

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICE

2017 - 2019 Annual Report



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Stratford Board Chair's Message



The Stratford Police Services Board is pleased to present its 2017-2019 Annual Report. The Board's most important responsibility as the governing body of our local police is to ensure that adequate and effective policing is delivered to our community and the hundreds of thousands of visitors who spend time with us annually.

The uniformed and civilian men and women of the Stratford Police Service provide outstanding service and for that we are grateful. Like many communities across the Province, we continue to see a rise in drug, alcohol and mental health issues, youth crime and property crime. Our officers, along with community stakeholders in addiction, mental health, counselling and community services, are continuing to engage in collaborative opportunities to address the needs of the communities they police.

The Stratford Police Services Board is proud to be a partner in contributing to the city's positive reputation. However, the police are not the sole guardians of our city's safety and security – that responsibility also falls to each of us. Working collaboratively together, we can all contribute to our collective well-being and truly make a difference.

*Dan Mathieson, Mayor
Chair, Stratford Police Services Board*

St Marys Mayor's Message



On behalf of Council, I would like congratulate the Stratford Police on two years of outstanding service in the Town of St. Marys.

St. Marys is a small, tight-knit town with a tremendous amount of community pride. Our residents expect – and deserve – the sort of accessible, personal service from their local officials that comes with living in a small municipality. Since their arrival in 2018, the Stratford Police have consistently met and exceeded these expectations. From lending a hand at community events to leading the response during local crises, the police have demonstrated their commitment to serving our citizens time and time again. The service's willingness to adapt to meet the needs of our residents has been unwavering, and the officers' approachable attitude is appreciated by all. Just last year, a local inspector adopted two kittens found abandoned in our cemetery. Personal touches like these have gone a long way in building trust between the police and our residents. Having an officer dedicated to our town has also improved the visibility and perception of police in St. Marys, reminding residents of the days when we had our own municipal force. The addition of the Park Patrol officers this summer was very welcome, adding an extra sense of community safety and stability amidst the uncertainty of COVID-19.

I want to thank all of the members of the Stratford Police for their work to date. I look forward to the continual development of our partnership as we work together to provide exceptional service to the Stonetown.

*Al Strathdee
Mayor, Town of St. Marys*

Perth South Mayor's Message Township of Perth South



The Township of Perth South transitioned from the Ontario Provincial Police to the Stratford Police Services (SPS) in 2018. We are very pleased with the effort put forward by the members of the Stratford Police Services to ensure a smooth transition process. Since that time the Township has had a successful partnership with the Stratford Police Services. Our goal when switching to the Stratford Police Services was to increase the visibility of police in the Township and increase patrol times in the area. Despite a pandemic in 2020 this goal has been quite successful. As part of the transition the Township established the Community Policing Advisory Committee which meets quarterly and reviews information reports provided by the Stratford Police Services and is a chance for members of the community to bring forward any issues or concerns for further discussion.

The Township is pleased with the service provided to date by the Stratford Police Services and the professionalism that their officers have shown to our community. We are grateful to the members of Stratford Polices Services who rose up to the challenges associated with an expanded service area which now includes a new rural perspective. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. We have received positive feedback from the residents of the Township since the Stratford Police Service has taken over the policing for Perth South and when a problem arises the Stratford Police Services are quick to respond to concerns raised by citizens. It is this spirit of cooperation and willingness to listen that has made the transition to the Stratford Police Services a success.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Stratford Police Services in order to keep Perth South a safe and wonderful place to live.

*Robert Wilhelm
Mayor, Township of Perth South*

Chief's Message



The daily work of the staff of the police service is unpredictable, complex, physically and emotionally demanding, sometimes dangerous and always changing.

The Stratford Police Service has a proud history of providing service to the residents and visitors to Stratford since 1854. While policing has undergone substantive changes in the past 165 years the commitment of the men and women of the Stratford Police Service has been and continues to be to serve and protect the fundamental rights of all people. On behalf of the Stratford Police I am proud to present the achievements of the service in this 2017/2018/2019 Annual Report.

The workload of the Stratford Police Service, which as of November 2018 now includes St. Marys and Perth South, continues to increase with officers responding, on average, to over 70 calls for service each day with the Communications Centre fielding an additional 40,000 calls/year from the public requesting information and advice on policing issues.

Traditional policing required officers to investigate crimes related to violence, property offences and traffic investigations. The workload of today's officers involve more call related to social issues including mental health, addiction, homelessness, family disputes and self-harm. These call types are much more labour intensive and difficult to resolve. As many of these interactions with the public do not involve any enforceable contravention of the law, police officers collaborate with partner agencies within the community to find solutions that will increase individual and community safety. The implementation of the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team concept in October, 2019 has greatly enhanced our service delivery to vulnerable people within our communities and provided alternatives to the cycle of institutionalization that so often occurs.

Motor vehicle collisions investigated by SPS officers increased from 744 in 2017 to 877 in 2018 (two of which resulted in fatalities) and 1014 in 2019 (four of which resulted in fatalities). During the same time periods our officers arrested an impaired driver every 10 days indicating that impaired driving by alcohol and drug is still an issue in the community. We will continue to focus our energies on promoting voluntary compliance to the traffic laws, increasing our visibility in high collision areas and leveraging technology where appropriate.

We continue to engage subject matter experts to help us improve our investigations of sexual assault to ensure we use a victim centered approach and trauma informed interviewing techniques. Victims need to know that they will be believed and that their needs are our priority.

