

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICE

2023 Annual Report



STRATFORD
POLICE SERVICES



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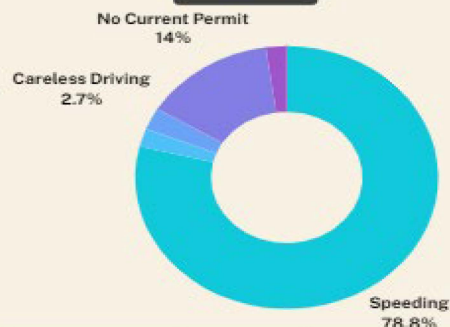
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Quick Overview

2023 OCCURRENCE STATISTICS FOR PERTH SOUTH

Township of
Perth South

E-TICKETS



POLICE CALLS TO 911

Annual calls for police service decreased by 14 calls in 2023.



1,996

POLICE CALLS IN 2023

OCCURRENCES

CHARGES LAID **1,025** **YOUTHS CHARGES** **3**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Calls **32** Which led to Charged **8**

COLLISIONS

Police responded to 110 motor vehicle collisions in 2023.



Fatal Accidents **1**
Resulted in Personal Injuries **12**
Hit & Runs **4**
Other Collisions **93**

MENTAL HEALTH CALLS

19 Mental health related calls

SUICIDES

4 Includes attempted suicides.

2023 OCCURRENCE STATISTICS FOR ST MARYS



E-TICKETS



POLICE CALLS TO 911

Annual calls for police service decreased by 133 calls in 2023.



2,631

POLICE CALLS IN 2023

OCCURRENCES

CHARGES LAID **528** **YOUTHS CHARGES** **5**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Calls **107** Which led to Charged **17**

COLLISIONS

Police responded to 103 motor vehicle collisions in 2023.



Fatal Accidents **0**
Resulted in Personal Injuries **8**
Hit & Runs **21**
Other Collisions **74**

MENTAL HEALTH CALLS

74 Mental health related calls

SUICIDES

2 Includes attempted suicides.

2023 OCCURRENCE STATISTICS FOR STRATFORD



E-TICKETS



POLICE CALLS TO 911

Annual calls for police service increased by 2164 calls in 2023.



20,305

POLICE CALLS IN 2023

OCCURRENCES

CHARGES LAID **3885** **YOUTHS CHARGES** **57**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Calls **615** Which led to Charged **117**

COLLISIONS

Police responded to 681 motor vehicle collisions in 2023.



Fatal Accidents **0**
Resulted in Personal Injuries **67**
Hit & Runs **116**
Other Collisions **498**

MENTAL HEALTH CALLS

791 Mental health related calls

SUICIDES

38 Includes attempted suicides.

Chief's Message

On behalf of all members of the Stratford Police Service, I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report on policing.

This report provides an overview of our response to calls for service and community engagement initiatives in the City of Stratford, Town of St. Marys and Municipality of Perth South

The policing environment continues to evolve with the daily issues being faced by members of the service being more complex, involving more social determinants of health ie mental health/addiction/homelessness, more reliant on the integration of technology and, as a result, the cost of delivering the service continues to increase. As part of our cost containment strategies, we need to be open to alternate forms of service delivery that will be more efficient, as effective and increasingly accessible. Our communities are changing. The public has high expectations for their service providers, and we need to be prepared to implement initiatives that continue to build trust in the profession and be reflective of the communities we serve. I am continually grateful for our members' commitment and dedication to addressing crime and enhancing safety in our communities. On behalf of the Stratford Police Service, I wish to thank the members of the Stratford Police Service Board and the members of our Community Policing Advisory Committees in St. Marys and Perth South for their continued guidance, governance, and oversight. Their work, on behalf of all residents, is vital to ensuring effective service delivery that promotes public safety.

The coming years will see more change in our communities which will require policing to continue to adapt and modernize. I believe that the Stratford Police Service can and should be able to deliver the best police service to our resident and visiting populations that addresses crime and disorder issues that are trending locally. To that end, I am always available to receive your constructive feedback and thank those individuals and organizations that have shared their opinions on our service delivery and our community safety and well-being.

The partnerships that have been developed between organizations delivering service within Perth County has allowed us to leverage resources and budgets to make that we are all optimizing our service delivery within our individual mandates and fulfilling our collective legislative requirements. We are stronger together than when we go it alone.

Thank you for taking the time to read the 2023 Stratford Police Service Annual Report and I welcome your input for the coming years.

