

# LYNDONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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2008 was a busy year for the Lyndonville Police Department. Our year included, an almost tragic health issue, a new assignment and a retirement, of sorts.

In March of 2008, myself and my family were awakened by K-9 Savannah. Savannah is a nine year old Bloodhound that is a certified police tracking dog, that works with the Lyndonville Police. At about midnight on 31 March 2008, Savannah began to “bloat”. “Bloat” is a twisting of the stomach that often times if not caught quickly results in death. An emergency call was made and Dr. Sally spent the next three hours helping myself and Savannah through the toughest part. As the Lyndonville Police Canine unit is self funded (there is now a small amount set aside for medication), myself and my family had a hard decision to make concerning operations and the cost. Lisa Barrett and the town clerks office spear headed a donation drive that more then covered the costs, and with the excellent work of Dr. Steen, Canine Savannah returned to “full duty” by late June.

The Lyndonville Police and the Harris family would like to thank each and every person that took part in saving Savannah. We can not thank Doctor’s Sally and Steen as well as the Lyndon Town Clerk’s Office and each and every person that helped out.

Having overcome almost certain tragedy, our next obstacle came to us Mid-April, when during a joint meeting between the Lyndon Select Board and representatives from the Vermont State Police, we were advised of a change of procedure. Starting with a three month trial period in May, the Lyndonville Police would be covering the entire town (36 square miles or 6 miles square) when on-duty. When not on duty, the Vermont State Police would be covering the entire town and village.

During that three month period our calls for service jumped considerably. At times we became strictly reactive instead of being proactive on the streets. At the end of the three month trial period, we were advised that the switch in coverage would be permanent.

Since the inception of the new coverage area, we have tried to keep the same service that we previously had, supplying the community services that we believe are warranted. We have tried not to cut services such as VIN verifications, motor vehicle lockouts and school related services. At times we have had to prioritize response and call backs, and thank everyone for their understanding.

In August of 2008, K-9 Ox, who has been a member of our department since we once again opened in 2003, was retired. K-9 Ox, who along with his police duties performed many demonstrations over the past five years. K-9 Ox was a regular in the local schools, summer programs and after-school programs, as well as any other groups that requested to meet him.

Overall, throughout 2008, the Lyndonville Police Department has strived to make Lyndonville a safe environment to live and work in. We are dedicated to the town and village, and look forward to continuing in 2009, with the “small town” policing that our community deserves.

Chief J.T. Harris