

53 Division Community Bulletin, October 2011



From the Desk of Staff Inspector Heinz Kuck And Inspector Joanna Beaven-Desjardins

Working together to create an outstanding collaborative partnership between police and public is an extraordinary experience. I owe our community partners a huge gratitude for work done with my officers over the past year, and I applaud all of your efforts. It is certainly familiar to me since a similar alliance was forged here a number of years ago when I was your Community Response Staff Sergeant. I am delighted to return to reacquaint myself with old friends, and to establish new ones.

To be sure, 53 Division has one of the finest management teams in existence. Collectively, their experience includes tenure in such units as; homicide squad, fraud squad, the training college, incident command, community response and front line policing. Each member brings expertise, knowledge and energy in order to provide you with the best possible service.

I am happy to report that both Inspector Joanna Beaven-Desjardins (my brilliant second in command), and I will be embarking upon a welcome journey of discovery in coming weeks and months in order to meet many of you. We will be attending community events and engagements, walking neighbourhood beats, as well as visiting local shops, schools and businesses. We endeavour to spend some quality time with you, not only to explore your deepest concerns about crime and disorder, but to also hear good news stories about community building, restorative justice and ongoing neighbourhood safety initiatives.

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Over the past 32 years, my career has been cultivated working in the following areas: 14 Division (encompassing Parkdale), 11 Division (High Park and the Junction), and 51 Division (Regent Park and St James Town). These diverse assignments served me well and offered me the necessary empirical policing and administrative experience to make a profound difference in your community. Having earned my Bachelor of Arts Degree from York University (Toronto), and a Masters Degree from Norwich University (Vermont), I am duly committed to bring a strong academic foundation to the table.

On a final note, most of you are probably aware that Staff Inspector Larry Sinclair has moved on to a well deserved retirement. His vision and dedication throughout his years at 53 Division is greatly appreciated. We wish him well, and he will be missed.

So until next time, keep safe!

Kind Regards

Staff Inspector Heinz Kuck

Greetings from Inspector Joanna Beaven-Desjardins

As the new inspector and second in command of 53 Division it is indeed a privilege, and a pleasure, to become part of such a vibrant team of police officers, and community members that exists in 53 Division. The possibility of strengthening existing partnerships and forging new ones has created an exciting work environment.

Some of the areas that I have worked in previously include; Child Exploitation, Major Crime Squad (organized crime-break and enters and theft of autos), Fugitive Squad and Hold-Up Squad. I am confident that my past tenure in all of these major case investigative environments will lead to enhanced crime management initiatives in each of your neighbourhoods.

Just prior to my transfer to 53 Division, my most recent assignment was as the second in command at 14 Division. While there I had the opportunity to hone my skills both administratively and operationally.

The knowledge I have gained over the past 25 years in my career, and the partnerships I have embraced, will allow me to make a real difference in 53 Division.

I look forward to meeting each of you.

Sincerely

Inspector Joanna Beaven

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A poster for a retirement luncheon for Staff Inspector Larry Sinclair. The poster features a collage of five photographs: a portrait of a man in a blue uniform, a portrait of Staff Inspector Larry Sinclair in a white uniform, a group of three officers in uniform, a group of officers in uniform, and a group of officers in uniform. A black star with the number "#88" is pinned to the top right of the collage. The text on the poster includes the title "Retirement Luncheon", the name "LARRY SINCLAIR" in large letters, and his title "53 DIVISION UNIT COMMANDER". The event is scheduled for Friday November 4th, with cocktails from 12:00-12:30 and an elegant three-course luncheon starting at 12:30 sharp. The venue is Capitol event theatre, located at 2492 Yonge Street. Tickets are \$60 and business attire is required. Contact information for S/Insp Heinz Kuck, S/Sgt Peter Henry, D/Sgt Dan Nealon, and Sgt Anthony Castellucci is provided at the bottom. The Toronto Police logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the poster.

