



Chatham-Kent Police Service

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

“Dedicated to Making Chatham-Kent the Safest Community in Ontario”





THANK
you for showing me
your police car.
KAYLA

CHATHAM-KENT
POLICE

Victim
Services

mad
Chatham

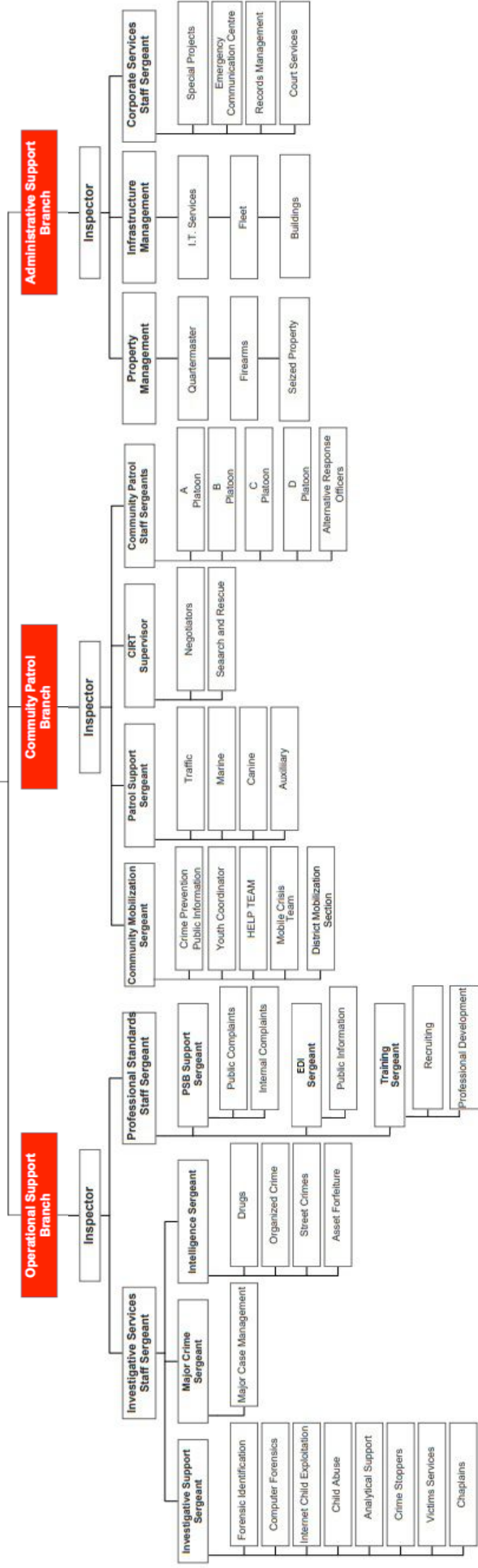


ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2023

Chatham-Kent Police Services Board

Chief of Police
Deputy Chief of Police

- Human Resource Management Risk Management
- Finance/Budget
- Strategic & Operational Planning Policy and Procedures
- Executive Support





FROM POLICE SERVICES BOARD CHAIR PATRICK WEAVER

2023 was a transformative year for the Chatham-Kent Police Service. As a Board we paused to take a snapshot of the police service as it existed and what we would need to prepare it for the future.

The results produced by an independent organization gave us a great roadmap for the future and it was accepted by municipal council. We, the Board, are encouraged and excited about the changes about to come. A four-year transformation now begins. Starting with a new Chief in 2024 we begin this journey, and our hope is you will find the changes, healthy, safe and improved by a great measure.



Chief's Commendation presented to Officers, Patrol Supervisors and ECO's for managing the unprecedented Christmas Blizzard which started on December 23, 2022. This was one of 58 Chief's Commendations presented in 2023.



FROM CHIEF OF POLICE GARY CONN

As I step into my final year as Chief of Police for the Chatham-Kent Police Service, I find myself reflecting on the journey we've shared over the years. It has been a tremendous honour to lead this incredible team of officers and civilian staff who work tirelessly to protect and serve our community.

Together we've faced countless challenges, from navigating the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic to addressing the ongoing social issues that affect our region, such as addiction, mental health, and homelessness. Throughout these challenges we've also operated under constant budget pressures, balancing the need for fiscal responsibility with the demands of modern policing. Despite these constraints, our team has remained committed to delivering effective and accountable policing to the citizens of Chatham-Kent.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the members of the Chatham-Kent Police Service, whose dedication and professionalism have ensured the safety and well-being of this community day in and day out. To our partners, the Police Service Board, and our many collaborators in social services, health care, and community organizations, thank you for your unwavering support. Together, we have stretched every dollar to maximize our resources while maintaining a high standard of service.

As I prepare to leave my role, I am filled with pride for what we've accomplished. Our efforts to implement new technologies, improve public safety, and address the root causes of crime — despite financial challenges — have laid a solid foundation for the future. I am confident that the Chatham-Kent Police Service will continue to thrive under new leadership and build upon the progress we have made together.

To the citizens of Chatham-Kent, thank you for entrusting us with your safety. It has been an honour. I leave knowing that our police service is in good hands, with a team that will continue to protect and uphold the values of safety, integrity, and community.

Though my time as Chief is drawing to a close, my respect and admiration for this community will always remain. Thank you, Chatham-Kent, for allowing me to serve you. I will forever cherish the memories and experiences we've shared.



STATEMENT OF MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES

OUR MISSION

The Chatham-Kent Police Service is dedicated to making Chatham-Kent the safest community in Ontario.

OUR VISION

In partnership with our citizens, we will serve and protect our community with integrity, fairness and courage.

OUR CORE VALUES

We, the members of the Chatham-Kent Police Service believe in:

- Meaningful **community partnerships** with the people we serve;
- A **safe community** where the protection of life and property are valued & preserved.

We are:

- **Compassionate** for all in need;
- **Honest** in our interactions with each other and the members of our community;
- **Fair, equitable** and **impartial** at all times;
- **Respectful** to each other and to the persons we protect and serve;
- Dedicated to **open communication** within our organization and with our community.

We believe in:

- Being **approachable** and **understanding** of community needs and issues;
- Being **professional** in our duty and committed to **improvement** through life-long learning;
- Having a **positive attitude** in our dealings with each other and our communities;
- Promoting **teamwork** within our Service and with members of our communities to achieve our mutual goals, making use of diverse skills, abilities, roles and views.



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CHATHAM-KENT

POLICE



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OPERATIONAL SUPPORT BRANCH



OPERATIONAL SUPPORT BRANCH OVERVIEW



Branch Commander: **Inspector Mike Domony**

The Operational Support Branch is comprised of Investigative Services and Professional Standards. There are 28 sworn and civilian staff that make up this Investigative Services Branch.

The members of the Operational Support Branch investigate all serious criminal offences where the investigative expertise required is beyond the normal training of a Community Patrol officer. The Operational Support Branch annual report outlines statistics that are a direct reflection of calls for service to this Investigative Branch but the amount of work and dedication put into these investigations is difficult to quantify.

Branch Objectives:

- Provide the necessary training and development to assist with personal and professional wellness
- Augment intelligence-led policing initiatives, through training, education and technology
- Research state of the art technology to assist with all aspects of the organization
- Enhance partnerships with local and provincial agencies
- Enhancement of our Victim Services referral process, to further support vulnerable victims
- Educate our community on emerging drug trends and property crime strategies
- Increase involvement in Human Trafficking investigations to assist survivors and identify offenders

Inspector Mike Domony is assigned to oversee and manage the Operational Support Branch. Staff Sergeant Matt Stezycki is in charge of Professional Standards. Sergeant Lynette Rosina represents the Public Information Office, along with the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Unit. Sergeant Brent Middel leads the Career Development and Training Unit. Detective Sergeant Greg Cranston oversees the Major Crime Unit. Sergeant Jason Herder is in charge of the Drugs/Intelligence Section. Sergeant Dan Hamilton provides leadership to the Internet Child Exploitation Unit (ICE), Forensic Identification Unit, Digital Forensics Unit (DFU), Child Abuse Investigation Team, Crime Stoppers, Polygraph Unit, Analytical Unit and the Sex Offender Registry. Sergeant Cole Abbott is lead investigator in major cases and the direct supervisor of Major Crimes.



MAJOR CRIME SECTION

The CKPS Major Crime Section is responsible for the investigation of complicated and time-consuming occurrences including:

- Homicides and Attempted Homicides
- Robberies, Kidnappings and Abductions
- Child Abuse and Child Exploitation
- Major Frauds, Thefts and Break and Enters
- Sudden Deaths and Suicides
- Arsons, Missing Persons, and Sexual Offences

The Major Crime comparison illustrates a few noteworthy differences from 2022 to 2023. A concerted effort to monitor serial offenders both locally and in neighbouring jurisdictions through patrol initiatives as well as collaborative information sharing with neighbouring police agencies along with public messaging through our PIO has led to a reduction in some of our property crimes.

We found 2023 was once again a busy year for violent crimes. The investigative team was stretched to investigate two complex homicides and one attempt homicide, 14 aggravated assaults in addition to sexual assaults, home invasions, robberies, frauds and assisting front-line patrol. Reviewing our Major Crime statistics, we saw a decrease in murder cases from four to two from the previous year. Our Attempt Murder investigations also decreased by two to one which is a significantly less from the ten the unit had investigated in in 2021. This indicates the ebbs and flows of violent crime.

Reported robberies increased by 21% from 28 to 34 while weapons offences continued the downward trend as seen in the previous year end report (from 69 to 37 incidents) with a decrease of 14%, from 37 to 32 reported in 2023. Officers responded to a 22% increase in residential break-and-enters from 368 to 450 and an 8% increase in commercial break-and-enters from 263 to 283.

We continue to focus attention and resources on a small local group of known criminals as well as criminals who commit crimes in a number of municipalities. We work tirelessly with our neighbouring services to keep these individuals in check. Further, our ability to engage the community to assist in crime reduction via social media and educational opportunities is another key component. These have and will have a positive effect in combatting property crime throughout the Municipality.

Drug offences is always something we as a service pay close attention to, as these offences are typically related to several other offences you see on this list (break and enters, theft, mischief, cause disturbance and violent crimes). Our focus continues to be directed towards street-level drug use and sales, to assist in identifying the main players and limiting their negative effects on our community.

The increase in reported frauds is due to members of the public being more aware of suspected online scams and electronic “phishing”, and reporting them to police more often.



