

St. Thomas

POLICE SERVICE

2020 In Review



45 Caso Crossing ♦ St.Thomas ON ♦ N5R 0G7 ♦ 519-631-1224 ♦

Christopher C Herridge
Chief of Police



Marc T Roskamp
Deputy Chief of Police

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Message From the Chief of Police



As we rang in the New Year on January 1, 2020, I am confident that no one would have imagined 2020 being a challenging year like no other our generation has ever experienced. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in changes in the way we do business, primarily in terms of our interactions with the public. We all truly miss socializing with community members, especially the kids, at various community events and in the schools.

On behalf of our members, many thanks to Chair Warden and the St. Thomas Police Services Board, along with Council for their unwavering support to ensure we always have the level of response needed in our community. We cannot forget our medical partners at STEGH, SWPH and many others, who are the true heroes of 2020 and continue to be so as they protect us during the ongoing COVID pandemic.

I am grateful to be surrounded by an amazing team of STPS staff who are committed to enhancing the safety and well-being of St. Thomas. I am also thankful for the tremendous community support we receive from the residents of St. Thomas. Your feedback and support is vital to our success. Please keep the respectful and constructive comments coming. We are one team and we do listen to what you have to say.

We have seen many changes to the face of our city in a short period. There is significant housing growth occurring, our city's diversity is increasing, and that is terrific. However, we do have a number of social issues, specifically, mental health, addictions, homelessness and poverty. These are challenging and complex issues to understand and navigate successful solutions. However, we are committed to working with our community partners so we can make St. Thomas a comfortable home for everyone.

If 2020 taught us anything, it showed the importance of patience, respect and perseverance, coupled with the power of unity. This year created a myriad of challenges for policing, such as changes in enforcement protocols and operations due to COVID-19 and an intense focus on emerging social issues. Society is changing and policing must embrace and adapt to this change.

These are challenging but also inspiring times. As law enforcement professionals, we will always persevere and rise above any occasion while providing critical services to those who we have sworn to serve and protect.

We can accomplish so much as a team working in collaboration through respect, professionalism, partnership and compassion.

Chris Herridge
Chief of Police

St. Thomas Police Services Board



Chair Dave Warden



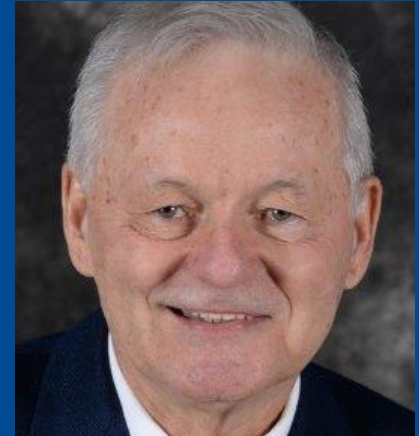
Mayor Joe Preston



Scott Birkby



Dan Reith



Jim Herbert

Reflecting over the last year, the Board is extremely proud of the dedicated men and women who devote their careers to the St. Thomas Police Service. Throughout all the challenges the year presented our police service continued to make meaningful progress in spite of many setbacks.

In the midst of a pandemic and calls to defund the police, our dedicated police officers and professional support staff remained steadfast. Our Service remained committed to their overall goals as defined in the Strategic Plan and accomplished all of what was expected in 2020. The organization made meaningful progress on equity, diversity and inclusion, health and wellness initiatives and even identified efficiencies.

We could have never predicted the trials and tribulations the Service and Board would face throughout the year however we are better and more prepared than ever because of it.

Thank you to Chief Chris Herridge and Deputy Chief Marc Roskamp and all the members of the St. Thomas Police Service for putting the safety of our city and our citizens first.

Dave Warden
Board Chair

Executive Office



Deputy Chief
Marc Roskamp



Scott Barnes
Inspector of
Police Operation

Tiffany Terpstra
Executive Administrator



Hank Zehr
Inspector of
Police Administration



M a k i n g C a r e e r M i l e s t o n e s

New Team Members 2020

Garrett Flower Forensic Computer Analyst
Brienne Graham CMHA Mobile Outreach Support Team
John Beattie Dispatch Communicator

New Police Cadets

Regan Pinnell
Matthew Willman
Joshua Butler
Jessica Proctor

Years of Service Milestones

5 Years

Constable Luke Emmett Constable Torrin Lauziere

10 Years

Constable Helaine Hindley Constable Amanda Preece

15 Years

Constable Chris Bailey

20 Years

Constable Lisa Mercer Constable Steve Cudney
Dispatch Communicator Cheryl Landriault

30 Years

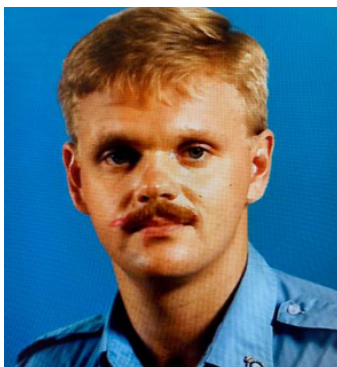
Constable Cam Arnott

Congratulations to our Retired Members!

