



MEDIA RELEASE

**For immediate release
June 29, 2009**

COUNTY OF ANNAPOLIS AND THE RCMP PARTNER TO BRING ANOTHER FIRST TO NOVA SCOTIA

ANNAPOLIS CO. – The Municipality of the County of Annapolis and the Annapolis Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have partnered to create a Community Policing Officer position dedicated to youth and the community; an innovation for Nova Scotia. This is the first such program for the RCMP in the province.

On June 19th, OIC Criminal Operations Branch, C/Supt. Criminal Operations Branch Blair McKnight; Annapolis Detachment S/Sgt. John Ennis; Rodena Renaud, Community Policing Officer; Annapolis County Warden Peter Newton; Annapolis County CAO Brenda Orchard; and Sharon Elliott, Seniors' Safety Program Coordinator, gathered for the contract signing marking the official implementation of the CPO. This happens just 13 years after the same partnership was formed to develop the nationally recognized Seniors' Safety Program; a program born in Annapolis County.

“The Community Policing Officer is a County employee managed by the RCMP, whose primary purpose is to improve the community by providing increased preventative and public reassurance programs while supporting core policing operations,” explained Warden Newton. “It started as a pilot project; but due to its many successes, the County has decided to make this position a permanent service for the residents of the County of Annapolis.”

The CPO position will be utilized to coordinate programs that students, schools, and police believe will be beneficial. It will also play a role in identifying officers with specific training and skills that may help them deliver various programs for the schools. The position was created as a dedicated, youth-focused position by the County of Annapolis to engage youth in a positive forum.

Renaud says it is her belief that this service allows a resource for our youth. “I am able to research and access various means within the RCMP or community to address concerns the young people may have. It provides a constant connection between the RCMP and the County's youth.” She describes it has a proactive approach.

S/Sgt Ennis noted that having this position builds on the detachment capacity for service delivery, and to build on youth programs within the schools and community. “Within the last year, new programs have been initiated and put in place by the Community Policing Officer, and the feedback has been very positive from the schools and youth. The position and future improvements to program delivery will be our goal, to ensure Annapolis County RCMP explores all options and best practices towards youth-related activities.”

“The partnership between the County of Annapolis and the RCMP has proven to be successful in the past, and we are very confident in the future. This program lets our youth and their families understand the value the County of Annapolis and the RCMP have placed on helping them achieve success,” said Warden Newton.

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On June 19th the contract was signed for the official implementation of the Community Policing Officer (CPO).

Rodena Renaud is the current CPO. She works out of the Annapolis Detachment in Bridgetown.