

31 Division Community Bulletin Fall 2009



A MESSAGE FROM THE UNIT COMMANDER



**Superintendent
Chris White**
Unit Commander of 31 Division

Welcome to the No. 31 Division Community Bulletin for the month of November 2009. This message serves as an introduction to the No. 31 Division website, a communication package designed to provide the community with a wealth of important information about the area in which they live.

The information contained within this website can be accessed by members of the public for the purpose of providing them with a range of statistical data, news publications about their community, traffic safety tips, initiatives and divisional maps.

All members from No. 31 Division continue to strive to ensure that our neighbourhoods are safer, healthier and the best place to live, work and play, through the delivery of professional, respectful, fair and equitable policing. We continue to maintain, enhance and develop positive and constructive partnerships with all our stakeholders from the community, business, faith community, government, media and social agencies, in order to build community capacity towards safer neighbourhoods.

On Sunday, 2009 October 25, a very successful Focused Neighbourhood Jane-Finch TAVIS Initiative concluded. From June to October, 43 additional officers were assigned to the No. 31 Division Jane-Finch neighbourhood to assist in reducing violence and building trusting and lasting relationships. These officers were involved in such things as: beautification projects, graffiti removal, safety and faith walks, out-reach cultural and sporting activities in all areas of the Jane-Finch neighbourhood.

Chief William Blair also attended the Driftwood Community Centre for a Town Hall meeting in October and residents were able to share their thoughts to him on how successful the initiative was in No. 31 Division.

Although the initiative is over, No. 31 Division will continue to build on these successes through a JFTI Maintenance Plan, with all members of No. 31 Division involved.

All citizens are encouraged to keep informed and become involved in their community. Visit www.torontopolice.on.ca/tavis for more information on this initiative. Together we can make a difference.

Thank you.

Superintendent Chris White
Unit Commander, No. 31 Division



WHEELING KIDS TOWARDS SAFE CYCLING

TAVIS (Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy) officers hopped on their bikes recently to help kids in preparation for the third annual Tour De University Heights.

In late August and early September, TAVIS officers helped train 28 kids to take part in the Ontario Youth Cup – 2009 Tour de University Heights race which took place in the Jane St.- Driftwood Ave. area on Sept. 19.



The Aug. 25 event saw kids 8 to 16 get hands-on instruction on bicycle maintenance from the cycle experts at The Bike Shop.



On Sept. 4, another training session was held in the back lot of 12 Division, where TAVIS officers conducted teambuilding exercises and taught kids the importance of calisthenics. The youngsters were also advised about the importance of helmets and the use of proper hand signals.

Last year, the City of Toronto and the Toronto Police Service, as part of the second annual Tour De University Heights, helped organize 120 kids to compete and receive new bicycles, courtesy of the Ontario Cycling Association.



ROM visit for Driftwood kids



Police officers and community members gave kids from the Jane-Finch neighbourhood a learning experience downtown.

The 16 kids from the Driftwood Community Centre were brought to the Royal Ontario Museum in September, as part of the Learning In – Violence Erased (LIVE) program.

