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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.

CONVICTION ON IMPAIRED DRIVING CHARGES

On October 13, 2004 a call was received by police that a driver of a vehicle almost hit another oncoming vehicle on Hwy 540. The driver was located and stopped near the West Bay General Store, and the driver was arrested and charged with impaired driving and over 80 mgs/care and control. A case of beer and a bottle of whiskey was seized.

The accused person’s first appearance date for court was October 25, 2004 whereby a plea of guilt was entered on the charge of Over 80 mgs. A sentence of a 1 yr driving prohibition and a fine of \$800 was received. The charge of impaired driving – care and control was withdrawn. The investigating officer was Sr/Cst. Nahwegahbow.

CHARGE OF ASSAULT REFERRED TO DIVERSION

On August 28, 2004 police were called to a report of an assault, as a result of an argument erupting between two individuals. The intoxicated perpetrator was initially arrested for breach of the peace, but upon further investigation, and with the cooperation of the victim and witnesses, the accused was further charged with assault. The accused subsequently admitted responsibility for their actions in the incident, and the case was then referred by the Crown Attorney to the UCCM Justice Project. A justice circle was held on November 23, 2004 whereby the investigating officer Sr/Cst. Abotossaway attended as well.

ASSAULT AFTER LICENSED FUNCTION

Upon exiting a licensed event for the evening on Feb 29, 2004 an individual was assaulted and was subsequently taken to the hospital for injuries sustained to their head. The accused was arrested and charged with assault causing bodily harm. The victim in this case did not provide a statement, as they did not remember the events of that night. However, other witness statements were

obtained, and the accused plead guilty to the lesser included offence of assault on October 25, 2004. The accused received a suspended sentence, 15 months of probation, and 50 community service hours. The investigating officer was Cst. Shawanda.

THEFT UNDER \$5000 DIVERTED TO UCCM JUSTICE PROJECT

On August 6, 2004 a report was received that cedar rails were being taken from an area without the owners consent, and the items were being subsequently sold to third parties. Statements from witnesses were obtained, and two charges were laid: theft under \$5000, and breach of probation. The accused admitted responsibility for their actions, and the case was submitted for diversion to the UCCM Justice Project on October 25, 2004. Financial restitution to the owners was one of the items being sought. The investigating officer was Cst. Osawabine.

PARTY ENDS IN MULTIPLE ASSAULT CHARGES

On April 13, 2004 police were called to a report of an assault. Upon investigation, three individuals were charged including the caller.

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“This is 911 – Who are you, and what is your date of Birth?”

If you've ever called 911 to report an incident to police, you may have wondered why the operator asks you so many questions! After all, you are just trying to help, and by the first minute, all you've done is told the operator about yourself. Before you get to report what's going on, the dispatcher first asks for your name, where you live, your phone number, your date of birth, and you get the idea. It almost feels like it's not worth calling, right?

The purpose of this article is to provide readers with a quick insight as to why all these questions are being asked.

The Provincial Communications centre (PCC) is located in North Bay, and is administered by the OPP. The PCC serves OPP detachments & First Nation Police Services, as well as handles the 911 calls for service in our areas.

The OPP NorthEast Region extends from Hornepayne, along the Hudson Bay/James Bay coast, to the Quebec border, along Temiskaming and Mattawa, and south to the Muskoka areas, Manitoulin Island/Parry Sound, over to Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa. There are some cities such as Sudbury, Timmins, Sault Ste. Marie, and North Bay that have their own call centre and they dispatch police to calls on their own.

This dispatch area is estimated to be the size of Great Britain (if that helps any in comparison). There are 33 First Nations in the NorthEast Region that are served by the PCC. The majority consists of

18 O.P.P. clusters, with 41 detachments.

In 2004, calls for service were 78,238. Calls for service for First Nation areas were 3,315. These are calls from either a phone situated outside an OPP detachment, a call for 911 emergency, or the 1-888-310-1122 line. This also includes the calls that are placed on call forwarding after hours from First Nation police services.

For each call for assistance to the PCC, the phone is to be answered by the PCC within several seconds. The "calltaker" speaks with the caller to obtain information.

“What is the problem?” This seems to be an obvious question, but the calltaker needs to determine if your call is serious or not.