Policing is a rewarding profession but it exposes our members to traumatic events that most people will never see or could ever imagine. It takes a toll on our members. Having a healthy workforce means that your officers are ready, willing and able to help you when you need us most. Enhanced support services for our members are vital to the health and safety of our communities. To that end and with the support of the Stratford Police Association and the Stratford Police Services Board we have provided improved access to professional services and support for physical fitness as a positive coping mechanism.

There is more work to be done in 2020 and beyond to continue to build public trust. Examples of what we are working on are as follows:

- Modernization of training, equipment, technology and processes to increase efficiencies and provide the most effective service possible are all being investigated.*
- Increased collaboration with stakeholders including other service providers will promote a more coordinated approach to helping our common client base.*
- Exploring further opportunities to improve our service delivery model and contain our costs.*
- Better utilization of analytics to predict crime and traffic activity so we can proactively have the right resources in the right places at the right times and be a deterrent through community visibility.*
- Encouraging our members to be part of the community instead of being seen as separate and apart from the community by increasing our volunteerism and public engagement.*
- Providing members with opportunities to enrich their careers through the rotation of positions, continuing education and secondments outside the organization.*
- Creation and implementation of an Auxiliary Unit to support frontline policing and assist with community events.*

On behalf of the members Senior Command (Deputy Gerry Foster/Inspectors Mark Taylor and Jason Clarke) and all sworn and civilian staff of the service I want to thank the communities of Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South for your support and commitment to a safer community.

STRATFORD POLICE MISSION:

TO SERVE AND PROTECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR COMMUNITY

STRATFORD POLICE VALUES:

PROVIDING QUALITY SERVICE IN AN EQUITABLE AND ACCESSIBLE MANNER

Ensuring the safety and security of all persons and property

Safeguarding the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Human Rights Code

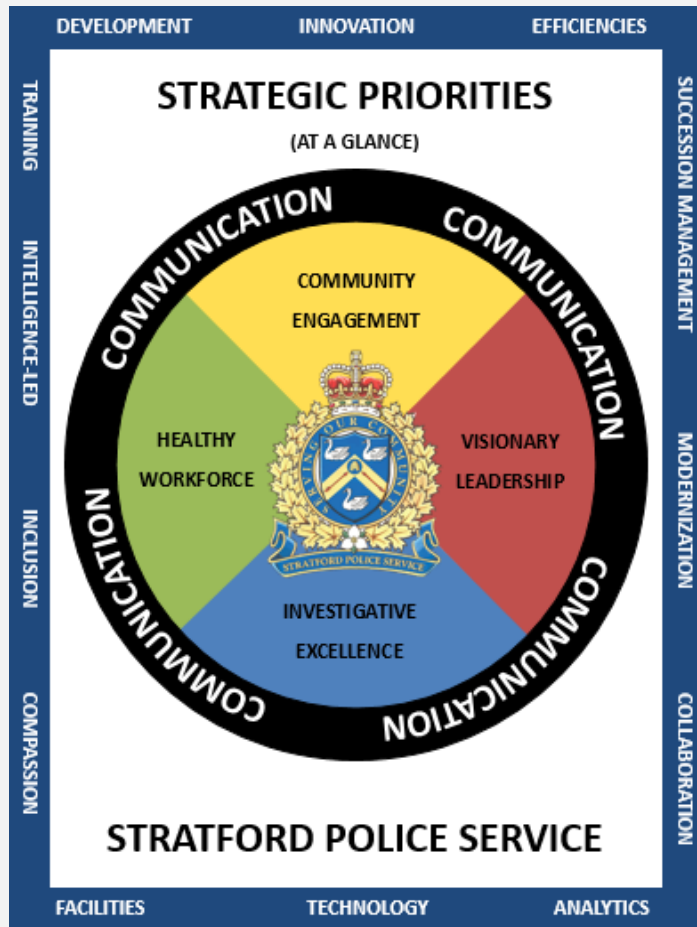
Avoiding any expression or display of prejudice, bigotry, discrimination and sexual or racial harassment towards any person

Achieving cooperation between the police service and the community we serve through openness and accountability

Setting an example for the community we serve and being an integral part of that community

Being aggressive in the pursuit of new initiatives and programs that benefit both the community and our members

Maintaining a commitment to continuous learning and improvement



THE BUSINESS OF POLICING:

