

POLICE

Black new head of police board

BY RICK VANDERLINDE
STAFF WRITER

King Township Mayor Margaret Black was acclaimed police services board chairperson last week after Aurora businessman Bob Callow dropped out of the race.

Callow withdrew from the race during the board meeting, saying it was obvious he hadn't gained enough support from the seven-member board to win the seat.

Black, a veteran municipal politician, said her deceased parents would have been proud of her position as police services board chairperson.

Cash gives lifts to copter plan

York Regional Police Chief Julian Fantino's plea for a law enforcement helicopter came a little closer to becoming reality last Wednesday.

A group of business persons who organize the annual Chief's Dinner, set for April 22, have pledged \$100,000 in seed money for the project over the next two years.

"Let's get rolling on that," organizer Moffat Dunlap told the police services board last Wednesday. "We support the advantages of having a police helicopter."

A pilot project for a helicopter will be funded through public and corporate donations.

Secret spotchecks planned

York Regional Police may conduct secret RIDE spot checks this year to catch drunk drivers off guard.

Chief Julian Fantino hinted spot checks may be held outside of the Christmas season after police board member Bill Fisch suggested the idea.

"If we do it at other times during the year, we may get an idea how many people are still drinking and driving," Fisch said.

Fantino replied that the force intends to be more strategic.

Police stopped about 45,000 vehicles over the Christmas season, four times as many vehicles as were stopped in 1997. While 22 drinking and driving related charges were laid, the percentage of charges laid compared to the amount of vehicles stopped was lower than in 1997 and 1996.



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