FOCUS ON

CRIME SNAPSHOT

	2022	2023	CHANGE
Murder	4	2	-50%
Attempt Murder	3	1	-67%
Aggravated Assaults	9	14	+56%
Sexual Assaults	74	115	+55%
Criminal Harassment	130	132	+2%
Abduction	14	9	-36%
Robbery	28	34	+21%
Assault	467	581	+24%
Missing Persons	222	203	-9%
Weapons	37	32	-14%
Drugs	152	104	-32%
B&E to Residence			
B&E to Residence	368	450	+22%
B&E to Business			
B&E to Business	263	283	+8%
Theft of Property Over \$5,000	89	84	-6%
Theft of Property Under \$5,000	1,724	1,597	-7%
Theft or Attempt Theft of Vehicle	320	269	-16%
Possess Stolen Property	75	52	-31%
Mischief	653	697	+7%
Arson	24	22	-8%
Fraud	160	184	+15%
Counterfeit Currency	16	27	+69%
Impaired Driving / Over-80			
Impaired Driving / Over-80	110	113	+2%
Other Criminal Code Traffic			
Other Criminal Code Traffic	58	94	+62%
All C.C. Offences (incl. others not listed)			
All C.C. Offences (incl. others not listed)	5,222	5,318	+2%



ONTARIO SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY (OSOR)

The Ontario Sex Offender Registry is a provincial registration system for sex offenders who have been released into the community. These offenders must report to police every year. During the registration process, police enter information about these individuals into an online database.

The Ontario Sex Offender Registry sends information about offenders to the National Sex Offenders Registry. Federal legislation requires all provinces to send sex offender information to the national database. Members of the public do not have access to the Ontario Sex Offender Registry, however in 2008 new legislation made it possible for media to enquire as to the number of non-compliant offenders and total number of offenders registered on an agencies registry. It is a database that provides police services with important information that improves their ability to investigate sex-related as well as other crimes and monitor and locate convicted sex offenders in the community.

As a Police Service, we had two more members that can register offenders in 2023, making 8 total within the organization. We are also encouraging others to complete the training, so that they can access the database, to be used as an investigative tool.

Currently the Chatham-Kent Police Service has 314 total Sex Offenders registered on the Ontario Sex Offender Registry. This number increased by 15 offenders from 2022. Of the 314 offenders, 311 are males and three are females.

We have one non-compliant offender at the time of this report. During 2023, four offenders were arrested and charged for not complying with their obligations as per the Sex Offender Information Registration Act and Christopher's Law Act. CKPS is consistently in the top tier for OSOR compliancy.

	COUNT	PERCENT
Offender Age 10-19	0	0%
Offender Age 20-29	18	5.7%
Offender Age 30-39	45	14.3%
Offender Age 40-49	61	19.4%
Offender Age 50-59	62	19.7%
Offender Age 60-69	58	18.5%
Offender Age 70+	70	22.3%



POLYGRAPH UNIT

The year 2023 marked the inaugural year for the Polygraph Unit in the Chatham-Kent Police Service.

Constable Ed Vannoord was the successful candidate for the Forensic Polygraph Examiner position and is tasked with the responsibility of developing the program.

Although the Forensic Polygraph Examiner falls under the Investigative Support Branch, the unit was established to enhance the investigative abilities across the entire service. Polygraph can help with any criminal investigation, not just within the criminal investigation section/major crime.

Common ways in which Polygraph can help investigators is by the elimination of potential suspects allowing officers to focus their investigation, obtain more evidence through the polygraph interview process, and to assist with closing files.

Often referred to as a “lie detector”, the polygraph instrument and its related attachments allow a person's physiology to be measured and recorded. This includes breathing rate, sweat gland activity, blood pressure, and blood flow. The polygraph examiner records the physiological responses to questions. The collected data is analyzed in order to come to an opinion on deception.

The full certification into the Canadian Association of Police Polygraphists (CAPP) is an extensive process and consists of three phases. This year saw the completion of Phase #1 and Phase #2.

Phase #1 was the completion of the ten-week Polygraph Examiners Course at the Canadian Police College in Ottawa. The course consisted of polygraph theory and instruction set-out by American Polygraph Association. The course included officers from across Canada, UK and Trinidad & Tobago.

Phase #2 was the internship period and was successfully completed in December 2023. The internship period involves live field polygraph examinations under the direct supervision of a qualified examiner. These tests were completed under the guidance of the London Police Service.

Looking ahead, 2024 will see Const. Vannoord complete Phase #3 which is the certification period. The certification involves completing live field polygraph examinations under the indirect supervision of a qualified examiner. This is again being completed with guidance primarily from the London Police Service. The certification period lasts 6 to 12 months depending on testing availability.

The Chatham-Kent Police Service is pleased to add an in-house polygraph examiner to our list of investigative options in 2023 and beyond.



CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION TEAM

It has been a busy yet rewarding year representing the most vulnerable citizens in Chatham-Kent, our children. In many cases, we are the voice for these children and their families while they endure heartbreaking incidents of physical and sexual abuse.

The number of cases increased slightly, however, over the past four years it has remained relatively consistent. We continue to encourage victims and their families to report abuse and trust the Justice System to provide them with at least a small sense of justice and comfort. We believe we are doing that in this Unit and we will continue to be a source of support along with the Chatham-Kent Children's Services and Chatham-Kent Victims Services.

The Child Abuse Investigation Team investigates incidents of alleged physical and/or sexual abuse where the victim is less than 18 years of age and the abuse is caused by a caregiver. The Chatham-Kent Police Service team is currently led by Constable Jodie Foster and Supervised by Sgt Dan Hamilton. This unit is attached to the Investigative Support Section of our Service.

The Child Abuse Investigation Team Officer collaborates with LINCK's Intake Social Worker and the investigation is conducted jointly and in parallel. This allows each agency to respond to its own mandate while conducting interviews and investigations one time, with victims and witnesses; instead of several times. This helps reduce the trauma associated to this very sensitive work. When the actual team is unavailable, the investigators of the Major Crime Unit of the Criminal Investigation Branch, who are also qualified in sexual assault and child abuse investigations, conduct investigations with the Chatham-Kent Children's Services as required.

All Interviews are video taped in a child-friendly environment at headquarters whenever possible. There is a "soft room" in CID that is used to ease a child's anxiety. The advantage to completing the investigation at headquarters is the on-hand assistance and the proper facility to deal with the suspect or accused party.

The integrated Investigation Team works closely with our schools, the Crown Attorney's Office, Victim Services, the C-K Health Alliance, and other social service agencies and partners.

Constable Jodie Foster has been part of the Child Abuse Investigative Team since 2019 and has recently retired. Constable Foster is a highly-skilled investigator, having tremendous compassion for victims of crime. Throughout her career, Const. Foster has been steadfast in investigating all matters to completion, relentless in the quest for the truth and a consummate professional when encountering those being accused of a crime. During the latter portion of her career Const. Foster has focused her efforts to assist the most vulnerable persons in our community our children and she will be greatly missed. Congratulations on a tremendous career in policing!



FOCUS ON

CHILD ABUSE

	2021	2022	2023
Sexual Assault Investigations	39	46	44
Physical Assault Investigations	12	12	10
Follow-Up / Assist Other Agency	21	41	26
Total Investigations	68	69	54
Victim Interviews	48	28	40
Accused Interviews	18	19	32
Witness Interviews	89	46	64
Total Interviews	206	95	136
Total Arrests	28	12	15
Total Charges	76	60	68



INTERNET CHILD EXPLOITATION (ICE) UNIT

Child pornography is the sexual abuse of children – these are real children and this is a real crime against the most vulnerable members of our society. Child pornography and the exploitation of child pornography via the internet is a criminal offence that involves repeated victimization of children through sexual abuse and the dissemination of their images over the internet.

Often mistaken as victimless or merely image-based offences, most child pornography/luring offences in Ontario involve the actual sexual exploitation, sexual assault of children, including infants, on camera. Such cases include images of penetrative sexual activity between adults and very young children and infants, sexual bondage of children, bestiality and increasingly “live” web-cam streaming of real-time abuse of infants and children. Those who possess or collect child pornography have a hand in child sexual abuse and are party to the sexual assault.

Chatham-Kent Police Service has been a part of the Ontario Provincial Strategy to combat Internet crimes against children since 2014. Over the past several years, we have come to find that our community is not immune from this threat to our children and youth. Our digital age has allowed for predators to virtually enter our homes and connect with our kids.

The below statistics represent only a small portion of where these types of investigations will lead us. These investigations require a consistent pro-active approach to show the individuals involved that the community of Chatham-Kent will not tolerate their appalling behaviour. During 2022, more resources were focused on the management of the Sex Offender Registry and higher priority Internet Child Exploitation investigations.

In 2023 the ICE unit expanded its capabilities to investigate these offences by attending various training opportunities. This training has provided the capability to engage in proactive investigations to identify offenders who seek to harm children. These statistics represent only a small portion of where these types of investigations will lead us. These investigations require a consistent pro-active approach and training in order to remain current with emerging trends and crime patterns. During 2023 more resources were focused on the investigation of Internet Child Exploitation -related offences.

***NCECC** – The National Child Exploitation Coordination Center functions as the point of contact for investigations related to the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet in Canada.*

***IP** - Internet Protocol (IP) is the principal communications protocol in the Internet. Its routing function enables worldwide networking, and essentially establishes the Internet as we know it.*

***Luring** - Defined in Section 172.1 of the Criminal Code of Canada as the use of telecommunication to communicate with someone who is, or who the perpetrator believes to be, under the age of 18, for the purpose of facilitating the commission of an offence against that child.*



FOCUS ON

I.C.E. UNIT

	2021	2022	2023
National/International Referrals	11	3	34
Local IP Investigations	2	5	7
Luring Investigations	1	6	13
Other Internet Investigations	13	15	13
Self-Exploitation Investigations	4	4	11
Total Investigations Conducted	31	33	77
Total IP Investigations Not Acted Upon	63	58	10
Total Production Orders	11	4	18
Total Search Warrants	11	5	19
Referrals to Other Jurisdictions	4	4	6
Total Arrests	14	12	15
Total Charges	48	55	56
Community Presentations	2	4	7
Devices Analyzed for ICE Analysis	302	142	156



DIGITAL FORENSICS UNIT (DFU)

2023 was yet another busy year for the Digital Forensics Unit (DFU). The Service's only Digital Forensic Analysis Officer provided electronic device examinations for several sections of the Service including the Traffic Management Section, Intelligence Section, Criminal Investigative Section, Front Line Patrol Section, and the Internet Child Exploitation Section.

As we have seen since the conception of the DFU in 2014, the use of technology is ever increasing in occurrences being investigated by the CKPS and is not limited to any specific crime. Again in 2023 the DFU supported a wide array of investigations where technology was used in the commission of offence or where the electronic device examination assisted the Investigating Officer.

With the affordability of digital video surveillance systems for both business and home, the police are seeing more and more incidents being captured on video that assists in the investigation as well as the prosecution for these matters.

In 2023 the CKPS DFU officer supported investigations including Domestic, Assaults, Criminal Harassment, Sudden Deaths, Sexual Assaults, Threats, Child Pornography, MVC's, Frauds, Child Luring, Bail Violations, Breaches of Probation, Robberies, Weapons offences, Public Morals, Voyeurism, Drugs, B&E's, Impersonations / Identity Theft, Arsons, Missing Persons, Murder & Attempt Murder, Home Invasions, and Thefts.

In total during 2023, the DFU examined 315 electronic devices either by way of judicial authorization or by way of consent from the owner of the device. That is up by 44.5% from the previous year. Two-thirds of these were cellular phones, 15% were computers (PC or Mac), and most of the remainder were external storage devices, SD cards, USB thumb drives, and CD/DVD-ROM discs.