G. A. Skinner
Chief of Police
Stratford Police Service



Stratford Police Mission

TO SERVE AND PROTECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Stratford Police Values:

PROVIDING QUALITY SERVICE IN AN EQUITABLE AND ASSESSIBLE 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

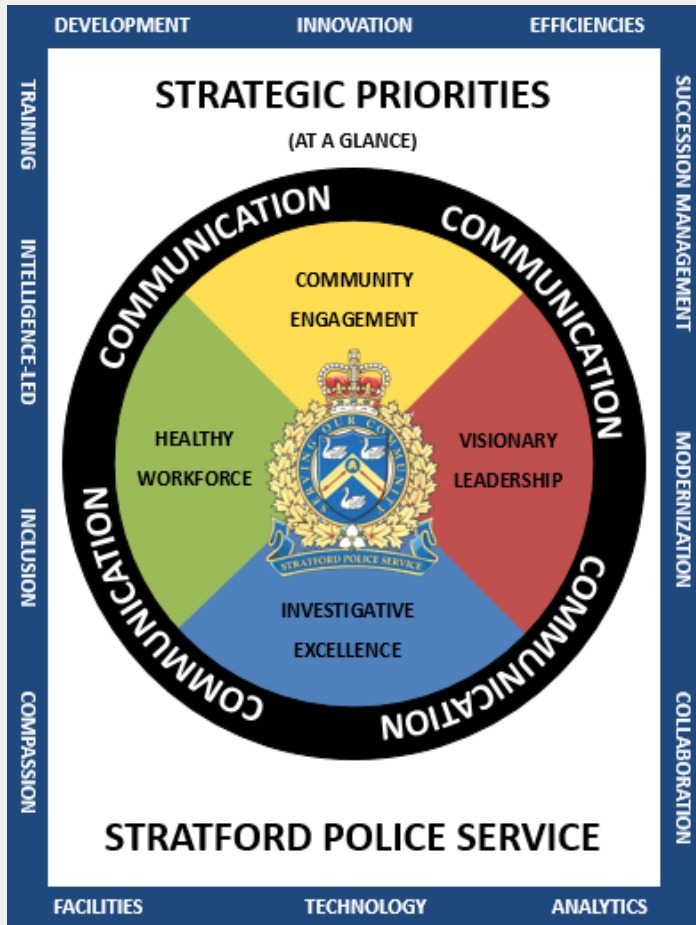
Priorities and Trends

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 \$12.6 M (88% relates to wages and benefits)*
- *89 staff – 67 sworn police officers / 18 full time civilians / 7 part time civilians*
- *Violent Crime, Drugs and Firearms offences are increasing*
- *The visibility of Social Issues within the community continue to concern the public*

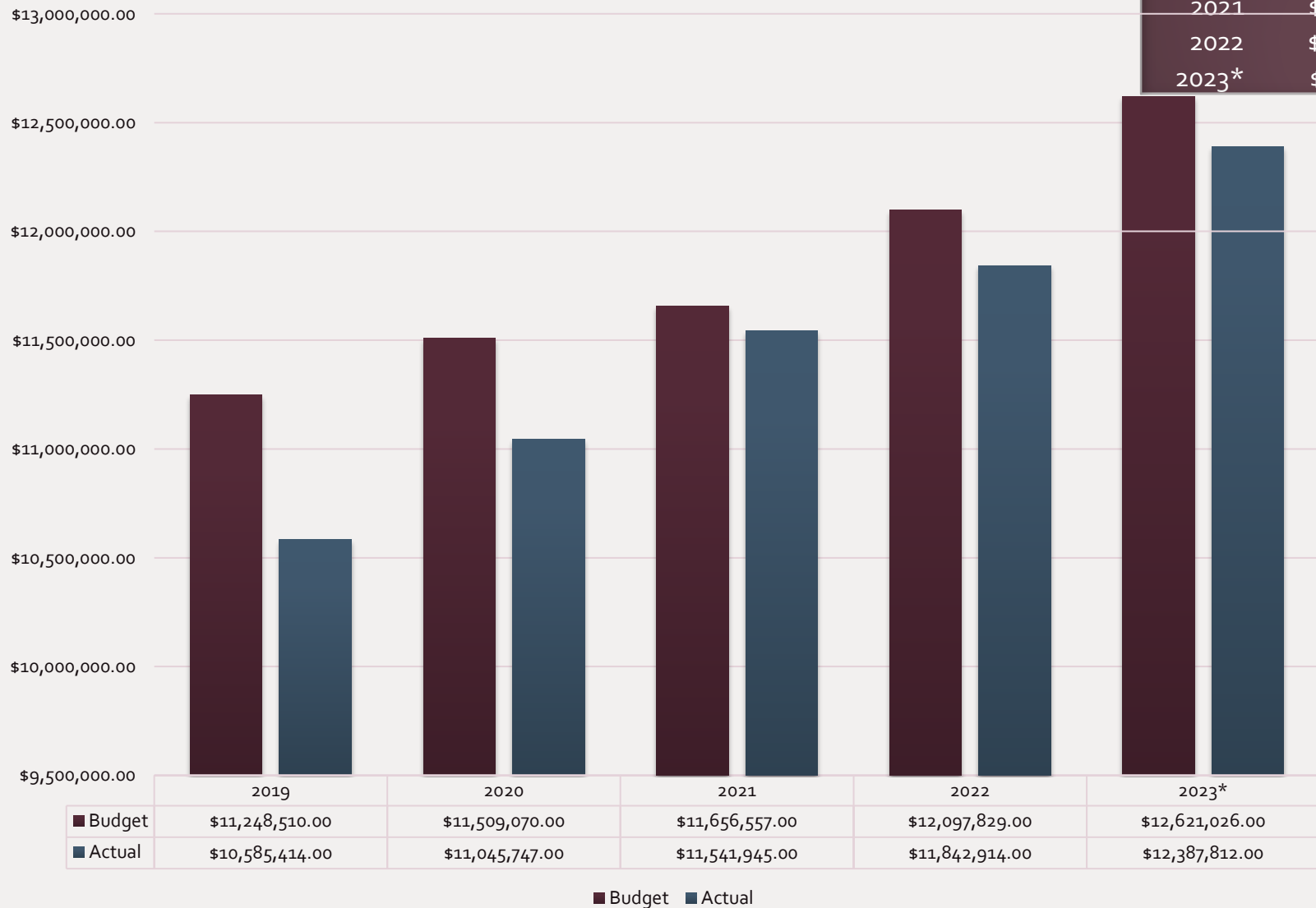
TRENDS IN POLICING:

