



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- *Crime Reporter – Regular Feature*
Page 1 & 3
- *Domestic Violence*
Page 2
- *New Police Building Underway*
Page 3
- *Police Board Vacancies: Are you interested?*
Page 4
- *Statistics Reporting- Regular Feature*
Page 4

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UCCM Police Crime Reporter-Regular Feature

Once a charge has been laid and begins to go through the court system, it may take some time until the case is finally dealt with and resolved. This section of the bulletin will report those charges that have been dealt with by way of the courts or by referral to the UCCM Justice Project. This means that we will not report on those charges that are currently before the courts and not finalized.

We have devoted two pages of this edition to the Crime Reporter feature since we missed our summer /05 newsletter. The following cases are up to the reporting period ending May 2005. Our next newsletter will report on court dispositions after May 2005.

CONVICTION ON CARELESS DRIVING CHARGES

On January 31, 2005 the courts convicted a 34 year old male of careless driving. A six month driving suspension and \$875 fine was entered into. The incident involved a vehicle that had struck a guard rail barrier and had landed in a ditched area. The male was subsequently located a short distance away from the vehicle and claimed that he had vehicle problems with the brakes, and he was going

to make a phone call for assistance, and that he was not fleeing from police. Police detected signs of impairment and the male was also initially charged with Over 80mg of alcohol after failing the roadside screening device and the Breathalyzer. The Over 80mg charge was withdrawn by the courts. The investigating officer was Cst. Ziegler.

CHARGE OF ASSAULT RESULTS IN PEACE BOND

On January 17/05, a female entered into a peace bond as a result of an incident that occurred in Aug/04. The victim answered her door and the accused grabbed her hair and a brief struggle ensued. Another person in the residence attempted to stop the struggle and was pushed up to the door frame. The accused female was then charged with assault. However, the two victims did not wish to pursue charges, and a peace bond agreement was entered into before the trial date scheduled for January 2005. The investigating officer was Cst. Debassige.

CRIMESTOPPER TIP RESULTS IN ARREST

On February 10, 2005, police responded to a Crimestopper tip of a possible stolen

vehicle. The vehicle's estimated value was \$30,000. A male was subsequently placed under arrest for possession of stolen property and was held for bail. The male was also on a July 2004 bail condition to keep the peace and be of good behavior, and a further charge of failing to comply with this bail condition was also issued. On February 17/05 the courts found him guilty on the charge of possession of stolen property, and received the 1 day jail time served and 6 months probation. The charge of failing to abide by bail condition was withdrawn. The investigating officer was Cst. Osawabine.

COMMUNITY FUNCTION ENDS IN TWO CHARGES OF ASSAULT CAUSE BODILY HARM

Two males were charged with assault cause bodily harm on another male after a licensed community function. The victim was kicked in the head and upper body several times and an ambulance transported the victim to the hospital for medical treatment. Alcohol consumption was a factor in the incident. At the trial held in Mar/05, and courts dismissed the charge against one of the males, and the other male was convicted, receiving a \$1000 fine, 12 months probation, and was ordered to provide a DNA sample. The investigating officer was Cst. Endanawas.



Family Violence - From a Police Perspective

With more domestic violence legislation adopted each year, domestic violence is no longer a private and secret matter within the home. Domestic violence courts are being established, and there are more programs such as the partner assault response (PAR) program being delivered with the objective of ending family and domestic violence.

We all know that domestic violence damages our entire community. Not only does it negatively affect the victim and the abuser, but the children who see and hear what goes on is ultimately the most damaging. Children who witness the abuse are most likely to continue this cycle if our communities do not support our families with a comprehensive strategy to stop it.

Domestic violence occurs in all age groups, affects people at all educational levels, and within any socioeconomic and occupational group. It can involve different forms of abuse- physical, psychological, emotional, and economic abuse; sadly, the children are used as pawns in these situations of family breakdown. Domestic violence is used to intimidate, humiliate, or frighten victims as a systematic way to maintaining power and control. The abusive behaviour in most cases is learned.

Domestic violence can have several meanings, depending on which agency is speaking about the problem. The definition for law enforcement is "domestic violence is any use of physical or sexual force,

actual or threatened, in an intimate relationship including emotional/psychological abuse or harassing behaviour."

Although both women and men can be victims of domestic violence, the overwhelming majority of domestic violence involves men abusing women.

Often, the abuse does not become violent during the initial stages of a relationship, but rather, begins on a gradual basis. Once the victim has become 'conditioned' to accept and internalize the emotional abuse, they will begin to more readily accept physical intimidation and then physical abuse. She will often 'forgive' the abuser, and once her spirit is finally broken, she will eventually mistakenly believe that she is actually responsible for her abusive partner's behavior.