Retirement Luncheon

Staff Inspector
LARRY SINCLAIR
53 DIVISION UNIT COMMANDER

Friday November 4th
Cocktails 12:00-12:30
Elegant three course luncheon 12:30 Sharp

Capitol event theatre
2492 Yonge Street

tickets \$60 | business attire

S/Insp Heinz Kuck 8-5314, S/Sgt Peter Henry 8-5354
D/Sgt Dan Nealon 8-5316, Sgt Anthony Castellucci 8-5300

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53 DIVISION COMMUNITY RESPONSE UNIT



On Monday September 26th, there were a number of personnel changes in the Community Response Unit. Our Neighbourhood Officers are typically assigned to a three year term, allowing them sufficient time to build long term community partnerships. We also have four, six month training positions, for staff development purposes and it provides an excellent opportunity to identify officers that have the necessary skills to be future neighbourhood officers.

We now have four new trainees assigned to our CRU team, Constables Brenda Dolenc, Raj Persaud, Boris Borissov and Costa Michaelides. Congratulations to Constables Cosma David, Raj Gill, Chris Spencer and Terry Selver on the successful completion of their six month training and we wish them luck with their future endeavours.

There were also changes with some of our long term CRU officer assignments. Constables Jean Bourgeois, Brian Yuile and Gord Shepherdly have completed their three year assignment and they have moved onto other opportunities. We thank them for their professionalism and dedication. We now have four new Neighbourhood Officers on our team, Constables Erik Epperson, Isabel Ethier, John McGarry and Brad Coutts.

As a reminder, the Neighbourhood Officer is your primary contact for long term continuous complaints such as graffiti, trespassing, and panhandling. Please refer to the attached Neighbourhood Officer Map for the officer assigned to your area. If you have any questions about their role, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

We have also been working hard at improving our division's communication strategy. You have likely noticed that our Community Bulletin has been updated and it now includes updates from most of our sub units including the Criminal Investigation Bureau and the Primary Response Unit. You may also recall that 53 Division was selected as the pilot for our Service's community notification system, known as TPSlinks.

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We continue to be a leader in this area with over 800 subscribers. If you have not registered, please visit TPSlinks.ca for further information. We are also taking advantage of some of the popular social media sites and recently created a 53 Division Facebook page. It has become an instant hit and our membership increases on a daily basis. I encourage everyone to visit our new Facebook page; it's an excellent resource for updates on community events and occurrences such as missing person investigations. Tweeting has also become a new social phenomenon and several of our officers now have Twitter accounts. Yours truly is *Henry4570*. If you're curious, please visit our TPS website and click on the Twitter icon. You'll see tweets from officers across our entire Service including our most active user, Deputy Chief Peter Sloly.

