

LAMBTON GROUP POLICE SERVICES BOARD



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BOARD

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MEDIA RELEASE

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LGPSB welcomes new members.

For Immediate Release

Petrolia, ON – There was lots of excitement around the Lambton OPP detachment board room this afternoon, as incoming members of the Lambton Group Police Services Board gathered for the first time, for training and to be sworn into their new positions.

Under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA)*, which came into effect on April 1, 2024 the Lambton Group Police Services Board as an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Board type increased from a board of five (5) members to an approved board structure of ten (10) members.

- six (6) municipal representatives;
- two (2) community representatives; and
- two (2) provincial appointees.

Of the six (6) municipal representatives, each of the following municipalities and/or group of municipalities have the right to appoint the following number of representatives to the board:

Municipality(ies)	# of Representatives Appointed to Board
Lambton Shores	1
Petrolia	1
Plympton-Wyoming	1
St. Clair	1
Dawn-Euphemia, Oil Springs and Enniskillen	1 (jointly appointed by all 3 municipalities)
Warwick and Brooke-Alvinston	1 (jointly appointed by both municipalities)

Sworn in by Board Secretary and Clerk for the Town of Petrolia Mandi Pearson, and welcomed to their positions by Inspector Chris Avery were:

Name	Role	Appointment
Mr. Greg Nemcek	Chair	Community Member at Large
Mr. John McCharles	Vice Chair	Provincial Rep.

Mrs. Shirley Durance	member	Provincial Rep.
Deputy Mayor John Couwenberg	member	Municipal Rep – Brooke-Alvinston Warwick
Mayor Ian Veen	member	Municipal Rep – Dawn Euphemia Oil Springs Enniskillen
Councillor Dave Marsh	member	Municipal Rep – Lambton Shores
Mayor Brad Loosley	member	Municipal Rep - Petrolia
Mayor Gary Atkinson	member	Municipal Rep – Plympton-Wyoming
Mayor Jeff Agar	member	Municipal Rep – St.Clair
Mr. Bill Beveridge	member	Community Member at Large

Some familiar faces are returning to the LGPSB, as Mr. Greg Nemcek continues his appointment as community member at large and as board Chair. It was confirmed by the province that both members Shirley Durance and John McCharles would receive extension as provincial appointed members.

Board Chair Greg Nemcek, who is entering his second year as chair said “It is great to be a part of an exciting time with the province and to have the structure as updated under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA)*, coming together after many years of preparation. It is our role as members to listen and learn about happenings in our Lambton Detachment, and advise, when necessary, we are not involved in day-to-day frontline operations. We have an excellent composition of members who each bring a unique perspective and we look forward to learning and supporting our Lambton OPP.”

Inspector Chris Avery said “Along with our entire detachment I welcome our new members and to hear their thoughts as we work together to determine objectives and priorities for the detachment in following our provincially outlined strategic plan. We have always had an excellent group of community minded members on previous boards who have provided great advisement and recommendation in respect to the policing provided by the detachment and have been very engaged in the review of the policing reports provided through the detachment at each meeting, a practice that I am sure will continue with an expanded membership.”

The *Police Services Act (PSA)* was developed in 1990. The nature of policing and community safety has significantly changed in the past 30 years and there have been increased calls for the provincial government to update or modernize Ontario’s approach to policing and community safety. The *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA)* legislation is designed to strengthen public confidence in law enforcement while building the right supports and fair processes to enable police to deliver quality and efficient policing. Overall, significant impact to day-to-day frontline operations is not a part of a PSB mandate, and business will continue as usual at the Lambton Detachment.

For further information please contact:

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Encl. Photo