

Tanner, and his family, happy to remain in Belleville

Continued from previous page

It was a good process to go through but "at the end of the day, on a personal level, I'm not sure I would have accepted it," Tanner said.

He, his wife Collette and their two sons, 11 and 17, are very happy to be here for at least the next four-and-a-half to five years. What he plans to do after that he hasn't decided.

In 2012 Tanner will reach his 30th anniversary in policing. It's a "pivotal point," he said, because he will be eligible to retire. He said he will have to consider at that time whether to work additional years, retire or make a career change.

With tight budgets and provincial down-loading, Tanner said there isn't "a whole lot

of room for creativity" in a police force the size of Belleville's, but he can still cite several areas of pride for the service.

Tanner said the joint services task force, Project Longarm, is probably the most successful joint task force in Ontario having seized \$250 million worth of drugs in the past five to six years. Tanner said the continued emphasis on drug enforcement will ultimately cut down on other crimes as well.

Belleville is also the home of one of the province's top containment or emergency task force teams.

Tanner said Belleville's clearance rates for solving crimes is above the provincial average and there was a 30 per cent decrease in break and enters from 2005 to 2006.

The police service is currently working on

its business plan for the next three years. For Tanner some of the issues facing the Belleville service include dealing with the aging police service facility that was once a church, and dealing with increased costs for court security and transportation. Tanner said those costs, downloaded by the province take up about seven per cent of the budget or \$700,000 for the Belleville Police Service.

"That could be eight more police officers out on the road," said Tanner.

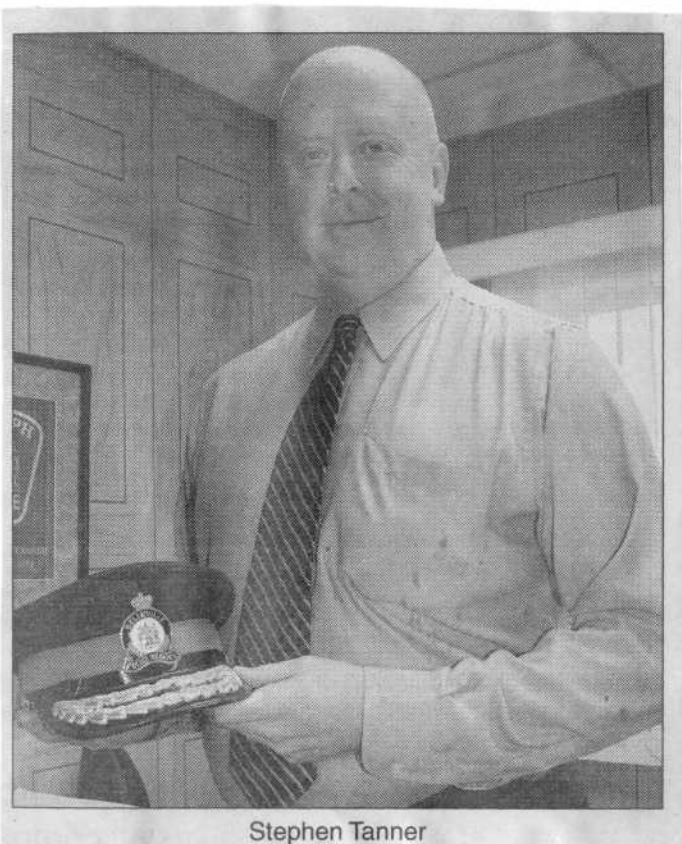
Belleville is also a city that attracts a much larger population than those out its tax roll. In 2005, 40 per cent of the people that Belleville officers

dealt with were not from the city. Outside his police career, Tanner enjoys spending time with his family and being a hockey dad. His older son plays Junior A hockey for the Quinte West Pack. Tanner said he spends a lot of time at arenas.

"I'm really enjoying being a spectator at that level of hockey."

Tanner, Stephen

② of 2



Stephen Tanner