




# HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE

## INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Hamilton Police Services Board
<b>BOARD MEETING DATE:</b>	March 26, 2021
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	McMaster University Special Constables Annual Report 2020
<b>REPORT NUMBER:</b>	21-018
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Frank Bergen, Acting Chief of Police
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- McMaster has a long-standing partnership with the Hamilton Police Service outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding with Hamilton Police Services Board (HPSB).
- McMaster Special Constables are Peace Officers, appointed by the Board under the authority of the *Police Services Act*.
- Sworn Special Constables are required to enforce the Criminal Code of Canada, Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, Federal and Provincial statutes /Municipal By-Laws on University Campus/ McMaster Board of Governor's bylaws and regulations.
- McMaster campus is composed of 300 acres of property.
- 60 buildings, 32,000 students, 1,000 faculty, 7,500 staff.
- 3,700 students live on campus in 13 student-housing buildings.
- 2020 has seen dramatic changes as a result of the pandemic COVID-19 commencing March 13, 2020.

### INFORMATION

With very few exceptions, McMaster classes and academic programs went online in March 2020 and continue to be offered remotely. Almost all staff continue to work from home except for those who are required to be on campus, including staff in the Nuclear Reactor engaged in the production of vital cancer treatments. Research into COVID, vaccines and other research focused on the pandemic has also continued. The university has been committed to minimizing the numbers of people required to be on campus to help protect our students, faculty and staff, as well as our broader community.

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Once again named Canada's most research-intensive university, McMaster has been at the forefront of research to support our local and national response to the pandemic. Creation of the Centre for Excellence in Protective Equipment and Materials provides research support and has worked with local companies to produce PPE for Canadians. McMaster is working to develop made-in-Canada COVID-19 vaccines and our researchers were among the first in the world to isolate the COVID-19 virus.

It is this commitment to being amongst the best in the world that saw McMaster's world rankings improve again in 2020, moving to 69<sup>th</sup> in the World University Rankings, 11<sup>th</sup> in the world and second in Canada for clinical and pre-clinical health and 17<sup>th</sup> in the world for overall impact in delivering on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, we have made a renewed commitment to our community and are working to establish 500 community-engaged partnerships by 2025.

As the University's reputation continues to grow, so too do the facilities on campus and in our community.

The David Braley Athletic Centre – Student Athletic Facility Expansion commenced in September of 2019. This expansion will add 100,000 square feet of facilities that will enhance the student health and wellness experience and provide additional opportunities for the Hamilton community to enjoy new athletic facilities.

The McClean Centre for Collaborative Discovery will begin construction this spring creating 160,000 SF for the DeGroote School of Business, the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Registrar's Office. Spring construction is also planned for the new graduate student residence at the corner of King and Bay Streets; the building will both increase the activity and enhance downtown Hamilton. Meeting student and city demand for residence space on campus will be supported by the new undergraduate student residence project on Main Street West between Dalewood and Forsythe, also expected to begin construction in the late spring or early summer of 2021.

McMaster's economic impact in Hamilton, the province and the country continue to expand. The University's total annual economic impact is \$9.2 billion. Innovation and the commercialization of research generates significant growth at the McMaster Innovation Park on Longwood Road. The Innovation Park is currently home to more than 800 employees.

### **McMaster University Security Services**

The department manages security services for the main Westdale campus, all off campus sites and is supplemented by private contract security services for a number of off campus locations. Our campus communities extend to:

- David Braley Health Sciences Centre – downtown Hamilton
- McMaster Continuing Education and university offices - One James North
- McMaster Innovation Park

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- The Ron Joyce Centre - Burlington
- Stonechurch Family Health Centre, 1475 Upper Ottawa St., Hamilton
- Kitchener/Waterloo and St. Catharines Health Sciences facilities and programs

The Hamilton Police Service works closely with McMaster Security Services to investigate serious criminal incidents. The Hamilton Police Service also supports McMaster Security by providing a wide range of mandatory and voluntary operational training programs which enhance the professionalism of service delivery to our community.

McMaster Security Services currently consists of 35 staff including: 1 Director, 1 Senior Manager, 1 Administrator, 5 Sergeants, 2 Investigators, 12 full-time Special Constables, 8 part-time Special Constables, 2 Technology Specialists, and 3 Dispatchers.

### **Training**

A university is a unique environment and that extends to the role of security on campus. The safety of every individual on campus is paramount. While this requires great diligence and a commitment to excellence, it also requires an approach that helps to ensure that students, faculty and staff feel they are respected as individuals. Education and support also play a part in Security's role at the university as the security team upholds the law but also help to strengthen the university's commitment to the principles underpinning an academic institution.

To achieve these goals McMaster Security embraces professional development for all staff on an ongoing and annual basis. The following is a summary of training programs participated in by McMaster Security Services Special Constables in 2020 as we work to ensure all staff maintain and enhance the knowledge and expertise related to their positions.

