

The Badge



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Drug court saving lives

For years on end, David Gallavan aided and abetted the loss of his soul.

After years of dabbling in the abuse of prescription drugs and petty crime, he went off the precipice and into the abyss of crack cocaine in 2003.

Working as an addictions counsellor at the time, he met a client on the job who introduced him to the drug. In six months, the pair ran through \$70,000 in her savings and defaulted on her mortgage, losing her home.

"It was the worst thing that ever happened to me. It's the devil," Gallavan says, of crack, a scourge that has laid waste to many since it was introduced to Toronto streets in the mid-eighties. "It takes people's very soul, whatever morals you have go out the window."

He found himself in a continuous cycle of drug use, petty crime, jail stints, muscle-wrenching withdrawals and failed attempts at treatment programs. Officers arresting him would often ask why he was destroying himself with drugs.

"When I got into the Percocet, and because money was tight, that's when the crime started. Had I never touched a drug, I would never have been involved in any crime – I know that. Addiction breeds criminal behaviour – it goes hand in hand," Gallavan said, of his theft and fraud-under charges. "Even today, it's very hard to live. I have a hard time living with myself, with my criminal behaviour; it's abhorrent."

The cycle broke when he found himself in the Toronto Drug Treatment Court (TDTC) in 2009.

Everyone in the court, from the judge to Crown to Duty Counsel, acts as a team to ensure that the accused follows a Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH) treatment program. Anyone who enters the court must plead guilty, submit to random urinalysis and participate in treatment to graduate from the court. If they don't, they are sentenced for their crime.

Court officer Rebecca Bowen, who acts as the police liaison officer for the court, said officers have a responsibility to fill out a TPS 481 to outline eligibility for the court when they make a drug arrest.

"Those who are eligible are people who are committing offences to feed their addiction,"



David Gallavan has been clean for two years after graduating from the Toronto Drug Treatment Court program

Bowen says, noting they must be non-violent crimes. "We do have repeat offenders, who are in and out of the court system, who officers know on the street that could benefit."

Bowen says many of officers have changed lives through filling out a TPS 481 since the court was created in 1998.

"If those officers hadn't made those referrals, these people would not have gotten the help they needed," Bowen said.

In Old City Hall courtroom 116, the clients stand before the judge who asks them about their drug use and expects honest answers whether they've slipped

"That was the beginning of a brand new chapter in my life," Gallavan says, of entering the drug court, quickly noting his new path started with a stumble.

Directly after walking out onto Queen St. W., he found the closest liquor store and was caught stealing a few bottles he intended to sell to score crack.

"I was caught and back in jail within an hour," Gallavan says, shaking his head. "Crack consumes you. I can't get my head around it today."

Justice Bentley gave him another chance and he ended up in jail again.

It would be his third time

want to make that judge proud of them."

Gallavan responded to that investment.

"Within a few days, I started taking it very seriously. I started to believe in myself because they believed in me. It's only gotten better and better and better," says Gallavan, who has been clean for two years.

Gallavan spent almost two years in the court process though, typically, graduates spend over a year to complete the program. A total of sixteen people completed it this year.

Cuff says the strength of the court is its multi-disciplinary

It's a tough schedule for people who have been beholden to only their addiction for years at a time, says Drug Treatment Court Crown's office paralegal Rosalie Camacho.

At first, the clients have two court dates a week and three treatment appointments. Strategies are developed to stay free of drugs by addressing the triggers for use in group sessions. And stability is sought through life-skills sessions, ensuring safe housing and connecting them to programs that meet their specific needs, whether as a woman, someone with mental health issues or a client who needs literacy skills. Just getting clients stable housing results in 64% of people staying in the program.

"Most of our clients have experienced a lot of pain in their lives," Cuff says, of childhood trauma, losing family members or afflicted by mental health issues. She said the drugs they use, which provide a rush of chemicals through the brain, are an escape from that pain. "We have to help them find more effective ways of dealing with life, of accomplishing what the drug does for them."

Camacho says the treatment steers clients away from the triggers and, ultimately, the justice system.

"These are things that can be worked out in treatment so they won't go back to the people, places and things that would trigger them to use."

The bottom line is they are all human and deserving of another opportunity to pull their lives together, Camacho says.

The court boasts over 150

"It takes people's very soul, whatever morals you have go out the window"

-David Gallavan

along the way.

Gallavan found himself marched into Old City Hall once again, chained to two other prisoners, in August 2009. For some reason, on that day, it bothered him deeply.

"When my turn came for duty counsel to speak, I asked 'your honour, can I speak?'" Gallavan recounts. "I was at my wits' end. I tried recovery three times at that point. I didn't know what to do. I kind of threw my hands up and said 'Your honour, my criminal behaviour is because of a drug addiction and I desperately need help.'"

Shortly thereafter, he found himself in the drug treatment court before Justice Paul Bentley, who founded the court because of the revolving door of criminals he witnessed each day at Old City Hall – fuelled by drug use.

before Bentley in the court, when Gallavan seemed to lift from his drug-seeking fog.

"I remember Judge Bentley saying 'call me stupid, but I see something in you that I think you can do this.'"

There are over 2,400 drug courts in the U.S. and one of the main factors attributed to their success is the relationship between the client and the judge, says CAMH TDTC manager Robin Cuff.

"It's a conversation (with the judge) that really dispels the thought in the client's mind that the judge is removed and up above them," she says. If someone with that much authority and power believes in them and sees them as a human being, treats as them as a person and doesn't just talk through lawyers, it makes a huge difference. They really do

approach to getting people free of their addictions.

