

The Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) Report

The Kingsway/Sunny Lee Community: One of the Safest In Toronto. More Great Ways to keep it Even Safer

The 22 Division, Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) consists of representatives from the community, business and police who live or work in 22 Division. The borders of the Division are: on the south, Lake Ontario; on the north, Eglinton Avenue; on the west, Etobicoke Creek; and on the east, Humber River. It is dedicated to increasing safety and security for the public by identifying community and policing concerns. We have a voice in local policing initiatives and are part of the decision making process. Currently, our CPLC holds our meetings on the second Monday of every month (September to June) at 22 Division Station, 3699 Bloor Street West. Visitors are welcome to attend these meetings. If you wish to attend, please call Marie Dobrzynski at 416-808-2210 to reserve a space. Elizabeth Flavelle, who has retired from the KPRI Board, remains the KPRI representative on the CPLC.

1. As Your KPRI Representative

Community Presentations

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, I and a fellow CPLC member, Bruce Erskine, have written and produced a power point presentation on the Toronto Police Service, community policing, the structure and responsibilities of 22 Division and the criminal activities and subsequent police activities in our Division.

Our intent is to reach out to the numerous communities served by 22 Division, share information about the Division and our CPLC and seek suggestions regarding how the community and the police can work together to improve the safety and security of everyone living and working in 22 Division.

We have made 7 presentations and are now gearing up for the fall. If you are a member of a community group or organization and would be interested in learning more about these presentations, please email Bruce Erskine, at bruce.erskine@sympatico.ca

High School Bursaries

I am extremely proud to tell you that last spring, our CPLC decided to give four bursaries to students graduating from high school to help them with the cost of their next level of schooling. The CPLC, through the proceeds of a barbecue we held during the annual Open House held last May, raised approximately \$2000.00 dollars.

Four bursaries were issued for \$500.00 dollars each. One student from each of the following schools received the scholarships: Lakeshore Collegiate, Silverthorne Collegiate, Bishop Allen Academy, and Michael Power.

The schools were chosen by having discussions with our Community Response Unit and School Liaison Office as well as the Executive Committee.

Another Community Project in the Works

We are currently considering an exciting outreach activity with high school students and another local community organization. More about that in my next report.

2. One of the Safest Communities in Toronto

Superintendent Tom McIlhone, Unit Commander of 22 Division (basically Lake Ontario to Eglinton Avenue, Etobicoke Creek to the Humber River) noted in the July 2008 Community Bulletin that "our area is safe and that is the result of efforts from many people, including our officers, our CPLC, local politicians and you as the residents and stakeholders." The data (based on the population per 100 K) bears him out. We are the third safest community in the city of Toronto when it came to incidents involving firearms. Here are the numbers:

Here are the numbers for 22 Division

- Overall crime is down 9.5%.
- 4 homicides to date in 22 Division – investigations ongoing
- Robberies are still a problem
- Break and Enters - commercial windows being broken and removal of cash
- Break and Enters are down. As well as sexual assaults, assaults and car thefts.
- Residents need to be educated on protecting their high end vehicles. 22 Division is still experiencing this problem and residents must set their alarms, hide keys, park in garage and keep videos on.

'Crime Maps'

Want to learn, and see, more?

The Toronto Police Service has just introduced a new and fascinating service called Neighbourhood Crime Maps. They give you an overview of the number and type of crimes in Toronto. These maps are now accessible to the public through the Toronto Police Service internet website, www.torontopolice.on.ca.

Once you have reached this site click on Crime Statistics in the left upper column. After reading and agreeing to the preamble check the 'I have read and agree to the qualifiers' box then click on the Proceed box. From there you can search a variety of different maps depending on what information interests you.

These maps correspond to 140 neighbourhoods designated by the City of Toronto and will be updated every week and contain crime information from the previous week. It is good to note that the Police want your feedback on these maps. If you have any suggestions please forward your comments to brian.oconnor@torontopolice.on.ca.

3. Our High Schools: A Creative and Pro-Active Program to Improve Safety

Starting this fall, 22 Division introduced the concept of School Resource Officers into the area serviced by 22 Division.

On September 15, three officers were assigned for the year to three high schools to increase the sense of safety and security as well as improve the communication and relationships the police have with the local youth.

School Resource Officers and Schools

Constable Michael Burgess #6343	Etobicoke Collegiate Institute
Constable Charles Zekeres #99818	Michael Power High School
Constable Matt Bell #9029	Silverthorne Collegiate

4. Our Homes and Cars: a new way to keep them safe

Over the past months, houses in our community have been entered by bandits for the sole purpose of finding the keys to a high end vehicle. They steal the keys. Then they steal the car. All of these entries occurred at night while the occupants were asleep.

The Police now believe that these intruders have changed their tactics and are now entering homes in the evening while people are still moving around. Why? The answer is frightening. At this time of the day, not all doors have been locked and the alarm systems have not been turned on. They quickly grab those items that contain car keys like your purse, brief case or the keys themselves. These are usually placed in locations near the front or back doors, such as the kitchen counter, table or chair. Then, after everyone has gone to bed, they steal your car.

P.C. Al Benson strongly urges everyone, well before you turn off the lights and go to bed, to activate the alarm. Make sure your keys, purse and or briefcase are far from the front or back door.

Any questions? Contact PC Benson, #6122, Crime Prevention Officer
416-808-2208, allan.benson@torontopolice.on.ca

5. Bike Safety: some good ideas

Here are some tips to keep our bikes safe and secure.

- Register your bicycle with the police.
- Use a good quality locking device such as a hardened steel chain and padlock.
- Lock your bicycle and both wheels to an immovable object which cannot be easily cut or broken. Weak, inexpensive locks WILL NOT deter a proficient thief.

Identification of Your Bicycle

Manufacturers mark most bicycles with a serial number. If yours does not have a serial number, engrave an identifying number on the frame. You may wish to put the same number on the wheels and other components for example, use a driver's license number, which police have the ability to quickly retrieve identifying information. To prevent the loss of accessories such as lights and bags, etc., they should be detached and taken with you when the bicycle is left unattended.

Register Your Bicycle

Registering your bicycle will greatly assist in its recovery if stolen.
Here are two methods of registration:

1. On-line registration at www.torontopolice.on.ca
2. Attend your nearest Toronto police station and fill out an approved registration form.

Elizabeth Flavelle