



# The Toronto Whiff of Grape

## Lenna Bradburn, B.A., M.P.A.

March 29, 2011



### A Dialogue with Canada's First Female Police Chief

As a young girl growing up in Scarborough, Lenna Bradburn never imagined that she would go on to become Canada's first female police chief but that she did when she became Chief of the [Guelph Police Service](#) in 1994. Her path to this position was unique and diverse.



After completing a 3-year degree in criminology and sociology in 1982 at Victoria College at the University of Toronto, Lenna joined the then Metropolitan Toronto Police Service in 1981. The next six years were spent patrolling the streets of Toronto and continuing her academic studies. It was as a result of her studies that she became interested in the work of the [Toronto Police Association](#) seeing this as an avenue to affect change in the Toronto Police Service through labour relations. Hitting the campaign trail, Lenna was elected to [Association's Board of Directors](#) holding the position of Corporate Secretary of the 7,000 member organization and becoming the only female police officer to be elected to the Board to-date. While running the business operations of the Association kept her busy, Lenna found the time to attend Queen's University part-time to complete a [Master of Public Administration](#) in 1990. After 3 years on the Association Board and with her MPA in hand, Lenna returned to the Police Service for a year working in the Corporate Planning Unit.

In 1991, Lenna joined the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Correctional Services as a Police Services Advisor, auditing police services and providing operational and administrative advice to police services boards, chiefs and police associations. She developed the Ministry's strategic planning training for police services and was the Ministry lead for the implementation of community policing. This work gave Lenna the opportunity to affect change in policing across the province.

Still looking for another context to affect organizational change in policing, Lenna responded to a unique job ad for the position of Chief of Police in Guelph. The ad referred to "he/she" – an ad that actually contemplated that the police chief may be female. Speculating that this was an indication of a very progressive Police Services Board, Lenna competed and was subsequently sworn in as Chief of Police on December 19, 1994 making Canadian history. She spent the next six years modernizing the [Guelph Police Service](#).

Recognized as a "trailblazer," her career stops have gone on to include executive roles as Director, [Complaint Services at Ombudsman Ontario](#), the Executive Director, [Municipal Licensing & Standards Division](#) for the City of Toronto and as the Chief Security and Compliance Officer, [Office of Player Protection](#), [Ontario Lottery & Gaming Corporation](#). She is a member of the [UTAA Board of Directors](#).

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Lenna's accomplishments have been recognized nationally in [Canada's Who's Who](#), as a 1996 recipient of the "Top 40 under 40" and a [2006 Trailblazers & Trendsetters recipient](#) of [Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100](#).



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