"We really do surround the client with a lot of services and specialities and a lot of goodwill," Cuff says, noting that the Crown and Judge respect the voice of addiction treatment specialists even if they don't always agree. "The treatment voice is valued in those meetings."

Each court day, a pre-court session is held with representatives from police, probation, CAMH, the Crown, Duty Counsel and Judge hash out each case and what each client has to address in court.

"The program works on the basis of them being accountable and honest about their drug use, so it's very different from the normal court system," she said, of the bail condition to report all drug uses.

Drug court cont. page 5



Bradley Brown holds the police truncheon in the Toronto Police Museum at headquarters

Police club finds way back to Service

The Toronto Police Museum accepts many donations each year, some monetary, some police memorabilia. Bradley Brown donated a truncheon, or billy club, used by Toronto police in the late 1800s.

In the late 1800s instruction from the Chief Constable of Rochdale to his men: “Truncheons are supplied for the purpose of protection of oneself if violently assaulted. To be drawn & used in the case of being overpowered by a prisoner, or crowd of assisting such prisoner to escape from custody. Also used to summon for help when help was required to restrain a difficult suspect. Care must be taken to strike no person in the head. The arms, legs are to be aimed at, with a view to disabling but in such a way as to inflict no serious injury to the person. The use of the Truncheon is to be resorted only in extreme cases, when all other attempts at peaceable arrest have failed & the constable is likely to be overpowered.”

Brown recounts the story of how the truncheon ended up in his family:

My grandfather, Wilfred G. Baker, ran a bingo hall at the corner of Markham and Bloor Sts. above a Tip Top Tailors store and across the street from Honest Ed’s. The doorway was an impressive white archway over which was inscribed “The Society of Truth Church.” The archway remains to this day, without reference to the church.

My grandfather belonged to the Midtown Lions Club, as did Ed Mirvish, Moe (Maurice) Singer of Singer’s Cigar Store and Peter of Peter’s Restaurant (now a part of Honest Ed’s). Everybody knew everybody and it was a very friendly and social environment. As I recall, Singer’s was the place to go to bet on the horses.

Bingos were run on Tuesday and Friday

afternoons and Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The clientele was mostly (if not exclusively) women who came to shop at Honest Ed’s and then play bingo. I recall that there used to be line-ups waiting for Honest Ed’s to open. My grandfather called the numbers and my grandmother managed the cash receipts from the sale of bingo cards (25 cents each).

I went to school at UTS at the corner of Bloor and Spadina and, every Tuesday and Friday after school, I would go to the hall and sell pop (five cents a bottle) and then help him sweep the floors, reset the chairs and tables and clean the washrooms. He paid me \$1 an hour which was a lot in those days.

A block north on Markham, at the corner of London Street, was the #11 Police Station. My grandfather ran many bingos as fundraisers for the officers there. Bingo was a cash business and, every day and evening, he would take home a large satchel full of cash. For protection I believe it was Chief James Mackey who gave my grandfather an old police billy so he could protect himself from would-be burglars.

One day he was attacked and pistol-whipped, but my grandmother mustered up a once-in-a-lifetime scream that scared them away (and probably awakened the dead in three counties or more). When, in the late 50s or early 60s, bingo was decided to be a sin, or gambling, or something equally evil, Grandfather’s bingo hall was shut down and he retired. He decided he didn’t need the billy any more and gave it to me as a keepsake.

I am honoured to be able to give it back from whence it came - the Metropolitan Toronto Police.

Anyone thinking of making a donation of police memorabilia can call the Toronto Police Museum at 416-808-7020.

Well-grown fundraising effort



Supt. Frank Bergen was one of the many fundraisers at 55 Division including the women, or Mosistas of the Division. Movember sees men grow moustaches to raise awareness and fundraise for Prostate Cancer Canada. The MOPO-TO-Bergen 55 Hairs team raised \$21,910, second overall in the country behind the Burnaby Police Fuzz team with \$23,066. Nearly \$250,000 was raised by officers across the country.

Volunteering to help victims

Comforting his sister when she needed a friendly ear to listen to paid huge dividends for Roman Dabrowski.

As a victim services volunteer with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Canmore, Alberta, Gabriella Dawbrowski would often relate to her brother, some of the tragic events and circumstances she witnessed.

“We used to talk at nights and, if she had had a particularly rough shift, she would blow off some steam and I would listen to her,” said her brother.

“One day, she asked me if I ever thought about volunteering with Victim Services and, when I said I hadn’t, she challenged me to try.”

Levine presented Leadership Excellence Awards to outgoing chair and lawyer Lauri Reesor and Brian Moniz, who has been a board member for the past seven years.

Reesor is moving from an associate to a Hicks Morley partner in the Toronto law of fice, which advises a wide variety of public and private sector clients on labour relations and employment issues.

“Lauri is an extremely talented and gifted intellectual,” Levine said.

“She has been my constant source of information, guidance and support while working through many difficult issues. I have learnt so much from her.”

The vice-chair for the past six



Roman Dabrowski and Sarah Rogers

After careful consideration, the video security surveillance and telecommunications specialist checked out Victim Services Toronto (VST) and put in his application.

“That was three years ago and here I am today,” said Dabrowski, who was presented with the VST Sandy Cappadocia Volunteer of the Year Award at the non-profit or ganization’s 16th annual general meeting and volunteer recognition ceremony on Dec 6.

“It’s extremely nice to be recognized for volunteering because I just like to do what I can to give back and help out.”

Cappadocia was a 10-year VST volunteer, who succumbed to brain cancer in December 2005, at age 33.

VST Volunteer Resources and Teens Ending Abusive Relationships (TEAR) manager Sarah Rogers said Dabrowski epitomizes Cappadocia’s qualities and is a worthy recipient.

