



**ST. THOMAS
POLICE
SERVICE**

ANNUAL REPORT

2021
EDITION

Colin McGregor Building
45 CASO Crossing
St. Thomas, ON
N5R 0G7
www.stps.on.ca



Office of the Chief

Another year has swiftly passed and despite increasing policing pressures, social challenges and a pandemic that doesn't want to go away, STPS staff remain committed to forging ahead in collaboration with dedication, compassion and professionalism.

Many new faces joined us in 2021 and added their inspiring energy to a talented team that I am so fortunate to work with. Likewise, many new faces also made our community their home last year and we continue to grow together with diversity and opportunity.

The encouraging feedback from citizens who we serve never ceases to provide me with a sense of pride for our members and they deserve every compliment!



I can provide dozens of similar comments throughout the year as a result of the efforts by our members. The citizens of St. Thomas definitely recognize the admirable service being provided. We truly are equal partners in community safety and well-being.

To my work family, I recognize your outstanding contribution, excellent collaboration, sacrifice and commitment to the St. Thomas Police Service and our community. I will continue to advocate on your behalf.

To my community, I want you to know that we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and hold offenders accountable while also equally advocating for residents who are experiencing substance use addictions, homelessness, poverty and mental health crises. Housing and treatment programs, not handcuffs or incarceration, is the compassionate way to successfully address the social challenges we are all facing together.

On behalf of everyone at STPS, I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude for the community support we receive daily. We are also extremely fortunate to have a supportive Police Services Board led by Chair Dan Reith, ensuring the women and men of STPS have the essential resources to deliver a quality service. I am also thankful to Members of City Council, MPP Jeff Yurek and MP Karen Vecchio for their efforts to make St. Thomas a safe place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

Chief Chris Herridge
Chief of Police



THE POLICE SERVICES BOARD



Mayor
Joe Preston



Scott Birkby



Jim Herbert



Dave Warden

As the new Chair of the St. Thomas Police Services Board, it is my pleasure to present the 2021 Annual Report.

Life during a pandemic has not been easy. It brought many new obstacles and shone a light on the frailties of our community. While COVID-19 put a halt to many of our community programs it did not stop our constabulary from fulfilling its commitment to the citizens of St. Thomas.

As we pass through a second year of unprecedented challenges faced by the police, I am both impressed and proud of the exceptional service our members continue to deliver our community. Their allegiance and effort is admirable. St. Thomas fortunate to have the police service we do.

I would like to thank our Board Members for their enthusiastic participation and on behalf of the entire Board, I would like to thank Chief Herridge, his leadership team and the administration for their unwavering support to our police service and the citizens of St. Thomas.



Chair Dan Reith

Leadership Team



**Deputy Chief
Marc Roskamp**



Inspector Scott Barnes

Inspector of Operations



Inspector Steve Bogart

Inspector of Administration



Tiffany Terpstra

Executive Administrator



OUR TEAM MEMEBERS

**74 Sworn
Members**

**23 Civilian
Members**

**11 Special
Constables**

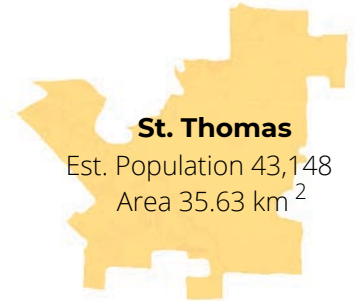
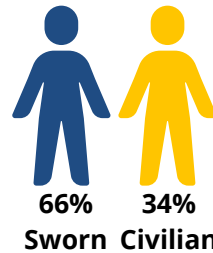
**4
Cadets**



PSD Axle



**Annual Incident
Total 21,924**



NEW MEMBERS

Uniform Officers

Constable Kennedie Fife
Constable Derek Smith
Constable Nick Armstrong
Constable Jordan Babb
Constable Harmandeep Singh

Cadets

Cadet Ross Winter
Cadet Nicole Barrett
Cadet Yasmine Arabi
Cadet Brianne Graham

Communications

Kennedy Mattatal
Jamie Rowse

Forensic

Identification
Jessica Piekny

Information

Technologies
Abdullah Al-Hjowj

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow along!
@stpsmedia



16,293



5,235



1,298



NEW!
65

Happy Retirement

Inspector Hank Zehr - 30 Years



Congratulations to Inspector Hank Zehr who retired from the STPS Executive Office in March 2021!

