

53 Division

Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



Message from Staff Inspector Larry Sinclair #88

UNIT COMMANDER OF 53 DIVISION

Greetings, and welcome to the November 2008 edition of our 53 Division Community Bulletin.

You are all cordially invited to attend our annual 53 Division Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday November 18th, 2008 from 7:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. at Leaside High School 200 Hanna Rd.

To date, reported incidents of crime in our Division, based on the seven major crime categories, are down an average of 5% compared with 2007. The only occurrence which has increased over this same period is Assault – 658 compared with 626 last year at this time. I take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding efforts of our Police Officers, civilian members and you, who live and work in 53 Division and continue to demonstrate your commitment in assisting the police in enhancing safety, security and quality of life in our community.

Although property damage collisions have increased an average of 1.5%, collisions involving personal injury have decreased an average of 17%. However, 6 of these have resulted in fatalities compared with 3 last year. Even more disturbing is two of these victims were senior citizens, who were pedestrians, struck and killed by motor vehicles. I again remind you that the vast majority of collisions occur simply because we're in a hurry. We don't leave ourselves enough time and, as a result, we may speed, follow too closely or disobey traffic signs and signals. Please let's leave ourselves ample time to get where we're going so we all 'ARRIVE ALIVE'.

For those of you who start your holiday shopping early be aware that, traditionally during the latter part of November and early December, reported incidents of robberies involving people leaving ATM machines with cash, and thefts from autos and office buildings increase dramatically. Before exiting a bank after a cash transaction, quickly scan outside for anyone loitering or acting suspiciously. Make sure your automobile is locked and your purchases are out of sight. For those who work in offices, secure your property in a desk or filing cabinet.

Please assist us in ensuring you won't become a victim. Be vigilant and report anyone you feel is acting suspiciously or wandering or loitering outside financial institutions, parked autos and in the common areas of office buildings. Again, thanks so much for all your support in keeping our community safe.

There have been some recent personnel changes here at 53 Division. Staff Sergeant Tony Riviere, Community Response Unit Manager, who is awaiting his promotion to the rank of Inspector, has been transferred to the Duty Desk at Toronto Police Headquarters. Detective Sergeant Myron Demkiw, Officer in Charge of our Criminal Investigation Unit, has transferred to Detective Services-Intelligence Division and is in charge of the Covert Operations/Source Management Unit. I know you join me in wishing Tony and Myron every success in their future endeavours. Staff Sergeant Peter Henry, formerly the Officer in Charge of 'B' Platoon, has been assigned as our Community Response Unit Manager and Staff Sergeant Dan Nealon, Officer in Charge of 'C' Platoon is now the Detective Sergeant in charge of criminal investigations.

53 Division

Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



In addition, we welcome Staff Sergeant Darren Halman, formerly of 12 Division, and Staff Sergeant Dan Sabadics, from 13 Division. Staff Sergeant Halman is now the Officer in Charge of 'B' Platoon and Staff Sergeant Sabadics has been assigned as Officer in Charge of 'C' Platoon. Sergeant Paul Rinkoff, who has just recently been promoted, has been assigned to 53 Division as a Supervisor on 'A' Platoon and Sergeant Brett Nicol, formerly of Professional Standards, has been assigned as a Supervisor on 'C' Platoon.

Finally, mark Sunday January 11, 2009 on your calendar as the date for our 53 Division New Year's Levee. You are all welcome to join us between 12 Noon and 4:00 P.M. for presentations, refreshments and some special attractions for the kids.

Regards.

53 Division

Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



What is the Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy?

The Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy, or **TAVIS** for short, is the plan that the Toronto Police Service is using to reduce violence and fear in neighbourhoods. The plan uses *community mobilization* to:

- reduce crime and disorder,
- make neighbourhoods safer, and
- bring neighbours together to keep their neighbourhood safe and liveable.

How does TAVIS work?

Your local division is the frontline of TAVIS; all officers are involved. Your neighbourhood has been assigned a Neighbourhood Officer. This officer is now working with people in your neighbourhood to find lasting solutions to crime and disorder issues.