The DFU Officer was also kept busy with the office network maintenance, hardware and software updates, as well as the regular hardware and software licensing renewals for programs utilized both by the DFU and by ICE Units. The DFU Officer was also kept busy by researching the latest tools used in the industry and making recommendations on those tools to keep the CKPS DFU current in its ability to conduct digital forensic examinations.

In addition to regular maintenance and updates, the DFU Officer researched new software and tools that allow for the acquisition of data from locked mobile devices. In previous years, the DFU had to reach out to neighbouring Police Service or Private Industry for this service. Now with these tools in house, data from the locked devices can be provided to the Investigator within hours after getting the Judicial Authorization as opposed to days or weeks.

Technology-based crime is an area that is continually evolving and, as such, requires intensive ongoing training and up-to-date equipment to acquire, prepare, and present evidence in court.



CHATHAM-KENT CRIME STOPPERS

Chatham-Kent Crime Stoppers is a community-based program that brings local citizens, the media and the police together in partnership to solve crimes. This is accomplished by offering cash rewards and guaranteeing anonymity to persons who provide information leading to the arrest of — or laying charges against — suspects and offenders. Chatham-Kent Crime Stoppers is governed by a civilian Board of Directors. It is a registered, not-for-profit organization that receives no government funding. The program operates through the fundraising efforts of the Board and the generous donations from business and individuals throughout Chatham-Kent.

When a call is received by Crime Stoppers, the Tipster is provided with an identification code that is known only to the Tipster and the coordinator. The tip information is forwarded to an investigator in one of the partner agencies. Once the investigation is complete the coordinator is advised of the disposition and the Crime Stoppers Board determines the value of the reward. The Tipster contacts Crime Stoppers and is advised of the reward. They are then given directions on how to claim the reward without their identity being revealed.

In 2023 Crime Stoppers continued to make its presence known through the use of social media. Officers continued to request Crime Stoppers for public assistance in identifying suspects.

	2022	2023	ALL-TIME
Calls Received	479	543	30,002
Arrests	15	10	7,666
Cases Cleared	109	86	11,316
Charges Laid	41	32	16,456
Weapons Recovered	5	34	340
Value of Property Recovered	\$2,000	\$0	\$10,507,651
Value of Drugs Seized	\$102,780	\$1,000,000	\$104,896,346
Total Drugs & Property	\$104,780	\$1,000,000	\$115,549,902



FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION UNIT (FIU)

The FIU is committed to identifying individuals and analyzing forensic evidence in a professional, objective and efficient manner. FIU members also oversee the work completed by eight SOCO (scenes of crime officers) assigned to front line general patrol duties.

The FIU's three sworn first-class constables are responsible for fingerprint analysis and comparison, scene examination, DNA collection/coordination, contamination control, footwear impressions, hair and fibre collection, photography, tire impressions and scene measurement and scale drawing.

The unit's major role is to apply forensic sciences to collecting evidence that will be admissible in court. The unit is a support service to all officers in all other CKPS operations.

	2021	2022	2023
Crime Scenes Attended	218	242	183
Fingerprint Comparisons	117	78	139
Fingerprint Identifications	10	5	12
SOCO Officer Requests	603	416	538
Further Disclosure Requests	634	746	535
DNA Hits	63	85	59
Centre of Forensic Sciences Submissions	127	109	82
Motor Vehicle Collisions	29	25	26
Sudden Death Investigations	39	45	26



HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS

Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. The most common forms of human trafficking includes sexual exploitation and forced labour. In recent years, human trafficking has been identified as a global concern due to the proliferation of escort websites on the internet.

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent is not immune to the issue of human trafficking. There have been many incidents of, or related to, human trafficking locally. Such incidents often involve individuals who are transient in nature and typically do not reside in Chatham-Kent. These individuals are often linked to other related offences involving drugs, violence and organized crime.

CKPS continues to take a proactive approach to stop this from becoming a significant problem in this jurisdiction and to this endeavour is a partner in the Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy Team. The Intelligence Unit currently has one officer, with the support of its other members, dedicated to the provincial anti-human trafficking strategy. This dedicated officer conducts investigations into human trafficking, which investigations includes the monitoring escort advertisements, outreach and support to suspected victims, coordination with partner agencies, the laying of charges where applicable and the guidance and/or provision of expertise to other members of the Service.

In 2023 CKPS received grant funding to support Human Trafficking investigations and initiatives. To date, multiple pieces of equipment and technology have been purchased using these grant funds. In addition, the funding was used to secure additional equipment for officers in the Intelligence Unit, which should increase the ability to conduct these complex investigations. In addition, CKPS will become a member of a local Anti- Human Trafficking Coalition which is a new organization aiming to broaden partnerships and share resources designed to combat Human Trafficking.

	2022	2023
New Investigations	9	7
Proactive Operations	0	0
New Investigations (with Other Agencies)	2	2
Proactive Operations (with Other Agencies)	0	0
Community Presentations & Situation Tables	5	3
Search Warrants Related to Human Trafficking	0	0



INTELL, DRUGS, ASSET FORFEITURE AND STREET CRIME

The CKPS Intelligence Section is primarily focused on Drugs, Street Crimes, Organized Crime/Biker Enforcement, Asset Forfeiture and Human Trafficking. Intell is a multi-purpose unit consisting of one Sergeant and six Detective Constables. In 2023 the Intelligence Section was supervised by Sgt. Nelson Das Neves from January thru July. Sgt. Cole Abbott became the interim supervisor with the assistance of Acting Supervisors within the unit itself. Sgt. Jason Herder became the supervisor from October onward. Sgt. Herder reports to Staff Sgt. Greg Cranston and Insp. Mike Domony.

From a staffing perspective, 2023 was a rewarding yet challenging year for the Intelligence Unit. The unit dealt with transitioning and supervisors' promotions, requiring members to handle multiple roles throughout the summer and early fall of 2023. Regardless of the changing personnel to lead the unit in 2023, the intelligence unit remained committed and dedicated to its tasks throughout the year.

The Deloitte Operational Resource Review reflected the need to expand and grow the Intelligence Unit to adapt to modern-day policing and shifting trends in crime within the municipality and to plan the anticipated expenditures that are associated with the expansion of any specialized unit.

The Intelligence Unit applied for and was approved for multiple provincial grants in 2023. These provincial grants will provide an additional \$698,000 a year for three years to provincially fund additional officers to combat street crime in auto theft and Bail Compliance of repeat offenders.

Since 2016 there have been over 32,000 reported Canadian overdoses leading to death. In 2023 there were 97 reported opioid poisoning-related incidents in Chatham-Kent, with 25 of these incidents leading to an overdose death. Methamphetamine, cocaine, fentanyl, and a variety of other opioids continue to be the main drugs of choice locally. The fight against the sale and consumption of illegal drugs continued throughout the year, with 26 search warrants being executed, which resulted in over \$7,741,000 in illicit drugs being seized and removed from our streets.

This year members of the CKPS Intelligence Unit led and were joined by the St. Thomas Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police Guns and Gangs Unit, and the Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario (CISO) in a multi-jurisdictional investigation dubbed "Project Breakout". This joint forces operation focused on the trafficking of substances most directly linked to the overdose epidemic in Chatham-Kent. It culminated with the execution of multiple search warrants on October 4th, resulting in the seizure of methamphetamine, cocaine, fentanyl, and other controlled substances with a street value of \$942,955, as well as over \$3,000 in offence-related and stolen property. Eight individuals were arrested and charged with a combined total of 87 offences.

The Intelligence Unit regularly assists Patrol with an officer trained in specialized surveillance technology as part of our Intelligence-Led Policing initiatives.



FOCUS ON

INTELLIGENCE

	2021	2022	2023
Major Drug & Property Crime Arrests	111	96	69
Total Criminal Charges Laid	454	270	382
Dollar Value of Drugs Seized	\$18,675,160	\$332,145	\$7,741,472
Dollar Value of Property Recovered	\$112,799	\$224,300	\$98,000
Cash Seized from Drug Investigations	\$95,581	\$16,121.55	\$69,570.85
Prohibited Guns & Weapons Seized	35	10	97
Intelligence Reports & Surveillance	173	204	245

	2022	2023
AFU Vehicles Seized or Forfeited	0	0
AFU Cash Forfeited (Upon Court Conviction)	\$119,785	\$47,896.10
AFU Cash Seized & Held (Pending Court Conviction)	\$16,121.55	\$83,515.95
AFU Search Warrants Prepared	0	0
AFU Expert Opinion Reports Submitted	0	0
AFU Total Seizure Intakes Completed	12	19
AFU Assist with Provincial Projects	0	0



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

In 2023 the Public Information Officer actively participated in enhancing community engagement and promoting a positive public image through public information and communication strategies. As the main point of contact between the police service and the public, the PIO is responsible for sharing accurate and timely information to the media and the community regarding police activities, incidents, and initiatives. This has helped to maintain transparency, build public trust, and shape a positive perception of the Chatham-Kent Police Service.

The CKPS social media platforms were used in proactive ways to educate the public on various safety topics, such as driving safety and scams. By raising awareness and providing valuable information, the police service aimed to ensure the safety of community members. Also, by utilizing social media platforms, the PIO humanized the police uniform and strengthen officer/community connections. By sharing relatable and engaging content, the police service built positive online relationships with the community. Active participation in various events and collaborations was another key aspect of the PIO's role. Initiatives such as the "Holiday with a Hero" and the "Little Hero Halloween Costume Contest" allowed the police service to engage with the community and establish positive interactions.

The PIO also received positive feedback for acknowledging and celebrating multi-cultural religious days, guided by the Municipality's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice calendar.

POLICE CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

The Chaplains are an integral part of the Chatham-Kent Police Service and provide much-needed emotional, mental and spiritual support to our members. Chaplains are active in all levels of the Police Service. Chaplains provide a variety of services including patrolling with officers, death notifications and even conducting weddings and funeral services for members of our Police Service.

We have five ordained, volunteer, sworn-in Police Chaplains placed throughout the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The Chaplains are available 24/7. North District (Wallaceburg, Dresden and Thamesville) – Chaplain Albert Lambkin and Chaplain Father Chris Gillespie. South District (Blenheim, Ridgetown, Thamesville, Tilbury and Wheatley) – Chaplain Tim Joyce. Central District (Chatham) – Chaplain Bill Sharrow, Chaplain Michael Koppes and Chaplain Paul McPhail. Chaplain Father Chris Gillespie was moved to a new parish and received a plaque of appreciation for his service to CKPS on September 13, 2023. Constable Nicole Kadour acts as Liaison to the Chaplains.

In the interest of Cultural diversity, the Chaplaincy program is expanding to include members of other faith communities. Discussions and meetings are currently taking place between the Muslim faith community as well as the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa peoples of the Walpole Island First Nation and the peoples of the Delaware Nation at Moraviantown First Nation with Sergeant Lynette Rosina.



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Throughout the year, CKPS has made significant progress in promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion. We have established strong relationships with cultural and religious groups, fostering understanding and inclusivity. To illustrate this, our partnership with Imam Bakhityar Ahmed of the Jami Masjid Mosque allowed us to develop a meaningful connection with the local Muslim community, promoting dialogue and cultural exchange.

