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More cash approved for police station

By Chris Simon
More money has been thrown into the pot for Innisfil's proposed new police building.

Innisfil council approved a total of \$244,919 for architectural and engineering fees, which will be used to help redevelop the old administration building into a South Simcoe Police North Division station, once municipal staff move into the New Town Hall.

The town has already allocated about \$2.4 million for upgrades to the old administration building and the current North Division offices. If the proposed project is completed as planned, the police division's administration offices will operate out of the old town building, while

the current North Division station would be used specifically for detention quarters and "uniform police functions", said community services director Kerry Columbus.

"When town staff vacate the old town hall, the administrative police functions will move into that building," he said. "The uniform police functions and detention quarters will occupy the existing building.

"This is the most economical way to proceed."

However, some members of council say the costs to fix up the old town building are expensive.

"We're up to almost \$2.7 million and that doesn't include permit costs, furniture fixture and

equipment," said councillor Lynn Dollin. "Would it not be cheaper to build a new (station)?"

Deputy mayor Gord Wauchope says the cost to build a new police station would be double the current price tag for renovations.

"To build a brand new building, it would be approximately \$4.8 million," he said. "This is significantly cheaper. This building is still in pretty good shape, so it's money well spent."

Upgrades to the old town building would include the construction of an elevator, barrier-free washrooms, and roof, door, floor, fire alarm and security system replacements. The current police station would also need several improvements, according to a report from



Photo by Chris Simon

The current Innisfil administration building.

the architectural firm MCLA.

MCLA, which will be involved in the proposed project, had previously helped plan the construction of South Simcoe's new Bradford West Gwillimbury

station.

Mayor Brian Jackson says the project would help both buildings meet the needs of Innisfil's growing population and conform with required health and safety standards.

"The architect has an inherent knowledge of what the police service requires and this building," he said.

The current North Division station is located beside the old town building.

Fake pistol pointed in Bradford

At approximately 11:30 a.m. Sunday, South Simcoe Police received a report from a citizen suggesting an occupant of a black pick-up truck pointed what appeared to be a semi-automatic pistol at him, while travelling on Holland Street East in Bradford.

With the assistance of members of the Nottawasaga OPP detachment, the pick-up was located in the Tottenham area with three men in it. A replica handgun which looks like a semi-automatic pistol was seized by police.

A 17-year-old young offender from Tottenham was arrested for uttering death threats and pointing a firearm. The young offender was released to his parents with an April court date in Barrie.

Teen charged after break-in

On Thursday February 14, South Simcoe Police responded to an alarm at Holy Trinity High School in Bradford at approximately 11:30 p.m.

Police arrived on scene and observed a person inside the school but the party fled through an access door. A broken window was discovered at the school. Further investigation of this incident led to the arrest of a 16-year-old Bradford youth on Feb. 19.

The youth has been charged with break and enter and was held for bail in Barrie Court on Feb. 20.

Teen's pot caught and other police news

South Simcoe Police

Speeder given 12-hour licence suspension

On Tuesday February 19 at about 11:30 p.m. a police officer was performing radar enforcement on Holland Street West in Bradford, when a vehicle was stopped for exceeding the speed limit.

The officer spoke to the driver, and it was determined that he had been consuming alcohol. A roadside breath demand was given and the driver provided a sample. As a result of his reading, he was issued a 12-hour licence suspension. The driver also received a speeding ticket.

Two domestic incidents lead to arrest

On Feb. 19, police attended an Innisfil

residence in response to a domestic disturbance.

While on scene, officers learned there was only a verbal conflict that evening. However, another incident involving the same parties at the same residence had taken place Feb. 18.

As a result of this information, a 39-year-old Innisfil man was arrested for domestic mischief. He was transported to the North Division station, where he was processed and released with a court date in March and conditions of non-communication.

Businesses and vehicles entered

Police are investigating a series of break and enters to businesses and thefts from vehicles in the area of Canal

Road in Bradford.

The entries occurred sometime overnight between Feb. 20 and 21. The investigations are continuing and it's unknown exactly what property has been taken at this time.

Teen charged with trafficking pot

Police have charged a 15-year-old Innisfil youth with possession of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking.

The youth was attending high school on Feb. 21 when he was found in possession of marijuana by school staff. The youth has a court date on April 1.

Pair arrested for shoplifting

On Feb. 24, uniform officers responded to a call for theft after two suspects attempted to leave a Bradford grocery store without paying for a

shopping cart full of groceries. The suspects fled to a nearby residence and were arrested a short time later by investigating officers.

Charged with theft under \$5,000 is a 28-year-old Bradford woman and a 38-year-old Bradford man. The woman was released on a promise to appear and the man was held for bail due to outstanding charges.

Woman threatened by tenant

On Feb. 24, police officers responded to a call after a woman was threatened by another tenant of her Cookstown residence. The investigation resulted in a 44-year-old man being arrested and transported to a police station, where he was later released on a promise to appear.

He was also charged for the offence of threaten death.