

# 6.8% increase in South Simcoe Police budget

by Michelle Minnoch

The South Simcoe Police Service Board presented council with a quarterly update on Wednesday night.

The 2007 budget, approved by the 2007 Police Service Board, with a 6.8% increase over 2006, is \$12 million.

South Simcoe Police Chair Marty Toombs said 85% of the budget consists of salaries and benefits.

"We are not hiring uniform positions this year," he

said. Last year, staff was added and Toombs said they are catching up. "We did hire a Special Constable this year to help out with the courts."

Chair Toombs informed council that the year ended as was predicted, 1.5% within their approved budget.

"In the last three years we've been slightly under \$30 million," said Toombs. Crediting command staff, Toombs said there were a few things which contributed to the projected overages.

Police Chief Bruce Davis said there were overtime costs due to criminal investigations.

"There have been many occurrences," he said. "We had a homicide in the municipality within the last calendar year, the young lad who was abducted in Chatham-Kent and brought to the Gilford area." The case of the abducted boy, Donny Clubb, was a joint forces investigation between Chatham-Kent, Waterloo Region and South Simcoe Police.

Chief Davis said there was a lot of court overtime and referred to the recent trial of James Trakas, convicted of Dangerous Driving in the death of former South Simcoe Police Officer Kuzmich. The Crown has appealed the charges, which mean more overtime will be spent at the courts.

"The notice was served today," said the Chief, adding that means there will be another trial in the future.

Other overages were due

to the lack of Justices of the Peace, the cost of fuel, and the increased cost of insurance.

The Chief said although the province hired 48 additional JP's within the last few months, our area did not benefit significantly, getting only one or two.

Chair Toombs said the Board has completed the draft of their 2007-2010 Strategic Plan, adding board member Lynda Newman played a significant role in getting the plan together. He said a final draft should be completed by April.

Priorities for 2007 include completing negotiations with senior staff, reduce insurance costs, reduce leasing costs, facility improvements, implementation of the Strategic Plan, and Community Oriented Policing.

Regarding the insurance, Toombs said they are continuing to tender for it and it is important to review their leasing initiatives.

Community Oriented

Policing, a newly formed unit, is headed by Sgt. Lisa Hunt, who is working with two Community Service Officers, Const. Judy Walker and Special Const. Les Bluestein. The unit presents the VIP (Values Influences and Peers Program) to classes in Innisfil and Bradford, and discusses such topics as the dangers of drugs, sexual harassment, stranger safety, bullying, internet safety and career days.

Each VIP session unit is compiled of six in class sessions, and graduation upon completion.

Another addition is the Community Partners Meeting at Nantyr Shores, which is a committee set up through the school involving the police, staff, parents, and members of the student council. The police meet with them monthly, to discuss the problems within the school and how to address the problems.

Chief Davis said in the past, the police were asked to provide an officer full time

at the high school. "That's about a \$100,000 price tab." He said every day, if not every other day, officers visit Nantyr Shores. Part of the Secondary School Liaison Program, offers attend the secondary schools on a weekly basis and provide foot patrol when requested.

Also within the schools, the police assist in two scheduled Code Red Drills per year in each of the schools in Innisfil and Bradford.

Councillor Pring asked about the town's expected population growth, and if the force was equipped with enough officers to handle that.

With one officer for every 768 people, Chair Toombs said that is a big reason why they are spending the time on Community Policing and their Strategic Plan. "That number (768) is a significant point of reference for us."

Regarding the ratio, he said we are not higher than many or lower than many other municipalities.

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## Almost time to Spin 4 Kids

The students, staff and school council of Nantyr Shores Secondary School are pleased to announce their 4th annual Spin-4-Kids fundraiser to be held Saturday, April 28th, 2007. 20% of all funds raised will be donated to the establishment of a Regional Cancer Care Centre at Royal Victoria Hospital and the remainder will be used to support extra-curricular

activities at the school.

Principal Jean Hargreaves states: "This event brings a wonderful combination of spirit and teamwork to our school family and the community at large."

Organizers expect approximately 750 community members of all ages will visit the school during the 12-hour spin-a-thon.

Spin-4-Kids:

- Provides an opportunity for youth to positively impact their school and their community.

- Promotes physical fitness and healthy lifestyles for youth and community.

- Encourages positive community involvement for youth

- Develops a core awareness of collaborative partnerships.

- Strengthens connectivity between youth and their community.

- Plan to be part of this exciting event! Support Nantyr's spirit of cooperation and the youth of this community. The event will also include refreshments, entertainment and displays of student work.

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