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Volunteer police recruits honoured

By Chris Simon

Chris Moran's dream of becoming a police officer has just come true.

The former chair of the South Simcoe Police Service Board and 14 of his classmates graduated from the service's auxiliary training program during a ceremony at The Club at Bond Head Thursday. The volunteer auxiliary members will now perform duties for at least 12 hours per month, patrolling as secondary officers in police cars, responding to emergencies and monitoring special events throughout Innisfil and Bradford West Gwillimbury.

Moran has wanted to become a police officer for several years, as his way of becoming engaged in the community and showing support for residents in need.

"I was on the board for over seven years, the chair for six years, and I just found the involvement with the people and the organization very rewarding," he said, standing near a group of fellow graduates, all dressed in black police uniforms. "I got onto that because I thought it was a good way to give back to the community.



Photos by Chris Simon

Fifteen new volunteer recruits joined the South Simcoe Police Service Auxiliary during a ceremony at The Club at Bond Head last week.

I wanted to continue my association with this group of people and continue giving back to community safety."

He is also fully supported by his wife and two children, knowing Moran is performing a valuable community service.

"My primary focus is more the community events. I'm not interested in becoming a police officer," said Moran.

"I'm really looking forward to doing the community stuff, helping with kids and doing whatever I can to foster a good relationship between the police service and the community."

The graduation will help nearly double the size of the current auxiliary force. Those volunteer officers perform critical duties that lessen the burden on the main police force, said

auxiliary Senior Sergeant Rick Young.

"Our community has grown by leaps and bounds over the last couple of years," he said. "Because the community has grown, there's a lot of additional community events, which is one of our largest requirements. Having a much larger auxiliary is certainly going to help the community."

The new recruits trained



for 60 hours before graduation, and are expected to volunteer for at least 4,000 total hours this year, said Young.

"This will assist the police service in the community," he said. "We're called out to assist the parent force in emergencies, we're the second officer in patrol cars.

We help out at the Wing Ding, Summerfest and all the Santa Claus parades. We

help broaden the visual impact of the service. It's a lot of dedication for a volunteer position."

Moran says the service has made its volunteers feel welcome.

"I appreciate the fact the police service went to this extent to recognize the people who have graduated and volunteered," he said. "We've got a tremendous group of people that put in a lot of time and effort."

Crime Stoppers tagging frequent graffiti issues

Crime Stoppers of Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka and surrounding police agencies need the assistance of the public in attempt to address the continuous problem of graffiti and vandalism.

The police and municipal officials are plagued with calls from the public that

their neighbourhoods, schools, community centers, park buildings and facilities are being degraded by the mischief of graffiti. When acts of graffiti are reported, police attend, investigate and arrangements are made to remove the graffiti.

The costs associated to removal and clean-up of the

graffiti can amount to thousands of dollars per year, which in turn cost taxpayers.

These occurrences of mischief have been continuously increasing over the past year and police are making these types of investigations a priority. The graffiti reported to police is

being photographed. This documentation allows the police to track sources and different types of graffiti or tagging used. This evidence will assist the police when identifying the persons responsible for these acts and make them accountable for their crime.

Some citizens may feel

that graffiti is an art. But when suspects continue to vandalize public and private property without permission, they have committed a criminal act of mischief.

With the assistance of the media and the public, Crime Stoppers seek to identify and locate those responsible for the numerous counts of

graffiti and mischief within the County of Dufferin, Simcoe and Muskoka.

If you have any information regarding this or any other crime and wish to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display.

Cookstown gas station window smashed, safe taken

South Simcoe Police

Cookstown gas station broken into
 At about 3:45 a.m.

Friday, South Simcoe Police responded to an intrusion alarm at a gas station on

King Street in Cookstown.

Upon arrival, police officers found the front window of the gas station had been smashed out and a small safe was stolen. Anyone with information regarding this occurrence is

asked to call police at 905-775-3311, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS, or leave an anonymous tip at www.1800222tips.com.

Woman uninjured by vehicle rollover

On Wednesday April 9,

South Simcoe Police received information from a citizen regarding a vehicle driving erratically on Highway 400. The vehicle was found to be involved in a single motor vehicle collision, where it left the

roadway and rolled over. Upon arriving on scene, police found the uninjured driver to be intoxicated, and she was arrested for impaired driving. Police have charged a 35-year-old Bradford woman.