

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS POLICE SERVICES BOARD

2024 Annual Report to Council
June 17, 2024



To: Mayor Andrea Matrosovs and Members of Council

From: Jim Oliver, Chair, TBM Police Services Board

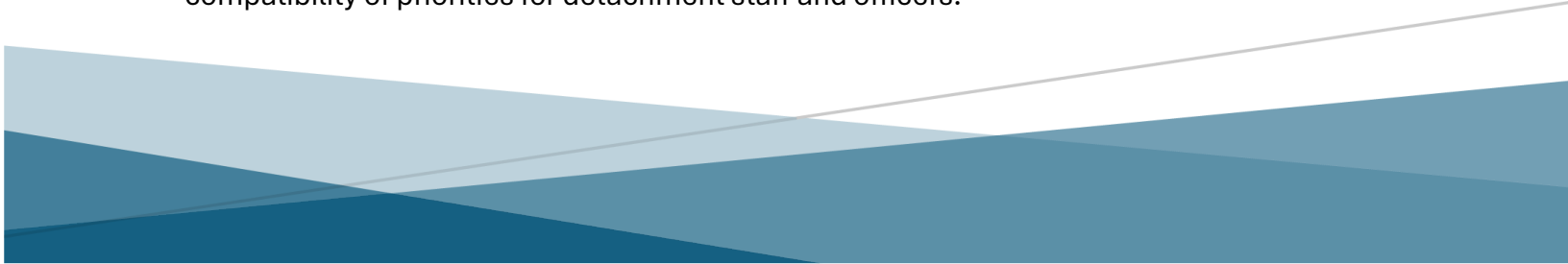
Re: Annual Report To Council and Upcoming Changes under The Community Safety and Policing Act (2019)

I am pleased to have this opportunity to bring forward information to Council and the public concerning the new provincial legislation governing policing services in our community, and the role of the board in providing civilian oversight to OPP policing in the Town of the Blue Mountains. The Province's Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA) came into effect on April 1 of this year. One of the requirements of the new act is that police services boards (or in our case OPP Detachment Boards) report to their municipality(ies) at least annually by June 30th, and that is essentially the reason for our deputation to Council, and for the accompanying staff report.

The Board is pleased that Council has recently appointed Lynn Church as it's second community member on the Board. Lynn has accepted the job of Vice-chair of the Board for the balance of 2024, and she brings significant knowledge and experience to our Board table. The Board is also happy that Council Ardiel was appointed as Council's second representative to the Board. We can only hope that the Province will soon fill its vacant provincial appointee seat on the Board after an 18-month vacancy. Council may be aware that all Board members have recently been required to complete training provided by the Ministry of the Solicitor General, and obtain new police record checks (all successfully !!).

One of the unknowns at present for the Board, OPP staff and Town staff is what the expectations will be for the "annual reporting" to Council. Corporate OPP is wishing to ensure consistency across the Province (where OPP detachments provide policing services) as to what and how detachment senior management report to the detachment board (and through it to municipal Council). We anticipate that these standards and protocols will be in place well in advance of our 2025 report to Council.

Another area of some uncertainty still is finalizing what plans and priorities will guide the work of the Board, as well as detachment staff on an annual basis. Our 2023-2025 Detachment (Collingwood and Blue Mountains) Action Plan has now been approved by Corporate OPP, and is being followed by police officers and staff. Under the CSPA, the Board can establish local policies and priorities for policing, based on community input, provided they are not inconsistent with the Minister's "strategic plan" for policing, nor with our detachment Action Plan. The Board is also guided by our local Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. This planning and priority setting remains a "work in progress", and our Board will work with our sister board in Collingwood to ensure consistency and compatibility of priorities for detachment staff and officers.



A number of other issues have arisen from the CSPA after April 1/24 for the Board, OPP detachment staff and TBM staff to deal with and resolve . I can summarize these here , and they are dealt with in the staff report before Council as well.

- 1) Board name – under the new CSPA, boards overseeing OPP detachments are called “OPP Detachment Boards”, not “Police Services Boards”. Our Board has considered this matter and will recommend accordingly.
- 2) Terms of Reference, enacting bylaw and procedural bylaw (staff report)
- 3) Annual budgeting for the work of the Board (staff report)
- 4) Insurance coverage for the Board and its members (staff report)
- 5) Public accessibility for the Board and its work – meeting agendas, online broadcast of proceedings, minutes, website access

Representatives of the Board recently had the opportunity to attend the annual conference of the OAPSB here in the Town of the Blue Mountains, which we appreciated. We will later this year be appearing before Council regarding the OPP Auxiliary program for the Detachment to encourage more citizens to consider volunteering for this important service.

We are pleased to touch on a few highlights and initiatives from the past year that will enhance public safety for our residents and visitors, within our time allotment.



Jim Oliver
Chair, The Blue Mountains Police Services Board

