Kim Pettit joined York Regional Police in 2009 as Administrative Assistant for the Community Safety Village and in 2011, moved to Legal Services as Legal Administrative Assistant. Kim attended York University before transferring to the Ontario College of Art. She then attended the Shaw College Legal Secretarial Program. Kim lives in Newmarket and enjoys painting, singing and playing guitar with her husband, Dale.

Kim Pettit is the Legal Assistant for York Regional Police Legal Services and plays a significant role in the administration of the busy office.

Kim joined York Regional Police in January 2008 as a part-time Legal Assistant before accepting a full-time opportunity at the Community Safety Village. She returned to Legal Services in 2010.

Kim routinely volunteers for YRP events like Halloween in the Village, Holidays in the Village and Police Week Open House and she was an active volunteer during last summer’s Special Olympics Ontario 2013 Summer Games.

Her commitment to volunteerism doesn’t stop with York Regional Police.

She has volunteered with the Alliston Rotary Club and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. She has participated in the Newmarket Lions Club Voice Festival which supports Inn from the Cold and cancer research.

A member of the York Dragons since 2009, she has helped raise thousands for United Way, Children’s Wish and Big Brothers Big Sisters York Region.

Kim also enjoys her commitment to Sharon-Hope United Church as a member of the choir and the Capital Campaign Committee.

Kim continues to dedicate her time and talents to her work, her family and her community. Our community and our organization is enriched by Kim’s commitment to our motto Deeds Speak.
Deeds Speak

Herbert H. Carnegie Award

Detective Constable Mark Topping is a 27-year veteran with York Regional Police and is currently assigned to the Hate Crime Unit within the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau. Previous assignments include 17 years of frontline policing and 10 years of investigative experience with the Archaeological Forensic Recovery Team and the Major Case Management, Sexual Assault and Homicide Units.

York Regional Police prides itself on its strong and lasting partnerships with the many diverse communities who call York Region home and it is through the hard work of officers like Detective Constable Mark Topping, of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau, that our organization continues its successful outreach into our community.

Detective Constable Topping is currently assigned as a hate crime investigator. He has built bridges in several communities by identifying the victimization and oppression of women and children and has collaborated closely with the Women’s Support Network. He continues important work against human trafficking through forced marriage by partnering with the Social Services Network and the South Asian Legal Aid Clinic.

He also created a strong partnership with Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and was honoured to represent law enforcement as a guest speaker at a PFLAG ceremony recognizing former Toronto Maple Leaf General Manager Brian Burke in 2012.

Detective Constable Topping understands the unique difficulties of reaching people who are isolated by language, cultural or religious barriers and works tirelessly to overcome these challenges.

Detective Constable Topping’s passion, perseverance and commitment to inclusivity makes him a worthy recipient of the Herbert H. Carnegie Award for improving partnerships with our diverse communities.
Rob Plunkett Outstanding Service to the Community Award

Constable Andre Boteju joined York Regional Police in 2004 as a Special Constable working in the Newmarket Courthouse. In 2006, he fulfilled his dream of becoming a police officer and currently works Uniform Patrol in #5 District. Andre has lived in York Region since 1983 and thoroughly enjoys being engaged with the community he lives in and keeping it safe.

Constable Andre Boteju believes in giving back to his community and he began his community service work for York Regional Police two years before he became a police officer.

While working in Court Security, Constable Boteju organized the annual food and cash collections for the Jump on the Wagon program to assist those less fortunate across York Region.

When he joined York Regional Police in 2006, he convinced his platoon-mates to support what’s now known as Holiday Heroes. Working in partnership with the Loblaw’s in Markham, over the past seven years more than 10,500 pounds of food and $20,000 cash has found its way to those in need.

Constable Boteju takes pride in serving on the Board of Directors for Catholic Crosscultural Services, an organization which assists newcomers to Canada with integrating into Canadian culture.

He grows a ‘stash for the annual Movember campaign, bowls for Big Brothers Big Sisters and supports the Rob Plunkett Memorial Torch Run in support of Special Olympics.