Thank you Inspector Zehr for your hard work and unwavering support throughout your career!

We wish you all the best!



**Sergeant
Jeff Pallister
30 Years**



**Constable
Lois Hardman
28 Years**



**Constable
Brian Kempster
30 Years**

Years of Service

20 Years

Staff Sergeant Jeremy Lapadat
A/Staff Sergeant Michael Buttinger
Constable Darren Congdon
Constable Jason Geddes
Tanya Calvert - Corp. Comms
Lisa Johnson - Property Administrator

15 Years

Sergeant Frank Boyes
Constable Mike Kaiser
Constable Scott Hindley
Constable Jeff Deleeuw

10 Years

Constable Brian Shaw
Andrea Kilbourne - Dispatch

5 Years

Constable Thomas Seguin
Tammi Bechard - Office Manager
Katie Crawford - Dispatch

PROMOTIONS



Congratulations Inspector Steve Bogart

Inspector Bogart was promoted from Staff Sergeant to Inspector of Administration in March 2021 to fill the position following the retirement of Inspector Hank Zehr



Congratulations Staff Sergeant John Cosby

John Cosby was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant from Sergeant



Congratulations Civilian Supervisor Lizzie Bell

Lizzie Bell was promoted to the position of Court Supervisor as a Special Constable. Lizzie brings with her a wealth of knowledge having served many years in court services and the business office as a clerk



Congratulations Sergeant Frank Boyes

Frank Boyes was promoted to the rank of Sergeant from Constable

SUSPECT APPREHENSION PURSUITS

The need to apprehend or identify a person or the motor vehicle must outweigh the risk to public safety. That is the test that is continually applied by all staff involved. STPS Officers will never attempt to stop a motor vehicle if there is a risk to public safety.

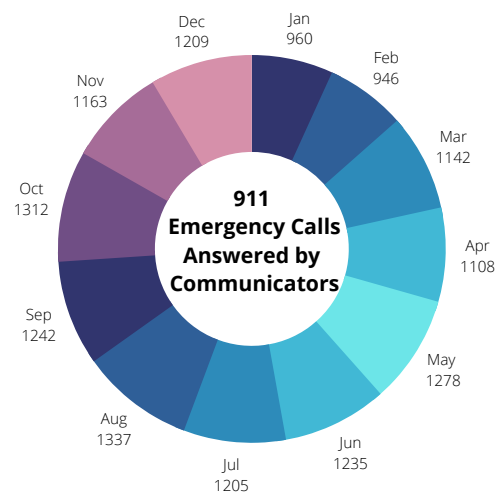
Suspect Apprehension Pursuits	1
Fail to Remain Reports	14
Incidents concluded with arrest and charge	8
Criminal Code Charges	32
Highway Traffic Act Charges	13
Known Stolen Vehicles Involved	3

911

www.what3words.com

Current 911 systems are supported by landline phones. If you call 911 from a cell, dispatchers have limited resources to locate the origin of the call.

Location matters in an emergency. If you need help and don't know where you are, use the **what3words** app to help dispatchers pinpoint your location. Download the app for free today.



