

**REPORT OF THE POLICE SERVICE**  
**TO**  
**THE CHATHAM-KENT POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

**Board Report Number:** 4.1 (Regular)  
**Date of Report:** September 3, 2024  
**Date of Board Meeting:** September 10, 2024

**Reference:**

**New Hires**

As a result of a hiring process, it is recommended that Ricca Ng and Jennifer Pereira be hired as Special Constables – Forensic Identification Civilian Technicians (Grade 8b Lvl 1), effective July 8, 2024.

As a results of a direct-hiring recruiting process, it is recommended that Brandon McKeen be hired as a First-Class Constable effective July 29, 2024.

As a result of a hiring process, it is recommended that Erik Olejnik, Bryce Ungar, Jose Bravo-Pallero, Ian Badder, Justin Kondruk and Derian Wauthier to be hired as Cadets, Level 1, effective August 6, 2024.

As a result of a hiring process, it is recommended that Amanda Blackburn be hired as the Health and Wellness Coordinator, Grade 8 Lvl 1, effective September 17, 2024.

**Promotions**

As a result of a promotional process, it is recommended that Cadets Nicholas Van Eyk, Carol Christopoulos, Mitchell Tetzlaff, James Muharrem, Noah Caryn and Justin Christian be promoted to the rank of Fourth Class Constables, effective June 24, 2024.

As a result of a promotional process, it is recommended that Constable Robert McNear be promoted to the rank of Sergeant effective July 29, 2024.

As a result of a promotional process, it is recommended that Sergeant Cole Abbott be promoted to the rank of Staff-Sergeant effective July 29, 2024.

As a result of a promotional process, it is recommended that Staff-Sergeant Mike Thompson be promoted to the rank of Inspector effective July 29, 2024.

### **Reclassification**

It is recommended that Third-Class Constable Jordan Tone, be elevated to Second Class Constable effective June 1, 2024. Their immediate supervisors supports this elevation.

It is recommended that Third-Class Constable Manuela Carmona-Moreno and Taryn Apers be elevated to Second Class Constables effective August 23, 2024. Their immediate supervisors support these elevations.

It is recommended that Second-Class Constable Colin Tetreault be elevated to First-Class Constable effective September 20, 2024. They have successfully passed the First-Class Constable exam and their immediate supervisor supports this elevation.

### **Elevations**

It is recommended that Full-Time ECOs Samantha Cowdrey and Allie Matthews be elevated from Grade 7b Lvl 2 to 7b Lvl 3, effective September 24, 2024.

### **Resignations**

Inspector Michael Pearce has tenured his resignation, effective July 28, 2024.

Part-Time ECO Chantelle Henriques tenured her resignation, effective July 2, 2024.

Summer student, Zayda Sprik, has fulfilled her contract position and has ceased employment with CKPS effective August 30, 2024.

### **Recommendation:**

A Board resolution approving the above mentioned new hires, promotions, elevations, reclassifications and resignations.

Recommended by:



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Chief of Police, Kirk Earley



## Chatham-Kent Police Service

24 Third Street, Chatham Ontario, N7M 2M5

Website: www.ckpolice.com Tel: (519) 436-6600 Fax: (519) 436-6643

Kirk Earley - Chief of Police

June 5, 2024

### CHIEF'S COMMENDATION

To: Constables Nathan Pratt, Ryan Gardiner, Alex Mungar, Avery Wilson, Branden Grellmore, Marko Sapateiro, Joel Rehill, Rick Bertok, Sergeant Flikweert, Emergency Communication Operators Brock Bechard, Helen Grubb, Samantha Cowdrey, Danielle Bird, Jennifer Roesch, Tori Labadie, Keely Smith, McKenna Ladd, Brook-lyn Phelan, and Camryn Dudley.

#### RE: Suicidal Person – CK24022053

On May 16, 2024 police received a call from a suicide hotline requesting a well-being check on a woman. Information was received that the woman was planning on committing suicide. Chatham-Kent police officers dealt with the same woman the previous evening for similar suicidal threats. An extensive search effort to locate her was conducted at that time and she was brought to the hospital.

