

The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR

8340



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"Published Weekly On the Largest Freshwater Island In The World"

Vol. 141, No. 28 \$1.43 + GST

Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Manitoulin Island mourns OPP Constable Marc Hovingh



A HERO'S RETURN—The body of fallen OPP Constable Marc Hovingh arrived home on Manitoulin Island Monday night as first responders stood along Highway 6 to honour their fallen comrade. Hundreds of Islanders braved the frigid evening to stand at attention, wearing blue clothes and displaying lights and signs to thank the officer for his service. His motorcade travelled from Etobicoke to Little Current that afternoon. This photograph shows the hearse bearing PC Hovingh's remains, just at the Little Current side of the swing bridge.

photo by Warren Schlote

Emotional groundswell is community's response to police officer's death

by Warren Schlote
with files from Michael Erskine
MANITOULIN—Hundreds of people lined the streets of Little Current Monday evening for a hero's welcome as Provincial Constable (PC) Marc Hovingh returned home after his tragic death in the line of duty.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) motorcade crossed the swing bridge onto Manitoulin Island at approximately 5:40 pm in a salute of lights and sirens, as the vehicles passed walls of people lining the road-

side. Those gathered were largely dressed in blue and carried lights and signs in honour of the fallen officer.

The procession left an Etobicoke funeral home at noon that day and arrived at Island Funeral Home in Little Current after sundown, ending PC Hovingh's final journey home.

PC Hovingh's hero's welcome was just one of many tributes that Islanders staged in the days following his death on Thursday, November 19.

That day, shortly after the ...continued on page 9

PC Hovingh fatally shot while responding to property dispute near Gore Bay's East Bluff

by Warren Schlote
with files from Tom Sasvari
GORE BAY—People across Manitoulin Island have responded with shock and disbelief after last Thursday's double-fatal shooting incident near the Town of Gore Bay, in a part of the province known for its quiet and deeply connected communities.

Around 11 am on Thursday, November 19, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers responded to a property dispute east of Gore Bay.

On any other day, this might have been another "nothing call" as a retired officer described it—a mundane, everyday call for service that normally ends without incident. However, said

the retired officer, basic calls such as traffic stops often carry the greatest risk for officers.

Police reports state that two OPP officers went to an address on Hindman Trail ...continued on page 10

Hovingh family seeking people's memories of husband/father

Expositor tasked with collecting them on family's behalf

MANITOULIN—Following the tragic passing of their beloved husband and father on Thursday, November 19, the Hovingh family is asking for the Island community to share its memories of Provincial Constable (PC) Marc Hovingh.

At the family's request, The Expositor will assist with compiling the memories which will be turned into a book of remembrance. These items are not sought for news stories.

Perhaps it was a time you spoke to PC Hovingh during a traffic stop that turned into a meaningful encounter, or the officer responded to a sensitive call and left you feeling safe and secure. Maybe it was a friendly chat at the arena or a sincere exchange following a church service. Whatever the moment, the family would like to capture it.

If you have a special memory of PC Hov- ...continued on page 23



The late Constable Marc Hovingh, a 28-year veteran of the Ontario Provincial Police who perished in the line of duty last Thursday, November 19.

Marc Hovingh's faith played huge role in his life and work

by Warren Schlote
MANITOULIN—Fallen Provincial Constable (PC) Marc Hovingh's loss has been felt strongly among the Island faith community and especially among the congregation of Mindemoya Missionary Church, where each of his family members have been devoted parishioners for decades.

Ben Quackenbush, a physician who serves as the youth ministry director at Mindemoya Missionary Church, said the news still feels unreal. He has been meeting with members of the church community in recent days to help them process the past week's events.

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Colleagues, friends recall PC Hovingh's caring nature, saw him as 'Gentle Giant'

by Warren Schlote
MANITOULIN—At 4:21 pm on Thursday, November 19, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Commissioner Thomas Carrique delivered an announcement that thousands of people had been dreading.

Manitoulin OPP Provincial Constable (PC) Marc Hovingh, a 28-year veteran of the force, had died of injuries sustained in the line of duty during an incident near Gore Bay earlier that day.

"Our hearts are with his family, friends and colleagues at this tragic time," the commissioner stated, adding the hashtag #HeroesInLife.

