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Police budget set to spike by 8.6 per cent

By Chris Simon
The cost of policing in South Simcoe could be getting more expensive. An Innisfil committee passed the Bradford West Gwillimbury/Innisfil Police Services Board's 2008 operating budget, during a meeting last week. The nearly \$12.9 million proposed budget includes an 8.6 per cent increase over 2007 figures. In total, the proposed increase represents a 5.15 per cent property tax increase for Innisfil residents, and a 4.4 per cent increase for people living in Bradford.

million," said board chair Patti Vanderdonk, addressing the committee last week. "We take every line item in our budget seriously." The police board oversees the operation of the South Simcoe Police Service. However, the increase can be attributed to several factors. Three per cent is caused by salary increases, while another three per cent is attributed to "rollover" costs. One per cent is caused by strategic plan implementation costs, .5 per cent is due to the hiring of a new provincial offences court special constable,

while another .5 per cent is related to gasoline and electricity expenses. But some councillors wondered why the board's costs are so high. Councillor Bill Pring suggested guns and vehicles, which are typically leased by the police service, should instead be purchased. "Wouldn't some of the cars be better if they were purchased, and you had some capital to use next time?" He said. "Likewise with the guns; a gun lasts as long as an officer lasts." The construction of the Bradford court facility is expected to be complete in May, while renovations to

convert the Churchill Community Centre in a part time provincial offences court will begin soon. The North Division station will also receive renovations, while the old town hall building will soon be converted into a new administration centre for the service, said Vanderdonk. "We're all excited to have new court facilities in Innisfil," she said. "The Churchill provincial offences court will also be undergoing renovations shortly and will be completed by the end of April. Our priorities in 2008 will be to monitor the implementation of our strategic plan. Facility

improvement will be completed over the next several months, and we'll be busy ensuring a smooth transition of staff and services." The board will also be review procedural bylaws and policies, and governance responsibilities over the next year, said Vanderdonk. Police chief Bruce Davis says the board has been as thrifty as possible, especially in areas like overtime pay. "Over the last few years, we've been trying to reduce overtime costs. Bt with courts, sometimes it can be a craphshoot. We are at the

discretion of the judge," he said. "If a judge says they need officers for (specific) matters, we have to send them there. We have managed to control increases. Increases have come in from other services that far exceed the deals that have been struck (in South Simcoe). We have a good handle on it." Davis also says South Simcoe receives good, cost effective servicing from the police. "This year, the board diligently refused to make any hires, with the exception of a (mandated) special constable for the courts," he said.

Bradford store nearly robbed

South Simcoe Police are investigating an attempted robbery at a grocery store on Holland Street West in the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

On Thursday April 3, at approximately 2:30 a.m., a man caused a distraction in the store by breaking a product in an aisle, causing some of the employees to leave the cashier's area.

The suspect went to the cashier, making it appear that he was going to pay for some groceries.

The suspect indicated to the cashier that he had a firearm in his pocket and reached for the cash drawer. The cashier suspected the man was lying, and closed the cash drawer on the suspect's hand. The man fled the store without obtaining money.

The man is described as white, in his mid-40's, with a thin build and dark hair. He was 5-foot, seven-inches in height and about 170 pounds. The man had a scruffy appearance and an overgrown beard and mustache. He was wearing jeans, a dark, medium length parka and a red-backed, dark baseball hat.

Trailer stolen in Bradford

South Simcoe Police

Impaired driver caught
At about 9 p.m. Friday, South Simcoe Police received a report of a vehicle being driven erratically on Highway 88 near Highway 400 in Bradford West Gwillimbury. Police stopped the vehicle and found the driver was impaired. A 53-year-old Bradford man has been charged with impaired driving and over 80.

Man charged with firearms offence
On Thursday April 3, a

22-year-old Churchill woman contacted police, advising that she had been threatened with death by her 30 year old boyfriend. The woman was in the process of separating from the boyfriends. Police arrested the boyfriend and charged him with uttering threats. Upon searching the accused's residence, firearms and ammunition were found to be stored improperly. An additional charge of careless storage of firearm was laid against the boyfriend. He was held for a bail

hearing on April 4.

Bradford man arrested for public intoxication
On Sunday April 6, police were on general patrol in Bradford. Patrol officers observed a heavily intoxicated man staggering along Holland Street West. A 35-year-old Bradford man was arrested for public intoxication and held until sober.

Truck, trailer and snowmobiles taken
Police are investigating the theft of a Ford extended cab pick-up truck and a Wells Fargo box trailer containing two snowmobiles, from a residence on the 10th Sideroad in Bradford.

On April 3 at 1:55 a.m., the homeowner was awakened by the sound of a vehicle being started in the driveway. When the owner looked outside, the vehicle and trailer were observed going southbound on the 10th Sideroad, away from the residence.

The vehicle is described as a brown 2004 truck, with Ontario licence plate number 931 8MP. The trailer is grey, with a yellow and black MXZ Skidoo 800, and a Skidoo GSX Limited inside.

Rosemount man charged with obstructing

justice
Police have charged a 37-year-old Rosemount man with two counts of failing to comply with a recognizance and obstruct justice. The man was on an earlier release condition to abstain from communicating with family members. The man attended the workplace of one of the family members where he engaged them in a conversation. The man was arrested on April 1, when he appeared in Bradford court for the earlier offence that resulted in his being placed on conditions. The man was held in custody pending a bail hearing.

Door broken in domestic dispute
Police have charged an 18-year-old Bradford man with mischief under \$5,000. On April 1, police attended a Valleyview Crescent residence in Bradford, regarding a disturbance. The man attended the residence of an ex-girlfriend who refused to answer the door. The man became angry and continued to kick the door until a portion of the door came off the hinges. He also broke a plastic ornament that was hanging on the door.

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