

## Crime Prevention Ottawa to launch pilot program in Overbrook to help crime victims

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Crime Prevention Ottawa is set to develop a new pilot project with the Overbrook community that will serve as a way to help terrorized neighbourhoods recover from violent crime in their streets.

When shootings occur, there are few services for affected residents once investigators roll up their crime scene tape. Crime Prevention Ottawa is hoping tackle this problem by initiating what it calls a post-incident neighborhood protocol in Overbrook.

“The idea is that neighborhoods are often negatively affected by frightening events and we need to respond after all the flashing lights and sirens are gone,” said Nancy Worsfold, the executive director of Crime Prevention Ottawa. “The idea is to figure out better ways of responding.”

Worsfold stressed the protocol, which will be developed in partnership with the Rideau-Rockliffe Community Resource Centre, is still a kernel of an idea and that all the details of the project still need to be fleshed out. There is no set timeline for when the pilot project will start.

“This will allow for there to be a clear kind of procedure in how community resources can be utilized by people affected by crime,” said Rawlson King, president of the Overbrook Community Association.

The protocol was announced at an Overbrook Community Association meeting on Feb. 18, which brought together Crime Prevention Ottawa, police, Rideau-Rockliffe Coun. Tobi Nussbaum and a number of different community groups to discuss what is being done to address crime after a couple of recent shootings in the neighborhood.

The general message of the meeting from Ottawa police was that despite the recent shootings, overall crime is down in Overbrook, and the community is doing well in its response to incidents.

“Those were targeting shootings and tied into the gang issue and the drug trade,” Ottawa police Insp. Mike Laviolette told the *Ottawa East News*

. “These are not random acts of violence against residents waiting for a bus. These shootings are not indicative of the neighbourhoods they take place in.”

From 2013 to 2014, Overbrook saw a 17 per cent reduction in the number of calls to the police in Overbrook. During that time, residential break and enters in the area decreased by 31 per cent, and thefts from vehicles went down 50 per cent.

Personal robberies increased from four incidents in 2013, to eight in 2014, but six people have been charged in relation to those crimes. The neighborhood also experienced five more commercial break and enters than it did the year before.

Laviolette commended the community’s Neighbourhood Watch program for helping police.

“Overbrook is one of those communities where we get a lot of co-operation,” he said People care a lot about their community – not that they don’t in other areas – but when an event happens they’re more inclined to give us a hand because they know we can’t do it without them.”

The community association is hoping to expand its Neighbourhood Watch program and help form a youth jobs forum in the community with and to get groups like the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa involved.

“What’s wonderful about Overbrook is there are so many great community organizations that have wide expertise that are very involved in the neighbourhood and for that I think we are lucky,” Nussbaum said.



Crime Prevention Ottawa is set to develop what it calls a post-incident neighborhood protocol with the Overbrook community.