There are many known impacts of the residential school legacy. Some of the more prevalent impacts relate to lack of parenting or family skills, loss of culture, and sense of identity. The result is devastation of the most basic human relationships of intimacy, trust, loyalty, and mutual cooperation. It is the devastation of these relationships that police are often called to.

Statistics have reported that a woman may experience about 35 incidents of abuse before reaching out for help. For police officers responding to family violence in First Nations Communities, the issues can be much more complex. In addition to the issues of power and control by the abuser, collection of evidence, victim safety, protection of children, and arrest and release of the accused, the officers must also concern

themselves with meeting the needs and expectations of the communities they serve and most often, live in.

It is commonly known that alcoholism and substance abuse are problems closely intertwined with the problem of family violence. Substance abuse increases the frequency and severity of traumatic violent episodes and injuries resulting from abuse while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Sometimes, it is often both the victim and perpetrator that are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This makes it difficult for police to secure reliable information and statements from either party.

When the officer returns to obtain a sober statement from the parties, often there is little co-operation in getting an account of the events. And so the family violence cycle continues without any intervention to prevent it from happening again.

It is proven that without effective intervention, assault behavior will not improve over time, but will instead become progressively more severe. Survivors of family violence may turn to mind-altering or mood-altering drugs to decrease their feelings of loneliness, isolation, and helplessness, or to numb their anxiety and depression. This of course, compounds the problem. Children from violent homes have higher risks of alcohol and/or drug dependencies, and higher risks for juvenile delinquency.

Abusers often have difficulty trusting people, have low self-worth; and believe that emotional distress is caused by external factors; Power and control tactics

most commonly employed by abusers may include all or any of the following behaviors: actual physical violence; sexual violence; emotional abuse; isolation; economic abuse; spiritual or religious abuse; using the children in disputes; using intimidation and threats; minimizing, lying and blaming;

Abusers may exhibit a lack of ability to nurture other people or are unable to relate on an intimate basis; they fear loss of control or power, and are out of touch with their feelings other than anger. They are extremely jealous and possessive; they refuse to be accountable for their own actions and blame others; they are socially isolated, and in turn, attempt to socially isolate their victims; the abuser often demands that their partner account for all their time or whereabouts. Force or violence is the only way they know how to resolve problems.

Statistically, it is not uncommon for an abused woman to leave her abuser seven or eight times before they make a final break. So until our communities take an active and collective stand to not tolerate violence in the home, police will continue to lay charges in domestic violence cases, but with little or no actual resolve for the betterment of the family unit.

Police alone cannot solve the underlying issues of domestic violence.



UCCM Police Crime Reporter, contn'd

BREACH OF BAIL CONDITIONS RESULTS IN JAIL TIME

A 28 year old male who was released on bail conditions and failed to report to court to answer to charges of theft over \$5000, uttering threats, and breach of probation. At the time, the accused was on a probation order, and was charged with theft over \$5000 involving a vehicle, and was also charged with breach of probation. The accused was later apprehended by another police service, and was returned to our area for a bail hearing. One of the conditions for the bail release was to report to the UCCM office once per week. The accused failed to do this, and was charged with fail to abide by conditions, and breach of probation. The accused failed to report to court and a warrant for his arrest was issued. The accused was eventually arrested, and in Feb/05 the judge ordered a total of 45 days of jail time for the charges, and 12 months probation. The investigating officer was Cst.

Debassige. BREAK AND ENTER & MISCHIEF CHARGES AT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Police were called to a break and enter involving one of the administration offices of our First Nations. Most of the employee offices were ransacked and mischief to the premise was done. Police were able to locate a fingerprint and it was matched with a male accused on file. The male was charged with Break, Enter & Commit, Mischief Over \$5000, and Breach of probation.

In May/05, court found that the charge of mischief over \$5000 be withdrawn, but was found guilty on the remaining charges. The male received 30 days jail time for the breach of probation and another 3 months of jail time on the charge of the break and enter. Two years probation was also set, and DNA extraction was also ordered. The investigating officer was Cst. Abotossaway.

BREACH OF PROBATION RESULTS IN 30 DAYS JAIL

A 45 year old male who was

on release conditions from a previous charge to remain away from his victim was subsequently charged for beach of undertaking for going to the victim's residence and attempting to persuade the victim to 'drop the charges' against him. The accused was under the influence of alcohol at that time. There were other subsequent reports that found the same accused had been drinking on two other occasions, which was again in contravention of the same release conditions. In total, 4 charges of breach of undertaking were laid. In Mar/05, the accused plead guilty to two of the four charges, and the courts ordered 30 days jail time. The accused had already served 15 days of pre-trial custody by the time he had plead guilty at the March court date. The other two charges of breach of undertaking were withdrawn by the courts. The investigating officer was Cst. Mack.

