

As the year ends, I would like to take a moment to reflect on 2023.

We have a small but competent team that works tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of the two communities we serve, the towns of Quispamsis and Rothesay. We strive to maintain a high level of professionalism and integrity in all our operations.

In 2023 our officers received training in de-escalation of volatile situations as well as how to manage difficult situations with people suffering from psychological injuries. We took that a step further in seeking a higher level of training and we now have two instructors in our ranks.

We are proud that one of our senior officers successfully completed the Critical Incident Command course at the Canadian Police College. We have a number of officers who have received similar training, for managing critical incidents as a commander or negotiator. We continue to expand our expertise with traffic accident reconstruction. One of our long-time traffic officer qualified this year as a level 4 Traffic Reconstructionist. Additionally, our full time Forensic Identification officer recently trained in identification of blood spatter patterns. This too was quite an accomplishment for our small police force.

Speaking of traffic, I must highlight the fact that we have a dedicated and busy traffic unit at the KRPF. In 2023, we intercepted over 119 people for driving motor vehicles while in various levels of impairment with alcohol or a drug. Vehicles were seized and impounded, driver licences were lost, insurance rates skyrocketed and for some, they became convicted criminals!

Our fleet of drones is used on a regular basis, locally or on request for assistance from other police forces. We have 4 trained pilots.

In 2023, we worked to develop expertise with use of social media and how that relates to our student/youth population. This helps us understand their reality of living in the world of Tic Tok, Face Book and others. We need to relate better so that we can help when needed. We partnered with a prosecutor specialising in complex web-based investigations to deliver a presentation to parents of Middle School and High School age students about the perils on social media apps, what to look for, what to be aware of, and how to protect our children.