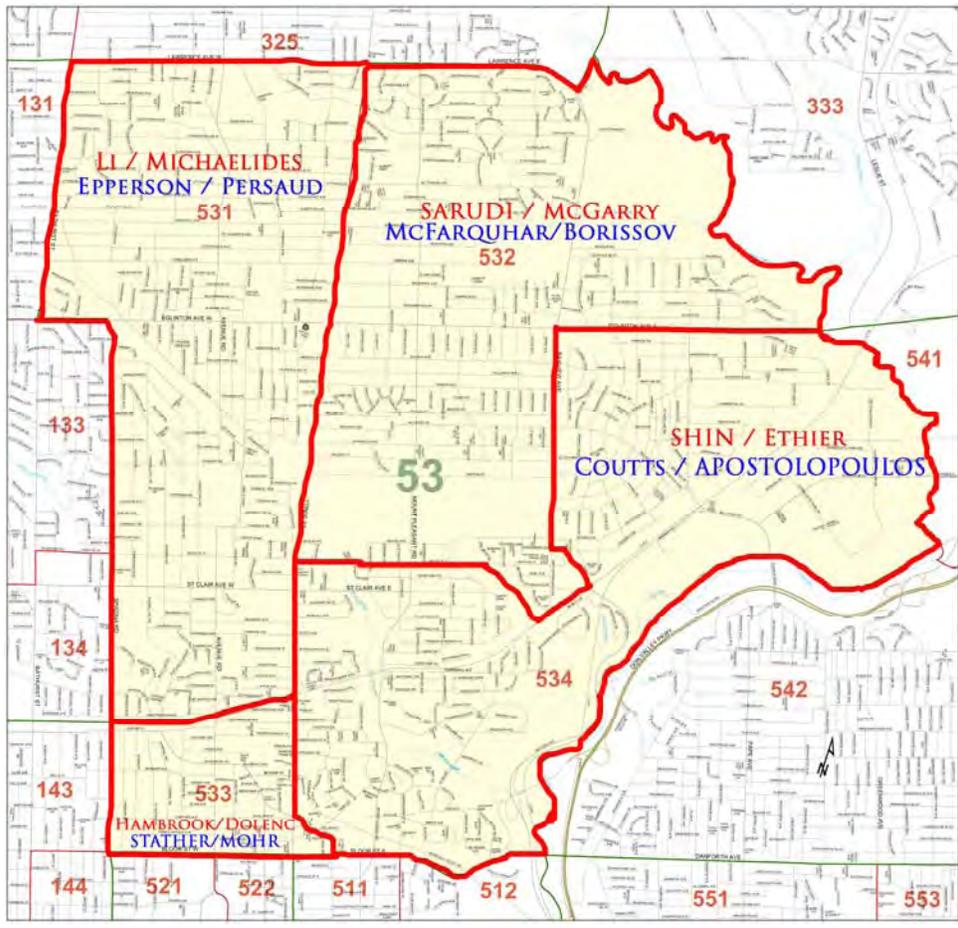
On Sunday October 2nd, our Community Police Liaison Committee in partnership with the new GEARS bike store located in Leaside, held their first Bike Rodeo. GEARS had their mechanics available to conduct safety inspections and organized a fun obstacle course to test bike riding skills. Our CRU bike officers also had a laser on hand to register top speeds and there was a display that featured our Harley Davidson police motorcycle and a vintage 1957 Chevy police car. The children were thrilled to see Sergeant Kathy Vellend from Police Dog Services with her two police dogs, Eli and Cy. The highlight of the event was clearly the special guest appearance by a Canadian hero and four time Olympic medalist, Marnie McBean. She is an amazing role model for our youth and we thank her for taking the time to support our rodeo.

Unfortunately the weather wasn't cooperative; however the rodeo was still a huge success by bringing together a number of great community partners. One of those important partners was the Morning Glory Cycling Club and they have committed to donating 150 bicycles to the Thorncliffe Park community. We have also had discussions with the City of Toronto and the Ontario Cycling Association with respect to hosting a youth bike race in the spring. This is a rare honour and we're very excited about this new initiative. When I confirm the details for the race, I'll be sure to update everyone on Facebook and I'll send out a Tweet!

Regards.

Peter Henry
S/Sgt #4570
53 Division
Community Response Unit
Peter.Henry@torontopolice.on.ca

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TORONTO POLICE SERVICE



53 Division

75 Eglinton Ave W
M4R 2G9

NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICERS

FA-1

- SGT. MATT MUNGAL #4201
- PC HAROLD SHIN #8792
- PC VICTOR SARUDI #8568
- PC JOHN MCGARRY #9086
- PC COSTA MICHAELIDES #10133
- PC ISABEL ETHIER #8906
- PC BRENDA DOLENC #10387
- PC CRAIG HAMBROOK #8829
- PC ALEX LI #9104

FA-2

- SGT. DAN MCDERMOTT #1576
- PC SEAN MOHR #8617
- PC JANET STATHER #5374
- PC ERIK EPPERSON #9281
- PC JIM APOSTOLOPOULOS #90217
- PC BRAD COUTTS #9608
- PC CRAIG MCFARQUHAR #8624
- PC BORIS BORISSOV #9188
- PC RAJ PERSAUD #65666

53neighbourhoodofficers@torontopolice.on.ca

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Yonge Bloor Bay Business Association Hails Chief's Walk-About!

Recently Chief Bill Blair had the chance to reacquaint himself with the residents and business community of Yorkville. Organised by the Yonge Bloor Bay Business Association (YBBA), the Chief's walk was not only intended to provide him with input and insight from the many business owners in the area, but to showcase the fine work being done by a number of organizations including the YBBA, GYRA (Greater Yorkville Residents' Association), and the Retail Council of Canada, all in partnership with local police officers who call Yorkville their "beat."

Co-Chairs Alex Stuart and Gee Chung of the YBBA's Police Liaison and Safety Committee created a 'road map' of local business locations for the Chief to explore, and to listen to issues ranging from crime and disorder, to the success of the recent TIFF celebrations.