- *The complexity of issues facing police officers is increasing*
- *More training and integration of mental health and addiction experts required as part of the police response strategy*
- *Labour shortages are affecting police services*
- *Public expectation and scrutiny of police continues to increase*
- *Privatization / Civilianization of traditional uniform policing roles*
- *Increasing use of technology*
- *Difficulty attracting and retaining qualified, skilled and diverse workforce*
- *Increased oversight of the police (Police Service Boards / OIPRD / SIU / Media)*
- *Erosion of Public Trust*





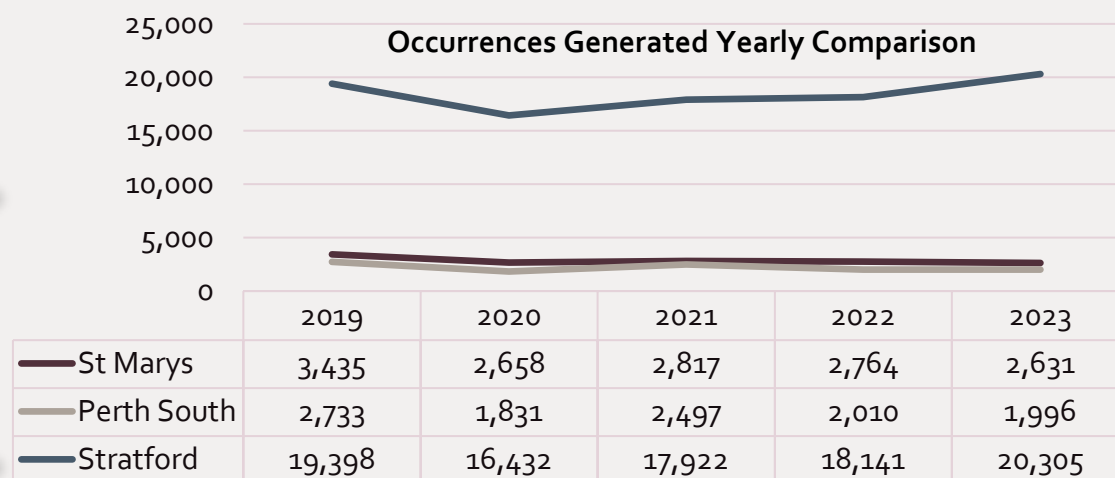
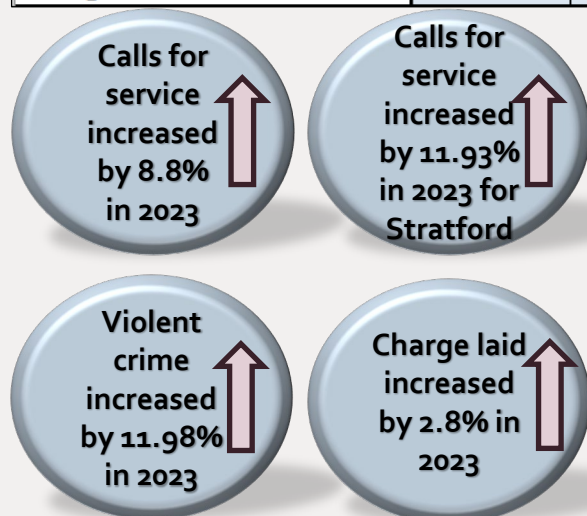
Budget



Year	Surplus (Deficit)
2019	\$663,096.00
2020	\$463,323.00
2021	\$114,612.00
2022	\$254,915.00
2023*	\$233,214.00