We have also maintained strong ties with organizations such as the C-K DEIJ committee, C-K Pride, C-K Local Immigration Partnership, Maawnjidimi Network, Chatham Hindu Cultural Association, and OACP EDI Networking Group. By actively participating in various celebrations, flag-raising, and community events such as Diwali, the Navaratri Festival, the C-K Pride Parade, Bimaadzi Minwendam and the C-K Local Immigration Partnership Anti-Racism Discussion, we demonstrated our support for all our communities. These engagements allowed us to collaborate with other agencies and organizations, working towards common equity, diversity, and inclusion goals.

The EDI Coordinator took the initiative to follow-up with individuals who were negatively affected by crimes suspected to be motivated by hate or discrimination. By being a point of contact for the service and providing support, the PIO aimed to build understanding and trust.

Within EDI personal development was a priority. We are happy to report that a member of the CKPS EDI Committee completed the OACP EDI course, while the EDI Coordinator successfully completed the EDI Influencer program through the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion. To further demonstrate our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, we actively attended various events and conferences. Our participation in the OACP EDI Summit and the International Women in Policing Conference enabled us to join other officers in promoting gender equality and empowerment.

On a provincial level, the EDI Coordinator was actively involved in the OACP Race-Based Data Collection Champions Group. This group aimed to develop a provincial framework for Race and Identity Based Data Collection (RIBD) and understand the capacity, limitations, and needs of police services when implementing RIBD. Additionally, the EDI Coordinator was involved in the OACP Policing Pathways Tables, which aimed to improve frontline police recruitment in Ontario. Through five engagement tables focusing on Women in Policing, Black, Indigenous, and Racialized persons in policing, Recruitment Leaders, New Recruits, and Non-Policing Community Stakeholders, diverse perspectives assisted in identifying factors impacting recruitment and growth.

One notable achievement of the EDI Coordinator in 2023 was the successful completion of Project RISE and the continuation of Project ACHIEVE, both of which incorporated important elements of equity, diversity, and inclusion. These grants allowed for the purchase of smudging kits, as well as items to create a more welcoming environment at our headquarters and satellite offices, such as a multi-language welcome sign and Indigenous artwork.



TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Training and Career Development Unit is overseen by Sergeant Brent Middel and a team of five part-time Use of Force trainers. As part of the Training Unit's objectives, local and regional training providers were used to contain costs of travel and accommodation. CKPS hosted two satellite courses through the Ontario Police College. The Frontline Supervisor course and the Criminal Investigator's Training courses were held at the John D. Bradley Centre. Hosting these courses provided more of our members with training opportunities at a reduced cost on the service and in-turn helped support other community agencies and our local economy.

The 2023 approved budget for travel and seminars which includes training costs was \$229,502. Actual training costs totalled \$542,711. This is an average of \$313,209.

Cadet Training:

In 2023 CKPS hired 14 Cadets and four Special Constables. As a training unit, we created and implemented two ten-day on-boarding/orientation programs for the new hires. We also ran two eight-day cadet pre-OPC training programs to prepare eight future officers with the tools needed to be successful at the Ontario Police College. Subsequently we put-on two ten-day post-OPC programs preparing 13 new constables for community patrol. In addition we assisted one member back to full duties through a seven-day return-to-work program.

CKPS In-Service Training:

Three internal In-Service training days were held in 2023. One was Academic (in-class) and two were Practical (in-field). In-Service training sessions this year included:

Practical – Spring: Our sworn officers were trained on Suspect Apprehension Pursuits on a closed runway at the Chatham Municipal Airport.

Practical – Fall: Sworn members participated in firearms practical training, judgmental scenario training, defensive tactics training, and completed all Ministry-mandated requalifications. As a service, we increased scenario-based training with a focus on de-escalation while satisfying training regulation

Academic – Winter: Our members were provided presentations on ten relevant topics including autism awareness, digital evidence management, in-car cameras and automated license plate recognition systems, intimate partner violence and the services offered at the Chatham-Kent Women's Centre, Restorative Justice, Victim Services, and medical assessments. Officers also heard first-hand from a sexual assault survivor who shared her experiences being interviewed as a victim of crime.



TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (cont'd)

Emergency Medical Supplies & Training:

Hemorrhage Control items were purchased and issued to all Sworn Officers, Special Constables, and Cadets. These items consisted of a 4-inch trauma pressure bandage, medical shears, and CAT-7 tourniquets. Training on this equipment was two-fold. Members were first trained on use and storage of these items. Secondly, during pistol re-certification training, members participated in drills involving rescuing injured officers while under gunfire and deploying life saving techniques through the correct application of these items.

The CKPS Fitness Challenge:

The CKPS Fitness Challenge continued with 94 members achieving their 2023 Ontario Police Fitness Pins. Of those members, 10 obtained a score of 100% or better.

Dillon Road Firearms Range:

New last year, our state-of-the-art Firearms Range on the Dillon Road in the former Raleigh Township was heavily-used in 2023. CKPS continued with renewed memorandums of understanding with LaSalle PS and Sarnia PS for rental of the Firearms Range and classroom.

E-Learning Initiatives:

In effort to control costs and provide efficient delivery of training, employee orientation or certification requirements, e-Learning continued to be used in combination with, or as an alternative to, traditional methods of learning. E-Learning was provided by the Canadian Police Knowledge Network (CPKN), Chatham-Kent Learning, and the Ontario Police Video Training Alliance (OPVTA).

Commendations and Letters of Recognition:

Through the recommendation of the Chief's Office and/or the Police Services Board, we are proud to acknowledge in this report the numerous officers and civilian members that were recognized in 2023 with three Police Services Board Citations, 58 Chief's Commendations and 16 Deputy Chief Letters of Recognition awarded.



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BRANCH

The objective of the Professional Standards Branch is to improve the professionalism of our members, correct misconduct, and maintain the trust of the public in the integrity and professionalism of the Police Service. Public Complaints are complaint investigations as required by Part V of the Ontario Police Services Act (PSA) and Chief's Complaints involve internally generated investigations of personnel and discipline issues relating to both sworn and civilian members.

Complaints Filed Against Police:

The Inspector of the Operational Support Branch (OSB) is designated by the Chief of Police and pursuant to the PSA to render decisions relative to both Public Complaints and Chief's complaints investigations. The Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) was created on October 19, 2009 (Bill 103) to oversee the public complaint process in Ontario.

There were 33 Public Complaint (OIPRD) investigations and 41 Chief's Complaint investigations in 2023. Many of these investigations were resolved through formal/informal resolutions, internal discipline, policy changes, remedial training, and findings that allegations were unsubstantiated, unfounded or frivolous. The Professional Standards Branch investigates the majority if not all of the complaints. On occasion, and depending on circumstances, the Criminal Investigative Division along with Community Patrol may be asked to assist when required.

OIPRD Resolution Definitions:

- **OIPRD Refused Complaint** - At the initial vetting opportunity, the OIPRD chose not to continue.
- **Unsubstantiated** – An investigation was conducted and the allegations were not substantiated. The OIPRD reviews these cases and the complainant has a 30-day appeal period.
- **Informal Resolution** – An allegation is substantiated, but the misconduct is deemed minor, and the officer and complainant agree to the outcome.
- **Other** – The OIPRD terminates an investigation after initially screening in the complaint.

Chief's Complaint Resolution "Other":

The investigation "Other" category includes many items like; damaged or lost equipment, damage to vehicles not covered by collision, damaged property (doors) of places we have had to enter for police or life-saving purposes. These are created for tracking purposes, as cost may be associated to them.



FOCUS ON

PROFESSIONALISM

OIPRD COMPLAINTS			
	2021	2022	2023
Total Sworn Officers	161	164	177
Complaints Filed	33	15	33
of Conduct	33	15	33
of Service	0	0	0
of Policy	0	0	0
Carried Over	0	0	0
RESOLUTIONS			
Inquiry Only	0	0	0
Inquiry - Changed to Chief's Complaint	0	0	
Withdrawn at Request of Complainant	0	2	6
Continuing	3	1	1
Unsubstantiated	9	1	5
OIPRD Refused Complaint	15	10	18
Informal Resolution	1	1	3
Other	5	0	0

CHIEF'S COMPLAINTS			
	2021	2022	2023
Total Sworn Officers	161	164	177
Total Investigations	67	58	41
SIU Parallel (S.11 O.Reg. 673/98)	5	3	0
Neglect of Duty	3	7	3
Discreditable Conduct	13	5	2
Excessive Force	0	0	1
Departmental MVC	26	22	16
Other	20	21	19
RESOLUTIONS			
Criminal Charges	0	0	0
Highway Traffic Act Charges	0	0	0
Police Service Act Hearing	2	0	0
Police Service Act Discipline	8	21	6
Counselled; Admonished	12	6	2
Unsubstantiated	2	0	1
Resignation	1	0	0
Termination	0	0	0
Other (Training, Policy Changes, NFA)	36	28	21
Investigation Continuing	6	3	11
Assist Other Police Service	0	0	0



USE OF FORCE REPORTING

The Professional Standards Branch closely tracks the use of force by any officer, for any reason. Anytime a weapon is drawn, used, or any degree of physical force is required by an officer a Use of Force report is to be submitted.

In 2023 the number of incidents requiring a Use of Force report (please refer to next page) increased significantly from the year prior, due largely to Conducted Energy Weapon (Taser) reporting policies.

Officers discharged their firearms 20 times to put-down dangerous or wounded animals. This occurred 17 times for injured deer, twice times for raccoons, and once for a fox.

The following are helpful general definitions:

- **Physical Control:** Any physical techniques used to control the subject that does not involve the use of a weapon. There are two levels of physical control:
 - **Soft techniques** are control oriented and have a lower probability of causing injury. They may include restraining techniques, joint locks and non-resistant handcuffing.
 - **Hard techniques** are intended to stop a subject's behaviour or to allow application of control techniques and have a higher probability of causing injury. They may include empty hand strikes such as punches and kicks.
- **Intermediate Weapons:** This use of force option involves the use of less-lethal weapons. Less-lethal weapons are those whose use is not intended to cause serious injury or death. Impact weapons, conducted energy weapons, and aerosols fall under this heading.
- **Lethal Force:** This use of force option involves the use of any weapons or techniques that are intended to, or are reasonably likely to cause grievous bodily harm or death.



FOCUS ON

USE OF FORCE

	2021	2022	2023
Total Use of Force Reports Filed	60	66	145
Firearm - Discharged to Protect Self	1	0	0
Firearm - Drawn to Effect Arrest	33	33	51
Firearm - Drawn to Destroy Animal	11	14	20
Oleoresin Capsicum Spray	1	2	0
Conducted Energy Weapon (Taser)	12	13	56
Bean Bag	1	0	0
ARWEN	0	0	2
Impact Weapon - Hard	0	1	0
Impact Weapon - Soft	0	1	0
Empty Hand Techniques - Hard	1	0	13
Empty Hand Techniques - Soft	0	1	2
PDS Apprehensions	0	1	1
Narcans Use	44	33	



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT BRANCH



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT BRANCH OVERVIEW



Branch Commander: **Inspector Jason Chickowski**

The Administrative Support Branch portfolio is comprised of a dedicated team of sworn and civilian members that collectively keeps the Police Service functioning. The Branch consists of Quartermaster / Drug Exhibit Coordinator, Property Coordinator, Information Technology Services, Building and Fleet Logistics, Firearms, Special Projects, Records Management, Court Services and the 911/Emergency Communication Centre. Although their employees work “behind the scenes”, they collectively enhance public safety in our community.

