

# St. Joseph Island Joint Meeting with the OPP

## September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### Attendance:

Councillor Julie Moore , Mayor Bob Hope – Hilton Village  
Councillor Dave Leask, Councillor Diane Holt – Hilton Township  
Councillor Joe Cardinal – St. Joseph Township  
Councillor Brian Dukes, Councillor Jim Waycik, Councillor Ken Ward, Reeve Mark Henderson, Clerk  
Treasurer Janet Boucher – Jocelyn Township  
Staff Sergeant Tyler Sturgeon, OPP  
Inspector Yves Forget, OPP

Further to Jocelyn Township's August meeting of Council the Clerk was asked to coordinate a meeting with the OPP to discuss issues of common interest, including unsafe travel on municipal roads and highways, speeding within the two town centres, damage to municipal roads by individuals doing black streaks, policing costs and OPP presence on the Island.

Detachment Commander Yves Forget indicated that there are minimal calls for service from St. Joseph Island. His recommendation was that as we see something happening call the OPP. Reporting the incident to one of the municipal offices a week later is not effective. Ratepayers and visitors are encouraged to call **911** or **1-888-310-1122** so that the incident is documented and followed up on.

The concern of increased policing costs for such calls was discussed. It was confirmed by Officer Forget and Sturgeon that such calls would have little to no impact on our policing costs. It was noted that the OPP rely heavily on statistics and calls for service/complaints. There have been few calls, so therefore they do not patrol as much and are not aware of problem areas.

There was a discussion about having another focus patrol where they have a dedicated patrol over problem areas and then report back. It is over several shifts/varying times in an effort to get a cross section of data and hopefully the presence will have an impact on issues that are occurring.

A focus patrol was completed in April/May 2017 and there were numerous charges (about 20) and there were 40+ vehicles stopped.

Another program that was discussed was "Project Lifesaver". Project Lifesaver is a community based, public safety, non-profit organization that provides law enforcement, fire/rescue, and caregivers with a program designed to protect, and when necessary, quickly locate individuals with cognitive disorders who are prone to the life threatening behaviour of wandering. The organization was founded in 1999 in Chesapeake, Virginia. The necessity of this program was determined through the correlation between cognitive conditions and the act of wandering. With the dramatic increase of cognitive conditions since the inception of the organization, the program has grown from a localized program to a program recognized internationally as a proven and effective method of **"bringing loved ones home."**

The Project Lifesaver Program is currently being run out of Algoma Manor. The Clerk will obtain more information and share with the other municipalities.