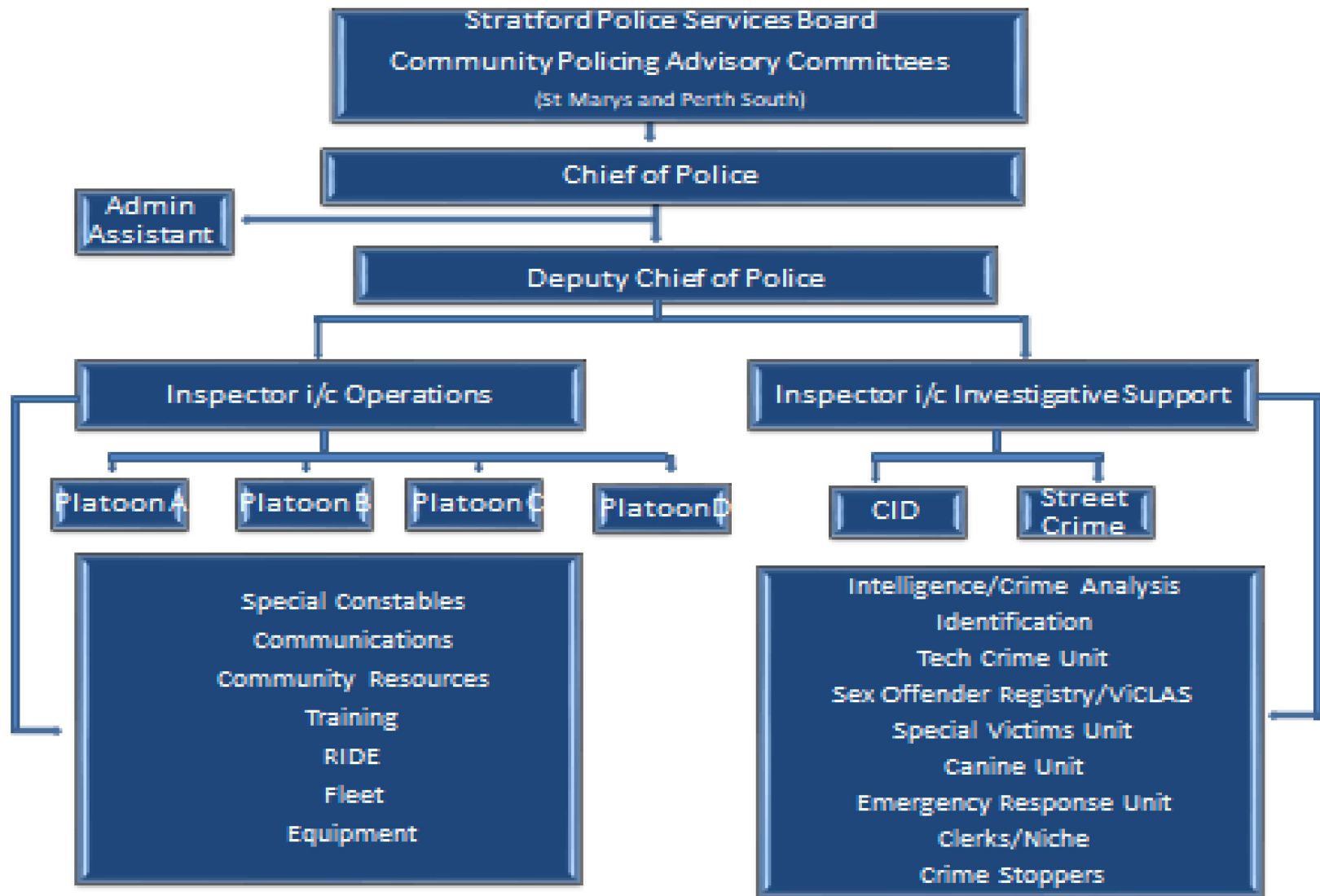
- *Stratford expanded its jurisdiction to include St Marys and Perth South on November 5th 2018.*
- *Population policed by the service 43,000*
- *Budget of \$11.5 M*
- *89 staff – 67 sworn police officers / 18 full time civilians / 7 part time civilians*
- *Over 25,000 calls for service annually*
- *Approximately 5000 charges laid annually*

TRENDS IN POLICING:

- *Workload changes - from violent and property crime related investigations to issues related to social disorder – Mental Health / Addiction / Homelessness*
- *Costs increasing*
- *Public expectation increasing*
- *Privatization / Civilianization of traditional uniform policing roles*
- *Increasing use of technology*
- *Difficulty attracting and retaining qualified, skilled and diverse workforce*
- *Staffing shortages resulting from Occupational Stress Injuries / PTSD / Injury and Illness Management pressures / Retirement*
- *Increased oversight of the police (Police Service Boards / OIPRD / SIU / Media)*