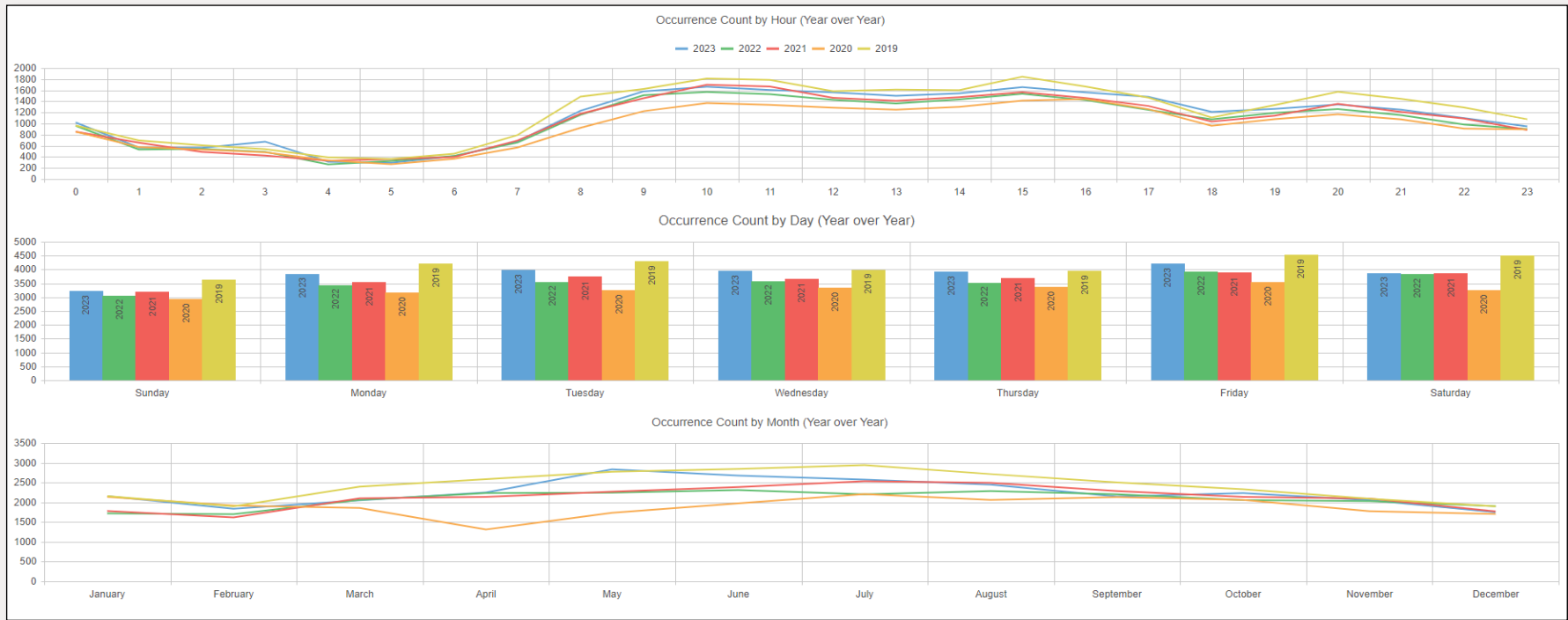
General Statistics

OCCURRENCES	2022 St Marys	2022 Perth South	2022 Stratford	2022 Total	2023 St Marys	2023 Perth South	2023 Stratford	2023 Total
Calls for Service	2,764	2,010	18,141	22,915	2,631	1,996	20,305	24,932
Violent Crime	41	19	324	384	44	13	373	430
Property Crime	230	53	1,344	1,627	176	69	1,427	1,672
Domestic Disputes	71	25	468	564	107	32	615	754
Social Welfare	180	52	1,608	1,840	194	59	1,875	2,128
Drugs & Firearms Offences	54	60	564	678	63	25	612	700
Charges Laid	586	956	3,748	5,290	528	1,025	3,885	5,438



- *Calls for service increased in 2023 when compared to 2022 which had 24,932 occurrences generated. In 2020 there was a dramatic decrease in occurrences due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The number of occurrences then rose in 2021 and 2022 and are now slightly lower than 2019 which had 25,566 occurrences generated.*
- *For further information and analysis on violent crime, property crime, domestic disputes, social welfare, drugs/firearm offences and charges laid please see that section of this report.*

Five Year Occurrence Count

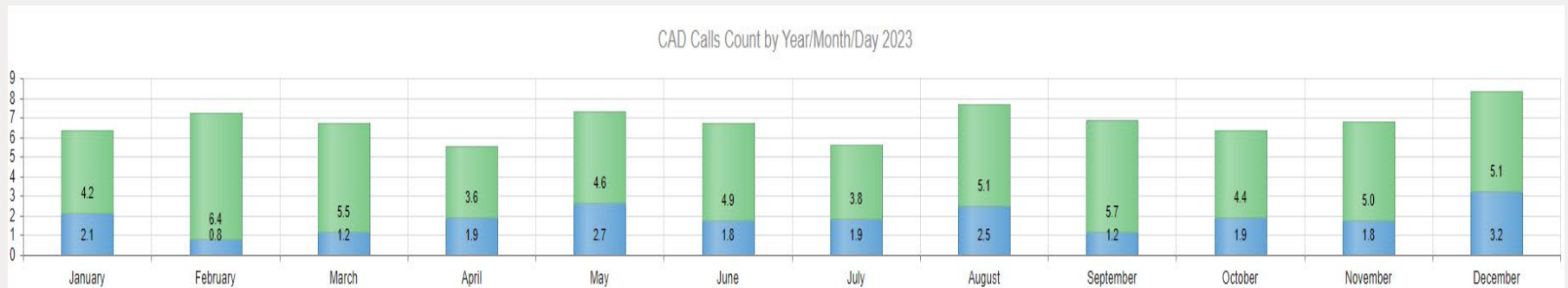
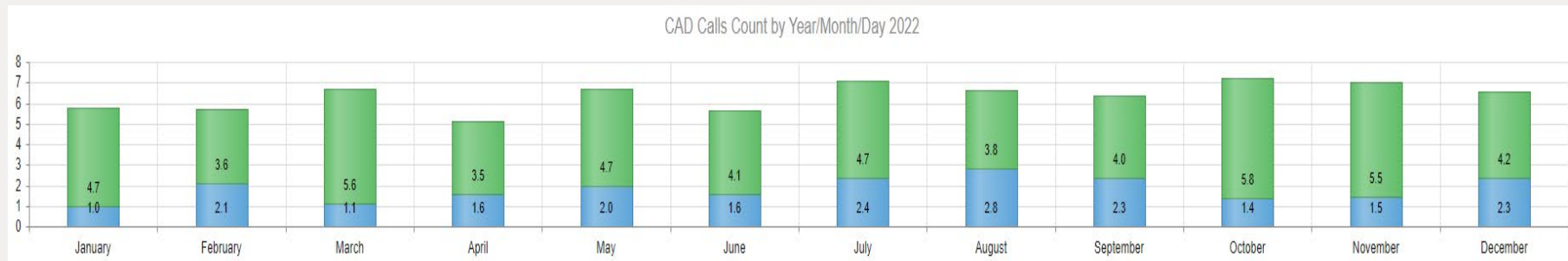