Best wishes for health and happiness always



Lynn Coates
Civilian Administrator
33 Years
Dedicated Service



Brian Carnegie
Police Sergeant
30 Years
Dedicated Service



Dan Ainsworth
Police Constable
30 Years
Dedicated Service

Social Media Follows



1,239



14,234



4,898



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

A diverse police service increases productivity, creativity and enhances community engagement by better reflecting the community we serve. Here, at the St. Thomas Police Service we want all our members to have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. By building a diverse police service and creating an inclusive environment for all members, STPS can champion the values of equality, diversity and social inclusion. The goal is a membership that is representative of the community, and a police service that is supportive and inclusive for all of its members.

St. Thomas
Police Service



stps.on.ca
#stronger together



STPS Continue Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign

All over Ontario, innocent victims are being lured into Human Trafficking with the promise of a better life full of expensive possessions, and large social circles. Human Trafficking isn't any of these things. It's the recruitment and harboring of people for the purpose of exploiting them in the sex industry or forced labour.

STPS is part of a provincial strategy to end Human Trafficking. We work with agencies across the province to fight against the ongoing victimization by Human Traffickers. This can happen anywhere, to anyone. We appreciate the ongoing partnership with two of our local support agencies Victim Services Elgin and Courage for Freedom.

Crime Abatement

Compliance Monitoring for offenders placed on enforceable conditions. Offenders are currently at large in the community released by the courts on conditions

In 2020 Officers on Community Patrol conducted 487 compliance checks which resulted in 6 criminal charges being laid for breach of release conditions.

Most compliance checks monitor offenders for abiding by curfew and residing a court approved addresses.

In 2020 the Street Crimes Unit remained steadfast in their efforts to interrupt the supply of drugs to our streets. Fentanyl, the most deadly and addictive drug on our streets was also the most sought after and highest traded.

SEIZED

154.4 grams of Fentanyl with a street value of \$93,000
466 grams of Crystal Meth with a street value of \$46,650

\$118,882 in other illicit drugs including Heroin, Dilauded, Hydromorphone, Cocaine, Crack Cocaine Oxycodone and Morphine were also seized

Most of the drugs seized were the result of many projects over several months requiring constant monitoring, spanning several nights and weekends. Our team of dedicated officers never tired in their efforts to save lives by shutting down illegal dealers with

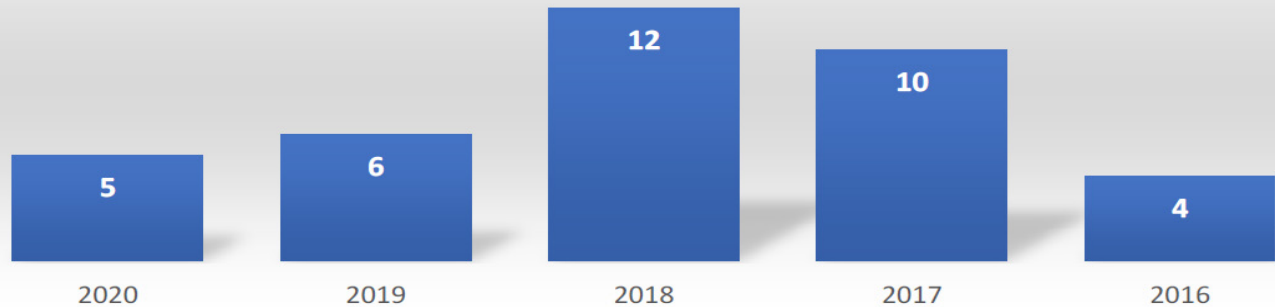
8 Search Warrants Executed
\$44,337 Seized as Proceeds of Crime
\$35,685 Worth of Recovered Stolen Property
9 Weapons Recovered
118 Drug and Weapon Related Charges Laid

A collaborative approach to
EDUCATION ♦ REHABILITATION ♦ RECOVERY
is needed to enhance community safety and well-being

Street Crime Unit

Professional Standards

Public Complaints Yearly Comparison



The Police Services Act mandates that Police Services must maintain a Public Complaints Bureau

In 2020, five complaints about STPS police conduct were received from five separate incidents.
All five were reviewed by the Office of the Independent Police Review Director.
The OIPRD opted to not deal with four and the fifth was resolved.
All complaints received in 2020 were investigated and completed in the same calendar year.