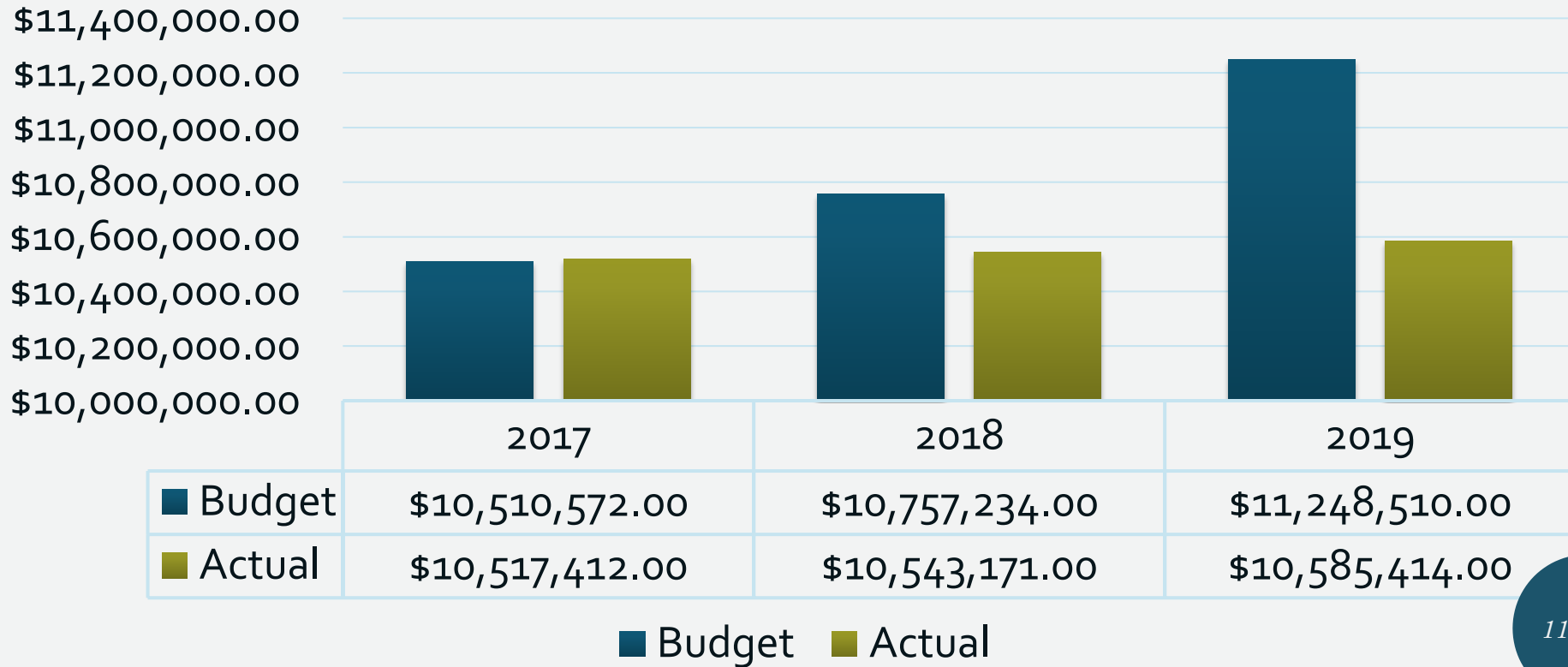
Erosion of Public Trust

Organizational Chart



Budget

Year	Surplus (Deficit)
2017	\$6,840.00
2018	\$214,063.00
2019	\$663,096.00



General Statistics

OCCURRENCES	2017 Total	2018 St Marys*	2018 Perth South*	2018 Stratford	2018 Total	2019 St Marys	2019 Perth South	2019 Stratford	2019 Total
Calls for Service	18,146	498	358	19,084	19,940	3,435	2,733	19,398	25,566
Violent Crime	281	7	2	295	304	45	13	304	362
Property Crime	1,538	53	12	1,737	1,802	243	105	1,248	1,596
Domestic Disputes	486	17	3	617	637	81	24	543	648
Social Welfare	909	31	8	1,125	1,164	138	42	1,097	1,277
Drugs & Firearms	160	5	0	148	153	18	1	124	143
Charges Laid	5,752	135	144	5,011	5,290	1,074	1,397	4,343	6,814

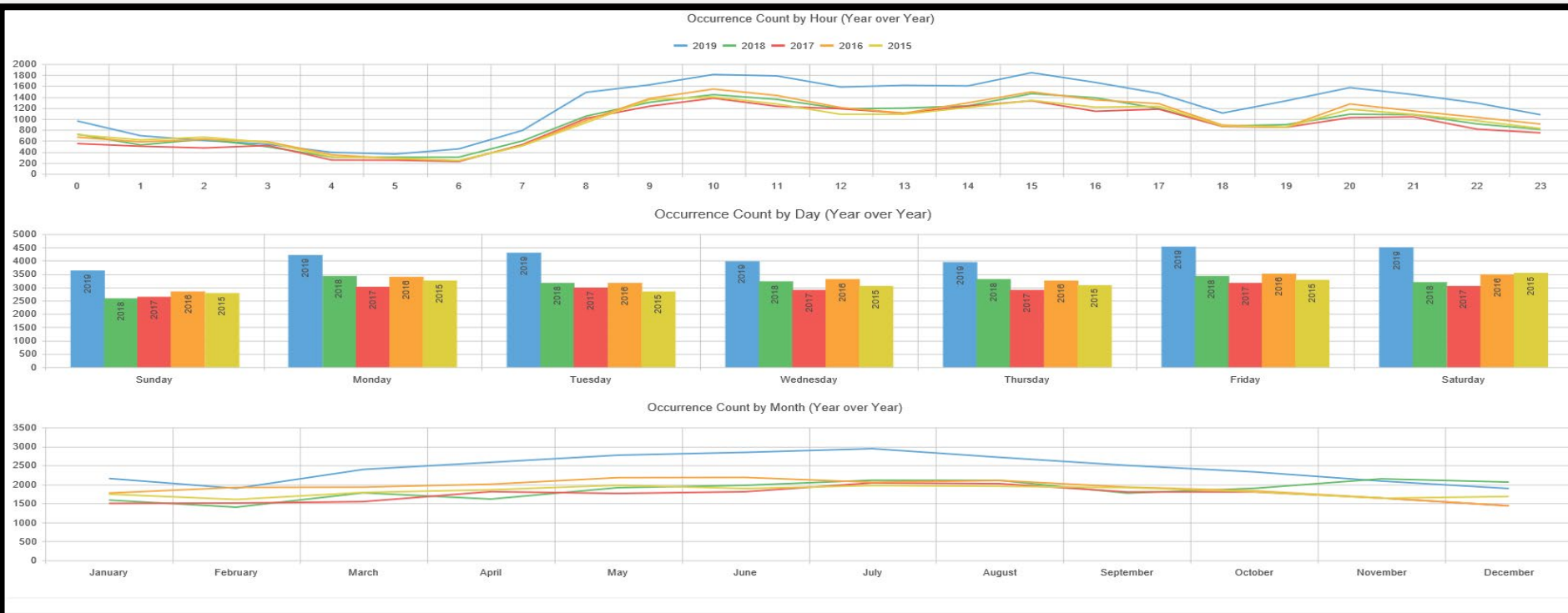
Calls for Service in 2019 increased by 28% when compared to 2018

Charges Laid increased in 2019 by 29% when compared to 2018.

