

WOODSTOCK POLICE SERVICE

2022 Annual Report

ACCOUNTABILITY - EXCELLENCE - INTEGRITY
PROFESSIONALISM - TEAMWORK

Ensuring the **safety and well-being**
of all members of the community.



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CHAIR KEN WHITEFORD

The year 2022 was one of transition. The important transition from pandemic conditions in society as a whole, to more normalcy as the year progressed.

For the Woodstock Police Services Board, transition was the key word as well. The Board experienced changes in its membership and at the same time, went through the process of overseeing a significant change in the senior management of the Service at both the Chief and Deputy Chief levels.

The initial change in the Board's composition occurred in February when Trevor Birtch, who was on the Board in his capacity as Mayor of the City of Woodstock, took a leave of absence. This leave turned into a departure from the Board a few months later. The Board thanks Trevor for his contribution to police governance for over seven years.

In October, the municipal election saw Jerry Acchione join the Board as the new Mayor of the City of Woodstock and Connie Lauder's return to the Board as a Council representative, after a hiatus of a number of years. Council chose Daryl Stevenson as their community representative. Daryl also had previous Board experience after serving between early 2011 to late 2014.

With Daryl's appointment by Council, the four year term of Board member, Balwant Rai ended as the City's community representative. The Board appreciates the contribution of Balwant to the operations and discussions of the Board during his term of office and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

As mentioned, in addition to the major changes in its membership, the Board managed the process of engaging a new Chief of Police and a new Deputy Chief. Former Chief Daryl Longworth presented the Board with his resignation in February and informed the Board that his last day as Chief would be July 8. Fortunately for the Board, we were able to promote the then Deputy Chief, Rod Wilkinson, to Chief and Rod officially assumed his duties upon the departure of his predecessor in July. Meanwhile, in April, the search for a new Deputy Chief commenced. This process culminated in the appointment of Nick Novacich to the role as of July 11. Nick joined us after serving in a similar role in the Town of Aylmer.

In addition to all of the changes in personnel, the Board continued to strive to see our Strategic Plan realized in all aspects of the work of the Service as a whole. The three strategic priorities of improved community safety, fostering a culture of collaboration and engagement with the community and enhancing organizational excellence retained their status as cornerstones of decision making and follow up action.

Although the Board's focus was on changes in the executive ranks of the Service, there were also changes in Service personnel, both uniform and civilian. As the City continues to grow, personnel have been added in an attempt to keep on top of the growth pressures on various fronts. The Board thanks the members of the Service for their fortitude during the pandemic and looks forward to their ongoing commitment to the safety and well being of

Woodstock. A special thanks to the efforts of the Auxiliary Unit which continues to serve in an exemplary fashion.

A final note of thanks to my colleagues on the Board for their diligence during the year to meeting our self-imposed goals and doing our best to be a worthy model of police governance.



Ken Whiteford
Chair, Woodstock Police Service Board

CHIEF ROD WILKINSON

It is my privilege to present to you the Woodstock Police Service's 2022 Annual Report. This report is a snapshot of the year's activities and provides an open and transparent view into our diverse organization staffed by dedicated civilian, sworn and auxiliary members who have taken an oath to serve and protect in support of our mission statement "Dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of the community."

The Woodstock Police Service has a proud and distinguished history of providing the highest quality policing to the City of Woodstock. Our professional members are an integral part of the community we serve. We are committed to working with our community partners and residents to maintain community safety and the public peace. We will continually evaluate our service delivery to ensure that we meet the expectations of the community and provide the most effective and efficient policing that the citizens of Woodstock deserve.

The service said goodbye to Chief Daryl Longworth. We wish him a happy and healthy future and thank him for his dedicated service.

We continued to see growth in 2022 and welcomed new faces hired to replace members and add additional resources to allow the service to grow and keep pace with the growth of the city.

With the support of the Woodstock Police Services Board and Woodstock City Council, we will continue to engage, support and collaborate with the community to ensure Woodstock remains a safe place for our citizens to live, learn, work and play. The Police Services Board is entrusted with an extremely important duty in terms of governance and oversight, which is essential to ensuring our community receives the professional policing our citizens so rightly deserve.