Branch Goal:

- The Administrative Support Branch will continue to provide essential services to the citizens of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent by ensuring that the front-line members of the service have the logistical assistance, administrative follow-up, facilities, equipment and critical 911 and Dispatch services required. All members will strive to enhance the technological abilities of our members to provide first-rate customer service to our community.

Branch Objectives:

- Provide Information Technology expertise and services that will help steer IT -related projects
- Continue to provide first-rate emergency communications services to Chatham-Kent Fire & Emergency Services, CKPS officers, and all citizens who contact 9-1-1 for assistance
- Continue to enhance our relationships with Victim Witness Assistance, the Crown Attorney's Office, and the Judiciary as we partner in our local criminal justice system

A complete and detailed breakdown of services provided by these sections is encompassed in the attached individual reports.



QUARTERMASTER & DRUG EXHIBIT CO-ORDINATOR

CKPS Quartermaster Katie Quagliotto is instrumental in researching the equipment and uniforms needs of the frontline officers. This is no small task as she not only has to interact with vendors insuring quality and delivery to the Police Service but she also has to manage the individual clothing and equipment needs of each officer making sure that safety and quality standards are met. In addition to this, Katie is responsible for the drug exhibits that are found and seized by police officers. There is a very specific chain of evidence with the seizure and storage of drugs that must be aligned with Health Canada and judicial requirements. Her areas of responsibility follow:

- Managing and purchasing all equipment & clothing for the Service including product research, purchasing, shipping and receiving, managing inventory levels, forecasting requirements based on budget, personnel and changing policing trends.
- Managing distribution of equipment and clothing to members, maintain employee records and organization of sizing dates.
- Dealing directly with all suppliers, cleaners and alteration stores for repairs, cleaning and maintenance of QM inventory.
- Conducting face-fitting of N95 masks for all members & volunteers of CKPS for pandemic planning. Assisting in planning of & ordering of special pandemic supplies: face fit kits, N95 masks, biohazard response supplies, nitrile gloves, cleaning stations, etc.
- Processing and management of drug and cash seizures; security, continuity, storage and disposal of drug exhibits and drug related property; entry of exhibits on RMS property management; maintaining all drug inventory and destruction records and assist with external audits.
- Continuity of drug samples for analysis a very important part of the everyday work: collection, packaging, shipping records; recording of analyst result on RMS property management; issuing Health Canada Certificate of Analyst and Drug Offence and Disposition Forms and Exhibit stickers, packaging for drug exhibits (needle containers, plastic bags). In 2023 the Crown requires a Drug Continuity Report to be completed for every incident where charges are laid.
- Training front-line members regarding drug property submissions, including paperwork, safety and packaging, and Health Canada guidelines, policy and procedures.

There were 92 purchase orders submitted in 2023 to various suppliers for equipment and supplies. This year saw two trips made to "Stericycle" in Brampton to destroy drugs and related property, as well as general property from Property/Exhibit Manager. Over half the drugs seized this year were "hard drugs" including methamphetamine (26%), fentanyl (26%), cocaine (12%), and crack cocaine (2%).

The Chatham-Kent Police Service consistently has in its possession several hundred drug occurrences with several exhibits attached to each. In 2023 there were 410 occurrences where drugs were seized and submitted as evidence or under other circumstances. There were 127 incidents in which drug paraphernalia was seized. Prescription medication was seized for disposal under 34 occurrences.



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND ASSET TRACKING

Property Coordinator Colleen Stonehouse is responsible for the storage, retention and destruction of property that is either recovered, seized or found by members in the course of their duties. A key role is to ensure the chain of evidence rules are followed. Failure to do so could result in the exclusion of evidence at trial and subsequent acquittals in some of those cases. In addition to this, Colleen is responsible for the destruction of property. The property that is not returned to victims and identified by property owners is sold through an on-line auction process.

There were approximately 2,327 entries for property seized or otherwise gathered in 2023. This number does not include firearms, drug exhibits or property that was found or seized and returned to owner before being added to property stores. Approximately 2,726 items were disposed of in 2023, either by auction, return to owner, at the burn location, liquor disposal, returned to MTO, or to garbage. This year Police Auctions Canada picked up the property to be sold through on-line auction. Reports received from Police Auctions Canada from March 2023 through December 2023 indicate the revenue received from items sold total \$5,640.

BUILDING AND FLEET LOGISTICS

The value of work provided by Logistics Coordinator Jeff Hopman is immeasurable. In his role Jeff has become a jack-of-all-trades and is called-on continuously to help manage a variety of problems. He ensures our fleet of 70 vehicles is safely maintained and our seven police buildings are kept in good repair. Jeff works hand-in-hand with the fleet and building services divisions of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. He is always ready to assist no matter what the challenge may be and is a respected “go to” person to solve any issue.

FIREARMS EXAMINER & TRAINER

Constable Dwayne June oversees everything related to firearms seizures and training. This was an extremely busy training year with the addition 18 new Cadets. Dwayne completed the onboarding in April, August, and November for the new cadets which is a three-week program. He then completed Pre-OPC with 18 officers (three weeks), and Post-OPC training (two weeks). This included Defensive Tactics, Use of Force, Federal Statutes, Provincial Statutes, Policy and Procedures, and Firearms.

In 2023 Constable June processed 580 firearms exhibits: 211 rifles or shotguns; 53 restricted firearms; 18 prohibited firearms; 109 airguns; and 142 ammunition exhibits. He conducted 21 major firearms investigations and submitted 11 crime guns to CISO for tracing. In one Public Safety Warrant over 50 guns were seized. In August 169 seized firearms and 132 pounds of ammunition were destroyed.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

With the increase use of computers and software the IT Section was forced to grow and currently featured five IT professionals in 2023. Quentin Sprik (Co-ordinator & Project Lead), Michael Cox, Neil Moskal, Reide McCabe and Sebastien Bourgeois-Beauchemin.

Members in IT are responsible for all computer related issues as well as software management, equipment upgrades and project management. With the addition of Mobile Data Terminals over the last few years, this is essentially 30 new bodies for an IT Section. The demands have put the IT Section to the test and the team members have stepped up to exceed all expectations.

The CKPS IT Section is also driving the following projects to enhance services to the community:

- Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) are now installed in 40 vehicles
- 190 desktop and laptop workstations
- Virtual Machine (VM) Network Infrastructure implemented to realize savings
- SCOPE (Crown software) and support of Crown with computers and various projects
- Cellular Phone management – order and maintain phones for over 200 employees
- Mobile Command Post maintenance & updating
- Digital collision reporting interface and CROMS public online crime reporting
- Avigilon security and door cameras at numerous CKPS sites
- SIT Consoles (softphones) implementation in Dispatch
- CCTV in Downtown Chatham core

With one of the four core pillars of our 2021-24 CKPS Strategic Plan indicating that we will build capacity for technology in a changing world, the next few years will continue to be very busy for the Information Services Section with the following projects on the horizon:

- Next Generation 911 is a major project to be carried on over the next three years and will involve major IT related changes to the service and especially the Emergency Communications Centre
- Construction of a Full-Functioning Backup Communications Centre
- Solacom Dispatch IP-based call-handling solution
- Norigen Business Analytics platform
- Digital Evidence Management (DEM) to streamline digital evidence disclosure to the Crown
- Body Worn Cameras (BWC) will be implemented, which carries with it significant IT resources
- In-Car Cameras and Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) implementation

The POLICE-IS teams continued work ethic, knowledge and determination has ensured that the Service is getting the best-possible technical support. This group continues to perform at a high level and are frankly some of our unsung heroes within the service.



COURT SERVICES SECTION

Since January 1, 2023 the Court Services Section has been supervised by Sergeant Jonathan Mulder who reports directly to Staff Sergeant Kate McArthur and Inspector Jason Chickowski.

The principal focus of the Court Services Section continues to be:

- a) Case management of federal, provincial and municipal charges laid by CKPS; and
- b) The security of the two Courthouses and their occupants.

In addition to the above, the Court Services Section continues to enhance relationships with all justice sector partners including the Crown Attorney's Office, Victim Witness Assistance, Chatham-Kent Domestic Violence Community Coordinating Committee, John Howard Society, Judiciary, the local Defence Bar and Court Administration.

2023 was a year of transition in many ways as we moved towards normalcy while dealing with the increased strain of trying to efficiently deal with backlog caused by COVID. Mid-way through the year, the changes became more noticeable as we saw an increase in the numbers of persons attending the courthouse because of the return of in-person court for First Appearances, Family Court, Superior Court Jury trials, civil court and people attending Court administration. Also, there was an upgrade in the Security system which had reached its life span and Courts providing input on upgrades and feedback during the installation process. Lastly, in September we transitioned back to Court Services bringing prisoners from HQ and housing them at the Courthouse for in-person bail hearing.

In 2023 members of the Court Services Section were responsible for processing, monitoring, and accommodating 667 prisoners, up 12% from the year before. There were a total of 5,289 audio/video appearances, up 11% from the year before. To accommodate this increase four Cadets were assigned to Courts and assisted with prisoner management and security.

The Court Services Section consists of the following specialized units:

- Bail Safety Officer;
- Court Administration;
- Court Security; and
- Intimate Partner Violence Coordinator.

As part of the day-to-day operations, members of the Court Services Section are responsible for screening all patrons entering the building as well as monitoring those who have been identified as a threat to staff and the judiciary. These screening processes have resulted in the seizure of various items/weapons that pose a threat to building occupants including used syringes, knives, steel bars, smoking pipes, torches, and handcuff keys.

In 2023 nine persons were arrested at the Courthouse by Court Services staff.



INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

IPV is any use of physical or sexual force, actual or threatened, in an intimate relationship, including emotional/psychological abuse or harassing behaviour. Intimate relationships include those between the opposite-sex and same-sex partners. These relationships vary in duration and legal formality and include common-law and married couples as well as current and former dating partners. Intimate partner crimes are often committed in a context where there is a pattern of assault and/or controlling behaviour. Violence may include physical assault as well as emotional, psychological and sexual abuse. Constable Kelly Helbin was the CKPS Intimate Partner Violence case manager throughout 2023.

The crime statistics below include only those falling under Intimate Partner Violence definitions.

