

Essex Police Service
Transition Ceremony

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Ontario Provincial Police



I promise to keep my remarks short as I already had the opportunity to personally speak to many of the former Essex Police Service members several weeks ago and I am sure they will all grow weary of hearing my voice over the next few weeks as we work through this transition.

I would like to start off by thanking, from the bottom of my heart, the members of the former Essex Police Service, the Essex Police Service Board, Mayor McDermott and Councillors of the Town of Essex, the administrative staff of Essex, notably Donna Hunter and Shelley Marchand, members of the OPP Contract Policing Bureau, especially Sgt Dino Tsitomenius, and finally the other 126 members of Essex County OPP for setting a new standard for professionalism and integrity in dealing with this entire amalgamation process.

To say we have overcome many hurdles would be an understatement. From the initial Council decision to look at an OPP costing, through the public consultation period, past the final Council decision to make the switch to OPP and finally to where we are here today participating in a ceremony that formally makes the OPP the policing service for the Town of Essex, the path has not been an easy one but each and everyone one of you have travelled it with dignity, commitment and professionalism.

But we are not here to dwell on the past. It truly is a new beginning for all of us.

An opportunity to take the strengths of two police departments and meld them together into an even greater police service servicing the Town of Essex.

As Detachment Commander for the OPP in Essex County and now your “Police Chief” for Essex, I see many great things coming for the residents of Essex.

I see new relationships being formed among the extended family of OPP Officers serving your Town, the officers still working from the previous Essex Police Service but now wearing an OPP uniform and the community as a whole.

I see the return of dedicated “community minded” police officers working fulltime out of an “Extended Service Office” located in the Essex Community Center beside your library and new arena.

I see an enhanced ability to serve the Town of Essex as we bring together the good things that the Essex Police Service has worked so hard to bring to the community over the last decade being combined with all the vast resources the Ontario Provincial Police has to offer.

Finally, I see the opportunity to set the foundation properly, right now, for renewing the trust and confidence that the residents of Essex have always had in their policing services, no matter what uniform they are wearing.

Soon, the challenge of transitioning a new police service will be behind us and it will be “business as usual” for policing services in the Town. So it is best that I end with a public commitment to the Town of Essex that we will continue to work “together” as one police service to make the Town of Essex the safest community in Ontario.

Thank you.