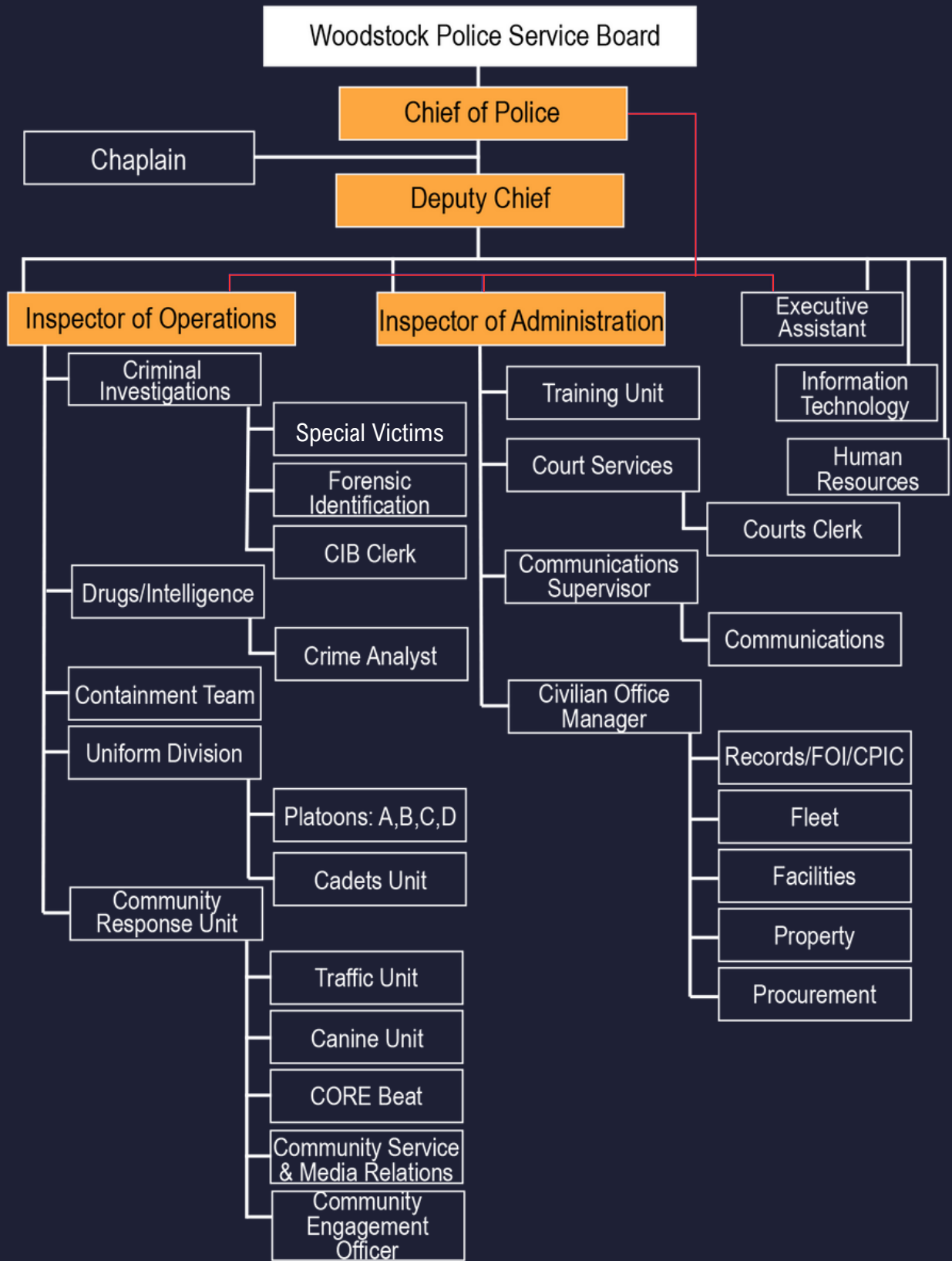
To all members of the Woodstock Police Service, I respect and thank each member for all you do to maintain the public peace and to protect our citizens. Often your duties are under dangerous, perilous or stressful circumstances, yet you persevere and face scrutiny and adversity in an honourable fashion. You are all true professionals dedicated to public service.

I would like to thank our community partners, the Woodstock Police Association and you, the citizens of Woodstock, for your ongoing input and support of our members and the work that they do. I am confident that as we work together in the coming years we will have a significant and positive impact on the safety and well-being of this diverse and growing community.

Rod Wilkinson
Chief, Woodstock Police Service



OUR SERVICE



POLICE SERVICE BOARD



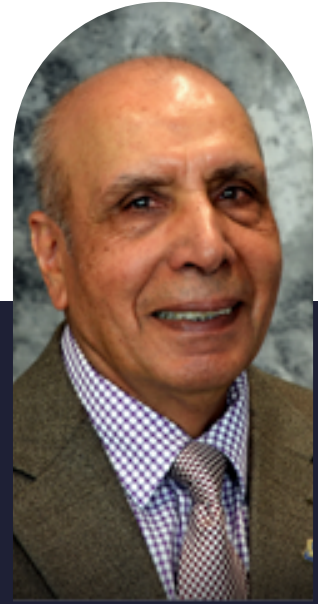
Ken Whiteford
Board Chair
Provincial Appointee



Leslie Farrell
Board Member
Provincial Appointee



Deb Tait
Board Member
Council
Representative



Balwant Rai
Board Member
Community Appointee

The Woodstock Police Service Board (WPSB) is a civilian governing body that oversees the Woodstock Police Service as per the Municipal Act. However, their authorities come from the Police Act. The primary role of a Board is to establish, after consultation with the Chief of Police, overall objectives and priorities for the provision of police services.

The primary role of the WPSB is to establish priorities, objectives and policies for policing the City of Woodstock, after consultation with the Chief of Police, while monitoring the performance of the police service and its leader.

The WPSB is made up of members of council as well as provincial and community appointees.

The WPSB meets regularly on the second Monday of each month at 3:00 p.m. except in July and August.

SENIOR COMMAND



Daryl Longworth
Chief of Police
- Retired -



Rod Wilkinson
Deputy Chief to
Chief of Police



Nick Novacich
Deputy Chief



Marcia Shelton
Inspector of
Administration



Heidi Becks
Inspector of
Operations

CHANGE OF COMMAND



In 2022, the Woodstock Police Service welcomed new leadership with significant changes to the Senior Command Team. Daryl Longworth completed his 30-year policing career after retiring as Chief of Police on October 31, 2022.

