



### MESSAGE FROM SUPT. BRODY SMOLLET UNIT COMMANDER OF 12 DIVISION

Since last month, criminal activity in 12 Division has been relatively stable, although there has been an increase in the number of street robberies that we are experiencing. Many of these robberies involve young people robbing other young people of their iPod's and cellular telephones but this is by no means the only type of robbery occurring.

There was recently a car jacking on Sheffield St. in the Keele/Ingram area in which a man was beaten and his van stolen by a group of robbers. The victim received only minor injuries and his vehicle was recovered later after having been used in another crime.

The other area that still causes a great deal of concern for us is the number of firearms that our officers are encountering on the street. To date we have seized 35 firearms of various descriptions, the last one being seized on March 21 during a routine street investigation. We have also seized 2 Taser's, 2 canisters of pepper spray and we have now laid 128 criminal charges in relation to these weapons.

In the summer of 2008, the Toronto Police Service initiated a project in 51 Division and 31 Division where additional officers were deployed to these units for a period of 5 weeks in each. These officers were assigned to police a specific area in each of the divisions based upon a needs analysis that had been done. The results of this deployed was sufficiently successful to allow us to do it again this summer and in the summer of 2009, 12 Division has been selected as an area where these additional resources will be deployed.

Beginning on June 8, 2009, as many as 30 additional officers will be assigned to 12 Division to deal with issues that have been identified in a specific community. The area where they will be deployed will be the Keele/Eglinton area and this deployment will last for 15 weeks.

I will provide further details of this initiative in the next two monthly bulletins, describing in more detail what the community can expect and why this area was selected for extra attention.

I continue to look forward to working with our community partners.  
If you need to speak to me, I can be reached at 416-808-1213.

Remember, your neighbourhood is our neighbourhood!

# 12 Division Community Bulletin—March 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> 2009



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## Divisional Traffic Sergeant:

Sgt. Michael Mersereau #3942

Phone: 416 808-1224

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Traffic Safety is a priority of our Service and one of the core functions of all police officers. Traffic Response Unit officers are assigned to pay special attention to problem areas including high accident locations, aggressive driving and community complaints to promote safe use of the roadways and sidewalks by all within our division and throughout the City. If you have a driving complaint that you would like to be addressed, you can contact my office, attend at the station or check out the station's Web page

(<http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/d12/>) where a Traffic Complaints form can be printed out, completed, and then returned to the station. Once we receive it, the Traffic Complaints Officer will endeavour to take appropriate action to resolve the problem to encourage safety for all.

March Break has come and gone and the signs of Spring are in full bloom and motorists may think their driving cares have melted away with the winter ice and snow.

Just as you prepare your car for winter, it's time to begin work on your spring automotive safety check list. Here are some hints for ensuring your car is in top condition for safe spring motoring:

1. **See what's coming.** Top up your washer fluid and check your wiper blades. Replace them if they feel pitted or rough to the touch. Ice or small pebbles on the windshield may have damaged them during the winter.
2. **Check your tires.** Make sure your tires are in good condition and properly inflated. Worn treads and low tire pressure can increase the risk of your vehicle hydroplaning on wet roads.
3. **Flash your headlights.** Check both low and high beams before heading out to see if all of the bulbs are working. If it's raining, use your low beam headlights. High beams reflect water vapour (fog) and make it harder to see.



4. **Check the brakes.** Make sure your brakes are responsive by tapping them lightly.

5. **Stay informed.** Tune in to your local all-news radio station for weather updates and to find out if there's trouble ahead, like an accident that hasn't been cleared or a road closed due to flooding.

6. **Slow down.** The road is most slippery when the first raindrops make contact with oil and grime on the pavement. To avoid hydroplaning, try to drive in the tracks of the vehicle in front of you.

7. **Allow extra following distance.** A car needs two to ten times more distance to stop on a wet road than on dry pavement. Try to stay at least two car lengths behind the car in front of you.