Due to his involvement with the woman the previous evening, Constable Pratt began to search. Police received multiple 911 calls of a woman on top of the Charing Cross Road bridge that crosses Highway 401. Constables Gardiner and Mungar immediately responded. They requested that Charing Cross Road be closed. Upon arrival, they saw the woman on the overpass with both her feet dangling over the edge. They requested that the Ontario Provincial Police close Highway 401 and that Chatham-Kent Fire attend below the bridge to assist. PC Gardiner began to negotiate with the woman.

Constables Mungar, Wilson, Grellmore, and Sapateiro blocked traffic. Constable Rehill attended Highway 401 to assist there. Constable Bertok arrived, and due to previous involvement and rapport with the women, he assisted Constable Gardiner. Sergeant Flikweert coordinated the response.

Within 30 minutes of arriving, Constables Gardiner and Bertok acted on an opportunity to secure the woman by grabbing her, removing her from the outer ledge, and bringing her to safety. The woman was taken to the hospital for assistance.

From the outset, and throughout the entire response, the Emergency Communications Operators were instrumental in the positive outcome. They relayed vital information to officers, EMS, and CKFD. Despite the fact that this occurred during shift change, they continued to operate at peak performance. ECOs Bechard, Grubb, Cowdrey, Bird, and Roesch were working when the call was received. ECO's Labadie, Smith, Ladd, Phelan, and Dudley took over the response from the previous shift.

*"Service Above Self"*



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Kirk Earley - Chief of Police

The coordinated efforts by everyone involved contributed to the most desirable outcome. The risk of serious injury or death was very possible with the women standing on a small ledge about 20 feet above a major highway.

As a result of your actions, you are being recognized by way of a Chief's Commendation for your good judgement and teamwork in relation to this incident.

We would like to present you with this Commendation at our next Police Services Board meeting, scheduled for Tuesday September 10, 2024, at 10:00 am at Chatham-Kent Police Headquarters, 24 Third Street, Chatham.

Please contact my Administrative Assistant, Larissa Jackson at 519-436-6600 ext. 80228 or [larissaj@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:larissaj@chatham-kent.ca) to advise if you will be attending the meeting.

Sincerely,

Kirk Earley,  
Chief of Police.

cc. Personnel File

*"Service Above Self"*



June 5, 2024

## DEPUTY CHIEF'S LETTER OF RECOGNITION

To: Constables, Sommer Phenix, Ken Morrell, and Jake Reed

**RE: Possession of Stolen Property & Possession of a Controlled Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking - CK24023903**

On May 26, 2024, Constable Sommer Phenix noticed a suspicious motorcycle parked at an address in Wallaceburg. The motorcycle was not plated, and it was apparent that it had been painted blue in an attempt to conceal its original colour. Constable Phenix began to investigate and confirmed that the motorcycle was stolen. Constables Ken Morrell and Jake Reed attended to assist with the recovery of the motorcycle.

Constable Phenix saw a male exit an apartment who was wearing a motorcycle helmet and with blue coloured paint stains on his footwear. Constable Phenix attempted to arrest the man, but he began to flee on foot. Constables Phenix, Morrell and Reed took chase and caught him. After a brief struggle, he was taken into custody.

The man was searched and officers located a variety of drugs: methamphetamine, cocaine, oxycodone, and fentanyl, along with some prescription drugs. The drugs are valued at \$10,000.

As a result of proactive efforts by Constables Phenix, Morrell and Reed, the accused was charged with 10 criminal offences. Further, a stolen motorcycle was returned to its owner and a large quantity of dangerous drugs were eradicated from our community.

We would like to present you with this Letter of Recognition at our next Police Services Board meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 10:00 am at Chatham-Kent Police Headquarters, 24 Third Street, Chatham.

Please contact Administrative Assistant, Larissa Jackson at 519-436-6600 ext. 80228 or [larissaj@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:larissaj@chatham-kent.ca) to advise if you are able to attend the meeting.