The Neighbourhood Officer, community members and other service providers in the neighbourhood are:

- identifying crime and disorder issues,
- developing strategies to address these issues,
- implementing these plans, and
- monitoring the effectiveness of the plans.

All officers of the Toronto Police Service, including the four Rapid Response Teams, the Toronto Drug Squad, the Gun and Gang Task Force, and Intelligence Services, support the divisions in carrying out the neighbourhood plans.

53 Division Community Bulletin, Nov 2008

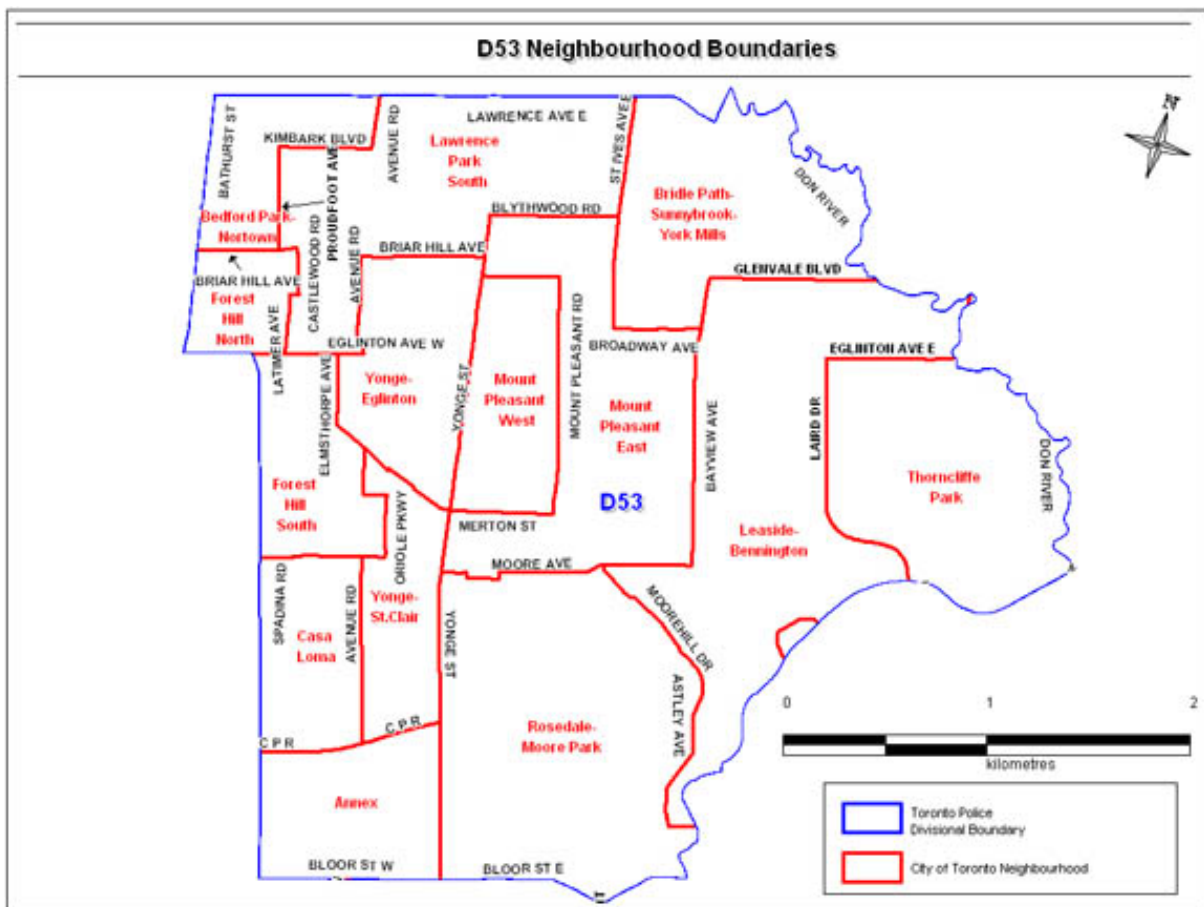


Neighbourhoods in the 53 Division

Chief Blair has consistently emphasized the importance of having officers dedicated to neighbourhoods in order to:

- build trust and strengthen community partnerships,
- aid in the understanding of the local environment,
- identify, prioritize and reduce crime and disorder, and
- assist in developing solutions to reduce crime and disorder.