The hashtag references the phrase "heroes in life, not in death," a message inscribed on the Ontario Police Memorial at Queen's Park. Those words recognize that police officers put their own safety in jeopardy each day.

PC Hovingh, age 52, leaves behind his wife Lianne and four children—Nathan, Laura, Sarah and Elena.

He was 18 months away from retirement.

PC Hovingh is originally from Barrie, according to a tweet from the OPP. He began his policing career on January 4, 1994 in at the Apsley detachment in the Kawartha highlands. In 1997, he moved up Highway

28 to serve at the Bancroft detachment. He moved once more to his third and final posting in Manitowaning in 1999.

His visitation will take place on Friday, November 27 at Mindemoya Missionary Church from noon to 4 pm and 6 to 9 pm. His funeral is scheduled the following day at Manitoulin Secondary School, by invitation only. PC Hovingh will be buried at Hilly Grove Ceme-

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CRISIS SUPPORTS AVAILABLE

Thousands of people have been deeply impacted by the tragic shooting deaths of Provincial Constable Marc Hovingh and civilian Gary Brohman on Manitoulin Island last week, as well as the separate police operation this past Sunday evening in the West End.

Manitoulin-Northshore Victim Services offers its condolences to everyone affected by the incident and has supports available through its office, 705-370-3378; ConnexOntario at 1-866-531-2600; Maison McCulloch Hospice Grief Support at 705-674-9252 x227 and Crisis Centre Sudbury at 705-675-4760.

Visit the association's website at mnavictimservices.ca to learn more about the supports this organization offers.

...PC Hovingh fatally shot while responding to East Bluff area property dispute

...continued from page 1

in Gore Bay after a property owner reported the presence of an "unwanted man."

Shortly after they arrived, the officers located the individual who was inside a trailer. Investigators later revealed that the man on the property was 60-year-old Gary Brohman of Gore Bay.

Around 11 am on Thursday, shots were exchanged between Mr. Brohman and 52-year-old Provincial Constable (PC) Marc Hovingh.

Dozens of police officers and other first responders raced toward the Island from Sudbury and Algoma, including members of Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service and UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry conservation officers and paramedics. Orange air ambulance also responded for emergency medical transport.

Crews transported both men to hospital where they both died of their injuries.

PC Hovingh had spent 28 years with the OPP and was a year and a half from retirement when he died in the line of duty last

Thursday.

On Saturday morning, post-mortem examinations took place in Toronto for each of the men.

Initial reports and statements from government leaders suggested that a second officer was injured but investigators later clarified that only one officer sustained injuries.

Later in the day on November 19, Ontario's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) invoked its mandate to investigate the incident. The SIU is a civilian agency that conducts investigations when police actions have caused death, serious injury or an allegation of sexual assault.

Three investigators and two forensic investigators travelled to the scene that day.

The SIU said anyone with information on the investigation should contact the lead investigator at 1-800-787-8529, as well as anyone who may have video evidence related to the incident.

Greater Sudbury Police Service is investigating the death of PC Hovingh.

Officer deaths in the Manitoulin detachment are all but unheard of. In 1972, Constable Clare Lloyd Lackey was returning from a call when he was struck head-on by an impaired driver on Highway 540.

The bridge over Graham Creek in Honora Bay is named in his honour. Island historians believe PC Hovingh is the second officer who has died while on-duty in this detach-

ment.

Last Thursday's incident took place just east of the Town of Gore Bay. Mayor Dan Osborne stated, "the tragic events that have taken place so close to our community have affected us all here and across the Island. I cannot imagine the pain the family of Constable Hovingh must be feeling. We will

...continued on page 11

Civilian shooter's family shocked by his involvement

by Tom Sasvari

with files from Warren Schlote

GORE BAY—The mother of Gary Brohman, the civilian who fatally injured Provincial Constable (PC) Marc Hovingh and who was himself fatally shot during an incident this past Thursday, November 19, expressed the devastation of her loss and unanswered questions in an interview this past weekend.

"It was Gary, my son, who was involved. I just can't believe it happened," an emotional June Baker, of Gore Bay, told this newspaper after her son was fatally shot in the incident. "When I first heard on TV and the news what had happened and that it happened on Scotland Road, I just knew it had involved Gary. He said this is where he had moved, into a trailer."