“Where are you calling from?” If you say, “I'm in Whitefish”, that clearly is not the only Whitefish in the PCC region, so they will ask the caller to be more specific. There could also be an Ontario Street in 93 of the 125 towns in the NorthEast Region. This info is needed for safety reasons, especially to determine if the caller is in danger right now. The call taker needs to clarify this right away, so that the right officer, in the right zone, is sent to the call.

Most questions the calltaker asks are also for officer safety reasons. Especially with current domestic violence legislation, officers have to attend each 911 call received and domestic violence calls with at least two officers. If the calltaker knows your name, DOB and address right away, then critical information is available about

your location, and critical information about the suspect/victim is known before the officer even gets to the house.

So, why does the PCC need to know your DOB? If your name is John Mukwa, it could be a common name. If I was John Mukwa Jr. with a clean driving record and no criminal record, I would not want to be confused with the John Mukwa from another community, who has a history of violence, and is violent toward police, etc. It helps the PCC know one person from another. Many Jr. and Sr. people also easily get mixed up.

The calltaker doesn't know the area you live in either. Many calltakers may have never been to Manitoulin (or Wawa for that matter) So, when they ask for your rural address (the green 911 number at the end of the driveway) it is because they don't know where the fourth house on the right is, nor can they type that into the databank. The ambulance that the 911 operator sends to your house because of a heart attack, needs to see your number clearly posted either on your house or at the end of the driveway. If each second counts, then we need to make it easier for the emergency personnel to find your house.

The dispatcher determines the importance or "priority" of the call. A life threatening incident, a 911 call, and domestic call are top priority.

The break-in that happened sometime in the past two weeks, is not as high priority as a life threatening incident.

Each dispatcher has a zone they are responsible for. As an example, for Manitoulin, the one

dispatcher has to answer their phone from a UCCM officer calling on their radio checking for the status of “John Mukwa” to see if he is wanted. Then, Wiky officers get a 911 call, and the dispatcher has to call them for that info too, and at the same time, a stranded motorist on LaCloche is looking for assistance because they just hit a deer. Now, an officer at the Little Current detachment is doing RIDE checks tonight and has an impaired driver pulled over. The dispatcher has to call a tow truck, has to “run” the driver on CPIC to see if he is violent, and needs to call the Sergeant at his location to inform him to get the Breathalyzer machine working back at the detachment so this driver can be taken back, all right now! If there is a death or major incident, that compounds things in a major way.

Call takers do experience a lot of stress at their job. So when you ask yourself why the officer took so long, it can be because the officer has to drive from Sheshegwaning to Sheguiandah to meet your needs. And the call may take 20 minutes to reach the officer on the road because as you can see above, there may be other priorities on the go, and they just cannot get to that one waiting. It isn't a perfect service, but who's perfect anyway. The PCC is available for tours if community policing groups



Forensic Identification – You mean like CSI?

CSI – you know, the hit TV show that dramatizes crime scene investigators, whereby crimes are solved in one hour with hi-tech, sci-fi tools. But remember what your mother told you, not everything you see on TV is real. But most people already know when a television show is for entertainment purposes only, and when it is not.

This is not to say that forensic identification officers and scenes of crime offices do not exist. They sure do. These officers are found in most every police

service, and their role is to provide enhanced assistance to an investigating officer, by helping out with photographing crime scenes and related property, they collect and preserve evidence at the scene, they prepare case reports, and finally, present their evidence in court.

The UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service has four trained scenes of crimes officers, which have been in place for number of years. These officers attended a specialized course and covered such subjects as

photographic principles, crime scene analysis, fingerprinting, and trace evidence collection techniques. The kits are equipped with powders and brushes, scales, lifting tape, casting tools, and other specialized materials to help trace any evidence that is left behind at a crime scene.

In addition to the scene of crime work, the Service also has two officers trained in the collection of DNA. This additional training allows an officer to obtain blood, hair, and mouth swabs from accused persons and suspects

via a special warrant. These samples are then sent to the Center of Forensic Sciences for DNA profiling.

For those investigations that are very serious in nature, additional personnel and resources are utilized from other police services to ensure that evidence is thoroughly collected and preserved. Joint services such as these are outlined in reciprocal protocol agreements with the Ontario Provincial Police.