This is over and above his day-to-day police work at #5 District in Markham, where during his career, he’s been recognized 12 times.

Constable Boteju is an outstanding example of the York Regional Police values of community and leadership, values that were so important to fallen officer Rob Plunkett.
York Regional Police is an acknowledged national leader for its victim-focused approach to human trafficking in the sex trade. This philosophy proved invaluable in this investigation, which resulted in a Toronto man being charged with the sexual assault of more than 20 female victims.

In November 2012, Vice Team members were investigating the sexual assault of a sex trade worker, who recalled meeting the suspect at a hotel and accepting a drink. Her next memory was of awakening to the man having unprotected sex with her without her consent.

Detectives spent weeks speaking with the reluctant victim and as her comfort level grew, she provided enough information to identify a suspect. She bravely agreed to another meeting and when he arrived, he was arrested and searched. The search recovered data devices and a digital video recorder.

Data on the devices was carefully analyzed and video supporting the victim’s allegations was discovered – as well as evidence suggesting additional assaults on unknown victims. Members of the Sexual Assault Unit were engaged.

The discovery of this crucial piece of evidence paved the way for a larger investigation including the seizure of data, video and computer devices from the accused’s residence. Investigators also learned the man was a Toronto pharmacist and was possibly using prescription drugs in his possession to drug his victims.

Members of the Technical Data Recovery Unit reviewed the seized devices and discovered hundreds of hours of video files and still images of women being sexually assaulted while unconscious, dating all the way back to 2009.

The team then faced the months-long challenge of identifying the victims, convincing them to speak with investigators and to testify in court.

The accused was charged with 21 counts of Sexual Assault and 21 counts of Administering a Noxious Substance. His license to practice has been suspended by the College of Pharmacy as the case makes its way through the court system.

The York Regional Police value of teamwork is exemplified by this case as the members from the Drugs and Vice, Sexual Assault and Technical Data Recovery Unit all had important roles to play in seeing this case to a successful conclusion.
Excellence in Policing Award

Detective Kevin Stoby started his policing career in 1994 with the Ontario Provincial Police. He joined York Regional Police in 1998 and was assigned to #2 District where he worked in uniform capacity and the Criminal Investigations Bureau after a brief secondment in the Homicide and Missing Persons Bureau. Detective Stoby joined the Special Victims Units in 2012. He is the proud father of two daughters, 17 and 13.

Detective Constable Marjorie Atkins is the proud mother of two beautiful girls, Madalynn and Grace, ages 7 and 5. Her husband, Hoyt Miller is a detective with York Regional Police. She began her career in 2001 and was assigned to #2 District where she worked in a uniform capacity. She moved to the Criminal Investigations Bureau in 2010, where she investigated sexual assaults and elder abuse. She is currently assigned to the Special Victims Unit.

Detective Constable Jeffery Bright is a 24-year veteran of York Regional Police. His past assignments include Uniform Patrol and the #2 District Criminal Investigations Bureau. He also spent five years in the Major Fraud Unit. Jeffery is a former member of the Ceremonial Unit and volunteered for our Venturers and Rovers program. Jeffery was unfortunately unable to attend tonight’s award ceremony.
Excellence in Policing Award

Detective Constable Robert French has been with York Regional Police since 2001, having come from a 13-year career in the private sector. Robert’s assignments have included uniform patrol and the #4 District Criminal Investigations Unit. Prior to his assignment to the Special Victims Unit, where he specializes in major sexual assault investigations, Robert was in the Drugs and Vice Unit. Robert is married to a fellow YRP officer and has two young children.

Detective Constable Deborah Gilmour joined York Regional Police in 2001 and was assigned Uniform Patrol in #4 District. She became a coach officer and mentored several new officers. In January 2009, Detective Constable Gilmour moved into the Criminal Investigations Bureau at #4 District and worked on the Crimes against Persons investigative team. During this time, she became a trained sexual assault investigator with specialized training related to interviewing children. She is currently assigned to the Special Victims Unit.