Mr. Brohman, who was 60, had been living at Bayside Apartments in Gore Bay until very recently. "He had moved out of Bayside, out to the trailer at the end of October. He told me he had rented the trailer from a guy (who owned the property) and that since he was on disability insurance, that they were going to pay the rent."

"Gary's favourite place to be was in the bush," said Ms. Baker. "He had gone up there (to the trailer) in the summer several times."

The Expositor spoke with Mr. Brohman's

first cousin, who requested anonymity. He said he had several questions about the police reports' characterization of there being a 'property dispute' because Mr. Brohman had been using the property for years. He alleged that Mr. Brohman was working with the property owner since early this year to set up a trailer there for his home.


However, he said his cousin was paying his rent in cash and, as a result, finding records of the deal would be difficult.

The cousin doubted that Mr. Brohman would squat anywhere because said cousin owns 16 acres of hunting property, which he had allowed Mr. Brohman to use. The

...continued on page 22



Family members say Gary Brohman, the civilian who shot and killed PC Hovingh and was fatally injured as well, seemed distant in recent months.



NOTICE BOARD

14 Water Street East (Post Office Building)
Town of NEMI P.O. Box 608 Little Current, ON POP 1K0



www.Christmas innemi.ca

Christmas is coming and many exciting things are going to be happening!

Please check out our new website

ChristmasInNemi.ca

Here you will find MESSAGES FROM SANTA,

Information on:

**How to email Santa your letter,
upcoming contests,
craft ideas, etc.**

Don't forget to register your float for the Parade!

Parade Date: DECEMBER 5 AT 6 pm

Things will be a little different this year as Santa will not be stopping downtown to meet with you but he will be WATCHING YOU!

Check out the website or call Lisa for more information 705-368-3500 ext 226.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Help your community and yourself to stay safe!



Wear a mask

Wash your hands

Social Distance



YARD CLEAN UP


Let's all be responsible homeowners and tidy our yards!

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Due to the ever-changing environment that we are all dealing with,

Council meetings will be held every Tuesday Night at 7:00 pm via Zoom Video Meeting # 489 313 1974 Or call 1-587-328-1099

Please be advised regular protocol will be in place and members of the public will not have the ability to make comments or ask questions during the meeting. For a full copy of the agenda please visit our website.

Keep up-to-date with notices and news by following us on
 **Facebook and Instagram or visit our website at**
www.townofnemi.on.ca

Invitation to Apply for Provincial Appointment:

Manitoulin Planning Board

Interested individuals are invited to apply for membership on the Manitoulin Planning Board representing that portion of the planning area without municipal organization. Appointments are made by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to a term ending November 30, 2022.

Planning Board members are responsible for:

- Providing input and making recommendations concerning local land-use planning matters;
- Considering applications for the conveyance of land;
- Reviewing local land-use planning documents and making recommendations regarding amendments to those documents;
- Interpreting and applying provincial policy and legislation relating to local land-use planning; and
- Attending regular and special meetings of the Planning Board

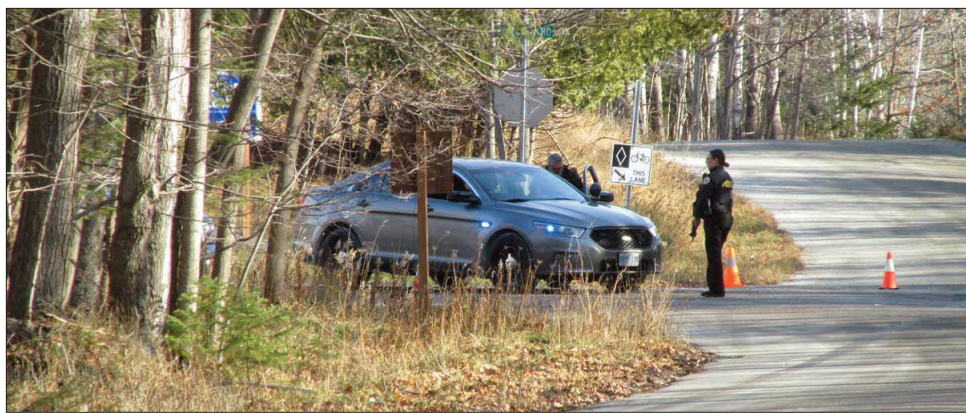
The portion of the planning area without municipal organization consists of the geographic townships of Dawson and Robinson.