Community members interested in speaking with their assigned Neighbourhood Officer(s) are encouraged to telephone the 53 Division Community Response Office at 416-808-5319.



53 Division
Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL

TOWN HALL
Meeting

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18TH 2008
7-9PM
LEASIDE HIGH SCHOOL
(200 HANNA ROAD, OFF EGLINTON AVENUE EAST)

Hosted by
Staff Inspector Larry Sinclair
& the
Community Police Liaison Committee

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



PLEASE CONTACT 53 DIVISION COMMUNITY RESPONSE UNIT AT #416-808-5319, FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



Contacting the Toronto Police Service



Emergencies or Crimes in Progress

If you require emergency assistance, or want to report a crime in progress, please call **9-1-1**. An emergency is any situation where people or property are at risk. (including but not limited to fires, crimes in progress or medical emergencies.)

Non-Emergency

If you require Police assistance, but are not in an emergency situation (e.g. Reporting thefts, vandalism, fraud) or for other situations where no person or property is in immediate danger, please call our non-emergency telephone number at **416-808-2222**.

TDD (TTY) - Telecommunications Device for the Deaf

For emergencies, dial **9-1-1** and **press the space bar announcer key repeatedly** until a response is received.

The Toronto Police Service non-emergency TDD number is: **416-467-0493**.

Crime Stoppers

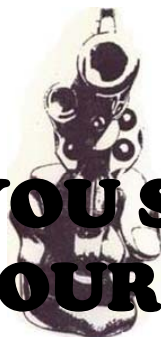
If you have information about a crime that you would like to report anonymously, please call Crime Stoppers at **416-222-TIPS** (8477), toll-free 1-800-222-TIPS, or visit their website: <http://www.toronto-crimestoppers.com/>.



WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
CALL 416-343-GUNS (4867) or
e-mail: ReportingGuns@torontopolice.on.ca

TORONTO POLICE SERVICE
URBAN ORGANIZED CRIME SQUAD TIP LINE

- . Guaranteed confidentiality**
- . No call display**
- . Remain anonymous (if you wish)**



THE LIFE YOU SAVE COULD
BE YOUR OWN!



MAJOR ARRESTS



ROBBERY SUSPECT NABBED

On Friday the 17th of October 2008 the suspect attended Gaby's Grocery on St George Street. He selected several bottles of liquid paper and placed them in his coat and attempted to leave the store. The store clerk approached the suspect and stood in between him and the doorway. The victim demanded that the suspect return the stolen items, at which point the suspect pushed the victim with both hands in an attempt to escape.

The victim advised the suspect that he was going to call the police at which time he was shoved again in an attempt to flee the store. The victim was able to detain him until the police arrived.

The suspect was arrested and transported to 53 Division for further investigation.

Charged with robbery is **Christopher BESTIG**, 32 years of Toronto. He was held for a show cause hearing at the Old City Hall Courts to answer to the charge.

THEFT & BREAK & ENTER

On Friday, October 24th 2008 during the morning hours the suspect entered the construction site at the Toronto Reference Library on Yonge St. He made his way to the storage area where he went through the workers belongings.

The suspect was observed by a number of the workers in the storage area. As they escorted the suspect off the property, they noticed that a number of wallets had been stolen. At this time the suspect was held for police.

The suspect was eventually arrested and during a search, he was found to be in possession of property taken from the workers. He was transported to 53 Division for further investigation.

53 Division

Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



During the investigation it was revealed that prior to attending the construction site, the suspect had attended an address on Asquith Avenue and entered a ground floor apartment, by forcing the window. At the time of the entry, the victim was asleep in her bed. The suspect waited until she went for a shower and then began to rifle through her drawers removing property. The suspect left prior to the victim finishing her shower.

Charged with 2 counts of theft under \$5000, 2 counts of possession of property obtained by crime under \$5000 and break & enter is **Randall JANUSKA**, 46 years of no fixed address. He was held for a show cause hearing at the Old City Hall Courts to answer to the charges.