STPS is getting ready to enhance emergency response with the use of Next Generation 911 - a service that will support voice and text.
More info at: www.crtc.gc.ca

DIGITAL FORENSIC EXAMINATION

Crime Analysis Completed: 3

Digital Devices Searched: 244



Cell Phones 89	Laptops 6
SIM Cards 82	Flash Drives 7
Tablets 18	iPods 2
Hard Drives 34	Chrome Book 1

180 Criminal Charges were laid as a result of Digital Examination

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

2,436 items were catalogued in 2021

Drugs 1,030	Guns Real/Imitation 173
Alcohol 78	Knives (weapons) 96
DVD/Docs 1,373	General Submissions 1,946

CIVILIAN FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION UNIT ★ NEW 2021

STPS has transitioned to a full time, professionally trained Civilian Forensic Specialist. Jessica joined our team after six very successful years with the Toronto Police Service

Jessica brings a vast amount of knowledge and experience to the Identification Unit

- University of Toronto-HBA Forensic Science
 - Forensic Analyst-Centre for Forensic Science, Toronto
 - Toronto Police Service-Crime Scene Support Technician
 - Canadian Identification Society-Past President and current editor
 - Professor (U of T)-Crime Scene Investigation
 - Published Research Author
1. Piekny, J. **Decontamination of Tools Between Fire Debris Collection.** Identification Canada 2012; (Sep)Vol 36 Issue 3 Pages 78-95
 2. Piekny, J., Knaap, W. **The Use of a Dry Chemical Fire Extinguisher for the Development of Latent Fingerprints in Marijuana Grow Operations.** Journal of Forensic Identification 2016;Vol 66 Issue 2 Pages 92-106



Jessica Piekny

Forensic Identification Services

- 726 Criminal Fingerprints Collected
- 35 DNA Orders Executed
- 57 DNA Endorsements Executed
- 67 Crime Scenes Processed
- 17 Sudden Death Investigations
- 33 Investigations with Centre of Forensic Science
- 2 Post Mortem Examinations Attended

73 Registered Sex Offenders are currently being monitored by Forensic Identification Services as per the Ontario Sex Offender Registry and the National Sex Offender Registry.





NEW 2021

**Congratulations
Special Constable Lizzie Bell
First Civilian Manager
of Court Services**

COURT SERVICES Elgin County Court House

Video/Audio Appearances 1,704
Prisoner Escorts 160

STAFF

FULL TIME

1 Special Constable Supervisor
2 Uniform Constables
2 Special Constable Case Managers
1 Special Constable Prisoner Escort

PART TIME

7 Special Constables
2 Constables
(1-OPP, 1-Aylmer Police)

BUSINESS OFFICE

The Business Office is staffed by seven clerks and one supervisor. They are a team of professionals dedicated to supporting front line policing and the administration of justice. The Business Office is responsible for the Records Management System, Canadian Police Information Centre System, Data Quality Control, Privacy and Access to Information, Criminal Record Checks, Records and Information Management.

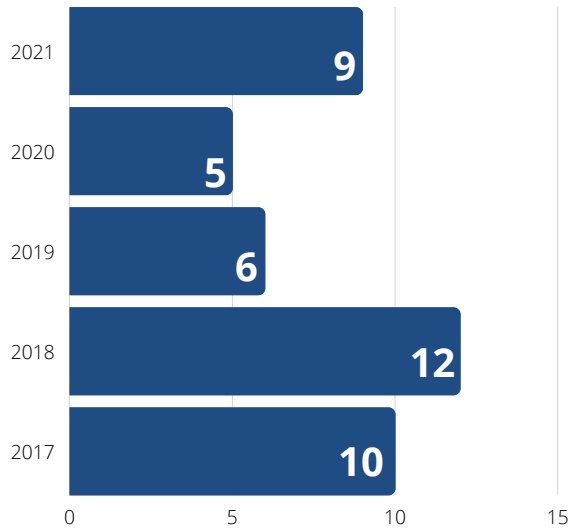
Criminal Background Checks	2,208
Provincial Offence Notices	4,300
Criminal Charge Packages for Court	1,477
Records Requests	113

Criminal Investigations Branch

OFFENCES	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Variance 2020-2021
Homicides	0	0	0	0	0	-
Robbery	4	5	3	7	10	+42%
Assaults (non-sexual)	201	232	236	253	236	-7%
CDSA Offences	56	149	79	117	144	+23 %

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Public Complaints Yearly Comparison



OIPRD

9 complaints were lodged with the Office of the Independent Review Director. None met the criteria to open an investigation.