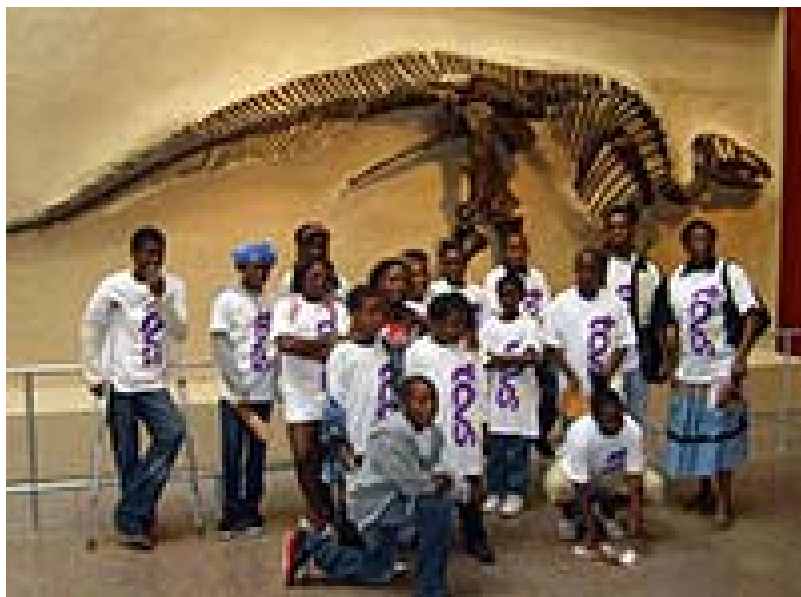
“We wanted to provide them with a cultural learning experience they have not had in the past,” 31

Division Insp. Nick Memme said, of the day-long visit that included adult volunteers and police officers.

The initiative coincided with a boost in the number of officers in two Toronto neighbourhoods over the course of the summer.

The TAVIS (Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy) saw an increased police presence in the Jane-Finch corridor, as well as the Keele-Eglinton area, in an effort to reduce violence that traditionally increases over the summer months.

The TAVIS neighbourhood initiative also sought to strengthen the overall capacity of the neighbourhood by assisting in mobilizing residents to help create safer neighbourhoods.



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T.A.V.I.S. Graffiti Eradication Project

On Thursday August 20th 2009 a group of Youth In Policing Students from 31 Division along with 31 Division's Community Services Officers conducted a graffiti clean up project.



The neighbourhood TAVIS officers dropped by to say high to the students.



Our team of graffiti eradicators were able to clean up approximately 2200 square feet of graffiti in the Shoreham Drive / Black Creek Area.



What a difference a little paint and community effort can make.



**TRAFFIC
MATTERS.**

The ban on hand held devices while driving is now in effect. It is now illegal in Ontario for drivers to use any electronic devices that can cause distraction.

The new law makes it illegal for drivers to talk, text, type, dial or email using handheld cell phones and other handheld communications and entertainment devices.

Up till February 1, 2010, there is an education period where police officers will not issue tickets, however, motorists should be aware that officers will maintain discretion in laying charges.

Police continue to have the ability to lay charges of Careless Driving or other offences under the Highway Traffic Act or Criminal Code driving offences, for situations where drivers are using electronic devices. This new legislation will enhance traffic safety by creating a specific offence for driving behaviour, which is known to distract drivers from driving safely.

Distracted drivers are a safety risk to themselves and others. The Toronto Police Service is committed to ensuring the safety of all motorists.

Police, paramedics and firefighters will continue to be allowed to use handheld devices when performing their duties. All drivers may continue to use handheld devices to call 911 in an emergency situation.

A graphic of a smartphone with a blue screen displaying "You have 1 new message". The phone is shown in a landscape orientation, split into three vertical panels. The middle panel contains the text "Eyes on the Road Hands on the Wheel" and a website URL. The right panel lists exemptions to the law.

Did you know that drivers who text, type, email, dial, or chat using a hand-held device could be fined up to \$500 for:

- Using hand-held cell phones, smart phones, portable video games and media players?
- Viewing screens on laptops or DVD players?

**Eyes on the Road
Hands on the Wheel**

For more information visit
www.ontario.ca/eyesontheroad

The new law only applies to hand-held devices. If necessary, drivers may use hands-free devices:

- Cell phones with an earpiece, headset or Bluetooth device using voice dialing
- Global positioning system (GPS) units mounted on the dashboard
- Portable media players (e.g. iPod) plugged into vehicle's sound system

The law does not apply to:

- Drivers in vehicles pulled off the roadway or lawfully parked
- 9-1-1 calls
- Display screens showing information about the vehicle's status

Remember, "Slow down and drive safe"



CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

During the year-end holidays, people are often busy, excited and sometimes a little bit careless. Take some time to consider these helpful Holiday Crime Prevention Tips.