Longworth, had an extensive career including a number of homicide investigations, undercover drug investigations, tactical operations and investigations into Outlaw Motorcycle gangs. Longworth, a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto served for 6 years as a Deputy Chief with WPS before accepting a position as Deputy Chief with the London Police Service in 2015. In 2019, Longworth returned to Woodstock as the 26th Chief of the Woodstock Police Service.

"Becoming a police officer was a dream come true and I am truly blessed to have been a member of such a noble profession. Although I have always tried to put family first, there have been many, many times during my career where the job has been all-consuming and has deprived my family of a father and husband. It's now time for me to step away from policing and devote all of my time to my family and other interests. This career and the organizations I have served in have provided me with unimaginable opportunities and I would like to thank the communities and the members of the services I've been a part of for allowing me the opportunity to serve them in this way." - **Daryl Longworth, Retired Chief of Police**

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Chief Longworth's retirement paved the way for the promotion of, Rod Wilkinson, from Deputy Chief to the 27th Chief of the Woodstock Police Service. Wilkinson has been a member of the Woodstock Police Service for 25 years where he has moved up through the ranks holding various positions in many diverse operational units, and has extensive technical and supervisory experience in Criminal Investigations, Court Services, Patrol, Incident Command and Tactical Operations.

"I would like to thank the Board for entrusting me with the leadership of the Woodstock Police Service. We will continue to build on and maintain the trust of the Woodstock community. We will continue to work with our community partners and groups striving towards common goals. The Police Service will continue leveraging technology looking for new and innovative ways to allow our officers to be more proactive." - **Rod Wilkinson, Chief of Police**



CHANGE OF COMMAND

With the promotion of Deputy Chief Wilkinson to Chief of Police, the Woodstock Police Service Board set out to find a new Deputy Chief. Nick Novacich was the successful candidate and completed his official swearing in at the Change of Command ceremony. Deputy Chief Novacich is a 27-year veteran who spent the last 14 years as a member of the Aylmer Police Service, with the last 2 years serving as Deputy Chief. He began his policing career as a Constable with the Woodstock Police, serving from 1995 to 2000.

“The Woodstock Police set the foundation for the police officer I have become and I am extremely excited for this opportunity to return to help lead and mentor the current and future members of this great organization. With the progressive strategic path that has been set by the current administration, I look forward to adding my contributions and engaging with all stakeholders within the community.”

- Nick Novacich, Deputy Chief





THE WPS FAMILY

In 2022, the Woodstock Police Service welcomed 19 new members to the WPS family. Six of these new members are police officers who came with experience from other police services including; Aylmer, London, Toronto and Brantford.

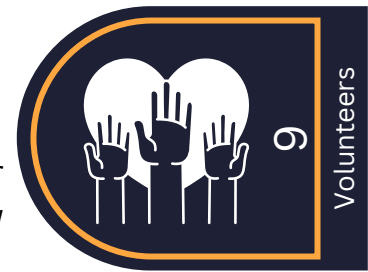
In addition, WPS hired two cadets, four part time dispatchers, five part time special constables, a part records clerk, an IT analyst and two summer students for the Youth In Policing Initiative program.

While we welcomed 19 new members to the WPS family in 2022, 13 members resigned to explore new life and career opportunities.



THE WPS FAMILY

In addition to hiring 19 new members and two summer students, the Woodstock Police Service added nine new volunteer members to the Auxiliary Unit.



Promotions

11



As the Woodstock Police Service grows and changes, our members have opportunities for growth and development in their careers. Eleven members were granted promotions in 2022. Some stayed in the same role, but were promoted from a part time position to a full time position, while others earned a new rank.

2022 Promotions

- Two part time Civilian Radio Operators (CRO), were promoted to full time CRO positions.
- One CRO was promoted to the newly created Communications Supervisor position.
- One part time Special Constable was promoted to Cadet.
- One part time Special Constable and two Cadets were promoted to Police Recruits and attended the Ontario Police College for Basic Constable Training.
- One Constable was promoted to Sergeant.
- One Sergeant was promoted to Staff Sergeant.
- One Staff Sergeant was promoted to Inspector.
- The Deputy Chief was promoted to Chief of Police.

YOUR COMMUNITY

The City of Woodstock is a rapidly growing community with a 13.6% population increase in the last five years - nearly 8% higher than the national average. The population of Woodstock is expected to exceed 50,000 people by 2025.

In addition to a growing population, the City of Woodstock sits on the 401 & 403 corridors between Windsor/London and Waterloo Region/Toronto - making it a convenient stop-in city for travelers.

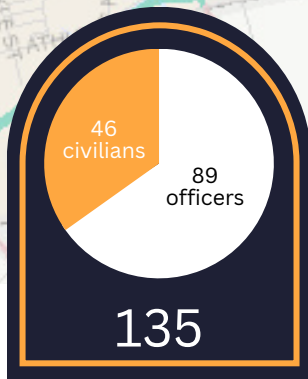
Woodstock is also home to a number of manufacturing plants that bring commuters from a number of other municipalities and townships to the City of Woodstock on a daily basis.

A significant population growth, as well as frequent commuters ultimately leads to high numbers of calls for police services and an increased need for additional police resources.

The Woodstock Police Service is committed to excellence, accountability, integrity and professionalism in the service provided to the community. In order to maintain these values, the Woodstock Police Service is required to grow with the city it serves to help keep the peace and maintain the safety and wellbeing of all members of the community.



