

Town of the Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board (TBMOPPDB)  
2025 Annual Report to Council June 23, 2025  
Jim Oliver, Chair

I appreciate this opportunity, on behalf of the TBM OPP Detachment Board, to report to Council and residents on the work of the Board and our Detachment over the past year. We previously reported to Council on June 17/24. It was my hope (and that of Detachment Commander Licharson) that we would have received the template and protocol for the board/detachment report to be used for today's presentation and report, but we did not receive it in time. I have been advised that same will be provided to the detachment board by the end of June (2025).

Our detachment board has been operating at full membership capacity for essentially the past year, which has been great. Lynn Church and I as community-appointees by Council, and Donna Wilson, as provincial appointee, have appreciated working with Mayor Matrosovs and Councillor Ardiel as the Board. We have also been operating under the new Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA) for a bit more than a full year, and I can say that things are starting to settle down in that regard. We have a 2025 budget allocation in place, within the Town's overall budget, and we are insured (as members and the board) under a group policy facilitated by the OAPSB (OPP detachment boards are not considered a committee of Council and thus are not eligible for insurance coverage under the Town's policy. The Board made the decision in January of this year to simply meet a minimum of 4 times annually (as required by the CSPA), along with our joint meeting(s) with our sister board in Collingwood (the two boards met June 18). This is contained within the Board's new procedural bylaw which was also approved. The Board is awaiting "identifier" support materials, such as letterhead, business cards, etc. that include our new official name and logo (OPP-approved), that can be used as part of outreach efforts. I can also advise that the OAPSB announced at the recent annual meeting and conference in London (which I attended June 3-5) that it will rebrand itself as "Police Governance Ontario", and it is my hope that our board "identifier" logo can have "A Member of Police Governance Ontario" added, as it reflects what OPP detachment boards and municipal police service boards are all about.

As has previously been reported to Council, the detachment is currently consulting with stakeholders and interest groups across the 2-board geographic area, on what should be priorities for the detachment for the 2026-2029 action planning period. It is my hope and expectation that our Board will be reviewing the results of this consultation with detachment leadership, and perhaps undertaking same independently as well to allow us to provide meaningful assistance and direction to the Detachment Commander through the Fall of 2025 as the draft action plan is developed. The Board will continue to welcome feedback and suggestions from the Town and the public at any point in the action planning process and as the detachment both completes the 2023-2025 cycle and begins to implement our 2026-29 plan.

From an operational standpoint, the Board continues to monitor data provided quarterly by Inspector Licharson regarding areas of concern and good news stories in policing across our community. It is my hope that Inspector Licharson and I will be able to provide a few highlights at the time of my presentation to Council of this report. Our detachment now has the benefit of a new permanent staff position, "Traffic Management Officer", filled by Adrian Swann, with the associated emphasis on traffic (and community) safety and enforcement that this program will provide. We can also report that all detachment officers are now equipped and trained with the "body-worn cameras" technology that will enhance evidence collection and officer accountability.

The Board will continue to provide oversight on policing across the Town of the Blue Mountains, and will try to serve as a conduit for input from the community and the Town on places and ways to improve and increase public safety and policing services.

We welcome any questions or comments.

Jim Oliver,  
Chair