

# HARDWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT

56 High Street. P.O. Box 447. Hardwick, Vermont. 05843

Phone (802)472-5475 Fax (802)472-6865



The Hardwick Police Department continues to maintain a Full Time certified staff of (6) Officers and the Chief of Police. In addition we also have a staff of (3) Part-Time Officers, also Full Time certified. We are proud to be able to offer nearly (100) years of combined Law Enforcement experience to our communities.

Last year we identified a problem of underage drinking and parties at the Caspian Lake Beach. This activity resulted in a fatal car crash, arrests for underage drinking, the squealing of car tires upon leaving the beach area, and complaints of excessive speed. We addressed the issue by increased patrols and enforcement and pushed the property owners (Town of Hardwick) to impose a no alcohol restriction on the beach. The efforts were successful and we have experienced a very large decrease in complaints from the community surrounding the beach area, making the beach and surrounding community a much safer and enjoyable area to enjoy recreation.

The achievement of full staffing has led to an increased presence of Police in Greensboro, resulting in a decrease of reported property crimes. Police presence has proven, across the nation to be a deterrent of property crimes. Greensboro has seen an increase in motor vehicle related crimes over the past year as compared to previous years. This, I believe to be a result of more Officers on the road with experience to identify the motor vehicle crimes and the increase of patrol hours as compared to the previous few years. The motor vehicle related crimes, ie; Driving with Suspended license, Reckless Driving, and DUI have made up the majority of arrests for a crime in Greensboro in the past year. I have attached to this report a complete Offense report by Statute for 07/01/2012 – 07/01/2013. The Police Department has also observed an increase in traffic tickets issued, in 2010, (30) traffic tickets were issued in the Town of Greensboro. In the year ending 06/30/2013, Hardwick Police have issued 80 traffic

tickets in the Town of Greensboro. The heavy traffic enforcement has resulted in safer roadways in the Town of Greensboro.

Hardwick Police will continue to strive to be a strong presence in Greensboro and we hope as a result to continue to see a decrease in property crimes and will strive for a decrease in overall crimes, including motor vehicle related offenses.

An area I feel is deficient is patrolling of the summer camps during the winter months and access to remote areas. Many of the camps are not easily accessible during the winter months and make patrolling very difficult. In past years the Hardwick Police Department maintained a fleet of snowmobiles, which were utilized to patrol the summer camps. The snowmobiles have been long gone for many years and were never replaced. Greensboro and Hardwick are very rural areas and with this in mind I have explored the possibility of obtaining a Four Wheel Drive (2) seat ATV with a set of snow tracks.

This particular off road vehicle would allow Officers to access the summer camps during the winter months resulting in an increased Police presence and a decrease in crime. This vehicle would also assist the Officers in Search and Rescue operations off road as well as to gain access to and investigate ATV and Snowmobile crashes in Greensboro and Hardwick.

We have explored pricing and spoken with a local dealer regarding the ATV and the cost is approximately \$17,000. We have been exploring grants unsuccessfully and this is not included in our regular budget. I look forward to hear from anyone who may be able to assist us in acquiring this piece of equipment.

To end I would like to note the Police Department moved on January 04, 2013 to its new location at 56 High Street in Hardwick. Some of the work on the building was done by the Hardwick Police Officers and their families volunteering their time to create a healthier work space. This move has been a struggle for more than 20 years and we are proud to say we have completed that task. I invite everyone to stop and take a tour of our new space.

I encourage everyone with questions, concerns, and ideas to please contact me.

Sincerely,

**Aaron Cochran**

Chief Aaron Cochran