PC Phil Harris

At Home

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave your house or apartment, even for a few minutes.
- Don't display holiday gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway. Store gifts before you go away on a holiday trip.
- If you go out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or television so the house or apartment appears to be occupied.
- If you take a holiday trip away from your home, have some interior lights activated by an automatic timer. Have a neighbor or family member watch your house, shovel new snow, pick up the mail and newspaper and park his or her motor vehicle in your driveway from time to time.
- Participate in Operation Identification and mark your valuables with a unique identification number.
- Be wary of strangers soliciting for charitable donations. They may attempt to take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays. Ask for identification, how donated funds are used, if contributions are tax deductible, etc. If you aren't satisfied with the answers, don't give.
- Immediately after the holidays, mark new gifts with an identification number and record new serial numbers.
- Avoid leaving boxes from purchases (especially TV's, VCR's, computer, etc.) out on the curb for trash pickup.

Shopping

- Shop before dark if possible. Possibly coordinate shopping trips with a friend. Never park in an unlit lot or area, no matter how convenient it is.
- Lock your packages and gifts in your vehicle's trunk. Keep your vehicle's doors locked and windows closed.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check, credit card, or debit card when possible.
- To discourage purse-snatchers, don't overburden yourself with packages. Have your purchases delivered whenever practical.
- Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm. Keep a wallet in an inside jacket pocket, not a back trouser pocket.
- Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated. They should never go into a parking lot alone.



Pickpockets / Distraction Thefts

Pickpockets like to take advantage of crowds in stores, on the street and on public transportation. Many work in teams with one distracting the victim while the other does the actual pick pocketing.

- Beware of anyone who jostles you. It may be accidental but, then again, it may not.
- For women who carry a purse, one that has a flap which folds over the opening and fastens at the bottom is preferable to one that can be opened simply by turning a clasp at the top.
- Men who carry wallets or a money clip should keep them in inner or side pockets rather than rear trouser pockets.

Remember: Be Alert, Be Careful & Be Safe!



Is a new, state-of-the-art communication tool that delivers accurate and timely information from police to the community.

Anyone who lives or works in the city can now subscribe to TPSlinks, which delivers voice and text messages about road closures, crime or missing person alerts, crime prevention tips and emergency situations to residences or cellphones.

TPSlinks allows officers to send messages to specific geographical areas, whether it is around an intersection, their Division or the entire city. Officers can let the public know about community events, crime prevention techniques, crimes such as break-ins or sexual assaults in their neighbourhood or police investigations that affect the flow of traffic. Subscribers can customize the information they receive, whether road closures, missing persons or school safety alerts.

If you have any questions about TPSlinks go to the Toronto Police website at www.torontopolice.on.ca and click on the **TPSlinks** icon.

For further inquiries send an e-mail to the following address:
TPSlinks@torontopolice.on.ca



The LOCK IT or LOSE IT Program



A professional can steal your vehicle in just 30 seconds – without the key. The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) and Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) are encouraging citizens to “Lock It or Lose It”. The

goal of the proactive crime prevention program is to encourage drivers to take a few simple precautions that will protect their vehicles and vehicle contents from theft.

An unlocked door or an open window is an invitation to thieves. The “Lock It or Lose It” program reminds drivers to always:

- Roll up their vehicles’ windows;
- Keep valuables out of sight;
- Lock their doors; and,
- Pocket their keys.

Under the “Lock It or Lose It” program, police officers examine parked vehicles to confirm they are locked and that no valuables have been left in plain view.

Vehicles left warming up in driveways on cold mornings or outside of coffee shops, convenience stores, and ATM locations, are also vulnerable to being stolen. Criminal organizations target high-end vehicles for export. Many of thefts of vehicles and thefts of vehicle contents are easily prevented. The key to protecting your vehicle is in your hands. Keep yourself from becoming an easy target by properly securing your vehicle. Remember: Lock It or Lose It!