To be eligible for appointment as a Planning Board member to represent the portion of the planning area without municipal organization, the candidate must complete an interview, be a Canadian citizen and be eligible to vote in an Ontario election. The candidate should be familiar with the portion of the planning area without municipal organization. Knowledge of Ontario's land use planning system is an asset.

Interested individuals must apply via the Public Appointments Secretariat (PAS) website at www.ontario.ca/publicappointments. **Applications must be submitted no later than December 16, 2020.**

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Planning Board at mpbcarlisle@bellnet.ca or from the contact below:

**Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Municipal Services Office - North (Sudbury)
Caitlin Carmichael, Planner
Caitlin.Carmichael@Ontario.ca**



A heavy police presence secured the area on the East Bluff near Gore Bay last Thursday, November 19, as officers from beyond the district responded to a call that an OPP officer was in trouble.

photos by Tom Sasvari

...PC Hovingh fatally shot near Gore Bay

...continued from page 10 keep them in our thoughts and prayers.”

“It’s going to be hard for everyone,” said Mayor Osborne. “Marc was a big part of the community; he was involved in many different things.”

Bob Third and Mary-Lea Buchan live just down Scotland Road, near the scene of this incident. They said they stayed at their camp once they heard the sirens and helicopters.

Neighbour Wade Cook of Noble Boulevard said it was disturbing that such an incident could happen so close to home. He had seen the Hovinghs at church on a couple of prior occasions.

His children attend elementary school at Charles C. McLean Public School in Gore Bay and he said the school had gone into lockdown as the incident unfolded.

Sue Priddle of Gore Bay was driving in the opposite direction from the incident and recounted seeing several police vehicles racing toward the West End.

“It is horrifying,” said Ms. Priddle. “Two deaths have taken place and countless lives have been affected. Our community is so small.”

PC Hovingh’s death drew thousands of condolences and messages of support for the family, the Island community and policing officials within hours of the OPP commissioner’s announcement later that afternoon.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford stated that he was deeply saddened by the news. He extended his support for government house leader Paul Calandra’s request to lower flags to half-staff at the legislature. “My thoughts are with all the brave men and women on the front lines who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe.”

Every party leader in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario offered similar statements and Conservative Party of Canada leader Erin O’Toole also joined the chorus.

Numerous municipalities, First Nations, businesses and private citizens across Ontario also lowered

their flags. The United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising lowered each of its member flags at its M’Chigeeng headquarters.

Thousands of people expressed their condolences online including police chiefs, officer unions, sports teams, RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki, Ontario Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell and federal Public Safety Minister Bill Blair.

Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Mike Mantha shared his condolences for PC Hovingh’s family, friends, Islanders and the entire Ontario policing community.

“On Manitoulin Island, OPP officers are our friends and our neighbours. On duty and off, they play an active role in Manitoulin life. We will be forever changed by the devastating loss of one of our own. Manitoulin is also strong, and I have faith that we will come together to grieve and to heal, to support Constable Hovingh’s loved ones and to remember a hero gone too soon,” Mr. Mantha said in an emailed statement.

Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing MP Carol Hughes shared a similar statement of condolence and requested a moment of silence in the legislature when she raised the topic.

“On behalf of the people of Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing who are filled with grief at this tragic loss and grateful to all those who put their lives on the line for us every day, I wish his family, loved ones, and those he has touched much strength through these difficult times,” she stated.

The Expositor will continue to report on new developments in the case as they become available in the coming weeks and months.

The Island collectively held its breath this past Sunday, November 22 when another police situation brought scores of officers to the Elizabeth Bay area in Western Manitoulin. Fortunately, that call for service ended without any major incidents.

In late August, a 43-year-old Gore Bay man was

arrested and charged with numerous offences including attempt to commit murder with a firearm after he allegedly fired shots at an OPP officer who was responding to a call, also in Gore Bay.

Happy 60th Birthday
to a wonderful husband and a ‘great’
cradle rocking dad on November 26.



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An orange air ambulance attended the scene to airlift an injured victim to hospital.