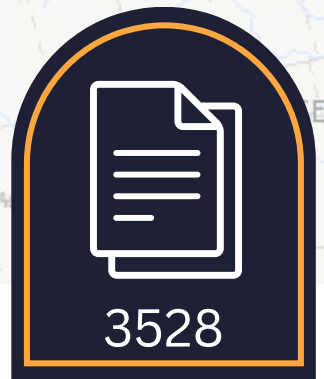
Population Served



WPS Members



Freedom of Information Requests



Record Checks Processed

CRIME STATISTICS

21,166



calls for service

3395



total charges laid

1542



total arrests

644



crimes of violence

2245



property crimes

72



criminal driving offences

582



other reported crimes

30



child exploitation charges

174



CDSA charges

558



provincial offences

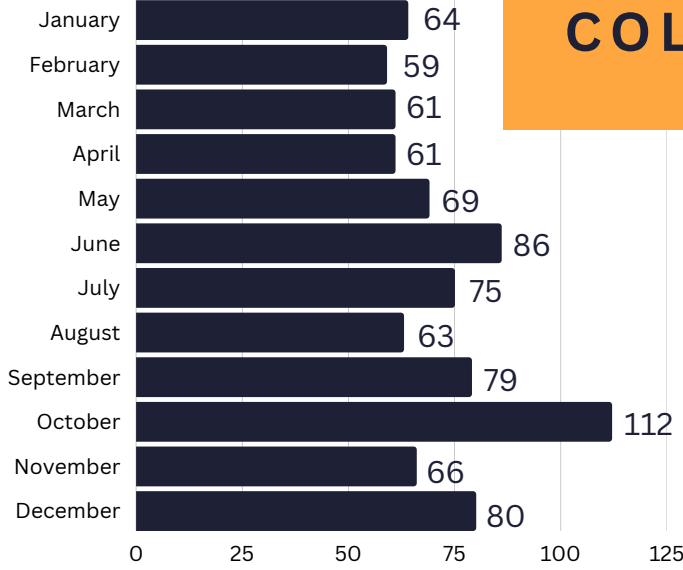
69



CDSA arrests



COLLISION STATISTICS

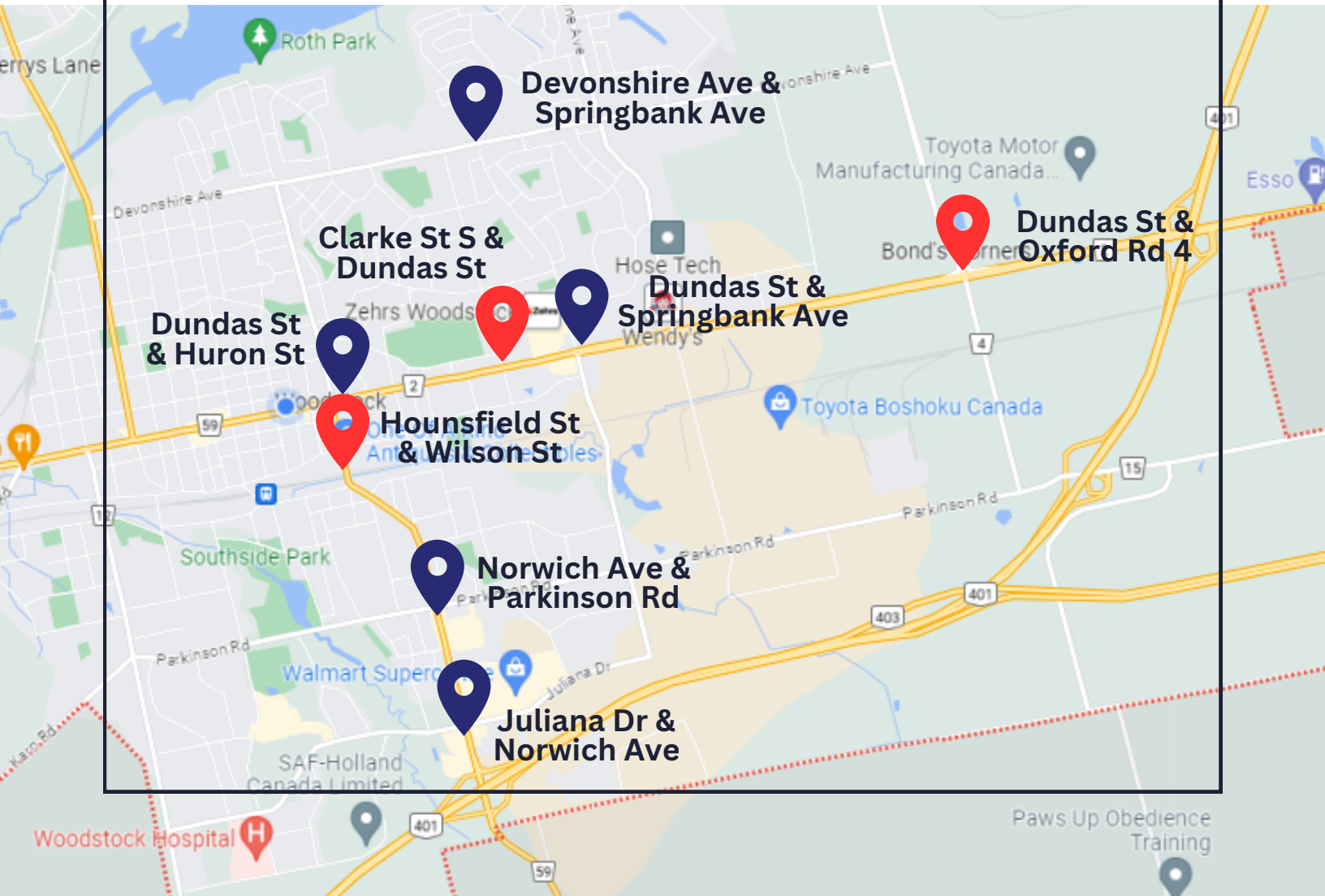


Types of Collisions	2022	2021
Involving Injuries	72	93
Involving Drugs &/or Alcohol	15	12
Involving Cyclists	11	11
Involving Pedestrians	11	10
Involving Fail to Remain	117	114

