

# Woodstock 2023 Police Service ANNUAL Service REPORT

PROFESSIONALISM  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
EXCELLENCE  
TEAMWORK  
INTEGRITY

WOODSTOCK





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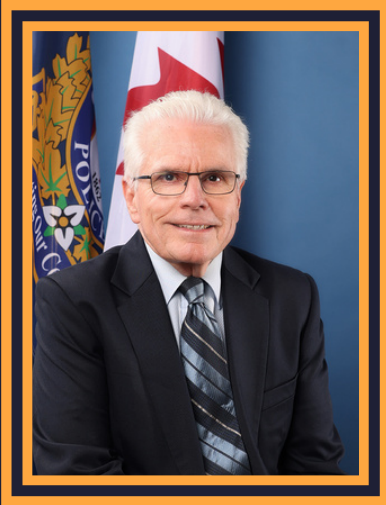
**Prepared & Graphic Design by:** Community Service Officer.  
For the online version of this report, visit [www.woodstockpolice.ca](http://www.woodstockpolice.ca).

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As we reflect on 2023, it was a year of significant change and progress for the Woodstock Police Service. The dedication and resilience demonstrated by our team in navigating these changes have been truly commendable.

I want to express my deep gratitude for the common sense of purpose that has been established among the Board members. Our collaborative efforts have strengthened our collective purpose and mission. This year, Board members took full advantage of numerous educational opportunities, preparing diligently for the enactment of the Community Safety and Policing Act, which will come into effect in the Spring of 2024. This proactive approach ensures that we are well-equipped to continue serving our community under the new legislative framework.

In the fall, we were pleased to welcome Kristin Barnim to the part-time position of Executive Assistant to the Board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Amy Hartley for her excellent service and contribution to the Board starting in October 2020.

In 2023, the Service welcomed Inspector of Operations Jamie Taylor, who joined us on April 2nd with 22 years of experience from the Stratford Police Service. His expertise and leadership have already made a positive impact. Additionally, we were pleased to welcome three new recruits from the Ontario Police College, a significant step forward in our ongoing commitment to personnel growth and development among our uniform members.

This year also brought with it profound loss. On July 3rd, 2023, our dedicated police service dog, Taz, was tragically killed in the line of duty. A procession and memorial service was held on August 1st to honor Taz's service, attended by police personnel from across the province, friends, and family. Taz's contribution to our Service and community will never be forgotten.

Throughout the year, the Service and the Board have worked closely together to implement our Strategic Plan for 2023-2026. The strategic priorities we established—improving community safety, fostering a culture of collaboration and engagement with the community, and enhancing organizational excellence—will guide us as we continue to strive for excellence in all we do.

In closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our civilian, sworn, and auxiliary members. Your dedication and hard work not only drive our success but also inspire confidence and trust within our community.

Ken Whiteford  
Board Chair, Woodstock Police Service Board

# FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



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

The year saw officers dispatched to over 20,000 occurrences, as they investigated crimes, engaged in crime prevention initiatives, assisted victims of crime, and collaborated with stakeholders and citizens. I am continually grateful for our members' commitment and dedication to addressing crime and enhancing citizen safety in our community.

I want to thank the members of the Woodstock Police Service Board for their continued guidance, governance, and oversight. Their work, on behalf of all Woodstock residents, is vital to ensuring effective service delivery that promotes public safety in our city.