*began policing Nov 5 2018

- The large increase of Calls for Service over the three years is due to taking over policing the jurisdictions of Perth South and St Marys, which commenced on November 5th 2018.
- For further information on Violent Crime see page 20, Property Crime see page 22, Drugs and Firearms see page 18 and Charges Laid see page 17.
- Domestic Disputes had a large increase of 23% from 2017 to 2018 and a much smaller increase of 1.73% from 2018 to 2019. When looking at the numbers for just Stratford, Domestic Disputes decreased 12% from 2018 to 2019.

Five Year Occurrence Count

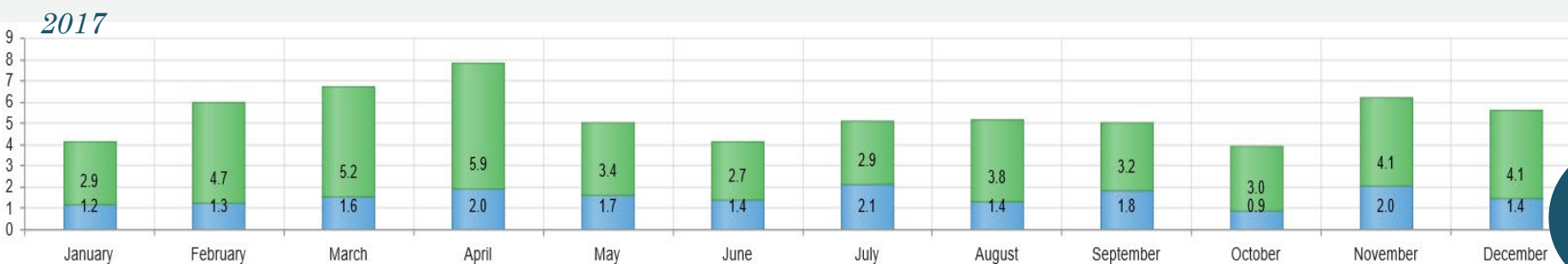
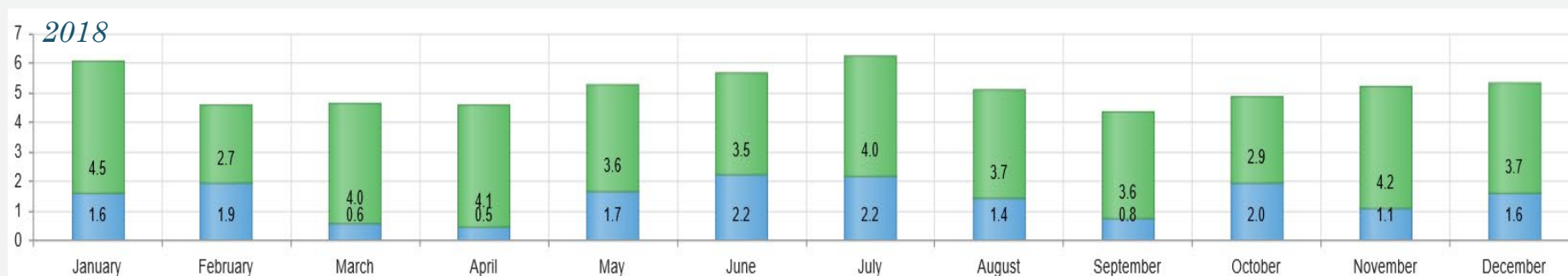
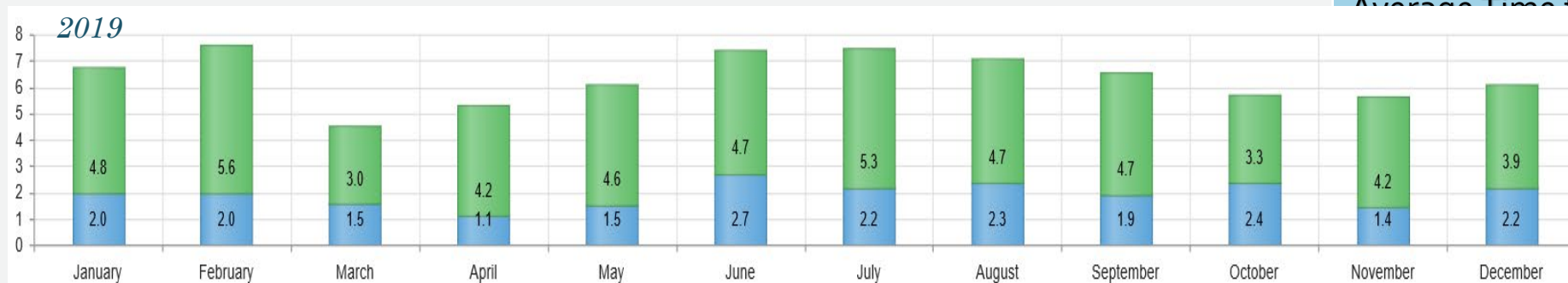


- 2019 has shown the highest number of occurrences generated when compared by hour, day of week and by month for the last five years. The main reason for this is the take over of policing Perth South and St Marys.
- The busiest time of day is from 9am to 9pm with the busiest time being at 3pm. This has been consistent over the five year comparison.
- In 2019 Friday and Saturday are the busiest days and Sunday is the lowest for occurrences generated.
- The busiest months of the year are July and August and the lowest month is December.