Total Collision Incidents: 873

Total People Involved: 1503

The plot points on the map below represent intersections with the highest number of collisions in 2022. The blue plot points indicate these intersections were among those with the highest collision rates in 2021 as well.



ROAD SAFETY



Throughout 2022, the WPS Traffic Unit, consisting of one Constable dedicated full time to traffic enforcement, facilitated a number of traffic safety initiatives based on feedback and areas of concern expressed by the community.

Some traffic initiatives involved partnerships with other WPS units and organizations including: the Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Finance, City of Woodstock By-Law Officers and various other police services, including Oxford OPP. The Traffic Unit worked closely with the Community Service Officer during traffic safety initiatives to convey important road safety messaging to the community through social and traditional media outlets.

The Traffic Unit officer is a qualified Level IV Traffic Reconstruction Investigator and Drug Recognition Expert. This specialized training provides expertise in the investigation of major collisions and impairment by drugs. The Traffic Officer also provides training to other officers in the use of speed measuring devices.

In recent years, WPS has implemented an increased focus on road safety. As a result of the combined efforts of the dedicated traffic officer and officers assigned to Uniform Patrol, 1411 traffic related tickets (speeding, suspended licence, etc.) were issued in 2022. Some initiatives the Traffic Unit focused on included:

- Operation Zero
- Operation Borders
- National Teen Drivers Safety
- R.I.D.E. Programs
- Operation Impact
- Commercial Motor Vehicle Blitz
- Four Counties Traffic Blitz
- School Zone Safety
- Bylaw Parking
- Speed Enforcement
- Distracted Driving
- Stop Signs & Traffic Lights
- Seatbelt Safety
- Impaired Drivers

DRUGS IN WOODSTOCK

In 2022, the Woodstock Police Service responded to 81 overdoses. Eight of which resulted in fatality. As street drugs become increasingly toxic, the Woodstock Police Service Criminal Intelligence & Drug Enforcement Unit works hard to combat drug trafficking in the City of Woodstock.

The unit laid 92 charges under the Controlled Drugs & Substances Act and 51 charges under the Criminal Code of Canada, in 2022. **They seized a street value total of \$1,403,500 worth of fentanyl (1562g), methamphetamine (3767g) and cocaine (2458g) from the streets of Woodstock.** Additionally, the unit seized a number of weapons and property, including; hand gun, replica guns, folding knives, extended ammunition magazine, taser, crossbow, bat and a vehicle. \$105,631.85 in currency was also seized by the unit as proceeds of crime.



Drugs and currency seized in relation to 2022 record breaking drug investigation.

In 2022, the Criminal Intelligence & Drug Enforcement Unit conducted an extensive drug trafficking investigation that led to the largest drug bust in WPS history. In this single investigation, the Unit removed nearly \$600,000 in controlled substances (cocaine, fentanyl, methamphetamine, psilocybin and hydromorphone capsules) from the streets, seized over \$33,000 Canadian currency and laid 42 charges.

Investigations such as this are paramount to improving the safety and wellbeing of the citizens of Woodstock.

K9 UNIT

The Woodstock Police Service K9 Unit is made up of one handler and two Police Service Dogs (PSDs). In 2021, the WPS welcomed Taz to the team to commence his PSD training. During that time, PSD Striker was deployed for any police calls for service where the K9 unit was required.

In 2022, PSD Taz was deployed as a fully trained police service dog. This allowed for the K9 handler to begin transitioning PSD Striker out of some of the more physically demanding work, while PSD Taz gained experience working calls for service.

PSD Striker, a community favourite, finds himself spending more of his working time focused on giving demonstrations to community groups to educate the community about drugs in the city and how PSDs help help community.