“Roman is an example of a true team player,” added Rogers, who made the presentation to Dabrowski.

“He’s reliable, dependable and always willing to lend a hand when needed. Not only has Roman generously dedicated his time to the crisis team, but he has assisted Victim Services in receiving donations for our silent auction and helped raise awareness for this incredible agency.”

VST provides crisis response, trauma and support services to victims of crime and sudden tragic circumstances 24 hours daily.

Supervised by crisis counselors, volunteers provide crisis intervention and referrals, assist on the telephone or attend the scene as requested and also aid with fundraising and other community outreach initiatives.

VST executive director Bonnie

years, Moniz also served as corporate secretary.

Levine said Moniz is one of the sharpest strategic thinkers she has ever worked with.

“Not only is he incredibly smart, but he’s also highly motivated with an unbelievable work ethic,” she said.

“He gets the task done with professionalism, integrity and plain hard work. Simply put, Brian has been an incredible gift to this agency.”

Levine was also on the receiving end of a charitable gift, as organizers of this year’s 27th annual David Dunmore Memorial Slo-Pitch charity tournament presented a cheque for \$22,000 to VST.

The funds were raised from this year’s competition, which attracted 226 teams from Ontario and the United States.

Const. Dunmore was fatally gunned down in Etobicoke on Sept. 18, 1984 when he and his partner tried to pull over a stolen vehicle driven by an 18-year-old dressed in combat wear. The teen was killed in a shootout with police.

Sgt. Bart Evans and Det. David Knowles of 22 Division made the presentation to Levine.

“One of the great things about having really solid partners is that you really can lean and rely on each other,” she said. “These are some partners we have leaned on quite heavily for a number of years. They have supported this organization in such an incredible way.”

In the keynote address, VST director of programs Bobbie McMurrich praised the volunteers and the award recipients.

“We have seen a lot of people come and go, but it never ceases to amaze me at the longevity of so many,” said McMurrich, who joined the organization two decades ago.

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A revolver seized in the project is displayed to the media as senior officers look on

Marvel to maintain peace in northwest end

Police in the northwest end of the city will be on guard to ensure no one fills the gap left by the roundup of alleged gang members.

Acting Deputy Chief Jeff McGuire said Project Marvel revealed a criminal network wreaking havoc on neighbourhoods in both 23 and 31 Divisions.

"There's such a small group of people that are causing such severe havoc and upsetting the ability of people to raise their children, run their businesses and work in the city of Toronto," McGuire said, at a Dec. 14 press conference at 23 Division, where investigators displayed evidence including cash and guns.

"We want to ensure that those vacancies aren't quickly filled."

The investigation led to the arrest of 47 adults who now face 396 charges, ranging from firearms and drug possession to participation in a criminal organization. Eight young offenders also face 34 similar charges.

Coordinated daybreak warrants

Police also seized \$110,000 over the course of the project; \$95,000 was seized during warrants in Toronto. Over 2.75 kilos of cocaine, 332 grams of marijuana and 32 grams of MDMA were also seized.

Organized Crime Enforcement Supt. Chris White said the project, led by officers in the Integrated Gun and Gang Task Force, has disrupted a large criminal network.

"We're confident we've made a dent in the organized crime that has been plaguing these communities," White said, in front of a dozen handguns and an M-15 rifle seized during the investigation.

"The investigation continues; we have some unfinished business we need to investigate."

Project Marvel was named because

gang members swept up in the raids used comic-book characters as nicknames.

Both 23 and 31 Divisions will deploy more uniformed officers to the neighbourhoods.

Supt. Ron Taverner, of 23 Division, said the plan is to create more police partnerships in the community.

"We are working in partnership with our community. It's an important piece of what we'll be doing going forward.

We have tremendous support from the

"We're confident we've made a dent in the organized crime that has been plaguing these communities"

-Supt. Chris White

community. It's overwhelming the number of calls commending the police for this particular project," Taverner said.

"From a community perspective everyone is safer."

Both Divisions will deploy officers to distribute pamphlets to raise awareness on why the takedown occurred, and what community members can do to partner with police to make their neighbourhood safer.

31 Division Supt. David McLeod said the project was made possible because of

intelligence gleaned at the community level. He said the solution, moving forward, also relies on police and community partnership.

"We've developed a plan to ensure officers are highly visible in the community so that our communities remain safe."

He said police will also work on completing safety audits of neighbourhoods to improve practical crime prevention such as lighting or placement of security cameras.

Insp. Randy Carter, 31 Division, said community members will also be encouraged to report new gang activity in their neighbourhood, whether drug dealing or graffiti.

"We want to have deliberate conversations with their kids. Their kids may have associated with some of the people now under arrest. We're here to make sure they don't follow that culture and we break that cycle," Carter said, of young people who may be on the brink of a criminal lifestyle.

"There's a great opportunity now to break that apart. If we didn't do that, other people would take the place of the same bad guys we would put in jail."

London Police Service D/Supt. Bill Merrylees, Ontario Provincial Police D/Insp. Steve Clegg and Canadian Border Services Agency Chief of Intelligence Operations Jerry Jesso also spoke at the news conference, as partners in the investigation.

"This investigation is a great example of what the collaboration between law enforcement agencies can do to suppress and disrupt criminal street gangs and get crime guns off the street," Clegg said.

"Crime guns remain on the streets forever, transferring from one criminal to the other."

Clegg said that the investigation is also an example of how effective the established partnerships between police agencies can stop crime across jurisdictions.