Dispatch and Arrival Times Averages in 2019 (minutes)

Average Time to Arrival

Average Time to



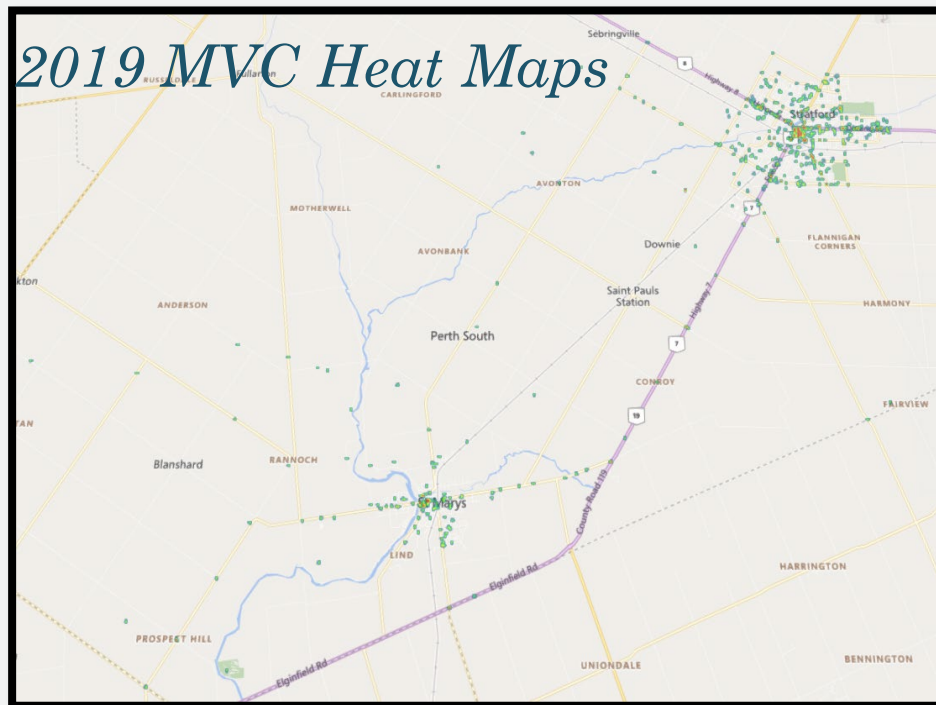
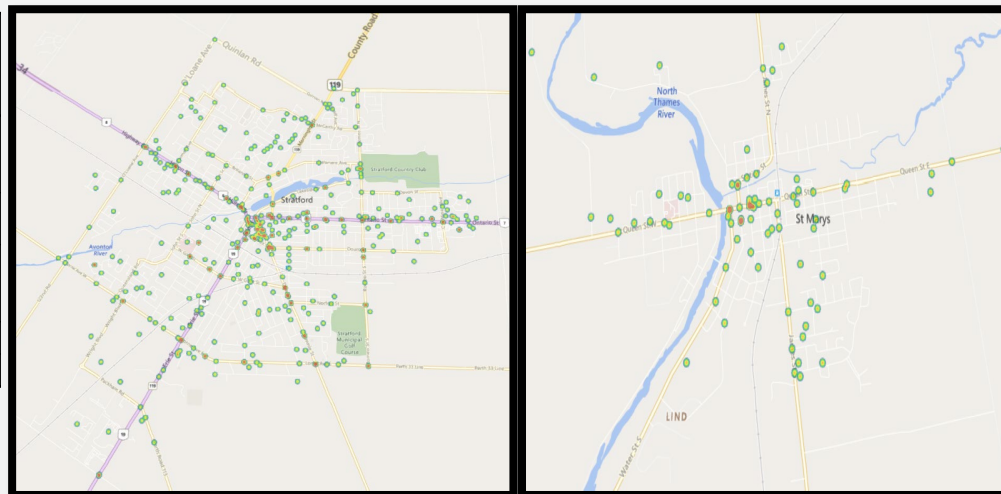
Motor Vehicle Collisions

OCCURRENCES	2017 Total	2018 St Marys*	2018 Perth South*	2018 Stratford	2018 Total	2019 St Marys	2019 Perth South	2019 Stratford	2019 Total
MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS	744	22	45	810	877	88	158	768	1014
PERSONAL INJURY	77	2	3	73	78	4	26	69	99
PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY	541	15	42	600	657	62	121	570	753
HIT AND RUN	126	5	0	135	140	21	10	127	158
FATAL	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	2	4

*began policing Nov 5 2018



- MVC's have increased due to the take over of Perth South and St Marys.
- Stratford has seen a decrease in MVC's by 5.19% from 2018 to 2019.



Traffic Statistics

OCCURRENCES	2017 Total	2018 St Marys*	2018 Perth South*	2018 Stratford	2018 Total	2019 St Marys	2019 Perth South	2019 Stratford	2019 Total
ENFORCEMENT									
E-TICKET OCCURRENCES	2,528	90	114	2,230	2434	704	1070	1879	3653
IMPAIRED OPERATION	55	0	0	58	58	7	21	52	80
DRIVE WHILE DISQUALIFIED	16	0	0	17	17	6	3	6	15
HTA WARNINGS ISSUED	874	61	37	1018	1113	349	37	1367	1753

*began policing Nov 5 2018



- Provincial Offence Notices (PON's) had a large increase mainly due to policing Perth South which is a jurisdiction that consists of a lot of Police initiated occurrences such as traffic enforcement. A similar trend can be seen with impaired drivers.
- Stratford had a 15.74% decrease in e-ticket occurrences generated. While there has been 34.28% increase in warnings given.

Enforcement – Charges Laid

Charges increased
by 30% when
compared to 2018
and 19% compared
to 2017



- Criminal Code charges has decreased when comparing 2018 and 2019 to 2017 even with the take over of St Marys and Perth South.
- CDSA has decreased and one reason for this is the introduction of the Cannabis Act and the decriminalization of marihuana. In 2017 there were 94 possession of cannabis charges laid under the Criminal Code as compared to 26 charges under the Cannabis Act.
- HTA charges shows a 50% increase over 2018 and this is mainly due to the take over of Perth South and St Marys.