- The year of 2019 showed the highest number of occurrences generated when compared to the last five years. However, 2023 had the highest number of occurrences generated in the last five years when looking at only Stratford occurrences.
- The busiest time of day is from 10am to 3pm with an increase again at 8pm. This has been consistent over the five-year comparison.
- In 2023 Friday is the busiest day and Sunday is the least busy for occurrences generated.
- In 2023 the busiest months of the year were May and June, and the slowest months are December and February.



Dispatch and Arrival Times Averages (minutes)

Average Time to Arrival
Average Time to Dispatch



- In 2023 on priority 1 calls, the average time for police to arrive was 4.85 minutes and the average time from the call until police are dispatched was 1.86 minutes. Therefore 2023 increased by 7.56% when compared to 2022 for average time for police to arrive. Further, 2023 increased by .81% for average time from call until police are dispatched when compared to 2022.
- In 2023 the fastest time for police to arrive and time until police are dispatched is the month of April and the slowest is December. January also tends to be a slower month for time it takes for police to arrive due to weather conditions and this has been consistent when comparing to previous years.
- In 2023 the fastest time for police to arrive and time from call until police are dispatched is Wednesday and the slowest are Thursday and Friday.

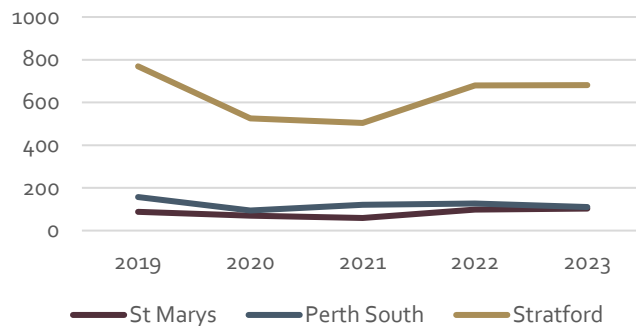


Motor Vehicle Collisions

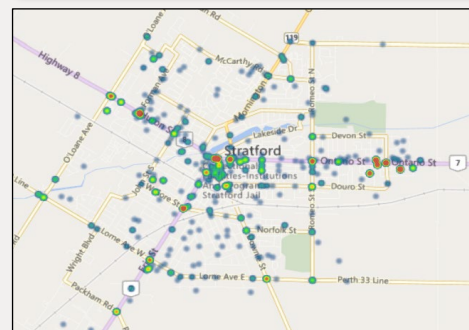
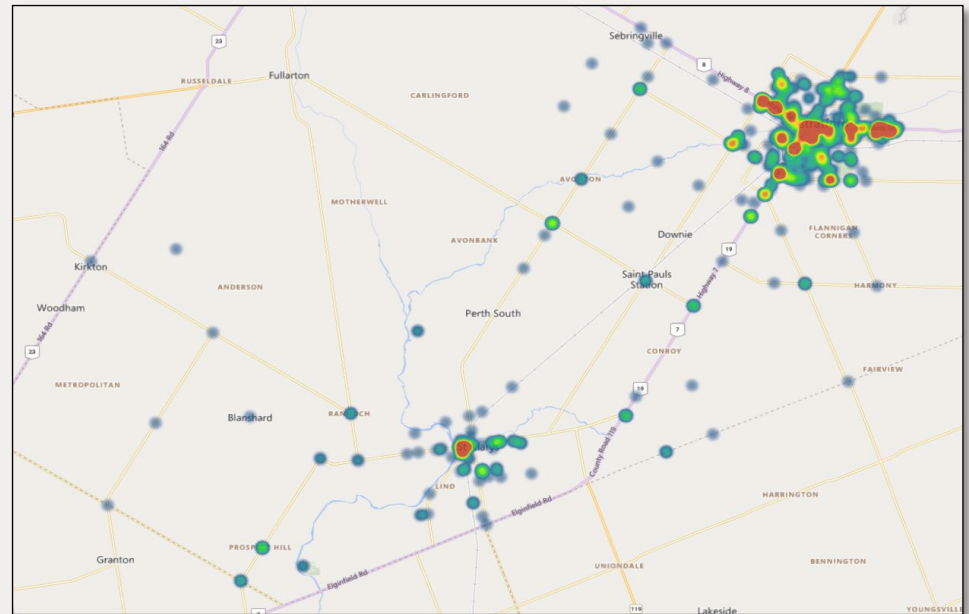
OCCURRENCES	2022 St Marys	2022 Perth South	2022 Stratford	2022 Total	2023 St Marys	2023 Perth South	2023 Stratford	2023 Total
MVC's	98	126	679	903	103	110	681	894
PERSONAL INJURY	9	24	68	101	8	12	67	87
PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY	76	95	516	687	74	93	498	665
HIT AND RUN	13	7	95	115	21	4	116	141
FATAL	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