OIPRD Received a Provincial total of 4,003 complaints in 2020

Chief's Complaints

Four internal Officer Conduct investigations were launched by the Chief.
Three resulted in substantiated misconduct.
Two of the three have been addressed through informal discipline
The third remains ongoing.
The fourth matter was unsubstantiated.

The St. Thomas Police Service received five conduct complaints out of over twenty two thousand incidents and thousands of public interactions through traffic stops, foot patrol and community engagement.

5 out of 22,007 incidents
for an average of
1 out of every 4,401 incidents.

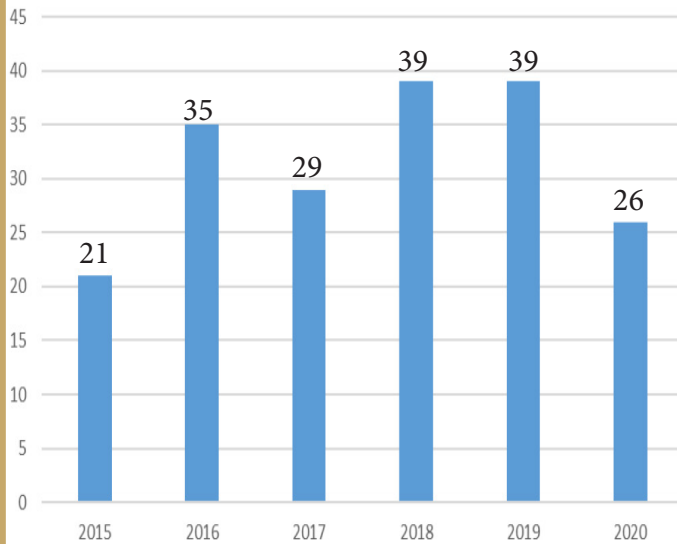
Special Investigations Unit

SIU invoked their mandate on two STPS matters. No criminal wrongdoing was found in either matter.

Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario Complaint

There is one active HRTO external matter

Incidents requiring Use of Force (Ministry Reportable)



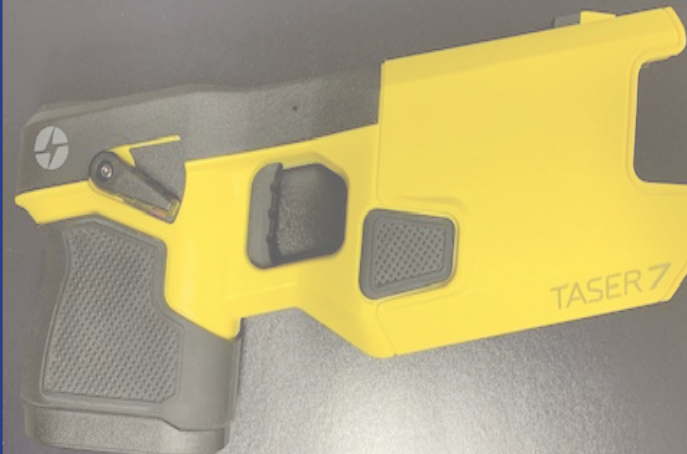
Although there was a ten percent increase in incidents for 2020, the overall use of force rates for STPS dropped by 33%.

This is a very strong indicator of officer awareness, de-escalation skills along with education and training capabilities of our officers.

The Conducted Energy Weapon deployed to all front line officers has proven and notable de-escalation benefits that were not available prior to 2015. The less than lethal option is extremely effective in preventing the escalation of violent behaviour as well as preventing injuries and saving lives.

The CEW assists greatly in gaining compliance through verbal commands with its simple presence.

The collective use of force that was applied by officers in 2020 was reasonable and effective in delivering public safety services to the community.



Use of Force Report

Firearms

Were drawn or displayed to public view 28 times
8 of those incidents were related to dispatch of injured animals for humanitarian reasons

Conducted Energy Weapon

Drawn and fired operationally 2 times
Drawn and not discharged during de-escalation of incidents 14 times

Aerosol (Pepper Spray) / Impact (Asp
Baton)

Not used in 2020

Empty Hand Techniques

1 Report

Police Service Dog Axle

2 Bite Incidents

and

Involved in 38 incidents resulting in de-escalation and compliance

Suspect Apprehension Pursuit (SAP) Report

- 6 Suspect Apprehension Pursuits
- 17 Reported Fail to Stop
- 7 SAP concluded with arrest and charge
- 12 Criminal Code Charges
- 5 Highway Traffic Act Charges
- 4 SAP involving confirmed stolen vehicle

0.12% of total incidents
required Officers to deploy a use of force option

STPS conducted a pilot project for Body Worn Cameras in 2020. The Service supports building public trust, community support while enhancing officer and public safety. This is an example of our clear commitment to ensuring we have an accountable police service to those we serve.

