

HALTON DETECTIVE AND BERMUDA POLICE REP SLUG IT OUT AT CHARITY BOXING EVENT

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A Halton police detective traded blows with a representative of the Bermuda Police Service without sparking an international incident on Friday, April 26.

The pair squared off at the charity boxing event "Battle of the Badges," which saw emergency service fighters take each other on at the Burlington Convention Centre.

The sold-out event featured 15 matches, attracted around 1,200 spectators and raised more than \$56,000 for Camp FACES (Family and Children of Emergency Services).

FACES supports families of first responders who have lost a loved one in the line of duty, by suicide or sudden death.

Halton police Det. Const. John McMullen and Bermuda fighter Dejon Benjamin fought for three rounds before Benjamin was declared the winner.

The charity boxing match was the latest example of a growing relationship between Halton police and the Bermuda

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- Staff Officer to the Commissioner of the Bermuda Police Service Calvin Smith

Police Service.

Halton Police Deputy Chief Nishan Duriaipah said a partnership between the two police services began in 2017 when Bermuda police took an interest in the Halton Regional Police Service Pipes and Drums Unit.

"The Halton Police Pipes and Drums has an international profile, it's probably one of the top police pipes and drums bands in Canada, and it was invited to Bermuda for their International Police Week in 2017," said

Duriaipah.

Since then the two organizations have exchanged policing best practices information and are now supporting each other's charitable events.

To those ends, a group of 17 members of the Bermuda Police Service (11 officers and six civilians) attended a meeting of the Halton Regional Police Services Board on April 25.

Besides announcing they would provide a Bermudian boxer to the Battle of the Badges, Du-



Graham Paine/Metroland

Halton police's John McMullen, left, exchanges punches with Bermuda Police fighter Dejon Benjamin along the ropes, during their Battle of the Badges bout. Over \$56,000 was raised for Camp F.A.C.E.S. (Family and Children of Emergency Services) which supports families of first responders who have suffered critical incident trauma.

riaipah said, the Bermuda police learned more about the Halton Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.

The plan helps Halton Region, Halton police and their community partners proactively identify and respond to issues that impact safety and wellbeing in the community.

Duriaipah said the plan helps officers identify potential problems in the schools and respond to issues from mental health to addiction.

The deputy chief said there is also plenty Halton police can learn from their Bermuda counterparts.

The Bermuda Police Service's use of technolo-

gy to promote road safety is one area Halton police are interested in.

"In Bermuda all the roads have either cameras or speed measuring devices at almost every intersection," said Duriaipah.

"Also, the rates of violence are extremely low in Bermuda because they have some really interesting strategies to mitigate violence."

Halton police are expecting an invitation to Bermuda in 2020 to participate in a fundraiser in support of the Special Olympics.

During the Halton police board meeting Staff Officer to the Commissioner of the Bermuda Po-

lice Service Calvin Smith discussed the relationship between Halton and Bermuda.

"We are a pro-community policing organization. That is our brand of policing," said Smith.

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Halton police have confirmed a Battle of the Badges event will take place in 2020.

For more details visit www.badgebattle.ca.

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