8. **Skirt the potholes.** Freezing and thawing all winter creates new and exciting holes in the pavement. Hitting a pothole can throw the front of your vehicle out of alignment, making it difficult to stop properly in wet conditions. Make sure you have the alignment and balance of your vehicle checked regularly.

9. **Avoid driving through large puddles.** We all enjoy a good splash, but speeding through large puddles may affect your brakes, cause your car to swerve, impair the vision of other motorists and drench innocent pedestrians.

10. **Watch out for pedestrians.** With hoods or umbrellas up in the rain and fog, pedestrians may not see you coming and may more difficult for you to see.

11. **Ice? Still?** Thawing snow, spring rains or mist can cause icy conditions in early spring, especially in shaded areas, on bridges and on overpasses. Remember that these areas freeze first and keep an eye out for ice.

12. **Check for water damage.** Have your engine checked for possible water damage after you drive in heavy rain or if your car was parked in the street during flood conditions. High water levels may cause lubrication

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problems in your vehicle, which could lead to breakdowns and expensive repairs.

**13. Finally,** with the weather warming up, motorists should remember to share the road with bicyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians. When changing lanes, keep in mind that motorcycles can be difficult to see. Anticipate that children will dart into the roadway without warning.

### Traffic Enforcement Activities:

During the month of March, our officers were involved in the MARCH BREAK - MARCH SAFE Campaign which the Service is dedicated in the promotion of education and enforcement strategies intended to heighten public awareness of pedestrian safety within our communities. With 50 percent of all Traffic fatalities involving pedestrian the focus is on enforcement activities which educate pedestrian and drivers alike. During this period 12 Division officers laid 583 charges in relation to offences which affect safe pedestrian traffic.

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, our officers also conducted an Infant Safety Seat Inspection and Bicycle Awareness clinic at Traffic Services. Several Infant Seat installations were inspected by our officers. The next Infant Car Seat Inspection will be on **Monday April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Walmart at 2525 St. Clair Avenue West from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm.**

Drinking and Driving continues to be a problem and during March our officers conducted 11 R.I.D.E. spot checks with 898 vehicles stopped. Unfortunately several individuals arrested for Impaired Driving and Over 80 milligrams offences:

### It is alleged on:

- On Tuesday March 3rd, 2009 at approximately 1:57 am, that Micah Kipkeoch CHOGE (28 years) was driving a motor vehicle in an aggressive on Weston Road near Dennison Road. The officers were able to stop the driver and noted the odour of an Alcoholic beverage. The driver then failed a road side

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screening device test. He was arrested and later provided breath samples of 153 mgs and 142 mgs of alcohol. He was then charged with Drive over 80 mgs, Fail to Comply Recognizance, and Fail to Comply with Probation.

### It is alleged on:

- On Wednesday, March 4th, 2009 at approximately 1:51 AM, that Michael STRAK (48 Years) was driving a motor vehicle, at a high rate of speed from the area of Lawrence Ave W at Culford Rd. He was stopped and officers noted a slight odour of an alcoholic beverage on the driver's breath and redness to his eyes. The driver failed the road screening device and was arrested. He was then transported to Traffic Services where readings of 105 mgs and 95 mgs of alcohol were measured. He was then charged with Drive Over 80mgs.

### It is alleged on:

- On Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at about 11:35 p.m., Henry Edmund FLORES (31 years) was driving northbound in the southbound lanes of Black Creek Drive. Officers were able to stop this vehicle before a collision occurred. The officers note the strong odour an alcoholic beverage and obvious signs of impairment. The driver was arrested and breath readings were obtained of 244 mgs and 232 mgs of alcohol. The driver was then charged with Impaired Driving, Driver over 80 mgs, Driving While under Suspension and G1 Licence Holder Drive When Alcohol Concentration above Zero.