Special Investigations Unit

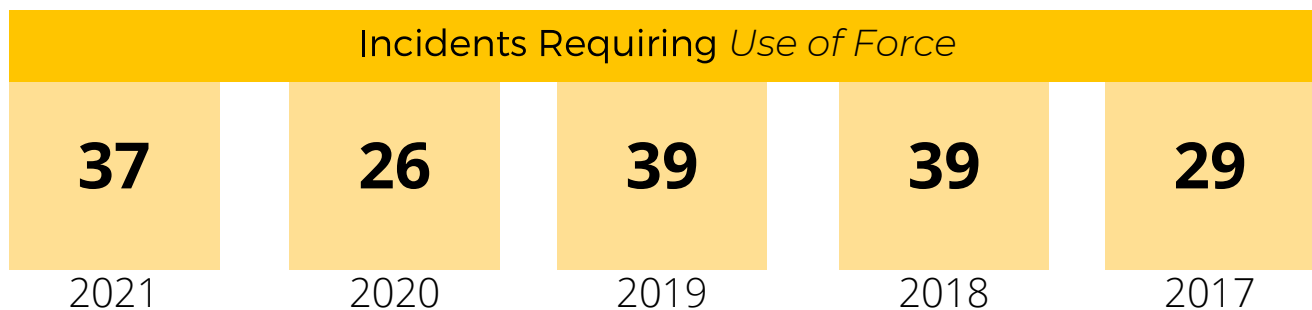
The SIU invoked their mandate 4 times in 2021. The Director terminated all 4 investigations due to insufficient evidence to proceed against the officers involved

Chief's Complaints

2 investigations were initiated and both resulted in no wrongdoing.

USE OF FORCE

Ministry Required Reporting on Perceived Subject Race: 2 subjects identified as black, 1 identified as Indigenous, 1 Middle Eastern, 31 as White



USE OF FORCE OPTIONS

FIREARM

Officers drew their firearms in seven operational incidents. Of those, three involved dispatching an injured animal

TASER

Officers fired their Conducted Energy Weapons five times. The CEW was used in display mode for de-escalation on thirty two occasions

EMPTY HAND

Empty Hand Techniques were used in four operational incidents

K9

Police Service Dog Axle administered two bites and was used to de-escalate several incidents

*Asp Baton and/or Pepper Spray were not used in 2021

PROPERTY CRIME UNIT NEW 2021

101 Investigations 219 Criminal Charges 91 Arrests

Property Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	+/-
Break & Enter	118	240	222	238	252	+6%
Theft/ Possession	408	823	761	842	1055	+25%
Fraud	115	296	172	140	172	+23%
Arson	8	9	19	10	15	+50%
Mischief	163	211	245	340	333	-2%

Recovered Property

Vehicles	\$46,500
Tools	10,000
Bicycles	5,300
Miscellaneous	8,200

Warrants

9 Criminal Code Search Warrants

1 DNA Warrant

7 Production Orders

◆ **Total Recovered Property \$70,000** ◆

The STPS PCU is a group of dedicated plain clothes officers brought together to focus on the trending property crime issues largely caused by bail reform legislation which directs the courts to release repeat offenders. Recidivist behaviours are increasing property crime which is directly related to social disorder (Poverty, Substance Use, Mental Health, Homelessness)

STREET CRIME UNIT

A team of plain clothes specialty officers tasked with to investigate crimes of high risk involving violence and drugs

9 Drug and Gun Project Investigations Completed

Illicit Drugs Seized: Street Value \$292,213 Firearms Seized: 21 Recovered Stolen Property: \$14,000
Proceeds of Crime Seized: \$154,365

TRAINING UNIT NEW 2021

Policing
is a career of daily professional development

- Firearms
- C8
- Defensive Tactics
- CEW (Taser)
- Scenario Based Learning

- Immediate Rapid Deployment
- De-escalation
- Safe Warrant Execution
- Police Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Mental Health Crisis Calls for Service
- Body Worn Camera
- Critical Incident Response
- Breath Technician Requalification

STPS created a full time trainers position in early 2021 to allow for timely, relevant training for all staff on an myriad of topics that influence how we work as a team and how we provide service to the city. Evolving technology such as body worn cameras with integrated tasers and the ever changing landscape of law enforcement has created the need for a dedicated staff member to effectively organize and execute the learning required for optimal operations.

