

Amalgamation creates South Simcoe Police

On January 1st, the Bradford West Gwillimbury Police Service will cease to exist, in its present form.

Instead, the building, cruisers, officers and senior staff will all become part of a new South Simcoe Police Service.

The new force will be created through the amalgamation of Innisfil and Bradford West Gwillimbury Police Services. An official swearing in of all officers of the new Service has been tentatively scheduled for January 5th at the Stroud Arena, in Innisfil.

In review...

On January 6th, 1996, Bradford West Gwillimbury began meeting with Barrie and Innisfil to discuss a possible amalgamation of policing services. It soon became clear, said Innisfil Chief of Police Bruce Davis, that the needs of the two smaller municipalities "would not be met by a tri-service amalgamation."

Bradford West Gwillimbury and Innisfil withdrew from talks with Barrie, but continued discussions on their own.

"This is not a take-over by either service," said Chief Davis. "It was a joint investigation into creating one efficient and effective police force." The key issue was controlling costs and eliminating duplication, to better meet future provincial funding cuts, he said.

The South Simcoe Police Service would offer continued employment to the 22 sworn officers and 9 full-time civilians with the Bradford West Gwillimbury Service, and the 31 sworn officers and 11 civilians employed by Innisfil. Only two part-time civilian employees of the Bradford West Gwillimbury Police Service would not be kept on.

The policing area would be divided into a North Division

(Innisfil) and South Division (Bradford West Gwillimbury), and officers, at least initially, would continue to serve in their existing divisions.

Amalgamation would result in:

- . A single records-keeping function.

- . Reduction in the number of Senior Officers. At present, there are two Police Chiefs, two Deputy Chiefs, and one Inspector, between the two forces. On amalgamation, command structure would be 1 Chief, 1 Deputy Chief, 2 Superintendents, and 1 Inspector. By the end of 5 years, that would be reduced to one Chief, one Deputy, and a single Inspector, through retirement.

- . A larger pool of assets, such as vehicles, with less "down" time.

- . Greater standardization of training, investigative procedures.

- . Reduction in the size of the Police Services Boards. At present, each municipality has a 5-member board.

- . Police budgets would be frozen at current levels for at least two years, with Innisfil paying 58.82% and Bradford West Gwillimbury 41.18% of the associated costs - based on number of households, assessment base, and net budgets. The percentages were worked out with the co-operation of the two municipal Treasurers.

Bradford West Gwillimbury's current police budget is \$2.094 million.

- . Assets, with the exception of buildings, will be transferred to the new Police Services Board. Liabilities - including the debenture remaining on the Innisfil Police Station - will continue to be the responsibility of the current holder.

- . Estimated "one-time" start-up costs were given as \$95,375 - for new uniforms, flashes, wage alignments, signage and communications equipment.

However, Bradford West Gwillimbury Councillor Ron Simpson noted that the "wage alignment" - a \$50,000 expenditure to bring Bradford West Gwillimbury wages in line with Innisfil salaries - is actually an ongoing item. Once the wages have been increased, they remain at that level,

costing an estimated \$250,000 over a 5 year period.

- . Savings over a five year period, through reduction of overtime and staff, were estimated at \$399,310.

Again, as with start-up costs like wage alignments, Chief Davis noted, the "savings or efficiencies are reflected only in the year in which they occur." Any savings realized through the retirement or attrition of personnel, would actually be an annualized saving - adding up to over \$500,000 in 5 years, depending on when the expected retirements take place.

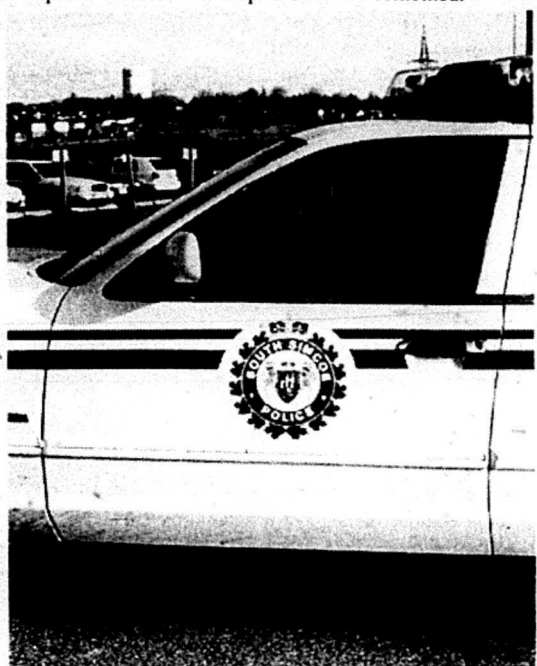
- . The North Division will be open to the Public from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., though staffed 24 hours a day. A phone with computer video link-up

would provide immediate access to police, after hours. The North (Innisfil) station would house Criminal Investigations, Identification, financial and administrative services, community policing and patrol duties.

- . The South Division would remain open to the public 24 hours a day. The South (Bradford) station would house communications and dispatch, records, prisoner lodgings, court operations, as well as community policing and patrol duties.

- . Innisfil would continue to operate the Marine/Snowmobile Unit, and the Emergency Response Unit.

- . The 25 Auxiliary officers belonging to both services would be combined.



Police cruisers are being redone with new logo of the South Simcoe Police Service, new striping, for Jan. 1st.

Police Services Board

The proposal initially called for an interim Police Services Board, with ten members, combining the two existing Boards. Instead, the PSB has been streamlined immediately, thanks to prompt action by the Ministry.

Members of the new South Simcoe Police Services Board are the Mayor of Innisfil Stewart Fisher, Mayor of Bradford West Gwillimbury Frank Jonkman, David Pratt, Chris Moran, and newly appointed from Bradford, Chico Pinto.