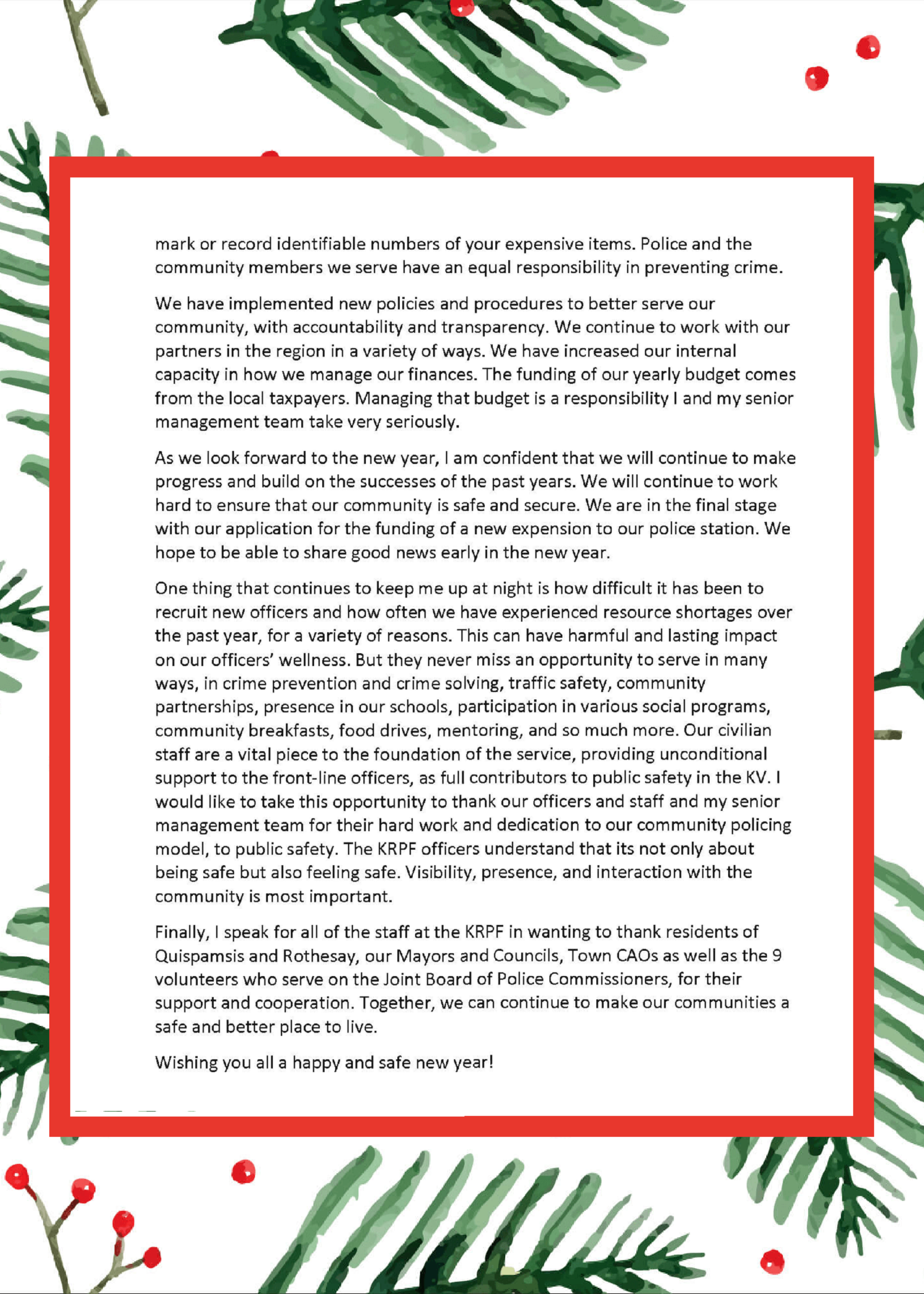


The KRPF took steps in 2023 to expand our services. We now have a “Canine Unit” with Police Canine Sammy and Handler Cst. Chris McLeod. This is a first for the force, something we are very proud of. This was made possible in part, thanks to the Saint John Police Force who organized and delivered the training. We are also part of the Saint John Police Force Emergency Tactical Service with our members imbedded in the team.

In late 2022, we had purchased some highly specialized equipment that we put into active service in 2023. Our officers now can use our 3D laser scanner to create accurate visual digital reproduction of a crime scene. We also acquired technology and training with a new digital forensic extraction tool. We are always happy to share as we assisted other police forces with both new technologies. Locally, we are also using the laser scanner to create 3D modeling of our schools. We can now do more in our efforts to solve crime such as what we increasingly see involving smart phones and tablets. I would be remiss if not to mention that we are thankful for some funding we received from the province to help us share the financial burden of those expensive new tools.

We continue to be guided by our strategic plan, which is based on our Vision, Mission, and Values. I am proud to report that we have been successful in meeting most of the goals we set out to reach in 2023 with respect to our priorities of *Community Safety and Crime Prevention, Employee Engagement and Well Being, Excellence in Investigations and Crime Reduction*. We are so fortunate to have a dedicated Criminal Investigation Division made up of highly trained Detectives who handle all our more complex cases. It certainly is reassuring for me as Chief of Police to know how much expertise they collectively possess which translates into professional and competent investigations. We also have two officers dedicated full time to the Saint John Integrated Enforcement Unit, focussing on street level drugs and other types of investigations in Saint John and the KV.

I recently received the crime rate data for year 2022 from Statistic Canada. We fared very well again, with one of the lowest crime rate out of 330 police forces serving cities with over 10,000 in population. This is something our two communities need to celebrate but let’s not rest on our laurels! Drug use and overdose cases are on the rise. Fentanyl, cocaine, meth, and other hard drugs are in the KV, and with that comes an increase in property crime. Petty theft from vehicles, break and enters, shop lifting are most often crimes of opportunity. This can be prevented by locking up your property, your vehicles, and taking steps to



mark or record identifiable numbers of your expensive items. Police and the community members we serve have an equal responsibility in preventing crime.

We have implemented new policies and procedures to better serve our community, with accountability and transparency. We continue to work with our partners in the region in a variety of ways. We have increased our internal capacity in how we manage our finances. The funding of our yearly budget comes from the local taxpayers. Managing that budget is a responsibility I and my senior management team take very seriously.

As we look forward to the new year, I am confident that we will continue to make progress and build on the successes of the past years. We will continue to work hard to ensure that our community is safe and secure. We are in the final stage with our application for the funding of a new expansion to our police station. We hope to be able to share good news early in the new year.

One thing that continues to keep me up at night is how difficult it has been to recruit new officers and how often we have experienced resource shortages over the past year, for a variety of reasons. This can have harmful and lasting impact on our officers' wellness. But they never miss an opportunity to serve in many ways, in crime prevention and crime solving, traffic safety, community partnerships, presence in our schools, participation in various social programs, community breakfasts, food drives, mentoring, and so much more. Our civilian staff are a vital piece to the foundation of the service, providing unconditional support to the front-line officers, as full contributors to public safety in the KV. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our officers and staff and my senior management team for their hard work and dedication to our community policing model, to public safety. The KRPF officers understand that its not only about being safe but also feeling safe. Visibility, presence, and interaction with the community is most important.

Finally, I speak for all of the staff at the KRPF in wanting to thank residents of Quispamsis and Rothesay, our Mayors and Councils, Town CAOs as well as the 9 volunteers who serve on the Joint Board of Police Commissioners, for their support and cooperation. Together, we can continue to make our communities a safe and better place to live.

Wishing you all a happy and safe new year!