	2021	2022	2023
Intimate Partner Violence Occurrences	1,839	1,788	1,740
With Charges Laid	270	288	282
With No Charges Laid	1,569	1,500	1,458
All Assaults	212	224	244
Assault	157	172	168
Assault with a Weapon / Bodily Harm	54	52	76
Aggravated Assault	1	0	3
All Sexual Assaults	14	7	22
Sexual Assault	14	7	22
Sexual Assault with a Weapon	0	0	0
Aggravated Sexual Assault	0	0	0
Breaching Conditions	266	305	249
Uttering Threats	85	62	59
Mischief	55	47	41
Forcible Confinement	18	17	15
Criminal Harassment	27	26	11
Firearms / Weapons	10	8	2
Choking	21	24	62
Human Trafficking -Related	0	0	0
Other	66	50	40



RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION

The Records Management Section of the Chatham-Kent Police Service is responsible for the capture, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information. Dedicated staff maintains a high level of accurate and efficient records that provide essential and attainable information sharing, while being committed to service delivery based on the needs of our community. Employee and volunteer screening services, processing and maintaining court documentation, criminal records and police file maintenance, CPIC services, records quality control, accident reports, statistics, Freedom of Information and protection of personal privacy, and 24-hour data entry are among the many responsibilities within this Unit.

The Records Management Unit is comprised of 14 full-time Civilians, one part-time Civilian, and one Uniformed Manager deployed at Police Headquarters and our Wallaceburg Service Centre.

We continue to see consistent use of the Citizens Online Reporting System which helps to reduce the number of events in which a front-line officer is required to attend. Citizens are continuing to take advantage of the Security Camera Registry with 343 camera locations registered; checking the registry for nearby cameras has become a routine part of major investigations. And, we have 299 Vulnerable Persons registered which is an effective tool in instances where registrants have gone missing.

Criminal Record Checks:

CKPS once again leads the entire nation in the percentage of Criminal Record Checks completed online versus in-person. In 2023, 97% of all requests were filed online.

	2021	2022	2023
For Employment	2,892	3,345	3,219
For Volunteering	1,265	1,803	1,003
Students	1,046	1,122	1,790
Total	5,482	6,270	6,240
Submitted Online	5,343	6,107	6,087
Submitted In-Person	139	163	153



FOCUS ON

RECORDS STATS

	2022	2023
FOI Insurance Requests	115	139
FOI Individual Requests	230	307
FOI Court Orders	11	25
FOI Children's Aid / Children's Lawyer	35	22
FOI Municipality of Chatham-Kent Requests	58	48
Fingerprints Received - From HQ	1,295	1,433
Fingerprints Received - From Courts	200	272
CKPS Investigated MVC's	1,214	1,149
Collision Reporting Centre MVC's	710	907
CPIC "ADD" Transactions	11,900	12,114
CPIC "MODIFY" Transactions	25,627	25,101
CPIC "REMOVE" Transactions	4,585	4,774
Public Requests - Criminal Record Destruction	15	14
Public Requests - Seeking Pardon	46	50
Charges Settled	4,864	5,775
C-216 Fingerprints Submitted	1,521	1,743



FOCUS ON

ONLINE REPORTING

	2022	2023
Bicycle Registry Submission	36	44
Breach of Bail Conditions	55	38
Community Partner - Mandatory Reporting	52	47
Damage or Mischief to Property	52	64
Damage or Mischief to Vehicle	33	32
Keyholder Registration Submission	26	29
Lost Property	38	15
Lost or Stolen License Plate	18	13
School Bus Video Submission	4	1
School Incident - Mandatory Reporting	7	0
Security Camera Registry Address Adds	52	25
Supplemental Report Added	10	127
Theft from Vehicle	35	45
Theft Under \$5,000	80	313
Vulnerable Persons Registry Submission	44	33
Total Citizen's Online Reporting System (CORS)	542	826



911 / EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTRE

The ECC is first line of communication with victims of crime and a lifeline to the Police Officers and Firefighters within our Municipality. The dedicated Emergency Communication Operators handle nearly 200,000 telephone calls annually and are responsible for 24/7 Dispatch and communications for Chatham-Kent Fire Services as well as the Police Service. In addition to the safe and efficient dispatch, they are responsible for event records management as well as CPIC after-hours entry. They are truly a lifeline for those they encounter daily. The 911 Communicator position is a true calling and our members are professional, empathetic and efficient under tremendously stressful circumstances. They are professionals in every sense of the word and excellent ambassadors for the Police Service.

The ECC is managed by Sheri Somerville with one Shift Supervisor on each of the four Platoons. Our authorized staffing complement is 24 including full-and-part-time members. It has been a busy year with training initiatives. Each new ECO requires a minimum of 520hrs training; not all were successful in completing the program. This continues to be a complex job requiring a unique skill set and abilities in order to be successful. Part-time ECO's remain a mission-critical resource to our operations where they provide support in covering the leave of full-time members.

In 2023 the Emergency Communication Centre (ECC) answered a total of 199,446 telephone calls, virtually identical to the year prior. The ECC dealt with 47,072 E911 voice/non-voice calls this year. Of all the E911 voice/non-voice calls received; 38% of the E911 calls were transferred to secondary agencies; 62% of the calls remained with us to investigate for police or fire services. The ECC had an average time-to-answer of 9 seconds in 2023. The ECC maintained control over 23,545 E911 calls received on behalf of police or fire services.

There has been a significant increase in the average call duration over the past decade. This is largely due to policy requirements relating to mental health calls for service, complex social disorder, intimate partner violence, and mandated E911 callback procedures. Calls of this nature often require multiple callbacks and/or long telephone conversations to satisfy call-handling policy requirements.

This year the ECC generated 69,285 CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) events for Police and Fire services, up 7% over last year. Of these, 61,471 were CKPS events and 7,814 were CKFR events. Of the CKFR events fewer than half (3,116) were actually toned-out; the majority of CKFR events were record-keeping events such as Open Burns, daily pager tests, and fire alarm maintenance notes.

This was another challenging staffing year for the Emergency Communication Centre. Considering the trends noted above, a significant increase not just in volume but severity of calls over the last decade has come at a cost to personnel. The CommCentre has been in a continuous state of training this year, which creates its own burden on both employees and resources. ECO's continue to work towards a more stable environment with ample resources to adapt to our unpredictable working conditions.



FOCUS ON

911/DISPATCH

	2022	2023
Total Telephone Activity - All Sources In/Out	199,104	199,446
E911 Calls Handled (Voice/Hangup/Abandoned)	42,029	47,072
Outgoing Calls Made	47,813	41,096
E911 - Live Voice on Line	36,935	41,960
E911 - Hangup or Abandoned (Followup Req'd)	5,094	6,094
CKPS CAD Events Generated	61,573	66,399
CKFES CAD Events Generated	7,030	7,814
CKFES CAD Events Dispatched	2,829	3,116
CKFES CAD Events Record-Keeping	4,201	4,698
CKFES Average Time Call-Answer-to-Toneout	56-seconds	57-seconds
CKPS MDT Events Monitored	4,381	4,928
Total CAD Events Managed	68,709	74,213
Phone Calls Per ECO (Based on 24 ECO's)	8,296 Each	8,310 Each

This year the CommCentre generated almost 25,000 more CAD events than a decade ago. This equates to a 64% increase in workload with fewer ECO hours scheduled. When ECO's are not busy with their primary duties they continue to validate call data and link Persons, Addresses, Vehicles, and Property in our Records Management System. There is virtually no "down time" in the ECC.



COMMUNITY PATROL BRANCH



COMMUNITY PATROL BRANCH OVERVIEW



Branch Commander: Inspector Michael Pearce

The Community Patrol Branch is responsible for providing highly-effective front-line policing to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. Members of the Branch are most often observed through deployment on foot patrols, bicycles and are also highly-visible in patrol vehicles. This Branch includes Critical Incident Response Team officers, Traffic Management, Marine, Canine, Auxiliary, Youth Coordinator, Mobile Crisis, Community Mobilization, and Community Services.

Branch Objectives:

- Serve and protect the citizens of Chatham-Kent, guided by our Mission, Vision, and Core Values
- Collaborate and work effectively within the Branch
- Work together and utilize the services of our support units within the Service
- Continue to participate and collaborate with external agency partners
- Proactively and positively navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on recovery
- Ensure Branch members are provided resources to assist with personal and professional wellness

Four Platoons each comprised of 22-25 officers & supervisors work rotating shifts providing 24/7/365 patrols:

“A” Platoon – Staff Sergeant Nelson Das Neves, Sergeant Mike Hakr, Sergeant Jason Herder

“B” Platoon – Staff Sergeant Mike Thompson, Sergeant Mike Stokes, Sergeant Fraser Leontowicz

“C” Platoon – Staff Sergeant Brent Milne, Sergeant Neal Iles, Sergeant Jayme O’Reilly

“D” Platoon – Staff Sergeant Shawn Mungar, Sergeant Aaron Medenblik, Sergeant Doug Cowell

- Sergeant Jim Lynds led the Patrol Support Section, comprised of Traffic Management, Canine, Marine, UAS, and the Auxiliary program.
- Sergeant Josh Flikweert assisted Sgt Lynds in Patrol Support
- Sergeant Doug Cowell led Community Mobilization Section, comprised of Crime Prevention, Mobile Crisis, Youth Coordinator, and District Mobilization.



TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SECTION

Members of the Traffic Management Section strive to make Chatham-Kent a safer place through traffic education and enforcement initiatives. The mandate of this Unit is to meet the adequacy standard of being able to investigate and reconstruct life-threatening and/or fatal motor vehicle collisions.

Additionally, members of the Traffic Unit provide escorts for major Municipal events and funerals and are also responsible for training front-line officers in the field of:

- Collision investigation
- Radar and Laser operation
- Highway Traffic Act enforcement & Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

Serious Collision Call-Outs:

A call-out situation occurs when the Unit members are called, on and/or off-duty, to attend life-threatening and fatal motor vehicle collisions. Additionally, members of the Traffic Unit assist other branches of the service in mapping crime scenes to provide scaled drawings for court purposes.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Life Threatening	8	8	7	8
Fatal	8	10	12	14
Investigative Support to Patrol	5	9	7	3
Total	21	27	26	25

The number of Traffic Unit call-outs decreased by one in 2023 compared to the year prior. Eight of the fatal collisions involved impairment by drugs, alcohol, or both. One resulted from the driver having a medical event prior to the collision. The remaining five were caused by other driving behaviours.

After investigating each of the 22 fatal and serious-injury motor vehicle collisions...

- Eight resulted in charges being laid
- 11 resulted in no charges being laid
- Two of the investigations are still ongoing at the time of this report



TRAFFIC SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES

Black Cat Speed Monitoring Device:

CKPS now owns two Black Cat speed monitoring devices. They passively log speed data of vehicles traveling past it in both directions. It does not capture any identifying information, nor does it take photos. This technology is exceptionally useful in assessing speeding complaints. Officers can mount the device to a pole and leave it unattended for a week. The report it generates provides information about compliance rates and time-of-day / day-of-week where enforcement would be most beneficial. In 2023 we deployed the Black Cats for 24 weeks monitoring in excess of 423,500 vehicles. This represents a 73% increase in the number of vehicles monitored compared to last year.

RIDE Programs:

This year CKPS conducted 36 RIDE Programs stopping 4,091 vehicles. Officers did 41 roadside tests and issued two three-day suspensions. One driver was charged with Impaired Driving under the Criminal Code of Canada. In 2023 the Chatham-Kent Police Service received \$23,100 in provincial grants supporting RIDE Programs.

