



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE Police Services Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Big Red Meats Fundraising Initiative – Constable Dale Racine Educational Bursary

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board

Report Date: 2021-06-28

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Services Board receives this report for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the results of the Big Red Meats fundraiser in support of the Constable Dale Racine Educational Bursary.
- This event was an ongoing initiative beginning April 2021 and ending on May 3, 2021, raising \$6,970.00 for the bursary fund.
- Since its inception in 2014 there have been 30 high school student recipients of this Bursary.

Financial Considerations

There are no costs associated to the recommendations in this report.

Analysis

Constable Dale Racine was an 11-year member of the Service when he succumbed to cancer and passed away on September 11, 2012. Constable Racine was a very community-minded officer who gave selflessly of himself for various causes. In 2013, the Constable Dale Racine Bursary was established with a goal of providing assistance to secondary school students who meet the bursary criteria. The bursary is funded by way of an annual Trivia Night Challenge.

High school students from across the Niagara Region can apply for the bursary provided they have achieved academic success, are considered a good citizen of their school and community, have strong moral character, have demonstrated a commitment to community, and have a letter of reference from their principal. In addition, the applicants must submit an essay and their most recent official high school transcript. All applicants are reviewed by officers assigned as School Resource Officers with the top applicants selected to receive the award.

In April, the 8th Annual Constable Dale Racine Fundraiser took place in support of the Constable Dale Racine Educational Bursary. As a result of the event, \$6,970.00 was raised for the bursary. These funds will be dispersed to seven students from across the Niagara Region and the recipients will be recognized at the annual Awards Ceremony for 2021.

The Big Red Meats fundraiser was organized by School Resource Officers from the Service's Community Engagement Unit who volunteer their time and efforts. As the previous Trivia Night fundraiser could not be held for reasons relating to the pandemic, this fundraiser was initiated in order to continue the legacy of the Constable Dale Racine Educational Bursary. There are no conflicts of interest associated to the operation of this event as defined in By-Law 186-1999. Funds were raised through boxed meat sales. All received funds are transferred to the Service's Finance Unit and are deposited into an account. The Finance Unit transfers all funds directly to the bursary recipients' post-secondary institution. Recipients do not receive any funds directly.

The Community Engagement Unit would like to request the Board's authorization to continue this fundraiser by returning to the Constable Dale Racine Trivia Night tentatively scheduled for January 28, 2022.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

The bursary provides an excellent benefit to deserving students in the Niagara Region who have post-secondary school aspirations. The impact of this award on the students and their families cannot be understated and truly captures the spirit of community engagement within the Niagara Region and the Niagara Regional Police Service.

A recent example of the impact of the bursary was received in February 2020; the Service received an email from a 2014 Bursary recipient who provided an update on her educational career. She received her BSc in Honours Biology from the University of Waterloo in 2018 where she remained on the Dean's Honour List for every semester and at graduation. She is now currently working for a private non-profit organization in Cancer Research of Microwave-Assisted Tumor Ablation. She concluded the email: "Thank you to the Niagara Regional Police Service for their investment in my education."

Relevant Policy Considerations

Police Services Board By-Law 186-1999 – Fundraising for Service Related Organizations

Other Pertinent Reports

70-2020 – Trivia Night Fundraising Initiative – Constable Dale Racine Educational Bursary.

This report was prepared by Erin Madill, Sergeant, Community Engagement Unit and reviewed by Pat McCauley, Inspector, #3 District Operation and Marco Giannico, Superintendent, District Operations and recommended by Brett Flynn, Deputy Chief of Police, Operational Services.



Submitted by:

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Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable.