

12 Division
Community Bulletin—
February 1st–28th - 2009



MESSAGE FROM SUPT. BRODY SMOLLET
UNIT COMMANDER OF 12 DIVISION

The winter season is fast coming to an end and we are all looking forward to the warmer weather that accompanies spring. With the warmer weather comes an increase in pedestrian traffic, particularly in and around our school zones and those areas where seniors congregate. During the month of March, most notably during the March break for our schools, the Toronto Police Service will be launching a campaign of heightened enforcement involving pedestrians.

In the last week of February, 12 Division experienced another homicide, bringing our total for the year to 4. Three of these murders, including this latest one, have involved the use of firearms. Also during the month of February officers from 12 Division seized a number of firearms and laid many criminal charges against those persons found in possession of these weapons.

There were two incidents during February where officers seized loaded handguns from the drivers of motor vehicles. Fortunately, during these incidents, the officers were able to deal with the situation before any altercation took place and no one was injured.

During the first two months of 2009, officers from 12 Division arrested a number of people involved in the theft of property from motor vehicles. This is an occurrence that is quite common and it has been mentioned in this bulletin in the past. The people arrested were stealing GPS navigation systems, CDs, loose change and any other items of value they could find. This is another reminder to keep all valuables out of sight and, even better, keep them out of your vehicle and in your home.

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!

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12 DIVISION ARRESTS OF THE MONTH:

1: Four People Arrested & Charged by 12 Division Officers After They are Spotted Breaking Into Cars by Concerned Citizens:

It is alleged that: the first three accused, two men and a women were observed breaking into a car at a Wal-Mart parking lot and stealing items from it. The citizen who saw them called police who attended quickly and arrested them a short distance away at Old Weston Road and Junction Avenue driving a silver Honda. When searched, the car had items from the Wal-Mart parking lot vehicle as well as numerous items taken from other vehicles that they had broken into. The vehicle was impounded and the stolen property seized. All three were taken to 12 Division where they were charged and held in custody pending a mandatory bail hearing.

The fourth accused was arrested on February 25th by two alert officers who found the accused in the area of St. Clair and Symes Road after receiving a call from a concerned citizen. When arrested, he had stolen items from three nearby cars that he had recently broken into. The three car owners were contacted, the property returned, and the accused was taken to the station for further investigation. Once there, it came to light that the accused was already out of jail on two separate probations and was violating his conditions at the time of his arrest. He was held in custody pending yet another mandatory bail hearing.

<p>Arrested: BECKFORD Candis, 26 years of Toronto De THOMASIS Ludovico, 30 years of Toronto IABONI Americo, 34 years of Toronto CAESAR Derek, 38 years of Toronto</p>
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Charges: Theft Under x 3
Possession of Burglary Tools x 3
Possession of Property Obtained by Crime x 3
Fail to Comply - Probation x 4 (Beckford Only)
Mischief to Auto x 3 (Caesar Only)
Theft under \$5,000 (Caesar Only)
Fail to Comply – Probation x 2 (Caesar Only)
Possession of Property Obtained by Crime (Caesar Only)

2: Two Alert Officers Arrest Male on Numerous Weapons
Charges After Found Driving Auto with Fraudulent ID Numbers:

It is alleged that: the accused was observed driving a 2007 Mercedes Benz in the area of St. Clair West and Old Weston Road on Tuesday, February 24th. The officers became suspicious of the vehicle's documentation and advised the accused that it was going to be seized. He became very upset and refused to exit the vehicle despite repeated warnings of possible obstruct charges. Eventually he was placed under arrest and, when searched, a black handgun was discovered which was immediately seized as well. After the vehicle was towed, he was taken to the station where he was investigated further by detectives. The accused was subsequently charged with numerous offences and held in custody pending a mandatory bail hearing.

Arrested: HARRUTYUNYAN, David 23 years of Toronto

Charges: Obstruct Police
Poss. of a Prohibited Firearm with Ammunition
Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm in a Motor Vehicle
Poss. of a Firearm Knowing its Possession is Prohibited
Careless Use of a Firearm
Weapons Dangerous
Carry a Concealed Weapon
Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm

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3: Man Wanted on Outstanding Warrants from 3 Police Agencies for Over a Year Arrested by 12 Div. Warrant Officers at Yorkdale Mall:

It is alleged that: the accused, who had been on the run for over a year from three different police services including Toronto, Peel and York, was initially spotted at the Yorkdale Mall by 12 Division plain clothes officers on Friday, February 20th. Other plain clothes officers from the Major Crime Unit were called in and, once in position, they arrested the accused without incident. He was taken to the station where he was investigated further. The other police services were notified of his arrest and appropriate charges were laid. The accused was then held in custody pending yet another mandatory bail hearing.