BODY WORN CAMERAS

Videos
24,177

Images
6,863

Statements
1,407

Citizen
Submissions
557

OIPRD

Within 2021, 9 complaints were received through the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD).

- 7 complaints were screened out by the OIPRD as not in the public interest.
- 2 complaints were referred back to the service for follow up.

Upon the review of BWC and consultation with the complainants, the last two complaints were withdrawn by the complainant. This was entirely based on the evidence provided by the BWC and prevented time consuming investigations from occurring. The assigned investigator was able to see an unbiased real-time version of events captured to determine the investigation outcome.

SIU

Throughout 2021, 5 notifications were made to the Special Investigations Unit. The SIU invoked their mandate 3 of these times and upon initial inquiry, which included BWC video, 2 were closed very quickly in the initial stage.

1 investigation remains active at this time, and BWC footage was again provided. While the SIU investigation remains active at this time, an internal review under section 32 of the Police Services Act found the officers acted in accordance with policies and procedures.

The Body Worn Camera Program has been an absolute asset since its inception with the St Thomas Police Service. Officers have not only embraced this program but assisted in making it as successful as it is.

While the BWC is certainly an asset, so are the Digital Evidence Management tools which include Axon Capture and Axon Citizen.

The Axon/BWC program implemented within St Thomas Police is a true success and has proven nothing but benefits to the community and the service.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION VIDEO NEW 2021



CCTV - 2021 Results

It's been one year since Closed Circuit Television video surveillance was installed along Talbot Street in the downtown core of St. Thomas. Since that time Police have utilized recorded footage to assist with investigations on twenty three separate occasions. In each case the footage has expedited investigations allowing for a timely conclusion.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Information Technologies provide an economical, efficient support service

- 24/7 Help Desk support to staff
- Manage Data Centre and multi location network including mobile
- 911 network support and radio systems

CRIME STATISTICS

INCIDENTS	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Variance 2020-2021
TOTAL	15,175	18,846	20,089	22,173	21,924	-1 %

ARRESTS	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Variance 2020-2021
TOTAL	1250	1761	1971	1553	1758	+13%

CRIMINAL CHARGES	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Variance 2020-2021
TOTAL	1529	2118	2148	1878	1853	-1.3%

BAIL VIOLATIONS	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Variance 2020-2021
Bail Violation Charges	111	227	237	243	250	+3%
Compliance Checks	710	480	563	476	157	*-67%

*Bill C-75 (2019) consequently modernized bail practices and procedures by providing that any bail decision must give primary consideration to releasing the accused at the earliest opportunity and on the least onerous conditions possible. Additionally, this legislation gave greater discretion to judges and the police, for certain charges if the failure to comply with the conditions has not caused harm to victims.



911 EMERGENCY CALLS

YEARLY CALL TOTALS
2020: 13,397 2021: 14,137

AGENCY	2020	2021
Police	6,408	6,065
Fire	314	385
Ambulance	4,294	5,103

MOBILE OUTREACH SUPPORT TEAM

Apprehensions
272

Hours Spent at
Hospital
286

Police Incidents
Categorized as Mental
Health
2,173

Incidents that MOST
available to attend
668

Post Incident Follow-Up
322

Referrals to
Community Supports
836

Number of Adults
Supported by MOST
806

ANNUAL BUDGET



STPS Operational Budget

Item	Budget Amount
Salaries & Benefits	\$13,143,781
Vehicle Purchases (emergency & IT equipment)	\$135,565
Fuel & Maintenance	\$213,829
Building Maintenance	\$288,913
Information Technology	\$113,161
Police Services Board	\$16,034
Training	\$58,468
Revenue (Grants, FOI Request, Police Checks, etc.)	\$1,213,011