A total of 188 mandatory Health & Safety courses were taken in 2020 including initial training for new hires and recertification for serving Special Constables. The 2020 training is a 19% increase over the 2019 training courses (158). McMaster University partnered with the Canadian Police Knowledge Network (CPKN) and established our own dedicated training portal. A total of 601 courses were taken by Special Constables via CPKN including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Victim's Rights, Frontline Demonstrations, Suicide Awareness and Mental Health for First Responders focusing on caring for those who care for others. The 601 courses taken in 2020 is a significant increase of 385% from the 2019 total of 124 courses and an even more significant increase on the 33 courses taken in 2018. One area of emphasis has been on trauma informed investigations training that promote a survivor-centred approach. CPKN courses are now structured in three main areas of Leadership Development, Coaching and Senior Special Constable Development and Investigative Skills. This significant increase demonstrates our commitment to quality customer service through education and development. See Appendix A Training.

### **Incidents**

McMaster University Security Services takes an educational and proactive approach to help keep our campus safe. We spend considerable time building strong partnerships,

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communicating with students, faculty and staff, providing training and educating our key constituencies in safety and how they can help to support the development of an inclusive and safe environment. We encourage people to report any concerns or incidents and we share information through social networks, posters and other communication tools so all members of the campus community are aware of where and how to connect with Security. As a result, we have seen a consistent increase in the number of incidents reported over the past few years.

In 2020, McMaster University Security Services filed 4,302 incident reports, that is a 3.2% increase over 2019. Legal infractions in 2020 for both criminal and federal statutes accounted for 383 reported incidents. This, as a result of the pandemic and the move in March 2020 to online learning, overall incidents are rising, in large part due to securing the campus property while criminal and federal statute incidents have decreased by 37% since 2019, in large part due to the decrease in activity on campus.

The chart below details incidents over the past several years. The number of inciting hatred incidents decreased to 3 in 2020 from a fairly consistent 2018 (10) and 2019 (11). These incidents include flyers on bulletin boards, stickers and graffiti found on campus. There were no hate related assaults. McMaster has increased its commitment to inclusivity through a variety of measures including the creation of the Associate Vice-President, Equity and Inclusion position. Dr. Arig al Shaibah continues to play a significant leadership role in raising awareness, communication and education of issues around diversity and inclusion and the importance of reporting incidents. Dr. al Shaibah has provided training in Anti-Racism to Security Services personnel in 2020 with Anti-Oppression and Trauma Informed Sexual Assault response training scheduled for 2021.

Significant educational efforts continue in relation to Harassment and Sexual Harassment and 42 incidents were reported in 2020 which is a decrease from the 44 incidents in 2019. McMaster's Sexual Violence and Harassment and Discrimination policies were reviewed and updated in the fall/winter of 2019 after campus-wide consultations and remain important aspects of creating and supporting a safe environment.

In situations of serious assault, sexual assault, indecent acts, inciting hate and other major incidents, McMaster Security works with the Hamilton Police Service to investigate the incidents. The most significant volume of offences fall into two categories – thefts and mischief. The greatest number of thefts relate to bicycles, computers and personal property. The offence of mischief is attributed to general damage to windows, doors and facilities on campus. Assault incidents have decreased in 2020 to 23 from 38 in 2019 and generally relate to fights with no injury.

The pandemic accounts for many of the variances in reporting numbers for 2020. See Appendix B Criminal Incidents

### **Hamilton Police – McMaster Partnership**

McMaster University works closely with Hamilton Police in a variety of ways.

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The President's Advisory Committee on Community Relations (PACCR) benefits from consistent interaction with the Division One Crime Manager. PACCR membership includes community neighbours, landlords, the Westdale BIA, students, faculty, city of Hamilton by-law staff and university representatives, including security. The Committee has been a valuable partnership for more than two decades and is co-chaired by a community member and McMaster's Vice-President, University Advancement. PACCR meets regularly to share information, discuss any neighbourhood concerns and developments, and assists in bringing a community perspective when planning is done for events such as Welcome Week and Homecoming. The Committee's work contributes significantly to ensuring a safe community with a high quality of life for all residents.

McMaster also has a strong and long-term relationship with the Ainslie Wood/Westdale Community Association (AWWCA). These partnerships embrace educating the public on initiatives, including traffic safety, Problem Oriented Policing projects, and 'Lock It or Lose It' campaigns.

As well as investing time and attention in being a strong neighbourhood partner, McMaster has also invested for many years in the Mac 91/92 program. Funded by McMaster and the McMaster Students Union, the University works closely with the Hamilton Police Service to hire Hamilton police officers to proactively patrol the Westdale neighbourhood to help support a safe community. Officers are hired to cover key times including evening and weekends and during Welcome Week, Homecoming and St. Patrick's Day. These patrols have continued to be funded by the University during the pandemic.

The Hamilton Police Service is encouraged by the University to support McMaster's operational plans during busy times of the school year. The University thanks Hamilton Police Service for its ongoing support during move in/move out, football games and other sporting events, St. Patrick's Day weekend and Light up the Night which occurs at the end of the Winter Term. By working together, we have been able to coordinate planning, organize alternate events for students held on campus and develop other strategies to be better prepared for community activities. With this university/police partnership, McMaster and Hamilton have been able to proactively avoid the large street parties that in other campus towns and cities can attract tens of thousands of revelers.

We look forward to continuing our strong partnership in support of public safety.

FB/GD

Appendix "A" – Training

Appendix "B" – Criminal Incidents

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