Drug Recognition Experts:

Our Drug Recognition Experts (DRE's) were used on 19 occasions throughout 2023, representing an increase of 46% over 2022.

Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Enforcement:

Traffic Management continued its partnership with the Ministry of Transportation to ensure the safety of commercial motor vehicles traveling on Chatham-Kent highways. This year 104 trucks were inspected by police and qualified mechanics and 53 were immediately taken out of service as unsafe.

POA Statistics (Traffic Tickets):

In 2023 the Chatham-Kent Police Service laid 3,143 provincial offence charges (Part-1 Tickets). The Traffic Unit was responsible for 1,165 of these charges, representing 37% of the tickets written.



COLLISION REPORTING CENTRE (CRC)

The Collision Reporting Centre (CRC) is located in the Chatham-Kent Police Service Headquarters building and has been in existence since January 2011. The CRC is located just off the lobby and offers a customer service -oriented approach to collision reporting.

The CRC is a great benefit to citizens involved in collisions as this is a central reporting location within the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The CRC is also a benefit to the Chatham-Kent Police Service as the reporting centre permits a more efficient use of police resources by freeing-up frontline officers to attend more urgent policing needs.

The Chatham-Kent Police Service is able to gather extensive statistics to help analyze collision trends. With the use of this information, initiatives can be developed to assist with reducing collisions. Initiatives include such things as active patrols, targeted enforcement and RIDE programs.

Additional lines from the reports that are of interest from a focus standpoint are:

- Involvement details: Cars, Pedestrians, Bicycles
- Days-of-Week and Month-of-Year classifications of collisions
- Intersections with the highest occurrence rate of collisions

	2022	2023
CRC Reported Collisions	710	906
Officer Reported Collisions	1,217	1,146
Total	1,927	2,052
Fatal Injury Collisions	12	14
Non-Fatal Injury Collisions	191	185
Property Damage Only	850	785
Very Minor & Non-Reportable	56	53

In 2023 the intersections with the most collisions were Lacroix/Richmond (14), Keil/Richmond (11), Grand/Keil (9), Queen/Richmond (9), Grand/Lacroix (8), and Grand/St Clair (9). More collisions occurred on Fridays (347) than any other day of the week, and October (219) was the busiest month.



MARINE UNIT & POLICE BOAT “MARINE-1”

The Marine Unit provides coverage and patrol within the inland waters and marinas of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. These patrols focus on vessel inspections related to appropriate equipment and detection of alcohol, drugs and impairment while boating.

Due to staffing shortages, the opportunities for marine deployment remained low in 2023. The Marine Unit normally deploys with one officer and one auxiliary member. With the auxiliary unit being temporarily shutdown during the pandemic, normal marine patrols were not possible.

During the marine season of 2022 CKPS officers operated both Marine-1 and Marine-2 for training and responding to calls for service. They participated in events such as WAMBO, a fishing derby and the Wallaceburg dragon boat races.

Calls for Service:

There were approximately 21 Marine calls for service in 2023. These calls included concerns regarding speeding vessels, abandoned vessels, recovery efforts and general assistance. Additionally, any self-generated incidents, including training and those resulting from joint force operations with neighbouring police services, were included in this total. There was one speed enforcement initiative conducted on the Thames River. No charges resulted.

Joint Forces Operations:

Throughout the season, the Marine Unit worked closely with Chatham-Kent & London OPP. Contact was maintained with Canadian Coast Guard, International Border Enforcement (IBET), Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry and the RCMP (MSET) over marine related issues in Chatham-Kent. Our assistance with neighbouring Police Services has continued to remain reciprocal.

Looking Ahead:

Further research will be conducted on the acquisition of a new vessel as our current fleet, although operable, is nearing its maturity; the Marine Unit will also explore costs associated with the refurbishment of Marine-1.



UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM (UAS) UNIT

The Unmanned Aerial System (UAS or Drone) provides assistance to our Police Service by effectively and efficiently enhancing Police response to our community through the use of technology and enhanced observational capabilities.

When established in 2017 the UAS Unit consisted of four operators, an Administrative Supervisor and an Operations Manager. That configuration evolved to seven operators and one supervisor. In 2022 the unit underwent a deployment realignment with the purchase of four next-generation drones. A rapid-response strategy was developed in 2023 allowing a drone to be quickly deployed.

In 2023 the UAS Unit was deployed operationally 127 times, logging 478 flights with over 82 hours of flight time. This is 15% more flight time than last year. In addition, the UAS was deployed on training days focusing on integration between the UAS, the new Command Post, and missing person searches.

Through development and collaboration with front-line officers, supervisors and other supporting units, the UAS Unit is continuing to expand its role and functionality as an additional tool to enhance and assist police investigations. The UAS Unit has now logged 329 hours of flight since its inception.

	2022	2023
Criminal Investigations	50	37
Motor Vehicle Collision Photograph & Mapping	20	30
General Police Assistance	16	38
Missing Persons	16	19
Assist Chatham-Kent Fire & Emergency Services	0	3

Looking ahead, new qualified UAS pilots will be added and a new software platform that will allow secure live-streaming of video feeds will be tested. This will allow all frontline officers, supervisors, and communications staff to monitor the camera view. This will greatly enhance its capabilities.

Further training of missing person searches in consultation with the Critical Incident Response Team and missing person/ground search manager will provide a stronger knowledge base and increased skill set of the UAS operators as rapid deployment training continues.



AUXILIARY UNIT

The Auxiliary Unit represents a group of unpaid volunteers who are trained to assist and supplement the Chatham-Kent Police Service for special events and attend in ride-along capacities with our members to provide additional assistance as required.

This was the first full year of the Auxiliary Unit since the pandemic. In 2023 CKPS Auxiliaries assisted with numerous special events accounting for over 1,250 hours of service.

The Auxiliary Unit is comprised of dedicated volunteers. Their assistance helps our municipality by alleviating additional costs for security and traffic control at numerous events throughout the year. They are an important part of CKPS and we thank them for their dedication and commitment to Chatham-Kent.





COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION SECTION

The goal of CMS is to enhance and develop community-based relationships, encourage citizens to engage in the improvement and development of their neighbourhoods in an effort to increase the overall safety, health, and well-being of Chatham-Kent. Sergeant Renee Cowell supervised Constables Jennifer Jacobson, Kevin Brown, and Marlene MacLennan. CMS continues the upstream proactive work of building relationships with citizens along with our community partners and local agencies. This has proven to be successful, flexible, and adaptive to the changing needs of our community.

Follow-Up Requests from Community Patrol:

This year Community Patrol referred more than 500 follow-up requests to CMS officers. This represents a significant increase of 450% over last year.

Fast Intervention Risk Specific Team (FIRST) Strategy:

25 collaborative FIRST Strategy situations were brought forward in 2023, 25% more than last year.

Community Engagement Opportunities:

Housing and homelessness continue to be a social issue locally and across the province. CMS remains committed to engage with citizens to connect them with appropriate services. We participate on various committees, such as the Chatham-Kent Drug Awareness Committee, Housing & Homelessness Committee, Encampment Committee, BIA meetings, and Neighbourhood Association meetings.

On-going neighbour disputes, noise complaints, Landlord Tenant Act matters, and issues related to homelessness continued to dominate the work that CMS officers do, as they attempt to mediate and resolve disputes before they escalate to criminal matters. This continues to be challenging. The importance of established strong and trusted relationships with community partners is necessary to make referrals to proper agencies and get people connected to services that can assist.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED):

In 2023 CMS members completed three CPTED Audits. Two were for local businesses and one was in a residential area, seeking recommendations to ensure the safety of their residents. CMS uses CPTED principles in providing guidance to community members that have concerns for their safety and property as well as educating the public on these principles at neighbourhood association meetings.



CRIME PREVENTION & COMMUNITY SAFETY SECTION

This section provides crime prevention and public safety education to community groups, schools, the Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village, and participates in a variety of community events. There are currently three Special Constables assigned to the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Section with the Sergeant of Community Mobilization as their supervisor. In 2023 this Section included Special Constables Brenda Koldyk, Brent Boundy, and Nolan Hakr.

Elementary School Presentations:

Members of this Section provided 230 presentations on Bullying, Drugs, Cyberbullying, and VIP to students in Chatham-Kent elementary schools in 2023.

Bike Rodeos:

The Kent County 4-H Bike Club, Wallaceburg Bike Rodeo Committee, Bothwell Optimist, Blenheim Community Policing and Neighbourhood Watch, Blenheim Optimist and Thamesville Neighbourhood Watch Sertoma/LaSertoma hosted bike rodeos in 2023. A total of 169 children had their bike helmets fitted and participated in a course to evaluate their cycling skills.

Neighbourhood Watch:

Neighbourhood Watch is a program that is aimed at reducing crime in the community. It involves getting to know one's neighbours and introducing them to the concept of Neighbourhood Watch – that is, good neighbours working together, alert to the potential of crime and willing to look out for one another's interests. Crime Prevention and Community Safety Special Constables attend the meetings to share recent crime trends and crime prevention information through reports and presentations.

Values, Influences and Peers (VIP):

Values, Influences and Peers Program (VIP) for Grade 5 students remains as one of our core programs as it allows our officers to develop a continuing relationship with the students on a more individual basis. Each session includes a presentation followed with an activity or exercise that reinforces the topic being discussed. The VIP program includes an overview and Introduction by the VIP Officer, Authority & Authority Figures, Youth and the Law, Bullying and the Law, Bicycle Safety, Making Good Choices (Drugs) and a VIP Graduation. This year the program was presented in 37 elementary schools with six visits per class.



YOUTH CRIME IN CHATHAM-KENT

In 2023 CKPS responded to 2,118 incidents involving our youth; this represents a 42.2% increase in comparison to 2022. This increase is indicative of current youth trends observed in that police are responding to significantly more youth-related calls with varying complexity. This increase also would be indicative of a need for more youth-related services within the interdisciplinary social services.

Statistics help us assist in understanding our community needs. Non-criminal occurrences take up a bulk of youth-related calls. Non-criminal occurrences can be generally defined as police-to-youth interactions that do not end in criminal charges. Quite often, these interactions are rapport builders and relationship makers. These non-criminal occurrences are usually time consuming, but required to demonstrate our commitment to enhancing our reputation by giving much needed merit to the youth needs in our community. Non-criminal incidents have increased 33.2% from the previous year. The significance of these rapport and relationship police to youth citizen interactions is not just characterized by a percentage value as many of these interactions have life-long lasting imprints on a youth's life. Non-criminal incidents also include provincial offences without a criminal consideration, domestic disputes and family disputes. These incident types are delicate and plentiful. CKPS tracks missing person(s) as its own category, which saw 137 occurrences in 2023, which is also a rise when compared to 124 in 2022. It has to be mentioned that youth habitual runaways can commonly be reported missing several times a month. CKPS continues to respond diligently to the varying types of missing youth in our community as we often use media and community relationships to assist us in locating missing and troubled youth.