AUTO THEFT PROTECTION TIPS

A professional can steal your vehicle in just 30 seconds – without the key. Protect your vehicle from theft with a few simple precautions:

- ✓ Always roll up your vehicle's windows, lock the doors and pocket the key.
- ✗ Never leave your vehicle unattended while it is running.
- ✓ If you have a garage, use it and lock the door as well as your vehicle.
- ✗ Never leave your car keys in plain view or in an easily accessible area.
- ✓ Keep your vehicle registration certificate and proof of insurance on you at all times. Don't leave these documents in your glove compartment.
- ✓ Always park your vehicle in a well-lit area.
- ✗ Never leave valuable objects or packages in full view. Put them in the trunk.
- ✓ Give only your ignition key to a parking lot attendant. Keep all other keys with you.

→ Inform your local police department, or call the IBC TIPS Line at 1-877-IBC-TIPS, if you see vehicles or vehicle-related activities that look suspicious.

OACP INSURANCE BUREAU OF CANADA BUREAU D'ASSURANCE DU CANADA



Toronto Police Service
31 Division
Auxiliary and
Community Response Officers

**Toy & Gift
Drive**



The Auxiliary and Community Response Police Officers of 31 Division, in partnership with several area high schools, are conducting a "Toy & Gift Drive" to support needy children & seniors.



A drop box is located at the front desk of 31 Division Police Station to collect new, unwrapped toys for boys & girls (ages newborn to 17 years.) and gifts for seniors.

New toys and gifts may be dropped off anytime at the front desk of 31 Division Police Station located at 40 Norfinch Dr. Toronto. Donations will be accepted until Friday December 11th.




For further details contact
31 Division Community Response Office at 416-808-3119

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Clocks go to standard time	2 Community Police Liaison Committee 7:00pm	3	4	5	6	7
CRIME PREVENTION WEEK						
8	9 TPS <i>links</i> Start up	10	11 Remembrance Day 	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
TOY DRIVE						
29	30					
TOY DRIVE						

DECEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
TOY DRIVE						
6	7 Community Police Liaison Committee 7:00pm	8	9	10	11	12
TOY DRIVE						
13	14	15	16	17	28	29
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day 	26 Boxing Day
27	28	29	30	31		

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COMMUNITY ALERT is a computer operated information system being utilized within the 31 Division area of Toronto. It is maintained and upgraded with donations made by the community.

The **COMMUNITY ALERT** system uses a telephone auto dialer, fax and e-mail to inform citizens, businesses and community organizations about incidents of crime and other information important to the community.

In order to participate in the **COMMUNITY ALERT** program, you are required to complete and return the consent form below. The information you provide on this form will be maintained under police security.

The program is free; no contribution is required to register. If you do wish to contribute, however, a space has been provided on the consent form for this purpose. Any donation will assist in the maintenance and continuation of the program.

For further information, contact ;..... **PC Phil Harris, Crime Prevention Officer, 31 Division
416-808-3133**

Return completed form to..... **31 Division - Crime Prevention Office
40 Norfinch Drive,
Toronto Ontario
M3N 1X1**

Detach here

Detach here



**Response
Slip**

I authorize 31 Division, Toronto Police, to enter the information contained herein, into the "Community Alert" System.



Name: _____

Address _____
(#) (Street Name) (Unit #)

(City) (Prov.) (Postal Code)

Phone # _____

Fax _____

(If business or organization, put business name & address)

e-mail address (*Print clearly*): _____

If business or organization - contact

person name: _____ (Last) (First)

Position: Owner Manager Employee

Signature: _____

Donations \$5 \$10 \$20 Other →

(Make cheque payable to "31 Division Community Alert")

Office use	Watch Area	Watch Position	Date Entered
	/	/	/ /