Serving Canada in Afghanistan

Det. Darryl Talbot fulfilled a life-long dream to travel overseas and serve his country. The 43 Division Major Crime Detective spent nine months in Afghanistan last year as part of an international coalition to help establish a stable police service. He was the only Canadian among 25 law enforcers in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)-led Major Crime Task Force that mentored and advised Afghan police investigators and senior command officers. The agency was located in a small compound just north of Kabul. Talbot was assigned to the Corruption Investigation Unit.

Training, mentoring

“One of my major tasks was to try to build capacity through training and mentoring to ensure they were competent in their policing and investigative roles,” he pointed out. “I also mentored high-ranking officers, assisted in their leadership building and guided junior officers in their investigations while building on their skills.” Talbot said the Afghan police face many hurdles in keeping themselves and citizens safe. “I equate the challenge to turning a big ship,” he said. “It takes a long time but eventually through hard work, they will get to that point.

Corruption is so ingrained in the society and they have to overcome that before they can have an effective police service.” Talbot joined the Service in 1990 after spending three years with the Canadian Armed Forces as a vehicle technician. “I always wanted to be a police officer and I used the military as a stepping stone,” he pointed out. “I never had the opportunity to leave Canada when I was with the military to travel outside the country to work.” The married father of two relished the quality time he spent with his family over the holidays, before returning to work on Jan 2 as a 43 Division PRU platoon Sgt. “I consider myself very fortunate to have the support of my loving family as it is key when one makes a decision to go away from home for such a long time,” he added. “My sons are 17 and 18 and they were able to support their mother while I was away. I was also able to Skype with them almost on a daily basis.” Talbot spent five weeks in Ottawa training with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian military before being deployed last Feb 18. He had to wait for his deployment because positions had been cut. Talbot was promoted eight years ago, after starting his policing career at 33 Division.



Some snapshots of daily life in Kabul: Above, Afghan officers patrol on scooter. At right, a man delivers fresh naan.



Talbot with two other Canadian officers stationed at his camp, RCMP Cpl. Thomas Dimopoulos and Edmonton Police Service Sgt. Ken Brander

Forensics clear cold case investigation

No matter how long it takes, we will catch you. That was Toronto Police Service D/Sgt. Steve Ryan’s direct message to killers on the run after police laid murder charges in December in a 30-year-old cold case. On June 23, 1981, the lifeless body of Donna Proian was discovered in her downtown residence. The cause of death was asphyxiation due to strangulation. Edward Westergard was arrested and charged with the brutal murder. The 60-year-old is in a federal penitentiary for the 1994 murder of a Mississauga woman. “You may think you have gotten away with a homicide, but in fact you haven’t and you won’t because the scientific technology is so great that we will catch you,” Ryan, who heads the Service’s Cold Case section, said at a press conference at police headquarters. “It may take time – in this case 30 years – but we will catch up to you.” Ryan credited the forensic scientists and the dedication of all the officers who have worked on the file over the years for cracking the case.



D/Sgt Steve Ryan announces the charges

“It may take time – in this case 30 years – but we will catch up to you”

- D/Sgt. Steve Ryan

“The fact that we are here today is testament to the quality of police work that I believe has been done since the initial investigation dating back to 1981,” he added. “The contributions of efforts of the Centre for Forensic Science were instrumental in the conclusion we have come to today. “...The quality of this investigation right from 1981 through the hands of all the cold-case officers up until we looked at it has been outstanding. It is as a result of the work that they have done that allowed us to re-submit this piece of evidence and, through the Centre for Forensic Science, we were able to lay charges.” Ryan said he hopes that Westergard’s arrest will provide comfort to the relatives of cold-case victims. “We, as investigators, never give up or forget your loved ones,” he said. At the same press conference, Det. Sgt. Brian Borg announced that two arrests were made in the Nov. 29 murder of Leanne Freeman. Joseph Beauregard, 31, of Whitby, was charged with first degree murder while 20-year-old Toronto resident Jonathan Ash

was charged with accessory after the fact in the murder of Freeman, who was shot and found on Unwin Ave. “The investigation is not complete and I encourage anyone with information to come forward and provide assistance,” said Borg, who thanked the public for their assistance and support with the case. **Homicide clearance high** The Homicide Squad has achieved a 65% murder solve rate over 2011 compared with about 50% the year before. There were 46 murders in the city in 2011. Unit commander S/Insp. Mark Saunders said he’s extremely proud of the commitment, dedication and persistence of his team and the community support they are receiving. “This has been a great year for us and that has to do with the excellent work of our men and women and the co-operation of the community,” he said. “Keep doing what you are doing and continue to help us with these murder investigations. You have our promise that, if you help, we will solve these cases.”

Neighbourhood groups to help create safe streets

Frontline cops are visiting different neighbourhoods in 31 Division, as part of a pilot project to find out concerns about crime and help residents create safer streets.

Toronto Police 31 Division has established a Neighbourhood Community Police Liaison Committee (NCPLC) to supplement the role of the Community Police Liaison Committees (CPLC). All 17 police Divisions have a CPLC to provide advice and assistance to the local unit commander, and work in partnership with local police towards safe

CPLC structure and make recommendations aimed at improving their operation as it relates to crime prevention and problem solving.

"This is not a revolutionary idea," said McLeod, the 31 Division unit commander. "It's just simply formalising something that, in some cases, we have been doing for a very long time."

He said some residents don't feel comfortable coming to CPLC meetings because they are held in a police station. Others simply don't have access to transportation to

biggest challenge with shifting meetings to the neighbourhoods. He's confident, however, that the hurdle can be overcome.