### It is alleged on:

-On March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 12 Division conducted a R.I.D.E. spot near Keele Street and Eglinton Avenue which resulted in four individuals being charged for Drinking and Driving offence:

Antonio MACHADO PASSO (49 years) charged Drive over 80 mgs

Jamie LOPEZ FRANCIA (52 years) charged Drive Over 80 Mgs and G2 related offences

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Henry FLOREZ (31 years) charged Impaired Driving, Drive over 80 mgs with a passenger in the same vehicle Johan CAPRIO SANTANA (28 years) charged with Possession of Cocaine.

Germain CLARK (35 years) charges with Drive over 80 Mgs.

### It is alleged on:

- On Sunday March 8th, 2009, Gordon COUTTS (19 years) was driving near Eglinton Avenue West at Keele Street. He collided with a utility pole on the southeast corner of the intersection. The attending officer formed the opinion that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and was placed under arrested. The driver was transported to Traffic Services to provide samples of breath. The driver provided two breath samples with readings of 189 mgs and 184 mgs. He was charged with Impaired Driving, Drive Over 80 mgs and Class G2 Licence holder Drive when blood alcohol above zero.

### It is alleged on:

- On Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009, George DOUCETTE (39 years) was observed driving his jeep in an erratic manner northbound on Keele Street nearly colliding with another motor vehicle. The driver was motioned to stop his vehicle by Police. The accused attempted to flee his vehicle on foot but was apprehended shortly there after. The driver was charged with several offences including Driving While under Suspension, Impaired Driving and Driver over 80 milligrams.

A further 5 individuals were charged with drinking and driving offence during the month of March.

Remember always be aware of your surroundings when you are driving and never Drink and Drive.



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## **COMMUNITY BASED ACTIVITIES**

Over the past several years 12 Division has maintained an active rapport with members of the local faith community. Beginning in March 2008, representatives from the Central Toronto Seventh Day Adventist Church have been attending the community room in 12 Division to offer prayers for the members of the Toronto Police Service. It has now been one year since this joint initiative was commenced and it still continues.

Members of 12 Division are encouraged to participate with the congregation, even though they may not be of the same faith. Most recently, officers of 'E' Platoon joined the group during their prayer session. This was the third time that the Seventh Day Adventists have been in 12 Division and they intend to continue with this for the future.

Meetings such as this strengthen the bond between the Toronto Police, faith groups and the local community, improving relations, reducing friction and assisting our organization in their recruiting efforts.

## **COMMUNITY RESPONSE UNIT:**

Our officers are very involved in our neighbourhoods. Here are a few of the activities in which they have participated during the four weeks. CRU officers have issued 389 Provincial Offences Tickets, arrested 19 people, and investigated approximately 582 others. Most recently they attended several addresses with local Liquor Inspectors and they have laid 45 charges covering liquor offences against the people operating the respective premises. They have also attended 19 public meetings or community events, 28 school visits; and have paid special attention to separate areas involving 64 activity checks where there have been community complaints.



Since the beginning of the year, CRU officers have issued 1141 Highway Traffic Act tickets and investigated approximately 1401 people for varying reasons with 134 people being arrested. The CRU will also continue to pay special attention to licenced premises, after hour's clubs, and booze cans within 12 Division. Their efforts since the beginning of the year have resulted in 232 Liquor Licence Act charges being laid. In other areas of concern, they arrested 1 person for prostitution activities, made 24 drug arrests, and investigated & arrested 2 people for robbery. In relation to weapons offences, so far this year there have been 17 charges laid.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER COMMENTS:**

#### **Apartment Security:**

Security in an apartment building is as good as you make it. Don't leave it entirely up to the building superintendent or the police.

By these following suggestions you can make the building a safer place to live.

- Report suspicious persons to the building superintendent and/or police.
- When the buzzer rings, check the identity of the caller before opening the door.
- Do not identify yourself as a female living alone, use initials instead.
- Do your part to ensure stairwells and elevators are open and well lit.

