue to recruit new members to create new linkages to the Community, stimulate new thinking and facilitate succession. The committee will evolve with a more formal structure as outlined in its original mandate.

### **2012 FINANCES**

- During 2011 the Committee expended \$2883 of the available \$7500 budget into the continued enhancement and operation of the Town’s Community Watch Program. The budget for this program was funded through the Town’s Police Reserve. The Community Watch Program expenditures supported web development and maintenance, printing and meeting expenses. In 2012, the Committee expects higher expenses including but not limited to:

## **CPC REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS (continued)**

- web development and maintenance \$2,300;
- printing and mail distribution \$2,600;
- meetings \$500;
- advertising \$750;
- and miscellaneous \$500

The Committee plans to raise \$2,500 from Sponsors this year to offset program costs.

*We respectfully request Council invest \$4,617 in the continued operation of the Community Watch Program for the 2012 year. (This is the same amount unspent in 2011) This funding will allow the Community Watch Program to continue with the program and achieve its goals as outlined herein.*

### **Committee Members**

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Cameron Kennedy | Meredith Brown     |
| Chris Legge     | Michael Seguin     |
| Dolf Jansen     | Denis Fennessy     |
| Gary Huber      | Rick Ouellet       |
| Larry Hall      | Sgt. Charles Watts |

### **Support Team**

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Neil Carscadden     | Alison Miller  |
| Janet Flynn         | Shelley Savill |
| Cst. Pieter Huyssen | Linda Wykes    |
| Lisa Kidd           |                |

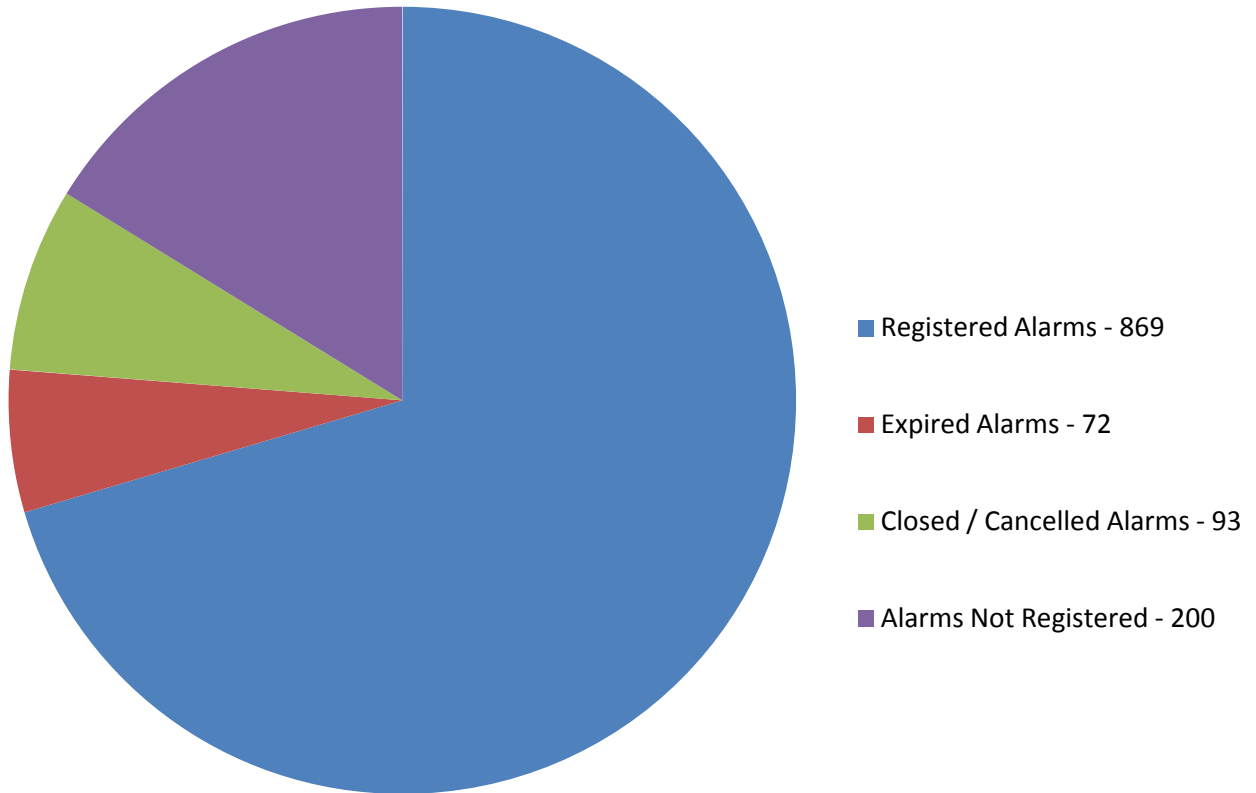
### **Partners**

Blue Mountain Ratepayers Association  
Blue Mountain Resorts  
Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce  
OPP Crime Prevention Unit (Orillia)  
Thornbury Business Improvement Area

### **Sponsors**

Collingwood / Blue Mountains OPP  
Huron Alarms  
Thornbury – Clarksburg Rotary Club  
Town of the Blue Mountains

## SUMMARY OF SECURITY ALARM FILES

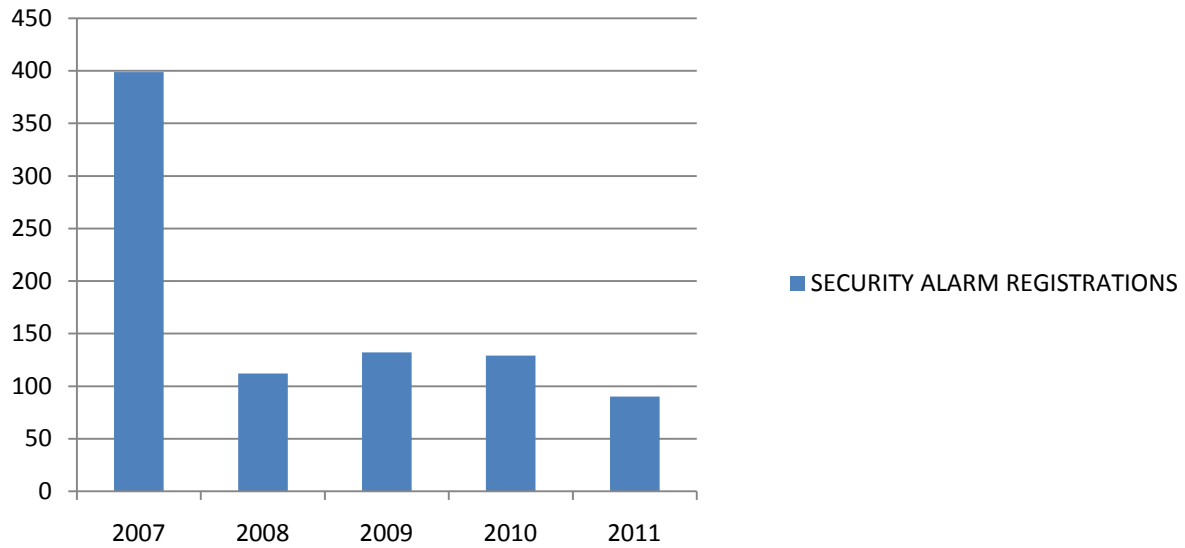


■ Expired Alarms represent those registrations that have expired

■ Closed Alarms represent those registration holders that have moved or alarm systems that have been deactivated

■ Alarms Not Registered are those premises that have had a false alarm but have not registered

## SECURITY ALARM REGISTRATIONS



## OPP False Alarm Dispatches