MAJOR NEWS RELEASES

Robbery (Swarming) - 53 Division

A 24 year old male reports that on October 19, 2008 at approximately 2200 hours he was in the area of Yonge Street and Lawrence Avenue East when he was approached from behind by three male suspects. The suspects grabbed the victim and removed his knapsack. The suspects fled the scene westbound on Lawrence Avenue. The victim did not sustain any injuries. Police are requesting the assistance of the public in identifying the following described persons in connection with this offence. Description of Suspect #1: Male, white, 14 to 16 years, 5'5", thin build. Suspects #2 & #3: Male, white, 14 to 16 years, 5'8" to 5'9", thin build.

Robbery (Mugging) - 53 Division

A 13 year old male reports that on October 22, 2008 at about 1600 hours, he was in the area of Mt. Pleasant Road near Eglinton Avenue East, when he was approached by two male suspects. The suspects engaged the victim in conversation and then made a demand for his Apple IPOD Nano and money. The victim complied and the suspects fled the scene towards Eglinton Avenue East. No injuries were sustained by the victim. Police are requesting the assistance of the public in identifying the following described persons in connection with this offence. Description of Suspect #1: Male, black, 17-18 years, 6'3", 175 pounds. Suspect #2: Male, black, 17-18 years, 5'11", 174 pounds.

Robbery (Mugging) - 53 Division

A 30 year old female reports that on October 21, 2008 at about 1725 hours, she was on the platform in a subway station in the No.53 Division area when she was approached by a male suspect. The suspect grabbed the victim's iphone from her hands and fled the scene in an unknown direction. No injuries were sustained by the victim. Police are requesting the assistance of the public in identifying the following described person in connection with this offence. Description of Suspect: Male, black, 5'11", short black hair.



Public Safety Alert.
Distraction thefts at ATM and banking facilities.

The Toronto Police Service would like to make the public aware of an increase in distraction thefts committed against elderly citizens after they withdraw cash from bank tellers or ATMs. It is reported that the offenders working in teams, take up observations on seniors in banks. Once a withdrawal has been made, the victims as they are driving home, discover they have a flat tire. When they pull over, they are approached by the suspect(s) who have been following them, who will offer assistance and appear genuinely concerned.

They then distract the victim, sometimes with coins lying on the ground or on the floor of their vehicles, or by other means. While distracted, the suspect(s) snatch the handbag or purse from the front seat and escape.

This method of theft has also been used to steal bank deposit bags from business merchants after they close their business for the day. In other cases, it has been reported that the suspect(s) appear to accidentally spill ketchup or mustard on the victim's clothing, then offer assistance in wiping off the mess. Often having the victim remove their coat or putting down their purse or handbag, allowing the criminal access to the money in those garments.

The following tips will help citizens avoid becoming victims of a distraction theft:

- keep your cash and valuables out of public view,
- travel with a friend or relative if possible,
- drive in well travelled, well lighted areas,
- don't pull over unless absolutely necessary,
- keep your doors locked and windows up at all times, if approached by a stranger,
- be wary of strangers offering assistance,
- never allow your wallet, purse, handbag or money bags out of your immediate possession, even momentarily.

In any emergency situation, call 9-1-1 or, to report any theft of a non emergency nature, call 416-808-2222.

53 Division

Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



Robbery (Swarming) - 53 Division

A 31 year old male reports that on October 23, 2008 at approximately 1940 hours, he was in a park in the area of Thorncliffe Park Drive and Overlea Boulevard when he was approached from behind by four male suspects. The suspects surrounded the victim, punched him about the head and removed his bag. The suspects fled the scene in an unknown direction. The victim sustained minor injuries and was transported by Toronto EMS to a hospital for medical attention. Police are requesting the assistance of the public in identifying the following described persons in connection with this offence. Description of Suspect #1 - #2: Male, black, 20 to 25 years. Suspect #3: Male, black, NO FURTHER DESCRIPTION AVAILABLE. Suspect #4: Male, black, 12 to 17 years.