PSD Taz



PSD Striker

WHAT OUR DOGS CAN DO



Drug Detection



Community Service



Firearm Detection



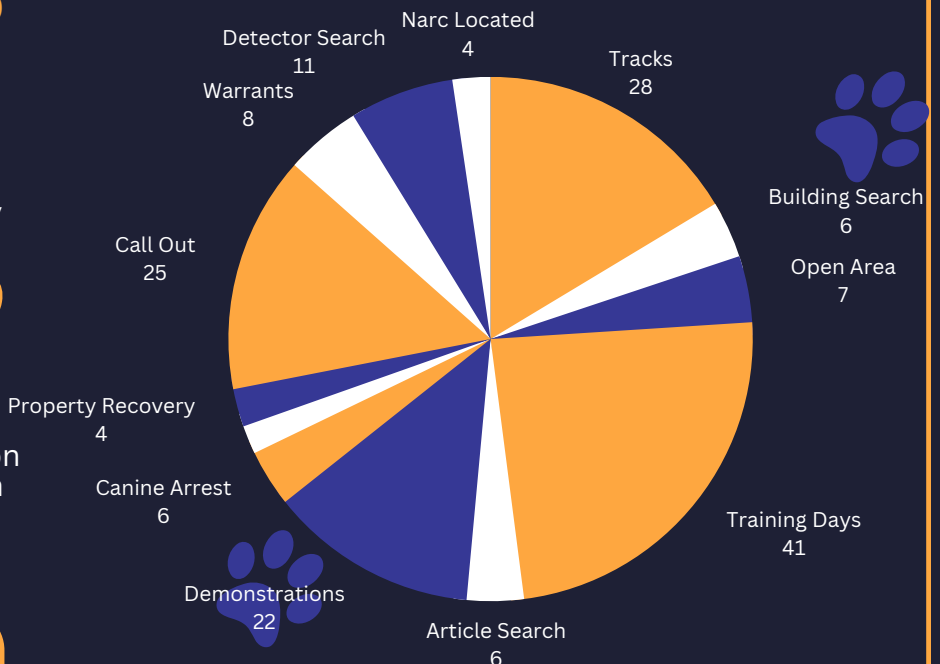
Ammunition Detection



Currency Detection



Person Detection



K9 UNIT



The K9 Unit spends a significant amount of time training and honing the dogs' skills to ensure they are able to successfully complete all of their responsibilities. To keep their skills in top shape, the Woodstock Police Service K9 Unit spends time training with the K9 Units of other police services including; London Police Service, Peel Regional Police, Stratford Police Service and St. Thomas Police Service.

When the K9 Unit was not out training, tracking people, searching for evidence, executing warrants, working with the containment team or community service they assisted the Traffic Unit in conducting a number of traffic and road safety initiatives.

With PSD Taz becoming an official member of the Woodstock Police Service, a "Name the Dog" contest was held in partnership with the Woodstock Christian School. PSD Taz attended the school to give demonstrations to all of the students, who then submitted names they thought suited him.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT

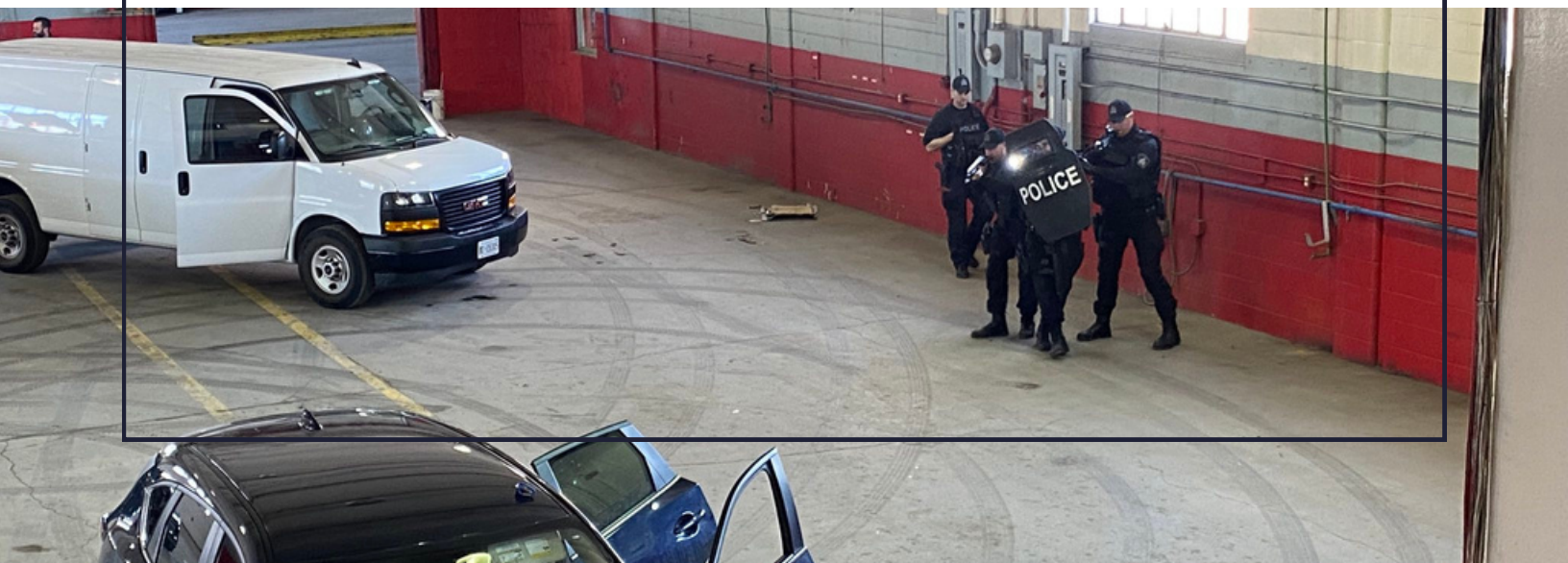


The mandate of the WPS Emergency Response Unit (ERU) is to safely contain situations involving dangerous suspects. This could include but is not limited to; barricaded person, hostage situations, active shooters, and executing higher risk search or arrest warrants. The ERU consists of 14 specially trained police officers who perform other police duties, such as Uniform Patrol Officer, as their primary function.

In 2022 the ERU had 11 *active* members, six training days, responded to 11 call outs and were deployed in a number of different capacities.

The ERU has two Team Leaders (TL), one of which is an Administrative Team Lead who is responsible for equipment procurement, operational planning, annual requalifications and training.

