

HAMILTON POLICE SERVICES BOARD

- INFORMATION -

DATE: 2018 June 21

REPORT TO: Chair and Members
Hamilton Police Services Board

FROM: Eric Girt
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: *Final Report - Firearms Amnesty Program*
PSB 18-072

BACKGROUND:

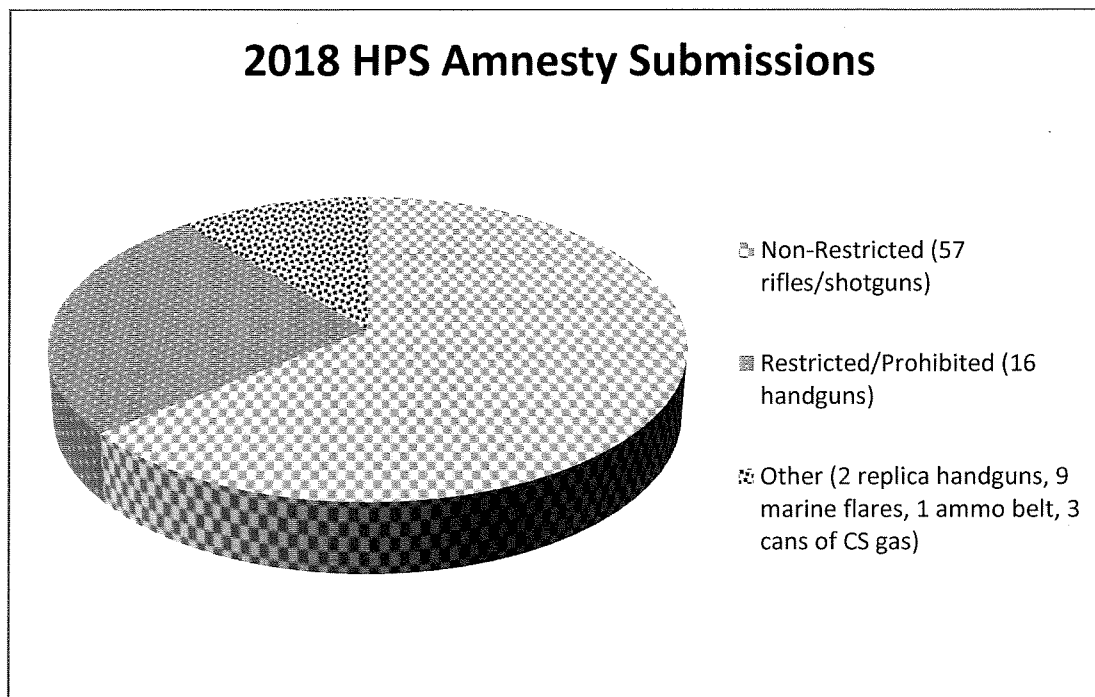
With a goal to enhance public safety by preventing firearms from falling into the hands of criminals through residential break-ins, the Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P.) launched their first Firearms Amnesty Program during the month of April 2018. The Amnesty provided citizens with a safe and easy opportunity to surrender unwanted, unlicensed or unregistered firearms and ammunition for destruction while enjoying immunity from certain licensing and possession offences (firearms found to have been involved in the commission of a criminal offence would not fall under the umbrella of offered immunity). The public was also encouraged to turn in any unwanted ammunition, replica firearms, pellet guns or antique weapons.

The O.P.P. encouraged their municipal police partners to join them in this provincial Amnesty program, and the Hamilton Police Service agreed to participate. During the month of April, our officers responded to 48 homes for firearms pickups. This resulted in the surrender of 73 firearms and 2,467 rounds of ammunition. A small number of replica firearms, marine flares and other items were also collected.

Prior to destruction, any firearms of a suspicious nature were thoroughly investigated by our Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit officer to ensure they have not been involved in criminal activity or reported as stolen. If a firearm was found to have been used in a criminal offence, or was previously reported stolen, an investigation would be launched and those firearms would not be included in the disposal.

At this time, none of the 73 firearms turned in during the April Amnesty have been associated with any criminal offence, nor have any of them been previously reported as stolen.

In all, 46 Ontario police agencies simultaneously participated in the April amnesty program in addition to the O.P.P.



All eligible firearms will be transported to the Arcelor-Mittal smelter for disposal on the next available date.

Eric Girt
Chief of Police

EG/PB

cc: Anna Filice, Chief Administrative Officer
Peter Bailey, Manager – Records/Property