This year youth officer interactions with community partners almost doubled from 31 to 59 occasions.

In 2023, police saw an increase in the number of charged youth and the number of charges laid compared to 2022. There were 111 youth charged comparatively to 36 in 2022. This increased number is reflective of more calls for service involving youth and a significant rise in police-to-youth community interactions. Specifically, there were 224 charges laid against youth in 2023 and only 81 laid in 2022. The Youth Criminal Justice Act requires officers to hold youth properly accountable for the allegations they face.

Many youth facing charges have been given previous cautionary considerations by officers. Several of the youth being charged either have been alleged to commit a serious criminal offence or are exhibiting recidivist behaviour. October 2023 saw 25 area youth charged with criminal offences, which was the most observed in any month of the year.

Eighteen youth were diverted to community base referrals (same as 2022) with a 75% increase in Warned and Cautioned youth. A part of this increase can be accredited the rise in youth-related calls for service. CKPS is using multi-partnered approaches to punitive action and progressive discipline when dealing with youth and laying appropriate criminal charges when required.



YOUTH CRIME IN CHATHAM-KENT (cont'd)

The average age of youth involvements in the criminal consideration category has lowered from 14.9-years-old to 14.5-years-old from 2022 to 2023. This lowering of age represents the trend observed by frontline police officers that a younger demographic is engaging in criminal activity. Male youth interactions with police are still more prevalent than female youth interactions. 29.6% of that criminal consideration category is represented by female interactions, which is down slightly.

The top incident types involving youth in 2023 resulting in charges in descending order are: assault, sexual assault, assault with a weapon, mischief, and threats. Weapons and assault causing bodily harm narrowly missed the top incident types, but were also prevalent. CKPS investigated a break and enter, in which two 9-year-olds caused significant damage. Police also investigated an arson in which all three suspects were under the age of 12-years-old.

Restorative Justice Chatham-Kent continues to be our main partner successfully taking on a large majority of diverted youth. Cultural considerations in 2023 saw youth diverted to Moraviantown and Walpole Island services. CKPS is trying to maintain existing relationship with services outside of our jurisdiction in order to provide the correct measures for youth facing criminal allegations.

The CKPS youth officer attends several schools on a regular basis and continues to work with community members to build relationships within those schools. 2023 saw partnerships with a local defence attorney speaking with high school law classes and social studies classes. The youth officer teamed up with student body members at Ursuline College and members of the CKPS Traffic Unit to present on impaired driving. The focus continues to be proactivity with meaningful and well-planned engagements.

CKPS still continues to assist schools with lockdown drills. We want to ensure that we are doing everything in our capacity to ensure the schools are safe in the case of an emergency. School Police Emergency Action Response (SPEAR) continues to be an ongoing endeavour in terms of school documentation for these potential emergency situations.

Chatham-Kent faces significant challenges with our youth; more are displaced, coupled with a lack of resources and waitlists to support families in crisis.



MOBILE CRISIS TEAM (MCT) AND HELP TEAM

A majority of Chatham-Kent Police Service frontline officers have received specialized training in regards to persons with mental health issues; 15 more received this training in March 2023. This training is developed and facilitated by the HELP Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) in cooperation with community partners consisting of a three-day course comprised of information regarding various mental health illnesses, community supports available, and skills that can be utilized to deal with persons in crisis.

Our Mobile Crisis Team is an innovative partnership formed between the Chatham-Kent Police Service and the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance, teaming a specially-trained Constable with a Psychiatric Crisis Nurse. Constable Ed Rota is the Constable assigned to the MCT partnered with Nathan Malott, RN with Jessica Demers, RN as backup. As part of their training, new physicians and medical students complete job shadowing with the MCT, participating in psychiatric assessments in the community.

The MCT primarily works the day shift, Monday to Friday responding to or following-up mental health -related incidents in plain clothed attire while driving an unmarked vehicle. The MCT is capable of providing psychiatric assessments for appropriate individuals at the scene of the incident allowing front line officers to clear eliminating the need to transport individuals to hospital emergency departments. In the past, CKPS frontline officers have spent an average of 3-5 hours in hospital emergency departments await assessments for persons apprehended under the Mental Health Act.

The MCT is a secondary response unit that provides support to frontline members, builds and maintains relationships with community partners while maintaining a trust between police and persons afflicted with mental health issues. As part of their training, new physicians and medical students complete job shadowing with the MCT, witnessing psychiatric assessments in the community. In 2023 Constable Jen Jacobson served as MCT secondary to reduce service interruptions to provide almost 52 weeks of MCT coverage. CKPS is seeking a grant to fund an additional team full-time.

CKPS officers responded to 1,687 Mental Health Act -related incidents. The MCT apprehended 67 persons under the Mental Health Act and conducted 133 community assessments. The MCT reduced the workload of patrol officers by 201 hours by taking over-mental health related incidents, including relieving officers at hospital. Seven prisoners were assessed while being held in the CKPS cellblock. The MCT executed 35 Mental Health Act apprehension orders and initiated 23 Community Service incidents including visits, presentations, and committee meetings.

The MCT has assisted other police and hospital services including the London Police Service, Windsor Police Service, Sarnia Police Service and Owen Sound Police Service as they develop and implement mental health crisis response teams.



POLICE DOG SERVICES / CANINE UNIT

The Canine Unit's primary focus includes issues relating to tracking for missing or wanted persons, open searches, building searches, searches for property or evidence, apprehension of armed or fleeing suspects, high-risk arrests and vehicle stops, searching for firearms, narcotics or ammunition and community relations events and demonstrations.

Constable Mike Vankesteren is our handler. PSD Helix is a dual-purpose trained animal, qualified to conduct tasks including tracking, various types of searches, apprehension and arrest of suspects, and searches for drugs and firearms.

Const. Vankesteren and PSD Helix completed their basic Canine Handler training course with the Halton Regional Police Service on July 31st, 2020. Since becoming operational, Const. Vankesteren and PSD Helix have provided front-line and canine patrols, regularly augmenting the shifts working and continue to be a 24/7 on-call support unit. In 2023 they were utilized on 65 canine calls including 20 call-outs. These were primarily suspect apprehension tracks, responding to alarms, open searches for stolen property, and ensuring no suspects were hiding inside buildings. They also were dispatched to 264 general patrol calls for service.

The Chatham-Kent Canine Unit continues to be a fundamental resource within today's policing environment. The Unit not only augments front-line Officers, they continue to be a valuable asset to many of the Specialty Units within the Chatham-Kent Police Service.

Mandate:

The mandate of this Unit is to meet the Adequacy Standards as set out by the Province to provide Police Canine capabilities for the community. The benefits of having this Unit locally include faster response times, local control, and higher success rates. Additionally, assisting with public relations events continually strengthens the Police Service / Community relationship.

Goals for 2024:

The Canine Unit will continue to augment front line and specialty units and will remain dedicated to community relation initiatives.



CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM (CIRT)

The Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) consists of 13 members: one Sergeant, two Team Leaders and ten Operators. All members receive certification through the Basic Tactical Officers Course. In 2023, five new operators, Constables Jared Cornish, Kyle Blommers, Craig Zink, Kai Kraft and Curtis Conn were added to the team. These officers qualified in the spring of 2023 after successfully completing a six-week BTOC course with the Emergency Response Unit from the Waterloo Regional Police Service. Leaving the team were Constables Dwayne June, Jason Williams and Ian Scoyne who went on to pursue other endeavours.

In 2023, CIRT members completed twelve days of training including but not limited to: weapons deployment, warrant entry, less lethal response, chemical munitions, search and rescue, hostage rescue/negotiations, tubular assaults, high-risk vehicle assaults, and containment exercises. CIRT also held four range days, focusing on firearms related training. Each operator accumulated at least 168 hours of job-specific training to maintain efficiency and effectiveness. CIRT officers were used 263 times in 2023. This was a 20.6% increase from the 218 incidents in 2022. CIRT executed 24 high-risk warrants in Chatham-Kent in collaboration with the CKPS Intelligence Unit and Criminal Investigations Division which is an increase of 140%.

CIRT members also assisted the Windsor Police Service in executing a warrant at a residence in Windsor for drugs and weapons and was also part of a provincial initiative called Project Fairfield which resulted in numerous arrests, along with the seizure of a significant amount of drugs, weapons and stolen vehicles. Windsor Police ERU assisted us with four simultaneous warrants in Chatham-Kent that resulted in a large amount of drugs and money seized.

CIRT was called out for a full team response on seven occasions: five missing persons and two weapons incidents. Both weapons incidents resulted in successful arrests.

In 2023 Constables Corey Aitken and Scott Nevills successfully completed the Rappel Ropes Course. Constable Scott Nevills successfully completed the Mechanical Breaching Course. Constable Andrew Craven successfully completed the Advanced Sniper Course in September. Constables Corey Aitken and Curtis Conn successfully completed the Explosives Recognition Course. Constable Steve Gagnon successfully completed the Crisis Negotiator Course. Constable Kai Kraft successfully completed the Search Manager Course.

The team acquired a new Rescue Vehicle that replaced the previous Armoured Vehicle (ARV) that had reached its life cycle. CIRT also acquired two F-150 trucks to better suit the operational and equipment needs of the team.



FOCUS ON

CIRT TEAM CALLS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Warrants	15	21	19	15	24
Assist Canine Tracks	9	3	12	11	13
Search & Rescue	12	22	10	19	47
Weapons -Related	72	107	61	119	122
Taser Use	2	4	2	0	1
Full-Team Page Out (Weapons)	0	2	5	3	2
Full-Team Page Out (Search & Rescue)	2	3	0	3	5
Miscellaneous	31	21	35	22	22
Mental Health -related				26	35
Total CIRT Team Events	143	183	144	144	263

Note: Miscellaneous Calls include presentations, VIP security, assistance with unarmed violent persons, animal complaints, meetings and all other tasks where CIRT members are requested but not specified in one of the above categories.





MILESTONES

Retirements

Anita Scott

Ellen Bourhis

Janet Anstice

30-Year Medal

Kate McArthur

20-Year Medal

Jason St. Denis
Derek Shaw

Dwayne June
Danya Lunn

Jeffrey Murray
John Carter

5-Year Service Award

Ashwin Roy
Jessica Butler
Pete Chandler
Adrian Roy
Rachele Marineau
Chris Reynolds
Steven Gagnon
Kristen Lidster

10-Year Service Award

Fraser Curtis
Greg Dilliott

15-Year Service Award

Kevin Burgess
Jason Herder

20-Year Service Award

Matt Stezycki
Todd Trahan
Jason St. Denis
Dwayne June
Jeffrey Murray
Derek Shaw
Ken Lauzon
Tony Fasullo
Danya Lunn
John Carter
Chaplain Paul McPhail

25-Year Service Award

Gary Conn
Mike Domony
Jon Mulder
Mike Hakr
Mike Stokes
Steve Hubley
Dave Bakker
Rob Tobin
Steve Donald
Jeff Teetzel

Richard Fischer
William Sharrow
Brad Hyatt
Paul Brophy
Joel Rehill
Duane Agar
Cheryl McVicar
Zann Childs
Jessie Brooks

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