The ERU works closely with the K9 Unit, Negotiators, Incident Command, Training Unit, Communications, Media Relations, Scribes, etc. in both training and real life scenarios to ensure community safety efficiently.



TRAINING



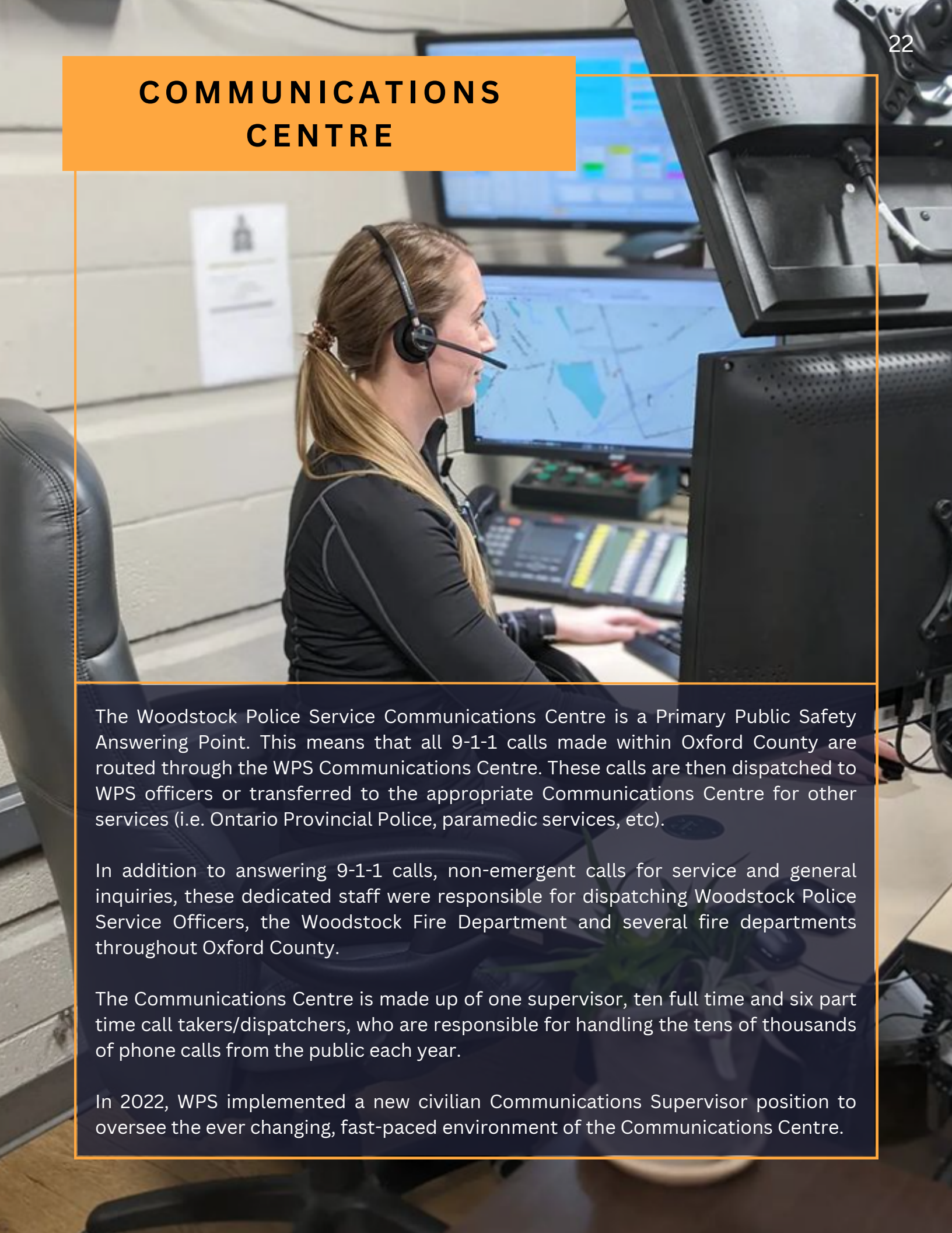
The WPS Training Unit is responsible for coordinating training for all members of the Woodstock Police Service. They train new members in varying roles while also ensuring active members' skills remain up to WPS, ministry and provincial standards. Some internal training facilitated or coordinated by the WPS Training Unit includes:

- ministry mandated training
- practical and classroom session on a number of legal issues
- wellness topics
- containment and perimeter principals
- defensive tactics
- bias awareness and anti-racism
- use of force
- de-escalation tactics
- firearms and taser training
- CPR, First Aid, AED, tourniquet training
- Online Training modules

In addition to standard annual training, WPS provides opportunities for members to attend additional training courses hosted by external organizations such as the Ontario Police College, other police services and community agencies, to improve skills and knowledge in policing and supporting the community. WPS is committed to training on a provincial level as well, by providing a constable(s) seconded to the Ontario Police College who assists with training new police recruits on a full cost recovery basis.



COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

A woman with long blonde hair tied back, wearing a black headset with a microphone, is seated at a workstation in a communications center. She is looking at a computer monitor displaying a map. The workstation includes a keyboard, a mouse, and a control panel with various buttons. The background shows other computer monitors and office equipment.

The Woodstock Police Service Communications Centre is a Primary Public Safety Answering Point. This means that all 9-1-1 calls made within Oxford County are routed through the WPS Communications Centre. These calls are then dispatched to WPS officers or transferred to the appropriate Communications Centre for other services (i.e. Ontario Provincial Police, paramedic services, etc).