Sincerely,

Mike Domony  
Acting Deputy Chief of Police.

cc. Chief Kirk Earley  
Personnel File



**REPORT OF THE POLICE SERVICE  
TO  
THE CHATHAM-KENT POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

**Board Report Number:** 4.4 (Regular)

**Date of Report:** August 30, 2024

**Date of Board Meeting:** September 10, 2024

**Reference:** 2024 Special Olympics School  
Championship Games

**Recommendations:** Receive the Report.

In April of 2023, I was notified of the selection of Chatham-Kent to be the host city of the 2025 Special Olympics Ontario School Championship games. This came because of multiple fundraising efforts brought forth by the Chatham-Kent Police Service towards its involvement in the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR). Given the success of previous fundraisers, we were able to draw the attention at the provincial level that Chatham-Kent would be able to fundraise the amounts required to be a host city for Provincial games. It would also bring the return of the Special Olympics Games to our Municipality for the first time in 27 years.

The first step in accepting any Special Olympics games is ensuring both the host city mayor and police service agree to be the hosts for the event. We were able to quickly secure the support of both our chief and from the mayor and moved forward with our acceptance offer of the games.

One month later, we were notified that the host city of the 2024 games would be unable to fulfill their role given logistical issues and were asked to host a year earlier. This left our organizing team with the challenge of fundraising and preparing the logistics to bring 1,000 athletes to Chatham-Kent in 13 months.

Every challenge presents itself with opportunity. The first challenge would be securing half of the \$400,000 budget that is allotted to host a provincial games. Our team took a creative approach and became the first provincial games that sought out presenting sponsors for each of the five sports in addition to its opening and closing ceremonies. This approach was an instant success, with our local businesses actively fighting over what sports that wanted to sponsor. In three weeks, we secured all five sports with sponsors raising \$100,000. Thanks to the support of our police service board, and our police association, an additional \$40,000 was raised to sponsor the opening and closing ceremonies. By the end of our fundraising efforts including sponsorships for the games and fundraising events, our team was able to not only secure half of the funding asked by special Olympics, but we were also able to fully fund our games. We were able to





raise \$415,000 for the games and were able to provide extras to the athletes that have not normally part of the Provincial games.

The second challenge surrounded making being a games manager work. Every games has a seconded member of the police service to assist from anywhere from 12 months to 6 months to prepare for these games. Understanding the challenges locally that our service was going through regarding staffing levels; I did not want to further burden our front lines by asking for another member to be detached from the organization for a period of time. I would dedicate days off during my time on the 5/4/5 rotation to be allotted for working on the games. When I transitioned to a Monday-Friday position, I would put in two additional hours a day that would allow me to have conference calls, emails, phone calls dedicated towards the games, while also managing our drugs and intelligence unit. As the games drew closer, I would use my own annual leave time for three weeks to dedicate myself full-time towards the final efforts to ensure a successful event.

The last challenge was ensuring we would have enough volunteers and supports from the community to ensure a successful games. This quickly became our favourite challenge. The overwhelming community support to host these games was truly awe inspiring. Everyone was all-in to get this done. Local businesses and organizations donating their time, products, and services to ensure no one was ever left hungry, or thirsty or without transportation was remarkable.

The event itself was inspiring in every way imaginable. Every restless night of sleep, every phone call, email, zoom or teams meeting was instantly rewarded. These games provided a renewed sense of why law enforcement organizations across the country and around the world are involved in LETR events and fundraising towards Special Olympics. It drove home why LETR is the charity of choice for the OACP and solidified the importance of the involvement of our police service in our community.

I want to thank the police service board for their donation towards this event and their support, our administration for allowing me the opportunity to represent our service as the host organization and giving me the opportunity to showcase this event to the public.

The feedback that I have received from the general public, participants, and members of the Special Olympics board reflect the dedication our team had towards this event. We were able to set the bar to new levels of how games should be run throughout the province. Ensuring an "athletes first" approach drove home a level of care and consideration that reflects how our police service, and community cares for others. We have already been asked to present to future hosting police services, and the Special Olympics Ontario board of directors regarding the efforts we made here in Chatham-Kent.

In closing I want to thank the following Chatham-Kent Police Service members who were part of our organizing team for this event. Former Inspector Mike Pearce, Cst. Lisa Rodger, Cst. Hillary Pomajba, Cst, Marko Sapateiro, Cst. Ken Muir, Cadet. Victor



Morassutti, Katie Bowen, Mackenzie Rehill, Lauren Perry, Jessica Mallory, Zayda Spirk,  
Caityln Luno, Caitlyn Weaver

It is recommended the board receive the above report for information purposes.

Prepared by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sgt. Jason Herder

Recommended by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Kirk Earley