Arrested: PETERS Josiah, 23 years of Toronto

Charges: Fail to Comply – Probation x 3
Unlawfully at Large
Warrants for – Mischief Over \$5,000
Breach of Recognizance (Bail)
Utter Threats
Assault
Sexual Assault
Fail to Appear – Court (Peel)
Criminal Harassment (York)

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TRAFFIC RESPONSE UNIT

Divisional Traffic Sergeant:

Sgt. Michael Mersereau #3942

Phone: 416 808-1224

<http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/d12/>

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 is just around the corner and as the days get longer, more pedestrians – especially school aged children – will be out and about our road ways. Collision analysis has shown that pedestrian fatalities represent approximately 50% of the yearly fatality total reported in the City. In 2009 so far, 3 of the 4 fatalities reported have involved pedestrians. Last year 27 pedestrians lost their lives, representing 50% of all traffic fatalities in Toronto.

Many of our children are required to take School Buses to attend school each day. The Highway Traffic Act outlines the responsibilities of motorists approaching a school bus:

"Every driver or street car operator, when meeting on a highway other than a highway with a median strip, a stopped school bus that has its overhead red signal-lights flashing, shall stop before reaching the bus and shall not proceed until the bus moves or the overhead red signal-lights have stopped flashing." (HTA 175 (11))

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"Every driver or street car operator on a highway, when approaching from the rear a stopped school bus that has its overhead red signal lights flashing, shall stop at least twenty metres before reaching the bus and shall not proceed until the bus moves or the overhead red signal-lights have stopped flashing." (HTA 175 (12))

Remember all Traffic shall stop in **all lanes both ways!**

For a first offence, the penalty for not complying with the law is a fine of \$400 to \$2000 and the assessment of six demerit points. For a second conviction, the fine is \$1000 to \$4000, and the assessment of six demerit points, as well as the option of a jail sentence.

School Bus Safety Rules

The following information is useful for school bus riders and their parents.

Rules for getting on the bus safely:

1. Be at the bus stop on time. Never run to or from the bus.
2. Wait at the designated stop in a safe place well back from the side of the road.
3. Remember the danger zone around the bus. The danger zone is anywhere close enough to the bus to touch it. The bus driver cannot see you when you are in the danger zone.
4. If you cross the street to get on the bus: when the bus comes, wait until it has come to a complete stop. The bus driver will make sure all the traffic stops. The stop arm will be out and the red lights will be flashing. Watch the driver. When the driver knows it is safe, he or she will signal you to cross, but watch for traffic yourself. Walk, don't run.
5. Hold the hand rail as you get on the bus. Don't push or shove.

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Rules for Safe School Bus Riding:

1. Take your seat promptly and sit properly, facing forward at all times.
2. Hold bags and parcels in your lap. Do not stick your feet into the aisle: someone might trip
3. Keep your head and arms – everything – inside the bus. Don't throw anything out the windows or around in the bus.
4. Talk quietly. The driver must concentrate to drive the bus safely.
5. Save snacks for snack time at school or till you get home. They may spill or you may choke if the bus goes over a big bump.
6. No fighting, shouting or playing in or around the bus.
7. Always follow the bus driver's instructions.

Rules for leaving the bus safely:

1. When you leave the bus, hold the handrail and take two large steps away from the bus.
2. To cross the street in front of the bus, walk ahead at least ten giant steps (three meters). Cross only when the driver gives a signal. Cross the street in single file.
3. If you drop something near the bus, don't pick it up. Tell the driver or other adult.
4. If everyone is getting off the bus, the people at the front leave first. Do not push.
5. Be familiar with the rules for emergencies.

February Traffic Enforcement Activities

During February, there were 157 collisions of which 24 collisions resulted in person being injured. Officers conducted 10 R.I.D.E. spot

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checks stopping 871 vehicles resulting in 3 individuals being charged for Drinking and Driving.

Traffic Response Officers made several arrests this month for several different offences resulting from vehicles stops throughout the division. Of note:

On January 31st, 2009 at 3:03 AM, Ranel TORRES (30 yrs) was driving a vehicle on Pelham Avenue. The driver was known to the officer to be in breach of his bail conditions. He was stopped and the odour of an Alcoholic Beverage was observed and a demand was made for the driver to provide a breath sample. When the driver refused, he was taken to the station and charged with Fail to Comply with recognizant (Times 2), Fail to Comply with Probation and Refuse to Provide Breath Sample.

