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This week in police news...

Shelburne Police Service responded to 91 calls for service between June 16th and June 23rd.

House Fire on Andrew Street

On Sunday June 16th an estimated $60,000.00 of damage occurred as a result of a significant kitchen fire at a home on Andrew Street. The entire kitchen portion was completely destroyed. There was also further smoke, heat and water damage.

Shelburne and District Fire Department, Shelburne Police Service and Dufferin Paramedic Services all responded to this house fire. The fire was actively burning when emergency crews arrived on scene. Some neighbours used fire extinguishers to try and put the fire out. According to Shelburne Fire, if had not been for those Good Samaritan neighbours the fire would have caused even more damage and spread further through the home.

The investigation concluded the likely cause of the fire was a pot of oil left unattended on the kitchen stove. There did not appear to be any working smoke alarms in the home.

A female resident of the home was transported to hospital as a precaution for smoke inhalation.

Another Break & Enter at the Old Hospital under Renovation

The old Shelburne Hospital currently under renovation on First Street fell victim to yet another break and enter over the weekend.

At the end of May nine youth were arrested and charged in relation to a break and enter and mischief at the same and other locations.

Anyone with information in regards to this incident is encouraged to call Shelburne Police at 519-925-3312 or contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-461-8477 (1-800-461-TIPS).

Motor Vehicle Collision at Main Street West and Gordon Street

On Wednesday June 19th Shelburne Police, Dufferin Paramedic Services and Shelburne District Fire Department responded to a traffic accident in the intersection of Main Street and Gordon Street. The collision caused significant damage and closed down the roadways for about one hour. There were four occupants in total in the two vehicles involved. A female was transported to hospital with minor injuries. A youth male was charged with Fail to Yield to Through Traffic under the Highway Traffic Act.

Shelburne Male Charged with Breaching Court Conditions in Domestic Incident

In May Shelburne Police arrested and charged a male in relation to a domestic assault case. The male was held for a bail hearing at the Orangeville Courthouse where he was released with various conditions.

On June 22nd Shelburne Police responded to a domestic disturbance involving the same victim and suspect. The 45 year old male accused was arrested and charged with two counts of breach of recognizance and one count of breach of probation. The name of the accused is being withheld for the protection of the victim.

?Sexting' a growing concern for our youth, parents and the police:

The term ?sexting? refers to more than just sending cell phone text messages with a sexually explicit tone. It also encompasses sending actual photos that are sexual in nature, or even completely revealing photos through phone messaging or social media and the Internet.

There are an increasing number of reports to the local police in regards to this disturbing trend among our youth. The public may be surprised that this is not limited to teenagers anymore; many of the complaints come from elementary school age children.

Depending on content and context, sexting can be illegal and may result in very serious child pornography related criminal charges. The intent is often not of a criminal nature; however explicit photos circulating from one person to another of a young person is child pornography ? even if the photo is of the person who is doing the sending.

Further, once a picture is sent by text, e-mail, and Internet or on social media sites there is no control of where that picture will end up or how long it will circulate. What may be thought of as an innocent mistake by a 12 or 15 year old may haunt them with embarrassment and harassment for years to come ? even when they become adults.

Cybertip.ca director Signy Arnason said sexting started to become a visible problem about 2005. About 3% of the reports received on this child exploitation tip line which were then forwarded to police were about it. Today about 7% or 3,000 calls are received and forwarded to police annually are about youths sharing their sexual images, she said.

Internet predators target kids and also search for their photos. Shelburne police is advising parents not to put computers in children's bedrooms and they should check their kids' phones for inappropriate pictures and delete them.

When the breakup does happen, quite often that's when a lot of these pictures get viewed in the wrong hands and viewed by others. And it can be traumatic not only to the young person but to the family as a whole.

Parents need to be informed about what's going on when their kids are on their iPods and phone too. They also need to keep talking with their kids about what's proper behaviour.

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection, a charitable organization which oversees Cybertip.ca, offers a downloadable family guide to help address what they call self/peer exploitation.