How long did the pilot last?

The pilot was 120 days ending in January of 2021.

Did every officer have a body camera?

No, 12 cameras were used during the pilot and six were deployed at a time.

Was the BWC always recording?

Yes, the cameras were always turned on and recording however there was only a thirty second buffer. So although the camera was always recording, it recorded over itself every thirty seconds until the camera was activated by the Officer. Once activated, the camera recorded the entire interaction until it was deactivated. There was no audio recording while the camera was in buffering mode.

When were the BWC turned off?

The cameras were powered on at the beginning of every shift and left on until the end. Officers activated the camera prior to arriving at a call for service or when beginning an investigation. The cameras were deactivated when the call for service or investigation was complete or when recording was no longer serving its intended purpose.

How did people know if the camera was turned on?

The cameras were worn on the front of the Officers uniform and illuminated with a red flashing light when recording.

Did people ever ask for the camera to be turned off?

The only time an Officer would turn the camera off is when they were inside a private home.

Was anyone allowed to view the recordings?

No. The data cannot be accessed at the time of the recordings. Any request to view had to be made through the relevant provisions of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

How was the data stored?

At the end of every shift the Officer simply placed the BWC in its docking station where the information was uploaded automatically to the AXON secure servers in Canada while the unit recharged its battery. All of the videos were encrypted and only authorized members of the STPS had access.



Body Worn Cameras

2020 Cost of Policing

Strength Through Progress



Salaries & Benefits	11,728,718
Vehicle Purchases	140,000
Fuel & Maintenance	218,000
Building Maintenance	260,000
Police Services Board	21,800
Training	70,000
REVENUE	905,000

Elgin County Courthouse

Salaries & Benefits	1,006,000
Fuel & Maintenance	8,000
Court Grants	735,000



Court Services

A hybrid team of uniformed officers working along side Special Constables provide the court services required daily for operations. Staff are responsible for the execution of warrants, laying charges, court room security during proceedings and escorting prisoners to and from the holding area to their appearances. They also process individuals through the safety screening device at the entrance, serve summonses and subpoenas and are also responsible for prisoner transportation which is mostly shuttled to and from the Elgin Middlesex Detention Center however they may travel to any corrections facility. A Court Case Manager is a liaison between officers and the Crown Attorney's office organizing court notifications and trial dates for officers and witnesses if they need to attend or a case has been resolved. This is just a small snapshot of the daily tasks each member completes on a regular basis.

Once COVID arrived in the area in March, the Ministry of the Attorney General suspended in-person court appearances and pivoted to a virtual video based approach as a necessary measure to prevent the spread. The previous in-person system of court appearances did not allow for proper physical distancing. This demanded a sudden new approach which was achieved in the most part by adopting a video appearance system that was already in use during weekends and holidays when court rooms were closed. Even with the available technology, the virtual format does not suit the needs for every case.

Prisoner appearances in 2020	1,829
2019	1,868
2018	1,555

In 2020 there were 1,400 prisoner appearances in court facilitated via audio or video court proceedings.

Criminal Investigations Bureau

Violent Crime Investigations

Domestic Related	823
Assault	191
Sexual Assault	34
Weapons	17
Robbery	7

Property Crime Investigations

Theft	761
Break and Enter	230
Mischief	353
Fraud	152
Arson	10



REPORT A SEXUAL ASSAULT

[Home](#) » [Services](#) » [Services – Report A Sexual Assault](#)

Sexual Assault Online Reporting Now Available.

The St. Thomas Police Service is pleased to offer this new service of on-line reporting for Sexual Assault Investigations.

We understand that often times, victims of Sexual Assaults have difficulty reporting these crimes 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 this 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.