#### **Underground Garages:**

- Always be alert to vehicles or persons following you into the garage.
- If you encounter a suspicious situation, or feel uneasy about a person or a vehicle, remain in your car and drive back out of the garage – or if you are unable to get out of the garage, “HONK” your horn repeatedly.



- Always lock your vehicle and remove any valuables.

**Elevators:**

- Do NOT enter the elevator if you are suspicious of the occupant – WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE.
- If, while in the elevator an emergency situation arises, push as many buttons as possible, particularly the “EMERGENCY” button.

**Remember if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.**



## **12 DIVISION ARRESTS OF THE MONTH:**

### **1: 43 Year-old Man Arrested on Sexual Assault Charges After He Sexually Assaults His 2 Daughters Over an Extended Period.**

It is alleged that: the accused man, an immigrant from El Salvador, sponsored his two daughters to come to Canada. The two victims were sexually assaulted over an extended period of time but were too afraid to report it. Finally on March 11<sup>th</sup> the two daughters with the help of a friend summoned the courage to report the incidents and it was brought to the attention of the Children's Aid Society. Twelve Division Youth Bureau officers were brought into the investigation and the accused was immediately arrested, charged and held in custody pending a mandatory bail hearing.

**Arrested:** Name With Held to Protect the Identity of the Victims

**Charges:** Sexual Assault x 2  
Sexual Interference X 2  
Sexual Exploitation X 2  
Incest X 2

### **2: Young Offender Arrested on Numerous Vehicles Related Charges After He Steals a Car Using a Stolen Master Key.**

It is alleged that: the accused youth who was already on out bail attended a Dixington Crescent address on February 24<sup>th</sup> and located a 1995 Honda Civic parked out front. He then stole the car using a master key that he had in his possession. On March 7<sup>th</sup> the accused was observed by officers from 12 Division driving the vehicle at a high rate of speed on Jane Street and went after him. The accused took off and later abandoned the car on Lambton Avenue with officers not far behind. A search of the area located the accused nearby and he was arrested and taken to the station where he was charged accordingly and held in custody pending yet another mandatory bail hearing.

**Arrested:** A Young Offender Who's Name Cannot be Released.



**Charges:** Fail to Stop for Police  
Drive Motor Vehicle – No Licence  
Theft under \$5,000  
Possession of Property Obtained by Crime  
Possession of an Automobile Master Key  
Fail to Comply – Recognizance  
Revocation of Bail

### **3: Male Arrested for Assault and Break & Enter After He Breaks into an Apt. and When Confronted Assaulted the Victim & Fled the Scene.**

It is alleged that: the accused man broke into a Weston Road apartment at approximately 9.00AM in the morning and placed a number of items of jewellery and other valuables in a knapsack he was carrying. The tenant returned unexpectedly and confronted the accused who assaulted the victim knocking him down but then fell down the stairs himself while fleeing the scene leaving behind the knapsack. The fall injured the accused enough to cause him to leave some blood on the stairs and he was later identified through the use of forensics. A warrant was taken out for his arrest and on March 11<sup>th</sup> he was arrested and brought to 12 Division where he was charged and held in custody pending a mandatory bail hearing.

**Arrested:** Mac NEIL William, Arthur 48 years of Toronto

**Charges:** Break & Enter with Intent to Commit an Indictable Offence  
Possession of Burglar's Tools  
Assault



**COMMUNITY CALENDAR:**

Here is a list of community-based activities for the month of April that officers from 12 Division will attend. If you would like a Toronto Police Service representative from 12 Division to attend your community event, please contact 12 Division at 416-808-1200 and ask for the Community Response Staff Sergeant.

**April**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	<b>7</b> Weston PCP Meeting @ 1901 Weston Road 7:00 PM	<b>8</b> Mt. Dennis Safety Audit Mt. Dennis Legion Hall 7.00 PM	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	<b>16</b> Community Police Liaison Committee Meeting @ 12 Division 7:30pm	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		