"When I was at 13 Division, we initially encountered those trepidations but, as time went on and trust developed, we found that it worked itself out," he said. "There are those people who are never going to go to the central Divisional CPLCs anyway, but we found that people in neighbourhoods ultimately started coming to the meetings and I expect the same thing here."

He said police will be persistent in marketing the meetings and identifying the leaders, allies and sponsors in the community who will draw out more residents.

Work with existing CPLC

McLeod said the new body will have a connection to the existing CPLCs comprising community service volunteers and police representatives within the local Divisions.

"To do that, we are going to have representatives from the NCPLC come to the Divisional CPLC at least four times a year," he said. "In doing that, it will bring them all together in one place so they can hear what others are doing. They will also be able to offer support to the satellite neighbourhood CPLC."

Insp. Randy Carter, the second in command at 31 Division, is confident the new community strategy will work.

"This is something we see as an opportunity for us to get into neighbourhoods and make it more convenient for people to participate and develop strategies for their safety," said Carter. "We can have far less success in solving neighbourhood safety problems and issues when we do it alone. We absolutely need neighbourhoods to tell us what the problems are and to help us develop solutions for those problems."

The neighbourhoods in 31 Division slated to have NCPLCs are Humber Summit, Black Creek, York University Heights, Humbermede, Glenfield Jane Heights, Downsview-Roding CFB and Pelmo Park Humberlea.

Those interested in finding out more about their local NCPLC, how to become a member, or get their organization involved, can visit the 31 Division website: www.torontopolice.on.ca/d31 and click on CPLC. The first meeting takes place on Jan. 18 at Downsview Public Library, 2793 Keele St., starting at 7 p.m.



Supt. Dave McLeod and Insp. Randy Carter plot neighbourhood committees

and secure communities.

In addition to encouraging greater public participation in the identification and resolution of crime and disorder, the new NCPLC will assist with measures designed to reduce crime and provide educational information and practical assistance on community crime prevention.

The expectation is that training in crime prevention safety audits, identifying neighbourhood resources, helping to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, co-hosting of events, ensuring that local officers know residents' concerns and getting to know neighbourhood officers are some of the benefits that will be derived from the NCPLC.

The initiative emerged from a request made by retired Deputy Chief Kim Derry to Supt. David McLeod to review the existing

make the meetings.

"There are some folks who are just not comfortable standing in these kinds of forums and telling the police in the midst of everyone else about a specific problem they are experiencing in their neighbourhood," McLeod said. "So they may attend but, ultimately, after an hour of discussion, the most articulate in the group will have their issues addressed and will monopolise the meeting."

He said some community members will take an officer aside at the end of the meeting to talk about their concerns.

"I have come to the conclusion that we can retain what we have at the Divisional level but, at the same time, move the meetings to the neighbourhoods."

McLeod said residents' interaction with police in their own communities will be the

Be wary of counterfeits

If the price sounds too good to be true, it probably is. With an increase in counterfeit products flooding the market, Toronto officers are warning consumers to be extremely vigilant as they make purchases.

Several fake products, including an iPhone 4 were displayed at a press conference at police headquarters, as the Service's Financial Crimes Unit rolled out a new public awareness program and an updated webpage (torontopolice.on.ca/financialcrimes).

"Shy away from buying products on eBay and Craigslist unless you can actually see the product before you make the purchase," 55 Division Det. Rob Whalen said.

"For those shopping for an iPhone, you want to go to an authorized dealer like Bell, Rogers or Apple.

"I am aware that a lot of people are shopping on the internet and there are a lot of websites that will help consumers make the differentiation between real and fake products," Whalen said.

"Some of them will also give a list of eBay sellers that are known to sell counterfeit items," he said.

"If you had an iPhone 4, the second you open a box, you can tell it's fake. If you have never had one before, you probably won't be able to tell until you try to turn it on. That's how good the counterfeiters are these days."

S/Insp. Bryce Evans said the Service is



Police display knock-off purses, printer ink and iPhones

committed to protecting citizens from all types of crimes.

"With the growing use of advanced technology, the world has become smaller to everyone, including the criminals," he said.

"The Financial Crimes Unit, in partnership with the private and public sectors in our community, is dedicated to combating these offenders. Our goal is to make it difficult for them to conduct business in our city."

Most wanted

Their new webpage includes the Top 10 "Most Wanted" for financial crimes, as well as crime-prevention tips.

"In an effort to make our message more

accessible and meaningful, we have turned to a social media strategy," Evans said.

"This modern method will have information filtered to all communities via our internet webpage, Twitter and Facebook. Users of the service will receive first-hand knowledge from an actual criminal investigator regarding a variety of financial crimes."

Det. Gail Regan spoke of the devastating effect financial crimes could have on individuals and families.

"People lose their jobs and homes from crimes like this," she said.

"They go on the internet and give out information not realizing it might end up in the wrong hands. Exercise caution. Be very careful when using your personal information on the internet," she said.

Drug Court saving lives

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graduates, but Camacho believes the impact has been far greater.

"Just because someone doesn't graduate from the program doesn't mean they're a failure," she says, of those who relapse into drug use during treatment. "The longer someone is in the program or in a treatment setting... they have the connections there to get back to it."

Cuff agrees. The process builds on itself, even if the program is not completed the first time.

"It's a journey... Everyone has their own process and in their own time; nothing we do with them is lost, nothing is a waste," she says. "How many of us want to change things about ourselves and we never take the first step. They are taking the first, second, third and fourth steps."

Gallavan is amazed at the effect that treatment had on him, as well as those with whom he went through the program.

"I remember thinking 'oh my god, these people are lost, they're gone, they're walking shells, zombies,'" he says. "I sit with them, today, transformed."