Robbery (Business) - 53 Division

A 40 year old male employee of Handy Food Mart, 128 Davenport Road, reports that on October 25, 2008 at approximately 0414 hours, a male suspect wearing a disguise and armed with a handgun entered the premises. The suspect pointed the weapon towards the victim and made a demand for cash. The suspect then removed a quantity of cash from the till and cigarettes from the shelves. The suspect then fled the scene in a westerly direction on Davenport Road. No injuries were sustained by the victim. Police are requesting the assistance of the public in identifying the following described person in connection with this offence. Description of Suspect: Male, black, 20-30 years, 6'0", 170-180 pounds, thin build.

53 Division

Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



"Have Your Say"

In 2008, the Toronto Police will be producing its Environmental Scan. This document is an assessment and review of major issues and trends and it is used by the Police Services Board, Chief of Police, and Deputies to set the priorities and goals in the Service's Business Plan. Public consultations are a very important part of the environmental scanning process. You are not asked for your identity and your answer will be added to the information reported in the Scan, helping to set the Service's priorities for the next few years.

These surveys are designed to find out how you feel about certain issues. New surveys will appear every three weeks. The results of the previous survey will be available on our Surveys page. Your participation is appreciated.

Simply go to the Toronto Police Service web site at www.torontopolice.on.ca. Then click on the "Have Your Say Fill Out Our Surveys" box.

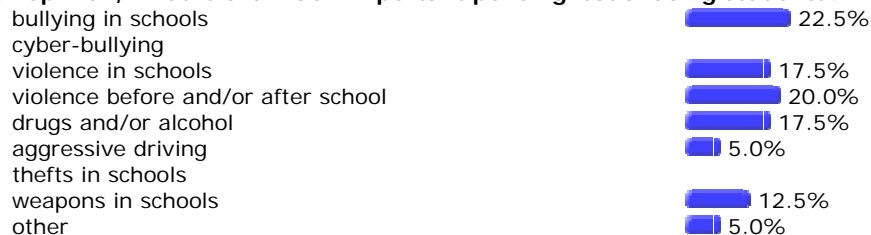


Most Recent Results

Have Your Say – September 15, 2008 to October 5, 2008

These surveys are designed to find out how you feel about certain issues. New surveys will appear every three weeks. The results of the previous survey will be available on our Surveys page. Your participation is appreciated.

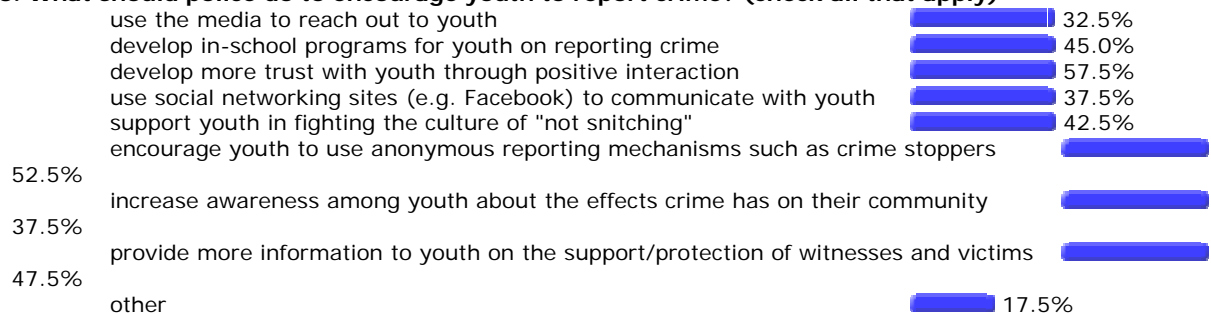
1. In your opinion, what is the MOST important policing issue facing students?