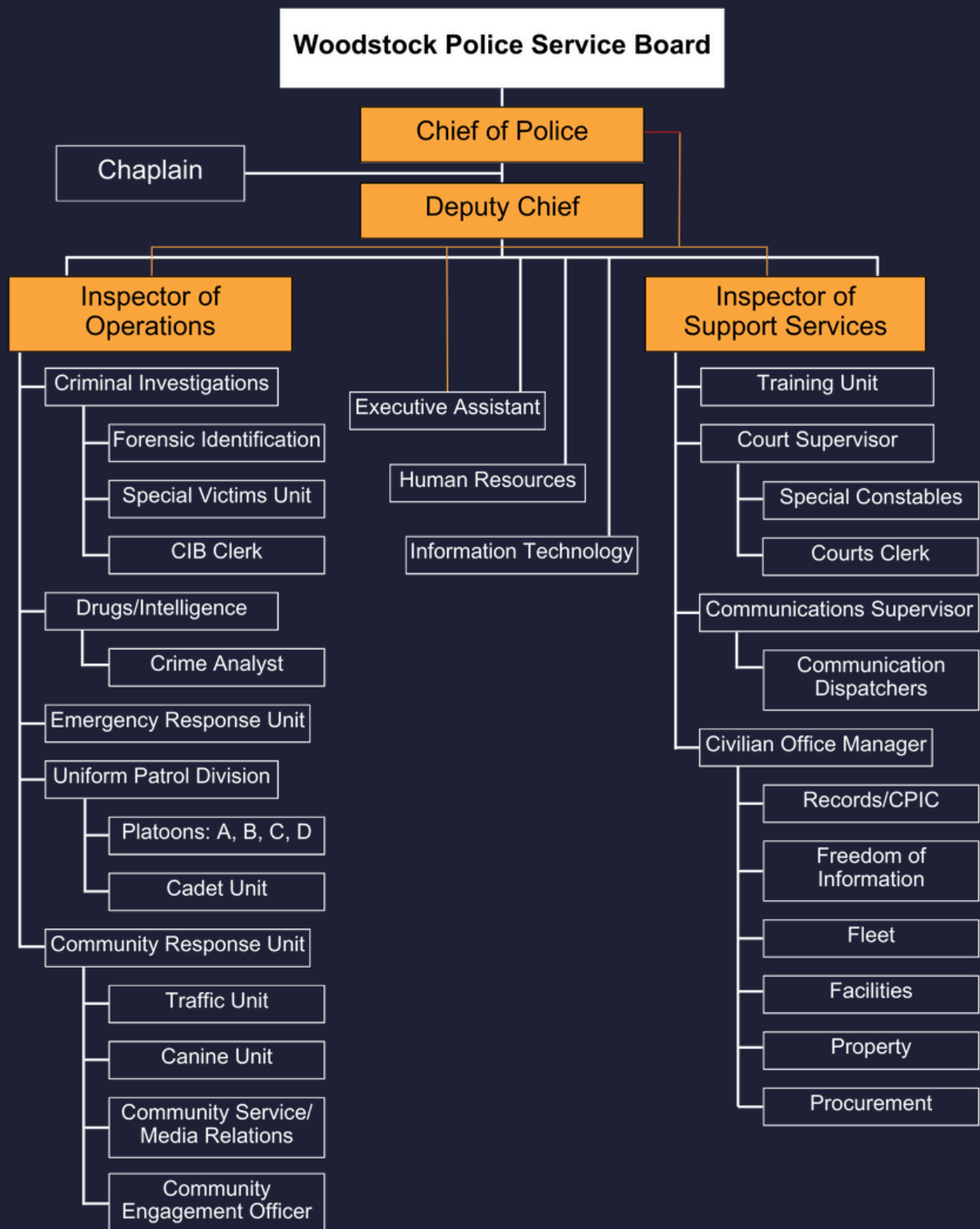
Lastly, thank you for taking the time to read this report, for sharing your insights and opinions about policing and safety, and for your ongoing contributions to community wellbeing. By working together, we can continue to build Woodstock into a safer and stronger community for all.