- In 2023 motor vehicle collisions reported to the police stayed relatively consistent when compared to 2022.
- In Stratford there was a decrease in collisions in 2020 and 2021 which was due to people staying home more during the Covid-19 pandemic. 2023 is still lower than 2019.

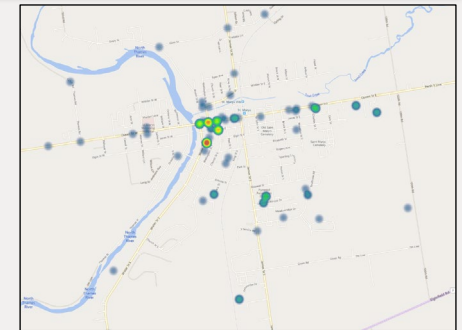
MVC Yearly Comparison



- In 2023 there was 1 fatal collision and it was in Perth South.



Stratford



St Marys

Traffic Statistics

OCCURRENCES	2022 St Marys	2022 Perth South	2022 Stratford	2022 Total	2023 St Marys	2023 Perth South	2023 Stratford	2023 Total
E-TICKET OCCURRENCES	301	688	1032	2021	212	690	1156	2058
IMPAIRED OPERATION	4	15	35	54	9	11	39	59
DRIVE WHILE DISQUALIFIED	4	4	43	51	3	2	29	34
HTA WARNINGS ISSUED	149	223	691	1063	150	228	802	1180



- In 2023 E-ticket occurrences generated increased by 1.83% when compared to 2022. The 2058 e-tickets generated is still lower than the 2376 in 2021.
- In 2023 impaired occurrences increased by 9.26% when compared to 2022. Both 2023 and 2022 are significantly lower than the 74 impaireds that occurred in 2021.
- Warnings issued stayed consistent from 2020 to 2022. However, in 2023 there was an increase by 11.01% when compared to 2022.



Enforcement – Charges Laid



Charges laid
has decreased
when
compared to
2019 which
had 6755
charges.



- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the stay-at-home order, 2020 to 2022 showed a decrease in charges laid when compared to 2019. The reason for this is due to less HTA and CAIA charges being laid. However, in 2023 there was a slight increase when compared to 2022.
- In 2020 to 2023 HTA charges decreased by approximately 40.% when compared to 2019.
- CDSA charges decreased slightly between 2020 and 2022. However, there was an increase by 12.72% in 2023 when compared to 2022.

Legislation	2022 St Marys	2022 Perth South	2022 Stratford	2022 Total	2023 St Marys	2023 Perth South	2023 Stratford	2023 Total
CRIMINAL CODE	168	121	1,975	2,264	183	84	1,933	2,200
CONTROLLED DRUGS & SUBSTANCES ACT	17	16	171	204	17	9	204	230
COMPULSORY AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE ACT	42	66	229	337	50	72	295	417
HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT	333	738	1,144	2,215	249	833	1,250	2,332
LIQUOR LICENCE ACT	16	4	83	103	8	9	69	86
TRESPASS TO PROPERTY ACT	4	2	61	67	2	0	66	68
CANNABIS ACT/CANNABIS CONTROL ACT	4	5	47	56	1	7	37	45
Total	584	952	3,710	5,246	510	1,014	3,854	5,378