2. In general, do you think that youth who are victimized by or witness a crime will report the crime to the police?



3. What should police do to encourage youth to report crime? (check all that apply)



4. Do you live or work in Toronto?



53 Division

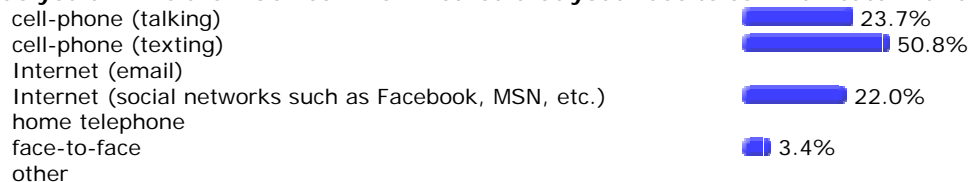
Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



Have Your Say – October 6, 2008 to October 26, 2008

These surveys are designed to find out how you feel about certain issues. New surveys will appear every three weeks. The results of the previous survey will be available on our Surveys page. Your participation is appreciated.

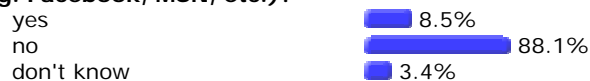
1. What do you think is the MOST common method that youth use to communicate with their peers?



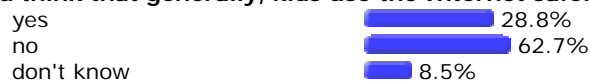
2. Do you think that generally, parents are aware of their children's online (Internet) activities?



3. Do you think that generally, parents are aware of what their kids are posting on social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, MSN, etc.)?



4. Do you think that generally, kids use the Internet safely?



5. Do you live and/or work in Toronto?



53 Division

Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



CRIME PREVENTION TIP OF THE MONTH

POLICE CONSTABLE RICK LANGSTONE #6281

416-808-5337

www.richard.langstone@torontopolice.on.ca



Holiday Crime Prevention Tips



The holiday season is upon us and it can be a very busy time for shoppers as well as criminals. By following these suggestions from the Toronto Police Service you can help reduce the risk of becoming the victim of a crime.

- Make sure your home has the “lived in” look. Use appliance timers throughout your home to control indoor and outdoor lights.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Consider the use of credit or debit cards to make your purchases. Remember to always shield your PIN number and make sure your cards are returned to you following the transaction.
- Ensure your handbag has a secure shoulder strap and keep your purse tightly closed at all times. Never leave a purse or wallet unattended – even for a moment.
- Don’t overburden yourself with parcels. Try to keep one arm free at all times. Frequent trips to and from the car will make this easier and your shopping more enjoyable.
- Place your purchases in the trunk out of the sight of thieves. If your vehicle is a hatchback, cover parcels with a blanket to keep them out of view.
- Park in a well-lit area of the parking lot and try to leave the store with a group of people. Always have your keys ready as you approach your vehicle and check the back seat before getting inside.

53 Division

Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



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- If you are planning to be away over the holidays, have a friend or neighbour collect mail and flyers from your property and shovel the snow if necessary. Cancel the delivery of all newspapers until your return.
 - Empty cartons from expensive items such as televisions, computers and stereos should be broken down so that the writing is inside before placing them in the garbage. Don't advertise to thieves that your home has these items inside.
 - Lastly but most important be especially attentive with children in your care. Children can be quickly separated from adults in large crowds.

By following these simple crime prevention measures you can help ensure that you and your family enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.

53 Division

Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



COMMUNITY ALERT / BUSINESS ALERT

53 Division offers a service via the internet to help keep the public informed and it's simple to subscribe to.

Simply log onto the Toronto Police Web Site at: www.torontopolice.on.ca

In the left hand margin, click on police stations.

On the right hand side of the page, click on 53 Division.

On the top right. Click on Sign - up for Community Bulletin and follow the instructions.

Once you send your message to subscribe. You will get a message bounced back to you. This is to confirm that you were the intended subscriber. You **MUST** answer this message to allow the system to send you messages.

NOTE: You can remove your e-mail address at anytime.

For further information, please feel free to contact the 53 Division Crime Prevention Officer, Police Constable Rick Langstone #6281 at 416-808-5337 or at

www.richard.langstone@torontopolice.on.ca

53 Division Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



TORONTO POLICE SERVICE 53 DIVISION CRIME PREVENTION

“AUTO – DIALLER”

Community Policing is a partnership between the police and the community. Policing services are evolving and we need your help. Community issues can not be dealt with solely by the police. You have a better understanding of issues in your area and your involvement will make a difference in making our community safer.