ENFORCEMENT – CHARGES LAID									
	2017 Total	2018 St Marys*	2018 Perth South*	2018 Stratford	2018 Total	2019 St Marys	2019 Perth South	2019 Stratford	2019 Total
CRIMINAL CODE	2,061	29	5	1,696	1,730	179	105	1,484	1,768
CONTROLLED DRUGS & SUBSTANCES ACT	326	1	0	290	291	10	5	199	214
COMPULSORY AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE ACT	307	17	11	271	299	106	132	318	556
HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT	2,818	87	128	2,464	2,679	763	1,143	2,129	4,035
LIQUOR LICENCE ACT	92	0	0	133	133	6	4	102	112
TRESPASS TO PROPERTY ACT	78	0	0	56	56	6	2	39	47
CANNABIS ACT	n/a	1	0	8	9	1	3	22	26
Total	5,682	135	144	4,918	5,197	1,071	1,394	4,293	6,758

*began policing Nov 5 2018



Drugs & Firearms



OCCURRENCES	2017 Total	2018 St Marys *	2018 Perth South*	2018 Stratford	2018 Total	2019 St Marys	2019 Perth South	2019 Stratford	2019 Total
DRUG OFFENCES	121	2	0	92	94	10	1	67	78
CDSA CHARGES	326	1	0	290	291	10	5	199	214
Possession Heroin	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
Possession Cocaine	14	0	0	12	12	1	0	5	6
Possession Other	157	1	0	159	160	9	5	162	176
Possession Cannabis	94	0	0	54	54	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Traffick Other	39	0	0	40	40	0	0	28	28
Traffick Cocaine	10	0	0	15	15	0	0	0	0
Traffick Cannabis	8	0	0	6	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Traffick Meth	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	4
WEAPON OFFENCES	39	3	0	56	59	8	0	57	65
WEAPONS CHARGES	74	2	0	63	65	7	12	43	62
Possession Contrary to Order	16	0	0	12	12	0	4	7	11
Possession of Weapon	29	2	0	23	25	5	2	20	27
Carry Concealed	12	0	0	5	5	2	1	5	8
Unauthorized possession of Firearm/Weapon	17	0	0	23	23	0	5	11	16

*began policing Nov 5 2018



- Drug charges are down and the main reason for this is due to the introduction of the Cannabis Act.

Social Welfare

Mental health related reportable calls have steadily increased with 300, 349 & 412

OCCURRENCES	2017 Total	2018 St Marys*	2018 Perth South*	2018 Stratford	2018 Total	2019 St Marys	2019 Perth South	2019 Stratford	2019 Total
Mental Health Related	300	13	1	335	349	48	15	349	412
Missing Persons	527	14	7	695	716	80	24	680	784
Overdoses	8	1	0	16	17	2	2	15	19
Suicides Including Attempts	33	1	0	29	30	2	0	18	20
Sudden Deaths	41	2	0	50	52	6	1	35	42

Overdoses have increased over the past three years from 8 to 17 and 19

Suicides including attempts have went down with 33 in 2017, 30 in 2018 & 20 in 2019

- Mental health and addiction related calls for service continue to increase. With the support and leadership of the Huron Perth Health Care Alliance, 2019 saw the implementation of the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team that partnered Mental Health Caseworkers on patrol with Police Officers.
- Opioid related overdoses and deaths continue to be on the increase. Officers and other frontline first responders now carry and administer Naloxone to counteract opioid overdoses and save lives.
- Every missing person report immediately initiates an investigation with technology playing a significant role in tracking and locating individuals to ensure their safety.

Violent Offences

- In 2018 the Police Service introduced the Advocate Case Review process for sexual assault investigations. Each sexual assault, where a charge is not laid, is reviewed by local subject matter experts outside of the police service with the goal of increasing public trust by supporting a victim centered, trauma informed approach to the investigation.
- Investigators are now better trained to understand the impact of trauma on victims and how best to support them through the investigative process to improve outcomes.

Violent Crime
has remained
relatively
constant in
Stratford over
the 3 year period.

The additional
workload from
St Marys and
Perth South has
increased
Assaults overall
by 10%

OCCURRENCES	2017	2018 St Marys*	2018 Perth South*	2018 Stratford	2018 Total	2019 St Marys	2019 Perth South	2019 Stratford	2019 Total
VIOLENT OFFENCES	253	6	2	267	275	42	8	265	315
HOMICIDE including ATTEMPTS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ASSAULTS	191	4	1	204	209	32	4	196	232
Sexual Assault	32	0	0	41	41	6	1	31	38
Aggravated Assault	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Assault w Weapon / Causing Bodily Harm	22	0	1	29	30	9	0	22	31
Assault Level 1	121	3	0	125	128	15	3	127	145
Assault Police	15	1	0	8	9	2	0	15	17
ROBBERY	5	0	0	7	7	0	0	4	4
UTTER THREATS TO PERSON	49	2	0	53	55	8	3	61	72
ARSON-DISREGARD FOR HUMAN LIFE	7	0	1	3	4	2	1	4	7

*began policing Nov 5 2018

Domestic Offences

- Domestic Disputes had a large increase of 23% from 2017 to 2018 and a much smaller increase of 1.73% from 2018 to 2019. When looking at the numbers for just Stratford, Domestic Disputes decreased 12% from 2018 to 2019.