Detective Constable Shawna Leitch has been a member of York Regional Police for 16 years and is currently assigned to the Special Victims Unit. As a child abuse and sexual assault investigator, Shawna is proud to have had the opportunity to assist children who have been victimized. She is an active community volunteer. Shawna’s supportive family has allowed her to balance family life, community involvement and policing.
Excellence in Policing Award

Detective Constable Shane Mackenzie joined York Regional Police in 2000 after graduating from the Seneca College Law Enforcement program. He worked in Uniform Patrol and the Community Oriented Response Unit in #5 District before becoming a School Resource Officer. In 2010, he joined the Drugs and Vice Unit. He is married to civilian member Stephanie Mackenzie-Smith and they have two children.

Detective Constable Rebecca McGregor joined York Regional Police in 2004 and worked in Uniform Patrol at #1 District. In 2010, Rebecca was assigned to the Drugs and Vice Unit, where she works as an investigator on the Vice Team. A committed runner, Rebecca participates in the annual Torch Runs and National Police Memorial Runs as well as other charity runs held within York Region.

Detective Constable James Ward is a 14-year veteran with York Regional Police. James has served in Uniform Patrol and the Air Support, Search and Rescue, Public Order and Homicide Units. He is currently assigned to the #5 District Criminal Investigations Bureau. James is a three-time recipient of Police Appreciation Night awards. He is married with two children.
Detective Constable Stephen Yan joined York Regional Police in 2001. He is a graduate of the law program at Carleton University and the Police Foundations program at Algonquin College. He started his career in Uniform Patrol at #5 District and joined the #5 District Community Oriented Response Unit in 2005. He worked on the Vice Team in the Drugs and Vice Unit from 2008 to 2013 and is currently assigned to the Intelligence Unit.

Constable Sean Briard has been a member of York Regional Police for nine years and is currently serving with the Marine Unit. Prior to that he worked Uniform Patrol in #3 District and also served with the Public Order Unit. Sean graduated from Humber College with an honours diploma in Police Foundations in 2004. He also takes pride in organizing the York Emergency Services Charity Hockey Tournament and has raised thousands of dollars for various charities within the Region of York.

Lee Anne Phillips joined York Regional Police in 1990 as a records clerk. In 2002 she became a Crime Analyst serving various District Criminal Investigations Bureaus and in 2011 joined the Special Victims Unit as an Intelligence Analyst. Lee Anne formerly worked in the automobile industry as a lease renewal manager. She has been married to husband Gary for 23 years and together, they have three children, Mason, Jennifer and Kim.
Garrett Styles Bravery in the Line of Duty

Constable Netashia McLellan was born and raised in Southern Alberta. She is a former animal control bylaw officer for the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and she volunteered for the York Regional Police Auxiliary Unit before joining York Regional Police in April 2012. She is currently assigned to #3 District Uniform Patrol and says policing is all she imagined it to be.

It began as a normal shift for Constable Netashia McLellan of #3 District patrol. She didn’t know in just a few short hours, her life and the lives of two civilians would be on the line.

On November 29, 2013, about 4 p.m., ultralight plane pilot Hans Hamann left Baldwin Airport in the Town of Georgina. As his aircraft reached 200 feet, the engine suddenly failed and it plunged to the forest floor.

Constable McLellan was first on scene and immediately detected the strong odour of gasoline. She was met by Roy Alton, a pilot at Baldwin Airport and a former volunteer firefighter.

She urgently approached the pilot and found Mr. Hamann and the entire area covered in fuel. He was conscious but disoriented; his left arm trapped in his safety harness.

She realized they were in the middle of a potentially-explosive cloud of fumes. The slightest spark could mean catastrophic results for all of them. With the help of Mr. Alton, she was able to free the pilot and thankfully Mr. Hamann suffered only minor injuries.

Constable McLellan averted tragedy by her quick-thinking and brave actions. With the assistance of Mr. Alton, she risked her own life for another and is truly deserving of the Garrett Styles Bravery in the Line of Duty Award.