"GYRA has a membership of 26 condo buildings, which is home to some 4,000 Torontonians." Said Gee Chung, long serving president of GYRA. "Walk-about are a good way to learn more about the concerns of the people who work and live in Yorkville."

Besides the business task at hand, Alex Stuart, Managing Partner of the Pilot Tavern on Cumberland Street, was also taken aback by what he saw; "what struck me most was the warmth that so many people extended to the Chief and he in turn to them. Chief Blair is much more easily recognized than I thought he might be and it is obvious that many people hold him in very high regard." Alex went on further to say; "All in all it seemed like a win-win day for both the residents, visitors and workers in Yorkville and of course our police officers."

"This is an example of a time and place in which to appreciate the impact of neighbourhood policing." Said Staff Sergeant Peter Henry, of 53 Community Response. "Each business we attended, each community member walking by, knew the names of my beat officers, there was a real sense of community here today."

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CRIME PREVENTION TIP OF THE MONTH

POLICE CONSTABLE TIM SOMERS #90023

416-808-5337

Timothy.Somers@torontopolice.on.ca

Cold Weather and Starting Your Vehicle

During the colder weather, it is common for residents to go outside and start their vehicles to warm them for the commute. They then leave them unattended, while they gather their belongings for the day. Although newer vehicles are equipped with auto starters, some aftermarket units make the vehicle easy to steal. Before you start your car with an auto starter, be aware of the following information.

- Most newer model vehicles are safe to start and leave unattended, simply because the security system prevents the vehicle from being moved unless you have the key or fob.
- If you have an aftermarket unit installed, be sure that the vehicle can not be moved by trying to place the vehicle in drive after placing your foot on the brake pedal.
- Even if your vehicles have a proper, secure starter, be sure you don't leave any valuables, laptops, mobile phones, GPS unit, or money in the vehicle.
- DO NOT start your vehicle with a key and leave it unattended for any reason. Potential thieves are waiting for actions like these to make their job easier.
- If you have any concerns about the security of your starting system, or want to install a vehicle starter, contact a qualified technician to do the work for you.

Use common sense and keep yourself and your property secure.

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TRAFFIC RESPONSE UNIT

53 Division Traffic Response Unit Update, October 2011

In September, the Toronto Police Service conducted two traffic safety campaigns. From September 6th to the 16th, a 'Back to School' campaign was conducted to remind drivers and pedestrians to share the roadways in a safe manner.

Officers were vigilant throughout the division with special attention paid to school zones and the 56 crossings where a Guard is posted.

From September 12th to the 18th, the 'Canada Road Safety Week' blitz was conducted. This campaign is directed at unsafe behaviours that motorists commit with emphasis on distracted driving.

53 Division officers also joined with other police divisions on September 21st to conduct vehicle inspections targeting unsafe commercial vehicles. Officers were joined by Toronto Municipal Licensing Inspectors and officers from the Ministry of the Environment. Commercial vehicles from taxicabs to transport trucks were inspected. At the end of the day 199 vehicle inspections were completed, 148 charges were laid, and one commercial truck driver had his driver's licence suspended for 3 days after failing a breath test.



With the fall season upon us, daylight hours are becoming less. Please take a few minutes and check the condition and cleanliness of the lighting systems and windows on your vehicle. Having a proper working lighting system not only allows you to see better, it allows other vehicles and pedestrians to see you.

Please remember to drive with caution and courtesy, the life you save may be your own!

Regards,
Dale Carter
Sergeant 6920, 53 Division Traffic Response Unit

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PRIMARY RESPONSE UNIT OFFICER PROFILE



PRU officer Profile for the month of October 2011.

PC Nathalie Urbas
Badge # 10741, E Platoon.
Toronto Police Service
Deployed as a new recruit to 53 Division for the past 4 months.

For most of my youth I grew up east of Toronto, and It wasn't until my College years that I moved up north to the country side. I never thought I would like country living but now I can't imagine leaving it. For me It's a nice break from the buzz of the big City.

I went to College in the USA (Sacred Heart University) on a soccer scholarship and majored in Exercise Science/Human Movement with a minor in Psychology. Soccer is a huge part of my life. I've been playing since I was 4 years old and I've gone as far as semi-professional. I still play with a great group of women and I will continue to play as long as I can.