UCCM Police Crime Reporter, contn'd

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The investigation revealed that accused persons were all intoxicated, and an argument had erupted, which resulted in multiple assaults taking place. Photographs of injuries were taken. Two individuals were each charged with assault causing bodily harm, and the third person was charged with assault. As a result of further statements received regarding the events of that night, on June 25, 2004 one of the charges of assault causing bodily harm was withdrawn, and on November 8, 2004 the other charge of assault causing bodily harm was withdrawn for a peace bond. The third charge of assault was withdrawn on Aug 30, 2004 and sent to the UCCM Justice Project. A circle was held on Nov 16, 2004 and

the investigating officer Sr/Cst. Abotossaway attended.

CHARGE OF POSSESSION OF WEAPONS DANGEROUS TO THE PUBLIC RESULTS IN JAIL TIME

On Oct 2, 2004 police were called to a report of a group of youth involved in a fight on Hwy 551 and that one of the youth may have a knife. The suspect was located and apprehended at a nearby residence. Charges were laid for possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and two counts of breach of probation for not abstaining from alcohol, and failing to keep the peace. The accused was denied bail. On Nov 22, 2004 the accused was found guilty on two of the charges, with the charge of failing to keeping the peace being

withdrawn. The accused received a total sentence of 6 months jail, 12 months probation, and a 5 year firearms prohibition. The investigating officer was Sr/Cst. Abotossaway.

CHARGE OF UTTERING THREATS RESULTS IN PEACE BOND

On Aug 1, 2004 police were called by a victim stating he was threatened by another person. The investigation resulted in a charge being laid of uttering threats death or bodily harm. The matter was set for trial for Nov 22, 2004. The court found that there was reasonable doubt based on the evidence presented, and instead the accused agreed to enter a peace bond with the victim. The investigating officer was Cst. Endanawas.

IMPAIRED DRIVING CONVICTION RESULTS IN JAIL TIME

On Jun 7, 2004 police pulled over a vehicle upon observing it riding on the centre line on Hwy 540. The occupant was found to be impaired and was charged accordingly. The accused was also found to be on probation with a condition not to consume alcohol. On Jan 10, 2005 the accused was found guilty of impaired driving/care and control and received a \$700 fine and a 12 month driving prohibition. On the charge of failing to abide by condition not to consume alcohol, the accused received 15 days jail. The investigating officer was Sr/Cst. Corbiere.



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, 2004 March 31, 2004 (Reported)	April 1, 2004 – June 30, 2004 (Reported)	July 1, 2004 - Sept 30, 2004 (Reported)	October 1, 2004- December 31,04 (Reported)	TOTAL FOR YEAR 2004 (Reported)
Aundeck Omni Kaning	26	39	60	45	170
M'Chigeeng	222	272	295	227	1016
Sheguiandah	28	41	57	47	173
Sheshegwaning	14	33	49	30	126
Whitefish River	54	84	107	68	313
Zhiibaahaasing	5	4	8	5	22
Assisting Other Areas	65	73	76	75	289
TOTAL INCIDENTS	414	546	652	497	2109

We cannot reproduce all of the various incident types, but we have focused on the most frequent types of incidents within our area. The following totals are for the period January 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004, and are a total for all the First Nation communities.

Break and Enters	78	Theft of Vehicles	14	Thefts	110
Mischief/Prop Damage	81	Assaults	101	Liquor Act	91
Disturb the Peace	77	Domestics	33	Sexual Assaults	14
Traffic – Provincial	84	Assist Child Services	42	Alarms	97
Traffic Complaints	33	Youth Complaint	31	Civil Disputes	29
Offensive Weapons	9	Community Service	73	Drugs	13
Missing/Overdue Persons	47	Suspicious Circumstances	33	911 Calls	55
Impaired/Refuse Breath	10	Prisoner Escorts	122	Assist Public	89

Charges and Cautions by Year

2004 – Charges 299
Cautions 374

2003 – Charges 302
Cautions 359

2002 – Charges 356
Cautions 135

Beware of Internet Online Scams – Such as “Phishing”

Consumers must take precautions to prevent becoming a victim of on-line scams called “phishing”. This involves the fraudulent use, but authentic looking, branded e-mails and websites to lure users into divulging personal information that can then be used to commit financial fraud.

Most people have never heard of ‘phishing’, and there is a new public campaign being launched to make more consumers aware of this scheme. The awareness campaign is ‘Recognize it. Report it. Stop it.’

Consumers should ensure that the sites they are providing their personal information to are who and what they intended, and should take any extra steps or precautions to make sure they don’t become a victim of these types of scams.

