

## Message from the Chief



*John LEONTOWICZ  
Chief of Police  
May 2000 – Present*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Leontowicz', written over a light blue horizontal line.

It is my pleasure to present the 2018 Annual Report. The Annual Report is to be made public as required by the Police Service Act.



I believe that the primary focus for any police service is public safety. In 2018 there were no public safety issues. There was one serious and isolated matter involving an attempted murder of a Windsor person in LaSalle. A warrant was issued for the suspect who is a non-resident of Canada. Although we have experienced but a few issues that most Canadian communities experience, mental illness remains the most common related call for service. To this end we have built a strong relationship with mental health officials and partners to address these challenges.

Public confidence is also at the forefront of our endeavours. Our annual community survey of over 450 residents has shown that 99% of people surveyed have a good to excellent report on their experience with police. The absence of public complaints, Office of the Independent Review Director (OIPRD) matters and Special Investigations Unit (SIU) incidents also suggest that a professional, transparent and community minded Service.

Equally as important is the public cost of policing. Again, the LaSalle Police have come in under budget for 2018. Annual budgetary increases are minimal and publicly accepted by the residents we serve.

There have been a number of positive community police initiatives that continue to bring our partners together in making the Town of LaSalle safe. A few initiatives to mention are the historic 1957 Pontiac LaSalle Police vehicle that attends many events; the police charity golf tournament continues to draw a full tournament with monies raised toward local charities; Special Olympics remains a successful partner; and, numerous events throughout the year are held with the many fund-raising events attended by our staff.

It is important that residents continue to be a part of making this community safe. We encourage your feedback and participation. Today's community and police partnership is about the community taking the lead role and for police to serve.

Ensuring the rights of residents are upheld to the highest degree and that victims of crime are shown respect and understanding in times of need remains a priority. Additionally, we collaborate on an ongoing basis with our partners with crime prevention initiatives so as to constantly evolve our approach with crime patterns. Some of the new initiatives are LEAP – LaSalle Empowerment Assistance Program, Spiritual Soldier, Human Trafficking initiative and many more.

The women and men of the LaSalle Police Service provide great service to their community. The very positive relationship the community has with LaSalle Police is demonstrated on a daily basis. I would like to thank the residents of the Town of LaSalle for your support and involvement in helping the Service strive to better serve its community. LaSalle Police believe in "community led policing" and the community has responded to this philosophy.

Our social media followers increase yearly. Keep in touch with us by visiting us on our website and by following us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