Before becoming a police officer I worked as a personal trainer and youth soccer coach. I also worked very closely with a Division 1 University soccer team training them physically and mentally. I like to show young athletes how far sports can take them in life and how important it is to keep an active, healthy lifestyle.

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I absolutely love being a Police Officer. I grew up watching my father work in Emergency Services as a fire fighter and it was always interesting for me to hear his stories. I love challenges and this job is full of them. Every day is different and I'm always learning. One of the best parts about this job is the team environment. I work with an amazing team. I am very grateful to my peers and supervisors for everything they have done for me. I still have so much to learn but I'm looking forward to the next 30 years of my career!



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE BUREAU
MISSING PERSON ALERT



On September 14, 2009, Mariam Makhniashvili, 17 years of age, went missing without a trace.

Mariam is described as female white, 5'4, 130 lbs, with dark coloured hair (dark brown) usually worn pulled back in a bun. She was last seen wearing Black stretch style pants, blue top, dark coloured jean jacket, wrist watch, grey coloured running shoes (worn looking), carrying a black backpack with a green stripe on the front pocket.

On the date of her disappearance Mariam and her brother George, left their apartment to walk to school. Their school, Forest Hill Collegiate, is a short 2 minute walk from their home. As they approached the school the two parted ways.

Mariam did not make it to school that day.

Since the disappearance, over 6000 persons who live in the area have been canvassed. Investigators have looked into and cleared several hundred tips from the public. Thousands of hours of video has been collected and viewed, all with negative results.

On October 8, 2009 investigators thought they may have a break in the case, when Mariam's backpack was located approximately 2 kilometres away from where she went missing. However, the backpack yielded no further evidence or clues as to Mariam's whereabouts.

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Crime Stoppers tips still trickle into 53 Division and each tip is investigated; however no information that has been received since Mariam's disappearance has given investigators any tangible evidence or valid information.

We need the help of the public and members of the 53 Division community. There is a missing girl out there, a daughter, a sister, and she needs to be located. If you have any information please call D/Sgt Nealon, or crime stoppers to leave an anonymous tip.

D/Sgt Dan Nealon
416-808-5300

Crime Stoppers
416-222-TIPS (8477) or 1-800-222-TIPS

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53 Division Community Police Liaison Committee October 2011

Fall Bike Rodeo!

Our Fall Bike Rodeo held on Sunday October 4th suffered from a wet and dreary day. However despite the rain the young participants had a great time navigating the timed course laid out at the GEARS location in Leaside, and checking their speed with the Police radar gun. An unexpected bonus was the amazing new partnerships begun that bode well for the future. GEARS Bike Shop (<http://www.gearsbikeshop.com/>) was the main partner but others included the Morning Glory Cycling Club (<http://www.mgridetoronto.com/index.html>), the Toronto Cyclists Union (<http://bikeunion.to/about>) and Culturelink (<http://www.culturelink.ca/>). Morning Glory collected over 100 cycles for distribution to needy youth and adults who would like to have a bike. Thanks to Peter Henry and the 53 Division officers for their work on this event.

Thorncliffe Park CPLC subcommittee

The CPLC has approved the establishment of a subcommittee for Thorncliffe Park. This committee models the CPLC interest in community development and community safety. Contact Masood Alam, (malam@ymail.com) if you are a resident of Thorncliffe Park and would be interested in joining the subcommittee.

The Community Bulletin is on the web

The 53 Division Community Bulletin can be accessed on the TPS web site www.torontopolice.on.ca. Go to the home page. On the left side under 'Serving Toronto' click on Find a Unit. At the top drop-down under 'Divisional Policing Command' select 'Central Field' and then '53 Division'. On the 53 Division page click on the Bulletin link on the right side of the page.

53 Division CPLC welcomes your input on community safety issues from all parts of the Division. Please use our new email address at 53DivisionCPLC@torontopolice.on.ca to get in touch with any questions and concerns. Or you can call Anusha Kalansuriya at 416 808-5319.

Have a safe Fall

Geoff Kettel
Community Co-Chair
53 Division CPLC

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Thank you
53 Division
Toronto Police Service