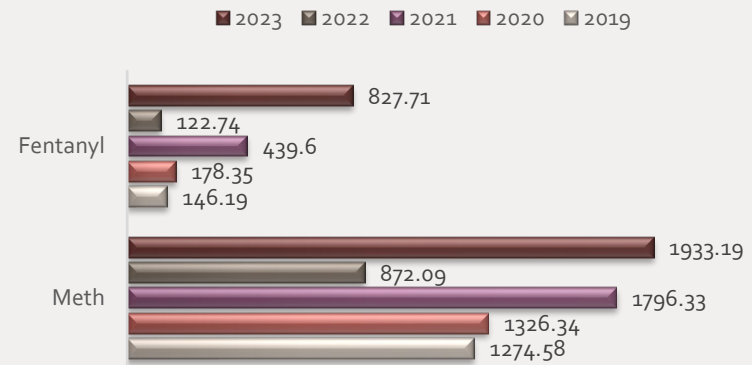
Drugs to Firearms



OCCURRENCES	2022 St Marys	2022 Perth South	2022 Stratford	2022 Total	2023 St Marys	2023 Perth South	2023 Stratford	2023 Total
CDSA CHARGES	17	16	171	204	16	9	204	229
Possession Heroin	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Possession Cocaine	2	8	19	29	3	0	23	26
Possession Other	14	8	117	139	9	5	138	152
Traffick Meth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Traffick Other	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Possession for Purpose Cocaine	0	0	4	4	1	0	7	8
Possession for Purpose Heroin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession for Purpose Other	0	0	31	31	2	4	35	41
WEAPON OFFENCES	9	6	67	82	13	4	87	104
WEAPONS CHARGES	11	22	155	188	18	3	117	138
Possession Contrary to Order	2	2	28	32	4	1	16	21
Possession of Weapon	5	7	70	82	6	2	50	58
Carry Concealed	2	2	19	23	4	0	30	34
Unauthorized possession of Firearm/Weapon	2	11	38	51	4	0	21	25

- In 2023 drug charges increased by 12.25% when compared to 2022.
- The amount of fentanyl seized by Stratford Police rose dramatically in 2023. There was also an increase in the amount of meth seized.

Drug Seizure Comparison in Grams





Social Welfare

OCCURRENCES	2022 St Marys	2022 Perth South	2022 Stratford	2022 Total	2023 St Marys	2023 Perth South	2023 Stratford	2023 Total
Mental Health Related	54	18	605	677	74	19	791	884
Missing Persons/Check Well-Being	106	26	902	1,034	107	33	975	1,115
Overdoses	2	0	17	19	3	0	19	22
Suicides Including Attempts	4	4	24	32	2	4	38	44
Sudden Deaths	14	4	60	78	8	3	52	63

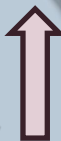
Overdoses
increased by
15.8% in 2023.
4 of the 22
overdoses
resulted in
death.



Mental health
occ's
increased by
30.28% in
2023



Suicides
including
attempts
increased by
37.5% in 2023

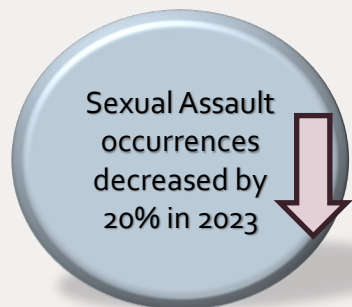


- All of the categories relating to social welfare listed above increased in 2023 compared to the year before.
- From 2020 to 2023 there were 100 overdoses reported to the Police. Of the 100 overdoses, 14 resulted in a fatality. Narcan was administered in 52 of the overdoses.
- The Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT) assisted Police on 332 occurrences in 2020, 1207 in 2021, 773 in 2022 and 1015 in 2023.





Violent Offences



OCCURRENCES	2022 St Marys	2022 Perth South	2022 Stratford	2022 Total	2023 St Marys	2023 Perth South	2023 Stratford	2023 Total
VIOLENT OFFENCES	41	19	324	384	44	13	373	430
HOMICIDE including ATTEMPTS	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
ASSAULTS	32	13	227	272	33	8	255	296
Sexual Assault	6	3	46	55	3	4	37	44
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Assault w Weapon / Causing Bodily Harm	4	3	29	36	6	2	32	40
Assault Level 1	22	7	137	166	23	2	176	201
Assault Police	0	0	15	15	1	0	9	10
ROBBERY	1	0	10	11	0	1	4	5
UTTER THREATS TO PERSON	7	6	83	96	9	3	107	119
ARSON-DISREGARD FOR HUMAN LIFE	1	0	3	4	2	1	6	9

- In 2023 there was 430 violent occurrences reported, compared to 383 in 2022, 336 in 2021 and 317 in 2020.
- There is an average of 30 to 40 Sexual Assaults reported to Stratford Police every year. However, in 2022 there were 55 sexual assaults and in 2023 there were 44 reported to the police.
- Police investigated 4 attempt homicides in 2019 to 2023. All of these occurrences resulted in charges laid. There were no homicides in 2019 to 2023.
- Assault Police occurrences decreased by 33% when comparing 2023 to 2022.

OCCURRENCES	2022 St Marys	2022 Perth South	2022 Stratford	2022 Total	2023 St Marys	2023 Perth South	2023 Stratford	2023 Total
Domestic Disputes	72	25	468	565	107	32	615	754
Criminal Harassment/ Stalking/Harassing Contact	8	1	47	56	10	0	45	55

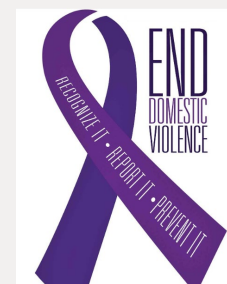
- Domestic disputes increased by 33.45% when comparing 2023 to 2022.
- Charges were laid in 17.3% of the domestic related occurrences in 2020 to 2023.
- St Marys accounted for 14.19% of the domestic related occurrences reported to Police in 2023.
- Perth South accounted for 1.33 of the domestic related occurrences reported to Police in 2023.