Cuff, who has spent 20 months with the court and worked in addiction treatment since 1999, says she is amazed by the clients she meets daily.

"I'm absolutely privileged to work with the clients," said Cuff. "They have no reason at all to trust the system."

She says they finally submit to treatment for a myriad of reasons, sometimes threats from loved ones to shut them out, sometimes from sheer exhaustion of their lifestyle.

"Family and children are big motivations for our clients," she says.

Gallavan is motivated to reconnect with his daughters one day. Two are in post-secondary education, another in high school. None has repeated their father's mistakes.

"The first month I got clean I took them aside and I said, 'Girls, I'm so sorry for what I put you through and I want you go and spread your wings and the next time we'll have any contact will be you guys contacting me,'" he says, noting birthdays, father's day and Christmas all passed since the pledge. "It hasn't happened, but it will because I'll stay clean."

He says he "white-knuckled" through the first year of sobriety, and is now content to endure the daily grind of staying clean. He plans to study in a peer-support program in the Spring and work in the social work field.

"I thought my soul was gone... drug court allowed me to get some of that back. It's a work-in-progress every day. Every week I feel a bit better about myself. I wouldn't have a chance if I wasn't clean and that's because of drug court. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be here."

New police-community canvas for east-end skate park

Police and the community created graffiti murals on a city-owned canvas despoiled by illegal graffiti.

Humber College alumni graffiti artists Kyle Howard and Max Sawka were recruited by 55 Division Const. Aggrey Koech to turn the concrete ramps into works of art to dissuade illegal taggers.

“The community associated the graffiti with crime and drugs,” Koech said, of the skateboard area that didn’t deserve the negative reputation as it draws many well-meaning kids to the park.

Howard noted the park was spotted with ugly graffiti. “It was covered in illegal tags and bombs,” he said.

“It was a vicious cycle of the city painting them over and getting hit again.”

Both Sawka and Howard hope to enlist young people to help create more murals in the spring and dissuade them from criminal tagging.

“It’s not easy finding a place to do graffiti – that’s why it’s so often done illegally,” Howard said.

Sawka said the city needs to harness the skills of artists, commending police for facilitating the work.

“It’s a way to take those skills and passion and do it legally,” said Sawka, who tagged illegally in his youth. “We want to show that there is an outlet for great work.” “It shows that graffiti and police can co-exist.”

He said seeing Const. Koech

interact with the kids at the park is a great benefit to the project.

“They don’t have to see the police as adversaries.”

are made at the park.

“There is some amazing talent here,” said Sawka, who skates himself. “I wish I had this skate

Both 55 Division unit commander Supt. Frank Ber gen and Beaches-East York MP Matthew Kellway gave the artists letters of

community members has breathed new life into their work, which became challenging over November as cold and rain set in.



A skateboarder manages to bridge the gap between two new murals at a Coxwell Ave. skateboard park

Some of the tags, still hidden in nooks and behind ramps, reinforce the adversarial role, making references to rats who snitch to police. Koech hopes the taggers respect the murals.

The graffiti is infused with Toronto references to showcase the city when pictures and videos

park around when I was a kid.”

City Waterfront parks manager James Dann said the graffiti was marring an otherwise successful park. “It’s a great park and well used – any day of the year without snow on the ground this park is full of skateboarders,” Dann said.

thanks for their ongoing efforts to help the community.

Captain Rick Towey, of the Royal Regiment of Canada, expressed thanks to the artists for creating a reference to Canadian soldiers, with a Canadian flag mural on a grind ramp.

Sawka said the thanks for

“We had some days when we really didn’t want to be here. But, now seeing this, we’re so excited by it.” Sgt. Dale Corra said the park will be used for more interaction between youth and police – most likely for a skateboard tournament. “This will be a continuing success story.”

Striking chord with students

Canadian pop musician Robb Nash spoke to high school students in Toronto to remind them the value of making positive choices.

The rock star has put his successful musical career on hold to reach out to young people across the country, sharing his incredible story while reminding them that the choices they make will determine their fate.

Nash has found a willing partner to deliver his message to the kids that need it the most. In collaboration with the Toronto Police, Nash spoke at an 11 Division Community Police Liaison Committee town hall meeting and at five Toronto District School Board (TDSB) schools in December.

“We started out on our own, but partnering with the Toronto Police allows us to go into schools where there are urgent needs,” Nash said. “This is a perfect fit.”

Life-altering accident

When in Grade 12, the Winnipeg-born rocker was involved in a serious accident when the car his friend was driving slammed into a semi-truck on an icy road. Pronounced dead by paramedics at the scene, Nash’s vital signs returned on his way to the morgue and he emerged from a coma several weeks later.

“At 17 years old, I had not done anything with my life before that accident,” he told students at Western Technical Commercial School where he and his band, Live on Arrival, played.

“I had a second chance and I wanted to make the most of it. I also want other young people to do the same. I don’t want you to get hit by a semi-truck like I did before you realize your purpose and destiny.”

Nash also used the platform to speak out against bullying. He said 23 students have handed him suicide notes during vis-

its to schools in the past three months.

He and his band members plan to visit 150 schools across Canada by next May.

“I am certain there were students who were scared to come to school today and that sucks,” Nash said.

“It would absolutely destroy us as a band if after leaving here today, we found out one of you guys got killed or something bad happened.”

In addition to visiting schools, Nash and his band members spend three days a month at youth detention centres.

“We are not trying to change the world,” he said.

“We are just trying to create world changers...The Toronto Police and your teachers allowed us to come here because they care for you guys. Just think about what you guys could do. There are enough of you here to completely change this city, province and country if you want to, but it’s going to start with your own school.”

