

May 14: Presentation and public consultation on tasers

Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW's), commonly known as 'TASERS' have had much media attention, several coroner's inquiries and public debate over the past 10 years.

New legislation has opened the door for all frontline officers in Ontario to carry CEWs on duty. Several police services are researching or already moving forward with outfitting and training all front line officers with this tool.

In November 2013, the provincial government issued revised guidelines allowing for the expanded deployment of the devices by police services, as previously only frontline supervisors and officers who are members of tactical units, hostage rescue teams and containment teams were allowed to carry the weapon.

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services initiated a review, which included an examination of current medical literature, a jurisdictional scan and consultation with stakeholders, including police and civil liberties advocates. The ministry has now placed the decision in the hands of police services in order for them to determine which officers should be permitted to carry tasers, based on their local needs and circumstances. On Wednesday May 14th at 7 p.m. the Shelburne Police Service is hosting a presentation and public consultation in regards to expanding the issuance of CEWs to all frontline officers. T

he presentation will provide information on how CEWs work, current legislation in regards to police carrying CEWs, and what the options are for Shelburne Police. All town residents are invited and encouraged to attend this presentation and consultation. This is an opportunity for our community to learn about CEWs, state their opinion and ask questions.