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# New Models of Community Safety

Jean-Michel Blais, Chief of Police Halifax Regional Police

Summit on the Economics of Policing - Ottawa, Ontario 2013-01-16 & 17











# Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)

- Comprised of the former cities of Halifax, Bedford and Dartmouth as well as former Halifax County
- Size: 5491 square kilometres larger than PEI, smaller than Toronto's 7124 square kilometres
- Population: 390,280 which is 43% of NS' population



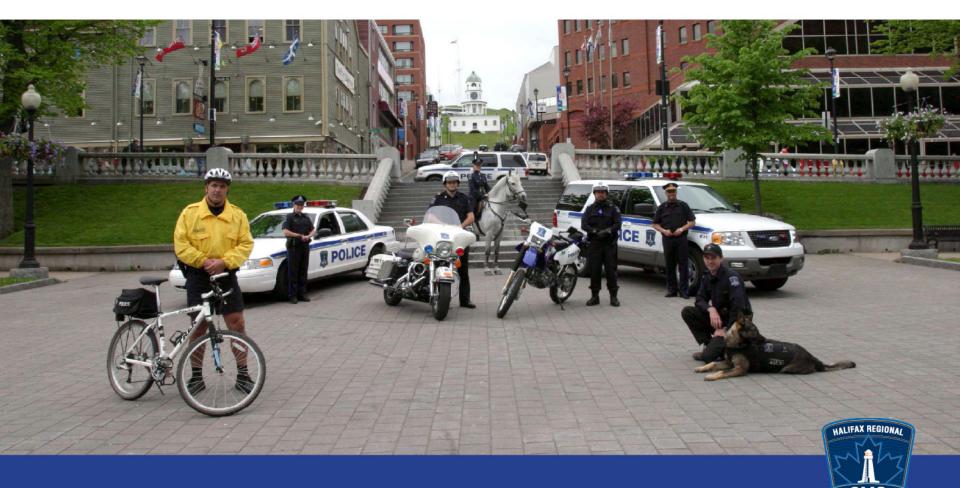


## Impacts on policing in HRM

- Major events in history: Halifax Harbour Explosion, Titanic sinking, Atlantic military convoys, Swissair 111, numerous hurricanes and Atlantic storms
- Mayor's Roundtable on violence
- Number of dispatched calls for service per year: 120,448
- Top three ranked calls for service: Thefts, assaults and break & enters
- Top three public concerns: Homicides, downtown assaults and pedestrian collisions
- Integrated policing model: Urban core policed by HRP while former Halifax County policed by RCMP



# Overview of Halifax Regional Police (HRP)



**New Models of Community Safety** 

#### **About HRP**

- Halifax Police Department was officially formed on October 28, 1864. Constables were in place since settlement in 1749.
- Halifax, Dartmouth and Bedford Police Departments amalgamated in 1996.
- 512 sworn officers, 151 civilian staff, 170 crossing guards, nine K9 units and two horses.
- Demographics: 18.5% of sworn members are female (18.5%)
   / 7.2% of employees are visible minorities or aboriginal / 25
   sworn officers are bilingual

## Integration: Opportunities & Challenges







**PARTNERS IN POLICING** 



## **Community Safety Pillars**

- Traditional community policing
- Problem-oriented policing
- Intelligence-led policing using tools such as a modified version of Comstat
- Public Safety Officer







# Examples of community programs













### Be more than a bystander Video Contest

Due: May 25, 2012

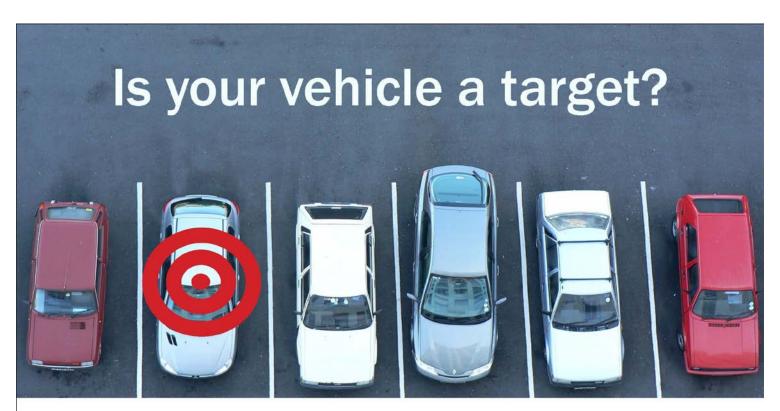












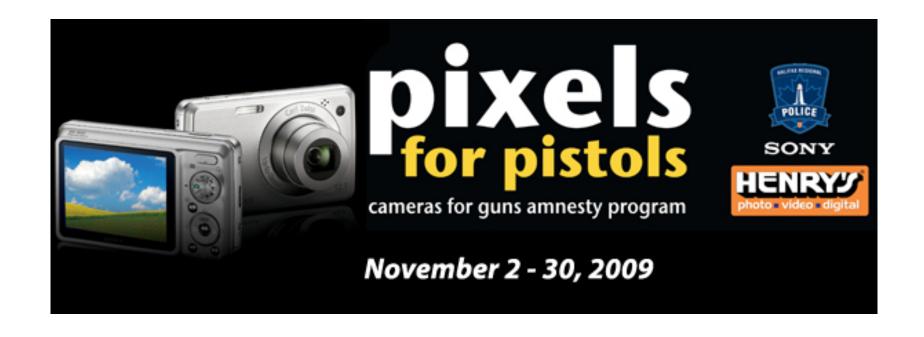


Don't make it easy for thieves...

Lock your doors. Conceal your valuables. Park in a well-lit area.

www.halifax.ca/police











#### **Issues**

- Development of a leadership ethos
- Development of a learning culture and adaptability
- Leading the dialogue on social issues
- Legislative discussions on bar hours, gas & goes, prostitution, drugs
- Societal influences can be larger than the government income gap, video culture, narcissism
- Mental health problems
- Outputs/outcomes/outhouses what should we really be doing?