For the past three years, Const. Rob Tajti of 11 Division has been running the Music! Not Mischief program that provides TDSB students with lunchtime guitar lessons and pro-community, anti-crime and anti-drug messages.

ProAction Cops & Kids, a charity that funds initiatives pairing youth with police, sponsors the program while Carparelli Guitars provides the musical instruments.

“We know that music engages young people, so to have Robb and his group come here and play for the kids while delivering his message is real powerful and uplifting,” said Tajti, who has been with the Service for the past 22 years.

The Rotary Club of Toronto was a partner in Nash’s one-week visit to Toronto.

“As a police officer, I have had opportunities to witness many positive interactions between youth in our city with cops supported by members of both the private and public sectors,” S/Insp. Bryce Evans said.



Robb Nash performs at Western Technical Commercial School

“Robb delivered hard-hitting presentations peppered with powerful music, candid commentary about life and an emotional video that focused on drugs, alcohol, bullying and teen suicide urging young people to take charge of their lives.

“The message was so powerful that it prompted a student who was contemplating suicide to come forward and seek professional help. Supported by the school administration and family, that student is now receiving professional care.”

Ready for rubble



Ranger flies through an obstacle course at Police Dog Services

You can teach an old dog new tricks.

Four-year-old police dog Ranger moved from a general purpose dog to a search-and-rescue pro over the course of five weeks.

Ranger was needed to join the Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) Canadian Task Force 3 team, along with handler Sgt. Scott Fowlds. The Toronto team, made up of Toronto Fire Services, Emergency Medical Service, the Toronto Police Service and other City of Toronto personnel, is designed to respond to environmental and man-made disasters such as the tornado that touched down in Goderich this summer.

Fowlds is the liaison officer for the canine contribution to the HUSAR team, which includes four search-and-rescue and one cadaver dog.

Lead instructor Dave O’Brien said search-and-rescue dogs are tasked to go where humans can’t, to search for survivors.

behaviours in which they initially trained him.

“He loses interest once he realizes there is no reward,” O’Brien said, of the use of a rubber toy to drive the dogs. “To ensure it was true, we would place cadavers close to a live person hiding and the dog quickly learned to ignore those odours and go right to the live person. We want them focused on saving people’s lives.” This was also done for the other profiles.

Size, strength for job

As far as aggression, Fowlds reports his 85-pound dog has never bitten anyone on the job. His strength, size and bark were enough to stop suspects.

“He would sometimes stand on their head and bark,” Fowlds said. “He never tried to bite anyone.”

As those being rescued will often reach out for the dog, O’Brien and Fowlds put their own hands on the line to ensure he’d never bite while barking. Fowlds said Ranger was more likely to lick you on the face. He noted that, for the most part, dogs read human behaviour and aggression well.

Dogs versatile in rubble

“In search and rescue, the handler can’t go where the dog would go, so he has to have a strong desire to surmount these obstacles on his own. He’ll have to climb up, over and through rubble piles,” O’Brien said.

“Their desires and drives have to be stronger than a regular police dog because they are on shaky stuff. The dog has to be very confident in his abilities.”

He said the dogs alert handlers within at least 30 seconds, or barking, before moving on to their next find.

Before training began on Ranger, O’Brien and Fowlds had to remove profiles from his repertoire, including article search, cadaver search and aggression. They undid Ranger’s interest in the three by not rewarding the past

He said Ranger is ideal for search and rescue as he’s a very determined, strong and independent. This serves him well on a rubble pile as he will only have directional commands from his handler on where to search and will have to surmount obstacles on his own. Ranger trained on an Ontario Provincial Police site that simulates a disaster, as well as in construction areas and rock piles to give him exposure to unsteady ground.

“He’s a high-drive dog who wants to find people,” said Fowlds, who also has a black Labrador retriever, Storm, as a bomb detection dog. “He is not afraid of unstable surfaces like most dogs are.”

Police dogs remembered for loyal service

Police Dog Services officers mourned the loss of three serving police dogs lost to illness in the latter half of 2010 as well as a retired dog.

Nine-year-old Labrador retriever Cyprus succumbed to an illness in October. The dog came of age along with the province’s Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Canada Task Force 3 team, formally being put into action in 2005 with handler Const. Sandra Manson then re-assigned to Sgt. Kathy Vellend-Taylor in 2007.

Cyprus succumbed to illness in October after serving, along with his handler Sgt. Kathy Vellend-Taylor, with the HUSAR team most recently in the aftermath of the tornado that hit Goderich, Ontario in August. The F3 tornado cut a 500-metre-wide swath through the small town, levelling buildings and killing one.

“He is going to be missed; he had a difficult job to do,” S/Sgt Max Carter said of Cyprus, who was trained to search for trapped people and bark when he found someone.

“He was able to stay with the victim to provide them comfort.”

In the case of Goderich, Cyprus helped clear the buildings, some too badly damaged for police to enter.

“They really are focused. They don’t worry about the environment they’re in once you set them on the goal to find human scent. They do this to please and all for a simple reward of a toy,” Carter said.

On a day-to-day basis, Cyprus was used by the TPS to find missing or suicidal people.

He said the loss of Cyprus and Vellend-Taylor as a team will take years

to replace.

“It takes at least one to two years until they feel confident and comfortable as a team,” Carter said, of the unspoken bond formed between handler and dog.

Cyprus was the third death of a serving police dog this year, which is an uncommon spate of unrelated illnesses.

General patrol dog Luke and narcotics and firearms detector dog Keno both succumbed to illnesses. Both dogs were both assigned to Const. Eric Hembruff.