**In 2023 19 %
of domestic
disputes
resulted in
charges.**

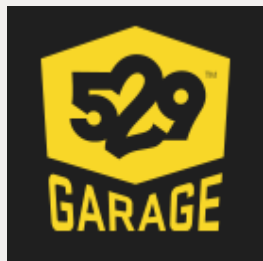
Number of occurrences where one party was charged; 82% male, 18% female.

**Both parties
were charged
on 6% of the
occurrences
where charges
were laid**



Property Offences

Incidents	2022 St Marys	2022 Perth South	2022 Stratford	2022 Total	2023 St Marys	2023 Perth South	2023 Stratford	2023 Total
PROPERTY OFFENCES	230	53	1,344	1,627	176	69	1,427	1,672
BREAK & ENTER	24	8	129	161	16	13	140	169
THEFT OVER \$5000	0	0	6	6	1	1	7	9
THEFT UNDER \$5000	61	7	336	404	36	19	374	429
THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	29	8	149	186	8	2	145	155
SHOPLIFTING	7	0	161	168	10	0	144	154
FRAUD & IDENTITY THEFT	40	7	211	258	50	13	255	318
MISCHIEF /PROPERTY DAMAGE /GRAFFITI	57	11	298	366	42	13	328	383
STOLEN VEHICLES	12	12	54	78	13	8	34	55

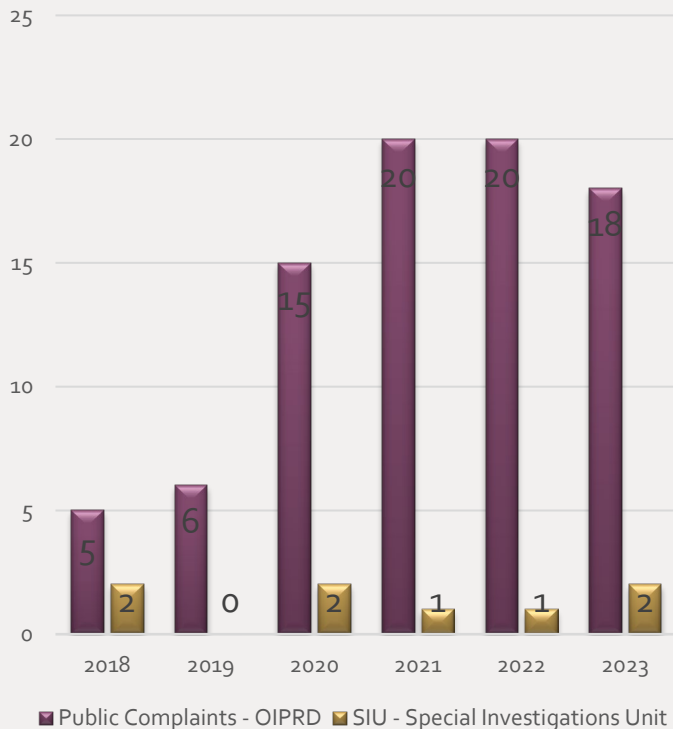


**Stratford Police
Bike Registry Program**

www.project529.com/stratfordpoliceservice

- Overall property offences in 2023 increased slightly by 2.77% when compared to 2022 and decreased slightly by 2.11% when comparing 2023 to 2021.
- Theft from motor vehicles decreased by 16.67 % when comparing 2023 to 2022. Both years are dramatically lower than the 356 in 2021.
- Theft of vehicles decreased by 29.49% when comparing 2023 to 2022.
- Break and enters slightly increased by 5% in 2023. However, 2023, 2022 and 2021 are all lower than 2020.
- SCRAM and 529 Garage are two property crime prevention projects initiated by the Stratford Police. For more information see <https://www.stratford.ca/en/live-here/stratford-police-services.aspx>.

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 or the policies of the police service.

The Office of the Independent Review Director (OIPRD) now known as the Law Enforcement Complaints Agency (LECA) investigates all complaints where a member of the public alleges that an officer has committed misconduct under the Police Services Act or that the policies or services provided by the police service did not comply with the 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

The Stratford Police saw the number of public complaints increase drastically during the COVID-19 epidemic peaking at 20 for the years 2021 and 2022. There was a slight decrease to 18 in 2023. Of the 18 complaints received, 5 were screened out by OIPRD as not with their mandate or not in the public interest to investigate and 13 were referred to investigation. Of the 13 complaints that were investigated 8 alleged Discreditable Conduct, 3 alleged Neglect of Duty and 2 alleged Unlawful Exercise of Authority. In all 13 cases the complaints against the officer were found to be unsubstantiated after investigation meaning there was no misconduct on the part of the officers.

The second independent civilian investigative agency in Ontario is the Special Investigations Unit 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).

There were 2 SIU investigations in 2023. The SIU terminated one investigation after the body worn camera evidence proved that there was no evidence to support the allegation. The second investigation resulted in the officer being charged under the Criminal Code of Canada and that case has been resolved through the courts.



Contact Us



Township of
Perth South

Emergencies: **911**

Non-emergencies: **519-271-4141**

Mailing address: 17 George St W
Box 21041
Stratford ON,
N5A 1A6

Administration Building: 789 Erie St
Stratford ON,
N4Z 1A1