Elgin County Courthouse

Item	Budget Amount
Salaries & Benefits	\$876,853
Fuel & Maintenance	\$2,321
Information Technology	\$5,399
Provincial Court Grants	\$811,682

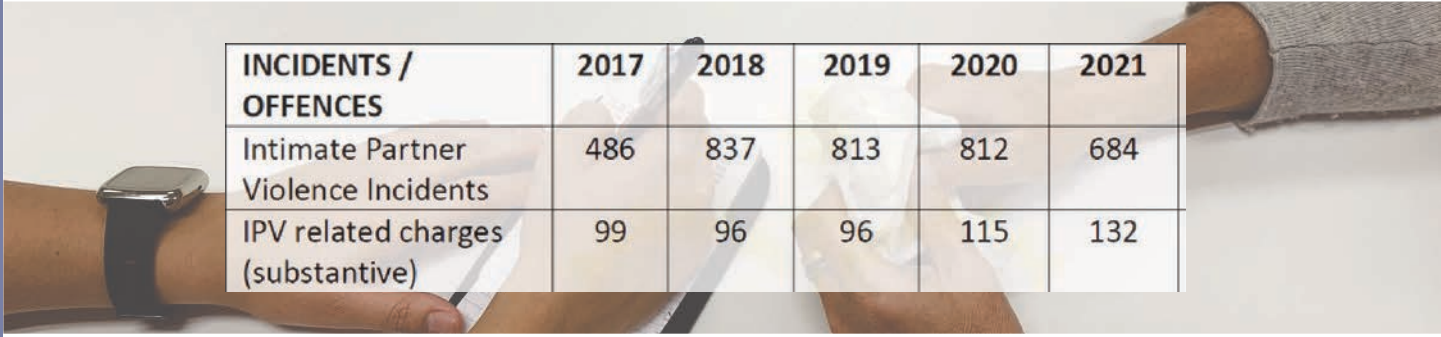
TRAFFIC UNIT



COLLISIONS	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Without Injuries	345	422	423	284	196
With Injuries	86	61	42	35	34
TICKETS ISSUED	3094	3102	3805	3490	3591
Impaired - Alcohol	49	47	43	30	40
Impaired - Drug	5	7	1	3	3
Impaired Alcohol & Drug	-	1	35	29	31
Refusal	3	4	0	0	1
RIDE Checkpoints	36	40	59	31	78
Roadside Screening	11	15	32	47	46
Field Sobriety Test	-	-	-	15	7



INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE



INCIDENTS / OFFENCES	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Intimate Partner Violence Incidents	486	837	813	812	684
IPV related charges (substantive)	99	96	96	115	132

SEXUAL OFFENCES

INCIDENTS / OFFENCES	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Variance 2020-2021
Sexual Assault incidents (reported)	37	40	36	32	50	+56%
Sexual Assault incidents – UNFOUNDED	6	0	0	0	0	-
Sexual Assault incidents w/charges	14	8	7	6	10	+66%
Invitation to Sex. Touching	1	1	2	2	1	-50%
Sexual Exploitation	0	1	2	0	0	0%
Sexual Interference	7	3	5	6	12	+100%
Aggravated Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Sexual Assaults w/weapon	0	1	1	0	0	0%

ONLINE SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTING

2021 was the first full calendar year that STPS offered online sexual assault reporting. We understand that often times victims of intimate partner crime have a difficult time reporting and that these crimes often cause long-lasting trauma. Our response, knowing that victims may have difficulty speaking about these incidents with friends, family and police officers, is to offer this on-line reporting tool.

By completing an on-line form, your submission will be read by a member of the St. Thomas Police Criminal Investigations Unit and followed up accordingly.

Our goal is to bring these cases to a resolution by conducting a professional and thorough investigation. Along with investigating your matter, we will provide you with assistance and the resources for on-going support during your period of recovery.

9 out of 50 victims felt more comfortable using our online reporting service in 2021