Police Dog Services mourned the loss of two serving dogs recently.

General patrol dog Luke and narcotics and firearms detector dog Keno both succumbed to illnesses.

The dogs were assigned to Const. Eric Hembruff.

“It’s tough for Eric, especially losing both dogs at the same time” training Sgt. Paul Caissie said.

“To lose two dogs affected us for our strength as well as the good work we do on a day-to-day basis.”

He said police dogs are true partners in public safety.

“This was not only a great loss to Eric, but also to our Dog Services family and the entire Service.”

Luke, an energetic and loyal German Shepherd, was getting close to retirement as a nine-year-old.

Hembruff was assigned Luke in 2007.

“As a result of Eric’s hard work and determination, he was identified as a candidate for a specially trained narcotics detection dog,” Caissie said, of taking on Keno as a partner the next year and two months of additional training.

The confident Springer Spaniel and Hembruff swiftly became an efficient

operational and production team with many seizures of contraband under their belts.

“Keno was a very young dog in the program; they can go 10 years in the field,” Caissie said, of the detector dogs. Keno was six years old.

“It’s uncommon to lose dogs during their tenure on the job. It’s always a tough day.”

Caissie said Police Dog Services is responsible for many great seizures of drugs and narcotics as well as the capture of suspects and clearing of public spaces to ensure safety.

“Every day I’m reminded of the great work these dogs do.”

Bosco, who served with the Police Dog Services for four years, was euthanized on Nov. 3 after suffering from degenerative lumbosacral disease, a compression of the nerve roots in the lower part of the spine.

“He was just a wonderful and hard-working dog,” said Detective Darren Sisk, who now works at 12 Division.

“He was very aggressive when he was on the job but, when it came time for demonstrations for school kids, he was very lovable. It was amazing how he could switch his personality to suit the occasion. My two young kids grew up with this gentle giant.”

Sisk, who has been with the Service for 23 years, said working with Bosco for four years has been the highlight of his policing career.

“As a police officer, you have your own hunches that you follow when you are on duty,” said Sisk. “But, when you are with a dog, you have to put your fate and trust in that animal and just follow it.”



Bosco in a scout car



Hembruff, with Luke and Keno



Vellend-Taylor with Cyprus

Service men, women up to compete in Rugby 7s



Photos Const. Greg Henkenhaf, 55 Division

Above, Emergency Task Force Const. Hal Martin breaks a tackle. Top right, 51 Division Const. Brian Nishikawa runs for the try line. At right, Const. Stacey Marks emerges from a pile-up of players

The Toronto Police made it to the quarter-finals in the men and women social category at the 53rd annual New York Sevens rugby tournament on Randall’s Island in New York City. Nearly 140 teams from across North America participated in the competition which is the largest and longest-running sevens tournament in the United States. The Service has fielded teams in the tournament for the last six years.



Crossing guard honoured to serve kids

Children from St. Malachy Catholic School honoured the Scarborough crossing guard they have come to rely on at the corner of Lawrence Ave. E. and Bennett Rd.

Toronto Police Service crossing guard Carl Edquist was named one of Canada’s Favourite Crossing Guards by Safe Kids Canada and FedEx Express Canada.

Edquist was joined in the honour by crossing guards Staf ford Hope, of Toronto, Alma-Jane Martin, of Brampton, and Deanna Gay, of Burnaby, B.C.

“It’s an honour to be recognized and a privilege to know all of you, each and every one of you, by name,” Edquist told a packed gymnasium of students gathered to celebrate the award last month. “This school is a shining example to our community of compassion and humanity. You are a wonderful bunch and I mean that.”

FedEx Express Canada also cut a cheque for \$1,000 to St. Malachy, which will be used for a new computer.

Edquist, a retired TTC driver, said he wanted to stay connected to the public he’s served since age 18.

“I wanted to find something I could contribute to the community, being used to working with the public and having that connection, I found it was still important to keep involved,” Edquist said.

“I enjoyed being outside and working with the public. Kids are easy – you treat them well, they treat you well. It’s a very, very



Carl Edquist celebrated his award with students at a school assembly in his honour

positive experience.”

St. Malachy principal Kathie Katsuras said Edquist is a friend to students. “When I make that turn in the morning I see him talking to the kids. If they for get their science project he double-crosses for them,” Katsuras said, of the crossing guard who also attends school events. “He’s part of the community.”

One class of students performed a poem in tribute to Edquist while more than a dozen

students lined up to pay tribute to their favourite crossing guard:

“Thank you for making all of us feel so special. Sometimes I come back from school feeling down but you always take the time to pick me back up.” - Samantha

“Carl is more than just a crossing guard. Carl participates in school events like track & field, cross-country, science fairs and graduations. Carl, you rock.” - Sandra

“You’re there when I’m down. You’re funny, smart and cool. You know our names by heart and you’re nice to everyone you meet. Carl, your more than just a crossing guard, you’re our friend. Congratulations, Carl.” -Rachael

Edquist, a father of two grown children, was surprised by the connection he could make with the kids.

“They know I’m there if they need anything,” Edquist said, of having a cell phone to contact parents, who may not be home or give them a reassuring word when they’re upset. “They come usually with tears, I just say, ‘stand there for a couple minutes and when you feel better you can go on your way.’ You just give them some positive words.”

He said the job has a great impact on children.

“I found it’s a busy world and both parents are working. I’m the first person they share something with what happened in their day – good or bad – so that’s really an eye-opener, where I say to myself, ‘this is an honour.’”

“Thank you for making all of us feel so special. Sometimes I come back from school feeling down but you always take the time to pick me back up.”

- St. Malachy student Samantha