

# Police complaints system expanded province wide

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Attorney General Howard Hampton announced recently an expanded police complaints procedure to include all municipal and regional police forces and the Ontario Provincial Police.

The present public complaints system, introduced in Metropolitan Toronto in 1981, will be the model for the Police Complaints System which will open regional offices across the province.

Administered by the Ministry of the Attorney General, the process ensures an independent civilian review of police conduct.

Expansion of the program is provided for in the new Police Services Act, proclaimed December 31, 1990.

The legislation also calls for the creation of an independent panel from which local boards of inquiry will be convened to hear

cases requiring additional public review.

The present office of the Public Complaints Commissioner will be the provincial head office to oversee the province-wide operation. Several regional offices will handle complaints at the local level and carry out investigations as required.

Temporary offices will be established in Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Ottawa and London early in January.

The permanent location in those cities and the other regional centres are expected to be operational by June 1, 1991.

"Our local investigators and community outreach officers will also have the responsibility of ensuring that members of the public are familiar with the system and know how to access it," said Police Commissioner Clare Lewis.

"They will also be responsible

for ensuring that the complaints system reflects community expectations. Only through awareness and education will we be able to maintain public and police confidence in the new system."

The local Boards of Inquiry, chaired by a lawyer, will be appointed when matters cannot be informally resolved between complainant and officer, when the chief of police or O.P.P. Commissioner orders it, or when the Police Complaints Commissioner believes it is in the public interest to order such a hearing.

Boards will be composed of three members, recommended for appointment by the Attorney General, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Police Association of Ontario. Decisions may be appealed to Divisional Court.

The Police Services Act was proclaimed at the end of this

month.

Investigators, Community Outreach Officers, and support staff are being hired, and office space is being located. In the interim, complaints may be filed at any bureau or detachment of any police force in Ontario, or with the Police Complaints Commissioner's Office in Toronto. The Police Complaints Commissioner will receive complaints in writing, in person, or by telephone.

All complaint investigations will be monitored by the Police Complaint Commissioner. As the regional offices are established, monitoring and investigation will be done locally.

The Police Complaints Commissioner is negotiating with other government-funded organizations to assist with the taking of complaints in municipalities where the Office of Police Complaints Commissioner

does not have its own office.

A toll-free line has been established to answer questions and concerns, and to receive complaints about police misconduct. The number is 1-800-267-5648 effective immediately.

Early in the new year, the Police Complaints Commissioner, Mr. Clare Lewis, will be meeting with interest community organizations and police representatives in each region to discuss the program.

"The extension of the civilian complaints procedure throughout Ontario has evolved from extensive consultation among officials of my ministry, municipal and regional police forces, the O.P.P. and community groups," said Mr. Hampton.

"It is our intention to continue this dialogue with these key groups to ensure local realities are accommodated in the system."

# OCNA announces 1990 Ontario Jr Citizen of the Year Awards

OAKVILLE - Ontario's Junior Citizens for 1990 have been selected.

Ontario Community Newspapers Association (OCNA) president John Morris announced the 11 individuals and one group award recipients December 6 after they were chosen from among 113 nominations submitted through the member newspapers across the province.

The Oakville based OCNA, which represents over 265 community newspapers in Ontario and the Northwest Territories, has honoured Ontario's Junior Citizens with an awards program since 1981 with co-sponsor Canadian Airlines International. Young people from ages six to 18 are recognized for their courage, ingenuity, resourcefulness, initiative, leadership, fortitude and community service.

The award recipients and their families will be guests of Canadian Airlines and OCNA at an awards ceremony at the Hilton International Hotel in Toronto on Friday, March 1, 1991. The

awards will be presented by Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Lincoln Alexander and each recipient will receive a \$200 cheque, a commemorative plaque, a gold lapel pin and a family portrait with the Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. Morris praised both the awards recipients and all other nominees. "They can all be proud of their accomplishments," he said. "They have proven they are willing to go that extra mile, if for no other reason than for their own personal growth and pride, and it's a lesson that shouldn't be lost on the rest of us."

Ontario's 1990 Junior Citizens are:

\* Brad Adams, 14, and Scott Douglas, 15, both of Caledonia, for their support and dedication to their friend when he was dying of cancer. They were instrumental in organizing the Caledonia Terry Fox Run in memory of their friend. They also helped to establish the Stephen Young Memorial Fund which helps other cancer victims in their community to off-

set medical costs.

\* Alison Agar, 9, of Fort Frances, for her courage in overcoming congenital kidney disease, despite a transplant rejection. Her bravery and caring for others has had a tremendous impact on her family, classmates and community, bringing everyone together to cheer her on.

John Angus, 19, of Fort Frances, for his brave efforts in saving a man and young boy whose snowmobile had plunged through the ice on Rainy Lake. He was able to pull them to safety, not thinking of the risk to himself, and then take them to shelter.

\* Kathleen O'Connor, 18, of Mississauga, for the caring and commitment she has shown as a pediatrics volunteer. She takes a personal interest in her charges, helping to ease the burdens of the families, and always goes beyond the call of duty. Her love and kindness have brightened the day for children and adults alike.

\* Kathryn Rutherford, 18, of Thunder Bay, for her determination and spirit in overcoming

pulled the woman to shore, braving the swift current without thinking of his own peril.

\* Jason Schriver, 8, of Oshawa, her battle with cancer. Despite removal of one arm and a portion of her spine, Kathryn raises money for cancer research and has acted as a spokesperson for cancer patients on national television.

\* David Richardson, 17, of Orleans, for his heroic actions in saving the life of a woman who was drowning in the dark and icy waters of the Ottawa River. David dove off a cruise ship and

for his quick thinking in saving a younger child from a serious playground accident. The little girl's neck became caught in a makeshift noose on top of a slide and was choking her. Jason doggedly tried to loosen her, and when that proved to be in vain, he ran for help.

\* Matti Service, 8, of Eg-anville, for his courageous attitude to life despite a very serious and rare disease (one of three reported cases in North America) which sees his mus-

cles being calcified into bone. His love of life and learning is an inspiration to all who know him, as well as his sense of humor and determination.

\* Scott Stoppard, 13, of Han-over, for his quick actions when a preschooler ran in front of an oncoming car. As Scott pulled the child to safety, he was knocked to the ground and suffered a severe concussion and other injuries. His courage averted a potential tragedy.

\* Jennifer Walsh, 17, of New Liskeard, for her leadership and commitment of time in setting up a Student Hotline in her com-

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at which time they will be opened in public. **TENDER CLOSING IN THUNDER BAY.**

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## Mom and Dad I made it!!!

Joe and Lisa Kennedy are happy to announce the arrival of their first child, a beautiful baby girl. Rebecca Helene, entered into this world on Dec. 15, 1990, at the McCausland Hospital weighing 7lbs 11 1/2 ozs.

Very proud grandparents are Raoul and Ingrid Fournier of Terrace Bay and Mary Clare Kennedy of Vancouver B.C.

Special thanks to Dr. Wilkes, Debbie McGrath

and the entire McCausland hospital staff.



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## DIABETIC MEETING

Start the new year off right, become involved in the Diabetic Association.

Wednesday, January 16, 1991

7:00 P.M.

The McCausland Hospital Lobby

Guest Speaker: Jan Mah

A Positive Approach to Diabetes

## Take a Walk Through The Classifieds

You never know what great bargains you might stumble across