OCCURRENCES	2017 Total	2018 St Marys *	2018 Perth South *	2018 Stratford	2018 Total	2019 St Marys	2019 Perth South	2019 Stratford	2019 Total
Domestic Disputes	486	17	3	617	637	81	24	543	648
Criminal Harassment/Stalking	28	1	0	28	29	3	5	39	47



Weapon Causing Injury 2019	Count
Knife	2
Club	1
Other weapon	10
Physical force	61
Total Weapons	74
Not applicable	19
Grand Total	93

2019 Charges	# Male	# Female	# Occ's
Total number of Occurrences where charges were laid			127
Number of occurrences where one party was charged	106	14	120
Number of occurrences where both parties were charged			7

Property Offences

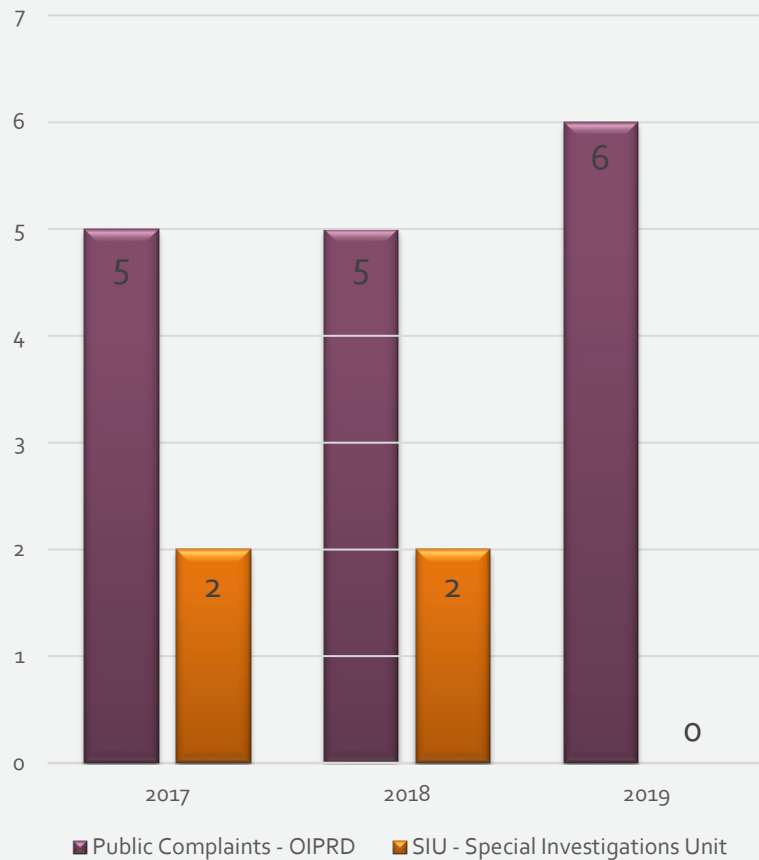


OCCURRENCES	2017	2018 St Marys*	2018 Perth South*	2018 Stratford	2018 Total	2019 St Marys	2019 Perth South	2019 Stratford	2019 Total
PROPERTY OFFENCES	1,538	53	12	1,737	1,802	243	105	1,248	1,596
BREAK & ENTER	148	17	2	184	203	32	24	149	205
THEFT OVER \$5000	7	0	0	9	9	1	3	4	8
THEFT UNDER \$5000	401	16	5	392	413	69	30	352	451
THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	218	4	1	171	176	27	7	143	177
SHOPLIFTING	107	2	0	138	140	10	0	105	115
FRAUD & IDENTITY THEFT	346	8	3	518	529	44	7	214	265
MISCHIEF /PROPERTY DAMAGE /GRAFFITI	290	4	0	283	287	47	13	248	308
STOLEN VEHICLES	21	2	1	42	45	13	21	33	67

*began policing Nov 5 2018

- In 2019 property offences showed a decrease when compared to 2018 even with the take over of Perth South and St Marys and the main reason for this is because of the Canada Revenue(CRA) Scam that was ramped up in 2018. There were 529 frauds reported in 2018 and a large portion of those were CRA or similar type scams.
- Stolen vehicles are increasing every year. Stolen vehicles include cars, trucks, ATV's and other motorized agricultural vehicles. Perth South experienced a disproportionate percentage of those thefts in 2019.
- Break, enter and theft occurrences are mostly populated by entries into unlocked shed and garages where power tools and bicycles are most often stolen. These are primarily incidents of opportunity. An increased emphasis on crime prevention strategies like Lock it or Lose it is needed.

Complaints Against Police



Accountability and transparency go a long way to building trust between the public and the police. There are two independent civilian investigative agencies in Ontario whose mandates are to investigate the conduct of police officers.

The **Office of the Independent Review Director (OIPRD)** investigates all complaints where a member of public alleges that an officer has committed misconduct under the Police Services Act.

"Police officers are expected to act with honesty and integrity and not abuse the extraordinary powers and authority they are granted. Police officers are also expected to treat people with respect and to act in a manner that does not discredit or undermine public confidence in the police service." www.oiprd.ca

Stratford Police officers interact with members of the public hundreds of thousands of times during the course of their duties and while off duty. For the last three years there have been only 5 or 6 complaints/year from the public about the conduct of our officers.

The **Special Investigations Unit (SIU)** is a civilian law enforcement agency which investigates incidents involving police officers where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault where there may be criminal conduct on the part of the officer(s).

Sworn members of the Stratford Police Service were involved in 2 incidents in each of 2017 and 2018 that resulted in the SIU investigating the actions of the officers while in 2019 there were no investigations that required investigations by the SIU.

Contact Us

Emergencies: 911

Non-emergencies: 519-271-4141

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