[FILE A REPORT](#)

Sexual Related Offences

51 Reported Incidents
34 ViClas Submissions

7 Charges were laid for Sexual Assault

11 Charges were laid for Sexual Offences Against Children

- ◆ 5 Invitation to Sexual Touching
- ◆ 4 Sexual Interference
- ◆ 2 Sexual Exploitation

Digital Forensic Examination

Crime Analysis Reports Completed 9

Digital Devices Searched 135

Cell Phones	50	Laptops	6
SIM Cards	48	Thumb Drives	6
Tablets	11	Routers	3
Hard Drives	10	Game Console	1



Forensic Identification Unit



92
Sex Offenders
Monitored

Exhibits Processed for Evidence	141
Criminal Fingerprints Collected	628
DNA Orders Executed	56
Sudden Death Investigations	23
Post Mortem Exams	5

A site assessment completed by the Operations Unit from the Ontario Sex Offender Registry in 2020 indicated that STPS records had a 100% compliance rate with the OSOR indicative of the excellent monitoring work done by our Forensic Identification Unit.

Property Management & Evidence

Drug Evidence 1,493	Firearms & Imitations 148	Alcohol Exhibits 46
General Submissions 2,622	Knives & weapons 88	Court Exhibits 192

The role of the Property Administrator could be described as similar to a Librarian. The Administrator is responsible for the integrity of all evidence and its safe storage. The service will manage over 1,425 in documents alone throughout the year

STPS Annual	2020	22,007
Incident Totals	2019	20,089
	2018	18,846
	2017	15,175
	2016	14,289

CRIMINAL CHARGES	CRIMINAL ARRESTS	PROVINCIAL CHARGES
2020 - 1,999	2020 - 1,553	2020 - 4,144
2019 - 2,148	2019 - 1,971	2019 - 3,805
2018 - 2,118	2018 - 1,761	2018 - 3,102
2017 - 1,529	2017 - 1,251	2017 - 3,730
2016 - 1,741	2016 - 1,239	2016 - 3,991

Civilian Services



Civilian employees are police professionals that support front line officers. Our civilian staff are a crucial part of STPS and are critical to the processing of information and general organization of the St Thomas Police Service.

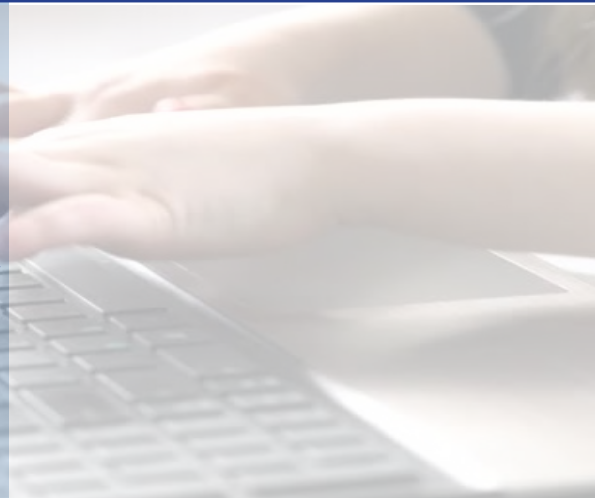
Criminal Background Checks	1,713
Provincial Offence Notices	4,144
Criminal Charge Packages Prepared For Court	1,382
Record Requests	121

Internet Child Exploitation Unit

CHARGES - 12

- 4 - Possession of Child Pornography
- 2 - Distribution of Child Pornography
- 2 - Luring
- 2 - Invitation to Sexual Touching
- 2 - Making Sexually Explicit Material Available to a Child

-
- 4 - Number of Persons Charged
 - 6 - Number of Search Warrants
 - 11- Number of Production Orders Written



Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere

The St. Thomas Police Service conduct several RIDE spot checks throughout the year as a part of our commitment to road safety. In 2020 the following infractions were located during these routine stops.

RIDE Check Points	31
Roadside Screenings	46
Field Sobriety Tests	33
Disqualified Drivers	10

Mobile Outreach Support Team

MOST Team 2020



MHA Apprehensions	260
Hours Spent at STEGH	246
Incidents attended by MOST	522
Post Incident Referral	318
Referrals to Supports	152

Number of Adults Supported by the Mobile Outreach Support Team:

821

Traffic Unit

MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION REPORT

Motor Vehicle Collisions	548
Injuries Reported	35
No Injuries	284
Non Reportable	240

TRAFFIC PROJECTS

- 20 - Speeding
- 2 - Stop Sign
- 1 - Bikes on Sidewalks
- 1 - Back to School (Bus)
- 1 - Traffic Light

A total of 382 tickets were issued during these traffic directed patrols for a combined departmental total of 3,490 tickets.



Impaired Driving Charges

By Alcohol
30

By Drug
3

By Alcohol AND Drug
29

Refusals
3



OUR TEAM

Sworn Officers



57 Male * 17 Female

Cadets



2 Male * 2 Female

Civilian Professionals



3 Male * 20 Female

Special Constables



5 Male * 5 Female

Fairness - Integrity - Dignity - Respect