

Media Release

Inspector Patrick Milligan of Guelph Police Service Awarded OACP Youth Service Volunteer Award

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(Toronto, ON) – The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) is pleased to announce that Inspector Patrick Milligan of the Guelph Police Service is the recipient of the 2020 OACP Youth Service Volunteer Award for his outstanding work with students in the Guelph community. This award recognizes a serving civilian or sworn member of an Ontario police service who has contributed in an exemplary manner, through volunteerism to the overall well-being of youth. The award is sponsored by Accident Support Service International Ltd.



While volunteering at the Shelldale Centre soccer program for neighbourhood youth 13 years ago, Inspector Milligan realized that there was an opportunity for an enhanced program with police involvement. Shelldale Family Gateway and West Willow Village Neighbourhoods are considered priority communities, as identified by Public Health, where youth tend to face greater challenges in development. These neighbourhoods are also home to many new Canadians.

For the past 13 years, Inspector Milligan has led the Kickz's soccer after school program (#KickzSoccer), a collaboration between Guelph Police Service, Guelph Soccer Club, Shelldale Family Gateway, and West Willow Village Neighbourhood Groups. The program's motto is, *"To create safer, stronger, more respectful communities through the development of young people's potential"*. Guelph Police Service members volunteer as coaches and this provides an active and fun opportunity for youth and police to interact and build positive relationships. The volunteer-run program is for youth in grades 1-6 and runs for 16 weeks at no cost to the participant. It has supported 800 youth to date.

In 2012, in conjunction with staff from Immigrant Services Guelph Wellington, Inspector Milligan created the Cultural Appreciation Program for recruit officers to facilitate an interactive session for youth from Shelldale to share their journey to and in Canada. Youth from the Kickz's program have also participated in this important initiative.

"Building positive relationships between members of police services and the youth in our communities is a key element in effective partnerships for strong communities. Officers like Inspector Milligan give their time to working with young people, rightly believing that an investment in young people is an investment in the future of our communities. We are proud to recognize unsung heroes like Inspector Milligan with this award." – Chief Daryl Longworth, Chair of the OACP Youth Committee.

[2020 OACP Youth Service Volunteer Award Video](#)



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