The “AUTO-DIALLER” is one way for all of us to get involved in helping to fight crime in the City of Toronto. This system allows the police to alert residents of crime in the neighbourhoods within 53 Division.

To receive messages concerning crime, missing people and home safety, you must sign and return this attached consent form allowing your name and phone number to be added to the “AUTO_DIALLER”. Informed people are more aware of what is going on around them and are of more assistance to the police in preventing crime.

For more information contact:

Police Constable Rick Langstone #6281
53 Division Crime Prevention Office
75 Eglinton Ave W. Tor, Ont. M4R 2G9
416-808-5337
www.richard.langstone@torontopolice.on.ca

Detach and mail or deliver to:

Toronto Police Service
53 Division Crime Prevention Office
75 Eglinton Avenue W.
Toronto, Ontario, M4R 2G9

Please: Add _____, Change _____, Delete _____ my name to/from the “AUTO_DIALLER”.

Name: _____ Residence _____, Business _____.

Address: _____, Phone: (416) _____.

53 Division Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



53 Division Community Police Liaison Committee

Mark the date in your calendar! The 53 Division Town Hall Meeting will be held on Tuesday November 18 beginning at 7.00pm at Leaside High School. This is an opportunity for all residents to hear firsthand from 53 Division about community safety and crime in our area, and for the community to let 53 Division know about issues in our area. Members of the CPLC will also be there to answer your questions.

53 Division was recently given an award by the Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office for the "Wii and Math" outreach program of the Community Response Unit. In partnership with TNO and Future Shop, the six week program's main goals included fostering a healthy relationship between the police and the Thorncliffe Park community while providing an opportunity for positive interaction that would encourage youth to learn and enjoy math. The program has started up again this fall. Thanks to the Community Response Unit for this innovative program that builds on other successful youth/police interactive programs in Thorncliffe Park such as ball hockey and basketball.

You are invited to take part in on-line public consultations conducted by the Toronto Police Service. The consultation focuses on one main question: What do you think is the main challenge, or challenges, that the Toronto Police Service will face over the next three years? Your answer will be added to the information reported in the Environmental Scan, helping to set the Service's priorities for the next few years. To complete the survey go to: <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/surveys/> There are also other TPS surveys designed to find out how you feel about certain issues. New surveys appear every three weeks.

Our CPLC welcomes your input with any questions and concerns on community safety issues from all parts of the Division. Please call Debbie Sands-Soderstrom at 416 808-5319.

Thank you

Geoff Kettel
Community Co-Chair
53 Division CPLC

53 Division

Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



People and Organizations in North Toronto

Do You Need Legal Advice?

POINT in partnership with
West Toronto Community Legal Services
is offering legal services in the
following areas of law:

- **Housing and Tenant/Landlord**
- **Homeless Prevention**
- **Employment Insurance and Standards**
- **Ontario Works**
- **Ontario Disability Support Program**
- **Canada Pension Plan**
- **Assistance with government form-filling**
- **Statutory Declarations**

When: Every second Friday:

November 7 + 21 and December 5, 2008

Time: 9:30 am to 12 noon

***Where: POINT (People & Organizations in North Toronto)
200 Eglinton Ave. West, 1st Floor***

Clients must meet Legal Aid Ontario financial eligibility criteria. No legal aid certificate is necessary

Clients must make an appointment - Call POINT at 416-487-2427



A United Way member agency



53 Division

Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Turn your clocks back 1 hour. 	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Remembrance Day 	12	13	14	15
16 Santa Claus Parade 	17	18  Town Hall Meeting Leaside High School	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 OAS / CPP Payment	27	28	29
30						

UP COMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

22 nd	December	Hanukkah
24 th	December	Christmas Eve
25 th	December	Christmas Day
26 th	December	Boxing Day
31 st	December	New Years Eve

53 Division

Community Bulletin, Nov 2008



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD?

The School Crossing Guard Co-ordinator for 53 Division is
Police Constable Wai Lau #3765.

Please contact

416 808-5327 *Office*

or e-mail:

Wai.Lau@torontopolice.on.ca