In addition to answering 9-1-1 calls, non-emergent calls for service and general inquiries, these dedicated staff were responsible for dispatching Woodstock Police Service Officers, the Woodstock Fire Department and several fire departments throughout Oxford County.

The Communications Centre is made up of one supervisor, ten full time and six part time call takers/dispatchers, who are responsible for handling the tens of thousands of phone calls from the public each year.

In 2022, WPS implemented a new civilian Communications Supervisor position to oversee the ever changing, fast-paced environment of the Communications Centre.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

Calls for service related to mental health and people in crisis continue to rise for police services. As a means to address these ongoing concerns, the Woodstock Police Service created the Community Engagement Officer position which falls within the Community Response Unit.

The Community Engagement Officer (CEO) is responsible for providing primary assistance and responding when required to calls for service involving those in crisis or suffering from mental illness. They work closely with MHEART (Mental Health Engagement and Response Team) and other community partners, actively participate in the Oxford County Situation Table, deliver crisis intervention training, and provide support and outreach to those in crisis within the community.

Constable Savage was the successful candidate for the new Community Engagement Officer position. He came to the Woodstock Police Service as an experienced officer in August of 2021, with extensive experience in a similar role working with people in crisis and with mental illnesses at the Brantford Police Service.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Each year the Woodstock Police Service partners with a number of local community organizations for a wide variety of community events, engagement programs, and educational opportunities.

With community safety and well-being at the forefront of WPS's policing mission, positive community engagement is an important way to connect with the citizens of Woodstock, while providing accessible personal and community safety and crime prevention education. WPS also utilizes a number of social and traditional media outlets as tools to engage with members of the community and provide important information relating to safety, crime prevention, and ongoing investigations.

In 2022, WPS expanded the Kids & Cops Baseball program that had its inaugural season in 2021. This program provided the means for youth through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County and Oxford County Housing the opportunity for positive interaction with police in a fun environment. A number of WPS members volunteered their time to coach and teach the fundamentals of baseball to over 50 Woodstock youth. These youth also had the opportunity to travel to London, Ontario to practice their skills with and/or play in an All-Star Game against the London Police Service's Rookie League teams.



Blood Donor Drive



Smile Cookie Decorating

AUXILIARY



The WPS Auxiliary Unit started the year off with 13 dedicated volunteers. The Unit welcomed nine new members in 2022 while four retired, leaving the compliment at a strength of **18 members by the end of the year.**



Auxiliary members assist the police service by volunteering their time to attend community events, partake in ride-alongs with officers, and assist with traffic control and road closures for a number of events (ie. parades, Terry Fox Run, etc.)

In 2022, the WPS Auxiliary Unit contributed a **total of 2755 hours** of their time to patrol, training, and 33 different community events over the course of 58 days.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE

The Woodstock Police Service received funding through the Victim Support Grant allowing for police to partner with local agencies to provide education and awareness around human trafficking.

In partnership with Domestic Abuse Services Oxford (DASO), Victim Assistance Services of Oxford County (VASOC) and United Way Oxford, WPS hosted a one day educational human trafficking workshop to local professionals and service providers.

As both a survivor and policy expert, Kimberly Mull was hired to bring an empowered voice to the discussion on human trafficking at the Elm Hurst Inn on Thursday, November 3rd, 2022.

Kimberly shared her story, provided valuable information and used activities to reinforce the important information she was sharing.



BUDGET

Category of Expenditure	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	Variance
Personnel Costs	16,425,831	16,373,995.67	51,835.33
Police Services Board	101,671	77,625.01	24,045.99
Administrative Expenses	2,966,687	3,187,235.33	(220,548.33)
Purchased Services	73,900	134,086.55	60,186.55
Building Maintenance and Utilities	331,000	363,353.85	(32,353.85)
Fleet	308,900	339,782.22	(30,882.22)
Total Expenditures	20,207,989	20,476,078.63	268,089.63
Revenues	2,699,899	3,240,317.18	540,418.18
Net Budget Allocation	17,508,090	17,235,761.45	272,328.55



COMPLAINTS

	2022	2021
Total Chief's Complaints	3	1
Total Public Complaints	10	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct • Service • Policy 	8 2 0	11 2 0
Allegations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incivility/Insubordination • Neglect of Duty • Discreditable Conduct • Excessive/Unnecessary Use of Force • Unlawful/Unnecessary Exercise of Authority • Unsatisfactory Work Performance • Other Service Complaints 	1 1 6 1 1 0 1	0 1 10 0 2 0 0
Resolutions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deemed frivolous, vexatious, bad faith, outdated or not affected by the Office of the Independent Review Director • Informal Resolution without a hearing • Withdrawn by Complainant • Unsubstantiated Through Investigation • Police Service Act Hearing • Lost Jurisdiction • Early Resolution 	2 1 2 2 0 0 2	7 1 2 2 0 0 0

**STAY CONNECTED
WITH WPS**

WOODSTOCK POLICE SERVICE



519-537-2323
519-421-2800
(administration line)



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Woodstock, ON
N4S 1E1



woodstockpolice.ca

Social Media Accounts



[@woodstockpolice](https://www.facebook.com/woodstockpolice)



[@woodstockpoliceservice](https://www.instagram.com/woodstockpoliceservice)



[@woodstock_ps](https://twitter.com/woodstock_ps)