DISPUTE ENDS IN CHARGES OF ASSAULT

A dispute at a residence ended in assault charges,

uttering threats, and two counts of breach of probation. The victim and accused parties had all been drinking. Court was held in May/05, and the accused was sentence to 12 months jail time and 12 months probation for the assault charge and one breach of probation. The second breach of probation and charge of uttering threats was withdrawn by the Court. The investigating officer was Cst. Ziegler.

THEFT FROM EMPLOYER RESULTS IN CHARGES

Police were called to a report of an alleged theft of employer property by one of its employees. The investigation found that the employee had sold property belonging to their employer, and was subsequently charged. In Feb/05, the accused plead guilty to the charge and the courts ordered a conditional discharge and 12 months probation with restitution to be paid to the employer. The piece of stolen property was eventually recovered, and was returned to the employer. The employee is reported to no longer work for that organization. The investigating officer was Cst. Debassige.

UCCM Police Building Project Now Underway

After many years of persistence, the UCCM Police Building project is finally coming to a reality. With the 100% support and backing of the UCCM Tribal Council, the police service is well underway to making this much needed facility come to life. In accordance with our Ojibwe traditions, a special site preparation ceremony was held on Friday, Sept 30/05 before any construction work starts. Many officers and staff of the police service, members of the UCCM Police Commission, and members of the Tribal Council came out at 7 AM for the ceremony to show their support for this project. In total, there were about 30 people in attendance! A special Miigwech goes out to Gordon Waindubence for guiding us through this ceremony.

The new police building will be located in M'Chigeeng First Nation, on Hwy #540, at the bottom of the chi - M'Chigeeng hill as you travel westbound on Hwy 540.



Quarterly Statistic Reporting: Regular Feature

A regular feature of our newsletter will be quarterly reporting of statistics. Below is a breakdown by community, which identifies the number of incidents, reported in each First Nation.

First Nation Community	January 1, 2005 March 31, 2005 (Reported)	April 1, 2005 – June 30, 2005 (Reported)	July 1, 2005 – Sept 30, 2005 (Reported)	TOTAL YEAR TO DATE (Reported)
Aundeck Omni Kaning	27	46	72	145
M'Chigeeng	241	295	352	888
Sheguiandah	27	52	57	136
Sheshegwaning	26	34	39	99
Whitefish River	72	112	96	280
Zhiibaahaasing	4	5	10	19
Assisting Other Areas	100	100	120	320
TOTAL INCIDENTS	497	644	746	1887

Summary of Charges and Cautions by Year

Sep/05 Year to Date:
Charges 304
Cautions 407

Year 2004
Charges - 287
Cautions - 380



R.I.D.E. STATS for Aug & Sept/05

M'Chigeeng - 4 Campaigns
Aundeck Omni Kaning – 3 Campaigns
Sheguiandah – 1 Campaign
Whitefish River – 1 Campaign

We cannot reproduce all of the various incident types, but we have focused on the most frequent types of incidents REPORTED within our area. The following totals are for the period January 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005, and are a total for all the First Nation communities.

Disturb the Peace - 68	Alarms - 83	Sexual Assaults - 7
Theft Motor Vehicles – 9	Assist Child Services - 20	Break & Enter – 37
Assaults - 87	Thefts – 96	Civil Disputes - 28
Other Criminal Code - 53	Liquor Act - 80	Drugs - 21
Traffic – Prov Statutes - 116	Mischief – 55	Motor Veh Acc/Collis - 29
Impaired/Refuse Breath -15	Prisoner Escorts - 146	Bail Violations – 29

QUICK FACT: ON AVERAGE, THE COURT CASE MANAGER HAS ABOUT 90 CASES AT VARIOUS STAGES IN THE COURT SYSTEM

Community Service Activities Summer 2005

- ✓ Terry Fox Run
- ✓ MSS Canoe Trip
- ✓ UCCM Career Fair
- ✓ Ecstasy Drug Awareness
- ✓ Boat Rides, Three Fires Gathering
- ✓ Summer Camp: Water Safety
- ✓ Bike-a-Thon Fundraising
- ✓ BI Canoe Trip
- ✓ Bicycle Rodeos
- ✓ Day Camp: Drug & Alcohol Education

Police Board Vacancies: Youth and Women's Representatives

The UCCM Police Services Commission currently has vacancies on the police board. Representatives (and Alternates) from the two interest groups of Women and Youth are needed. Postings have been circulated in our service area, and you may gain more information and insight on police governance from our website: www.uccmpolice.com

Training will be provided on November 11-14, 2005 in conjunction with other First Nation police board members. Please send your letter of interest to our office ASAP!

