

# CITIZENS ON PATROL

## YEAR END REPORT 2010

We have now closed our second season and have managed to overcome a few obstacles with enthusiasm and tact and look forward to season three in May 2011. The first patrol for 2010 was May 7<sup>th</sup> and the last November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We believe that we are having a positive imprint on our community.

### **Facility**

To date we have used the Community Office portable at Monsignor Lee School, and many thanks to Const. Gerry Dwyer. This portable has now become a storage room for a variety of OPP related supplies, which has made the environment there unsuitable for our purposes. It is overcrowded and unsafe with tripping hazards caused by articles piled on the floor near the doorway. Our last few meetings were held at the Ashmore Room in Orser Arena.

Over the winter we will be actively seeking new accommodations to use as a base for our weekend patrols and to hold our monthly meetings. The new location needs to be such that no one is disturbed by our late night hours. We are also hopeful to hold our meetings here.

### **Budget**

As you are aware, Citizens on Patrol has been working with a minimal budget; enough funds to supply 2 cell phones, 1 - \$5.00 Tim's card and 1 - \$10.00 gas card per team per patrol. The total 2010 expenditure to date is \$1406.80

As previously noted it is necessary to relocate our base/meeting place. Realistically finding such a place for free is likely impossible. A possibility would be a 'sub-let' situation where for a nominal fee we could share with another agency or private business after their closing time.

In 2011 we would like to see a slightly increased budget to cover costs related to a "base" location. Additional research will be done throughout the winter months.

## Statistics

		2009	2010
No. of Patrols		50	75
No. of Kilometers Traveled		3326.4	3697.5
Incidents Reported		20	31

## Accomplishments

- Membership was increased by 3 this year giving us a total of 15 volunteers. Members span a wide age range and bring a useful variety of life experiences and skills to the program.
- COP is now listed with Information Orillia as a registered volunteer group
- COP attended the Volunteer Fair at Orillia Square Mall in October
- Our group enjoyed more interaction with OPP this season thanks to Sgt. Robin Moore sharing some public 'BOLO' information. This was welcomed by our teams and gave an additional sense of purpose
- Training was improved with guest speakers attending our monthly meetings which included:
  1. Representation from OPP Communications Centre
  2. OPP presentation on graffiti. COP is currently working on a Graffiti Location and Identification Project (GLIP) and will produce a final report listing the photographs and street addresses of graffiti and tagging around the City of Orillia. Thanks to our very talented members we intend to create & maintain an electronic data base whereby we can add new graffiti as well as track the cleaned up areas. This information will be shared with the Graffiti Eradication Committee upon completion.

3. OPP presentation on street gang activity
4. Group tour of OPP headquarters

### **Observations**

Following are some observations from COP members.

*“Some of the car lots seem to have their lights on timers where motion lights would be better. A thief would be deterred more effectively if lights came on when they were approaching a vehicle”*

*“Couchiching Park is very dark with no lighting in the area of the Aquatheatre. There are many parts of the park in total darkness allowing for vandalism and other criminal activity”*

*“It would be so much safer if there were police foot patrols in the park and the downtown area both during the days and between the hours of 10pm and 2am. This would be a great deterrent to vandalism and rowdy behaviour”*

*“CCTV cameras would be a positive addition in the downtown and park areas. The general public and business owners would feel safer. Crime would not only be deterred but these would offer an additional tool in identifying perpetrators.”*

*“Many of the downtown alleyways and laneways are in total darkness with no lighting at all”*

*“Sundial Motor Inn is an eyesore, the target of vandalism, graffiti and theft. It appears that ‘kids’ are entering freely. There is graffiti high up on the tower which means someone was precariously accessing that space. Windows are smashed as is the Jacuzzi glass pod. “It is an accident waiting to happen.”*

*“It would be so helpful to get some feedback on the calls to the Comm Centre. It feels like we are working in a vacuum without this”*

### **Goals**

While we have experienced an improved communication with OPP this year we feel it is not optimum. Our COP members will continue to work toward a strategy that will provide feedback on calls made to the OPP Communication Centre while on patrol. It would contribute in a big way to our development and ultimately to our usefulness. It

would certainly enhance our sense of purpose. Starting a dialogue with OPP and forming a plan for improved two-way communication is a goal for 2011.

- We will be examining other community initiative projects our group could lead for next season.
- Increase our advertising to continue to attract more members and improve public awareness of Citizens on Patrol.
- Become familiar with and introduce ourselves to other Community based groups in order to increase awareness of our program. D.M.B. & Chamber of Commerce will be invited to attend one of our meetings as a means to increase their awareness of our program.
- Create a job description for 'Administrator' outlining tasks and responsibilities.
- Expand and update our training manual.

**Recommendations:**

1. Increased lighting and CCTV cameras for car lots, downtown area, schools, parks and the Port of Orillia. This would increase public safety and discourage crime.
2. Provide an annual budget for Citizens on Patrol to assist with costs relating to operating supplies and base/meeting place.
3. Develop a strategy to provide feedback on calls made to the OPP Communication Centre while on patrol.

Yours truly,

Carol Miller  
Administrator  
Citizens on Patrol