On Friday February 6th, 2009, officers stopped a vehicle near 1709 St. Clair. The officer noted the driver was a youth know to be on Probation. The youth identified himself with a false name. The youth's true identity was found and he was arrested for obstruct Peace Officer. Further investigation resulted in the youth being charged with Fail to comply with Recognizance and Fail to Appear for Court.

On Monday February 16th, 2009, at 4:16 PM, Kemar THOMPSON (25 yrs) was observed by a Traffic officer driving a vehicle at high speed. The officer was able to get the vehicle to stop and approached the driver. The officer then noted a quantity of marihuana within the vehicle. He immediately arrested the driver. As a result of the arrest, the officer located a fully loaded .38 calibre handgun on the driver. The driver was arrested and charged with Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking, Possession of Marihuana, Possession of Prohibited Firearm, Carry Concealed Weapon and several other criminal offences.

There were another 5 individuals charged with drinking and driving related offences.

Remember, Drinking and Driving Don't mix, take a Cab or use a Designated Driver.



COMMUNITY BASED ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

I'm S/Sgt Daryle GERRY. I recently took charge of 12 Division's Community Response Unit (C.R.U.). Prior to my assignment at 12 Division, I spent 5 years in 14 Division's C.R.U. so I do have a good grasp of community issues and problem solving in relation to them.

My officers will be visible and accessible. All officers have been assigned to neighbourhoods within 12 Division. If you have any (non-emergency) problems within your neighbourhood, I urge you to contact your neighbourhood officer and the issue will be assessed and addressed if necessary. 12 Division CRU can be reached at 416-808-1011 or 416-808-1036.

I am looking forward to working with the community in 12 Division.

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 311 Provincial Offences Tickets, arrested 29 people, and investigated approximately 440 others. Most recently they attended several addresses with local Liquor Inspectors and they have laid 103 charges covering liquor offences against the people operating the respective premises. They have also attended 6 public meetings or community events, 43 school visits; and have paid special attention to separate areas involving 51 activity checks where there have been community complaints.

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Since the beginning of the year, CRU officers have issued 752 Highway Traffic Act tickets and investigated approximately 819 people for varying reasons with 48 people being arrested. The CRU will also continue to pay special attention to licenced premises, after-hours clubs, and booze cans within 12 Division. Their efforts since the beginning of the year have resulted in 187 Liquor Licence Act charges being laid. In other areas of concern, they arrested 3 people for prostitution activities, made 19 drug arrests, and investigated & arrested 6 people for robbery. In relation to weapons offences, so far this year there have been 14 charges laid.

COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER COMMENTS:

BREAK & ENTERS:

If you come home to find your premises has been broken into, or a window or a door is unexplainably open, HELP FIGHT CRIME:

- Do NOT enter – the criminal may still be inside.
- Use a cell or neighbour's phone to call the Police .
- Do NOT touch anything or clean-up until the police have inspected for evidence.
- Note the licence number(s) of any suspicious vehicle(s).
- Note the description(s) of any suspicious person(s).

CALL: 911 (Emergency) or 416-808-2222 (Non-Emergency)

Window Security: Most windows can be pinned for security:

- Simply drill a 3/16" hole on a slight downward slant through the inside window frame and halfway into the outside frame – place a nail/pin in the hole to secure the window.

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Sliding glass doors/windows can be lifted out of their tracks with relative ease.

- Install self tapping screws in the upper track far enough that they still allow the door/window to slide into place but out far enough to prevent the door/window from being lifted up out of the track.
- Place a piece of wood into the bottom track-this will resist lateral forcing of the door/window.

Door Security: Key Control is Important.

- Locks with key holes in the knob are NOT reliable-they can be easily forced.
- Doors should be mounted so hinge bolts are not facing out to the outside of the door.
- Install a minimum of one inch-deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Chain locks are poor security – install a wide angle viewer instead.
- Padlocks should have a 'heel and toe' locking mechanism.
- If keys are lost, locks should be changed as soon as possible.

Lastly, if your going to be away for any length of time please ensure that you have someone keep an eye on hour home and arrange for them to collect any mail, newspapers or other items that if left would single a would be thief to your absence.

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

Here is a list of community-based activities for the month of March 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.

March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Weston PCP Meeting @ 1901 Weston Rd 7:00 PM	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Police Community Partnership Mtg. 7:00pm @ 1884 Davenport Rd.	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Community Police Liaison Committee Meeting @ 12 Division 7:30pm	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				