Rod Wilkinson  
Chief of Police, Woodstock Police Service

# FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE





# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART









**Ken Whiteford**  
Board Chair  
Provincial Appointee



**Leslie Farrell**  
Board Member  
Provincial Appointee



**Daryl Stevenson**  
Board Member  
Community Appointee



**Connie Lauder**  
Board Member  
Council  
Representative



**Jerry Acchione**  
Board Member  
Council  
Representative

# POLICE SERVICE BOARD





**Rod Wilkinson**  
Chief of Police



**Nick Novacich**  
Deputy Chief

**Heidi Becks**  
Inspector of  
Support Services



**Jamie Taylor**  
Inspector of  
Operations



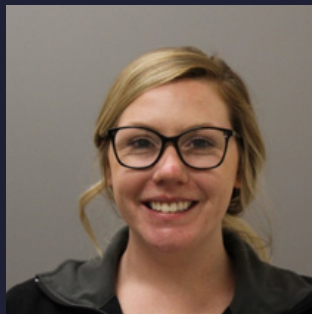
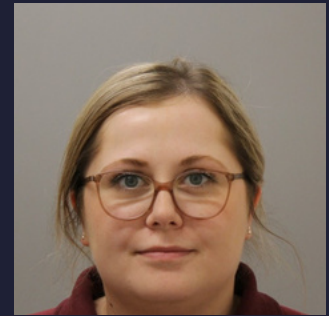
## SENIOR COMMAND

In 2023, the Woodstock Police Service welcomed 17 new members to the WPS family. Four of these new members are experienced police officers who joined us from Stratford Police Service, Brantford Police Service, and Hamilton Police Service.

WPS hired three recruits, two cadets, five part-time dispatchers, two part-time special constables, and one part-time records clerk.

Additionally, WPS hosted two summer students through the Youth In Policing Initiative program. These students spent the summer learning about careers in policing and working with our Community Service Unit.

While we welcomed 17 new members in 2023, three members retired, and eight members resigned to explore new life and career opportunities.



# WPS FAMILY



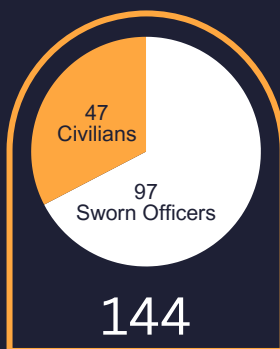


## 2023 Promotions

- One detective was promoted to Detective Sergeant.
- Two cadets were promoted to recruit, then eventually constable after attending the Ontario Police College (OPC) Basic Constable Training course.
- One part time clerk was promoted to a full time clerk position.
- One full time officer pursued a new career, but returned as a part time officer.
- One officer took a secondment as an instructor at OPC.
- One part time officer became a full time officer.
- Two part time communications dispatchers became full time.



Estimated  
Population Served



WPS Members



Freedom of  
Information Requests



Record Checks  
Processed

# WPS FAMILY

21,527



calls for service

3180



total charges laid

1529



total arrests

691



crimes of violence

2225



property crimes

69



criminal driving offences

736



other reported crimes

22



child exploitation  
charges

143



CDSA charges

547



provincial offences

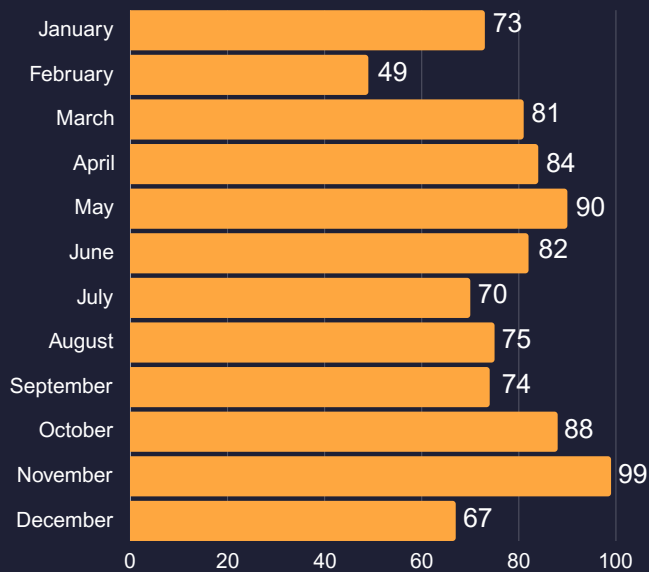
50



CDSA arrests



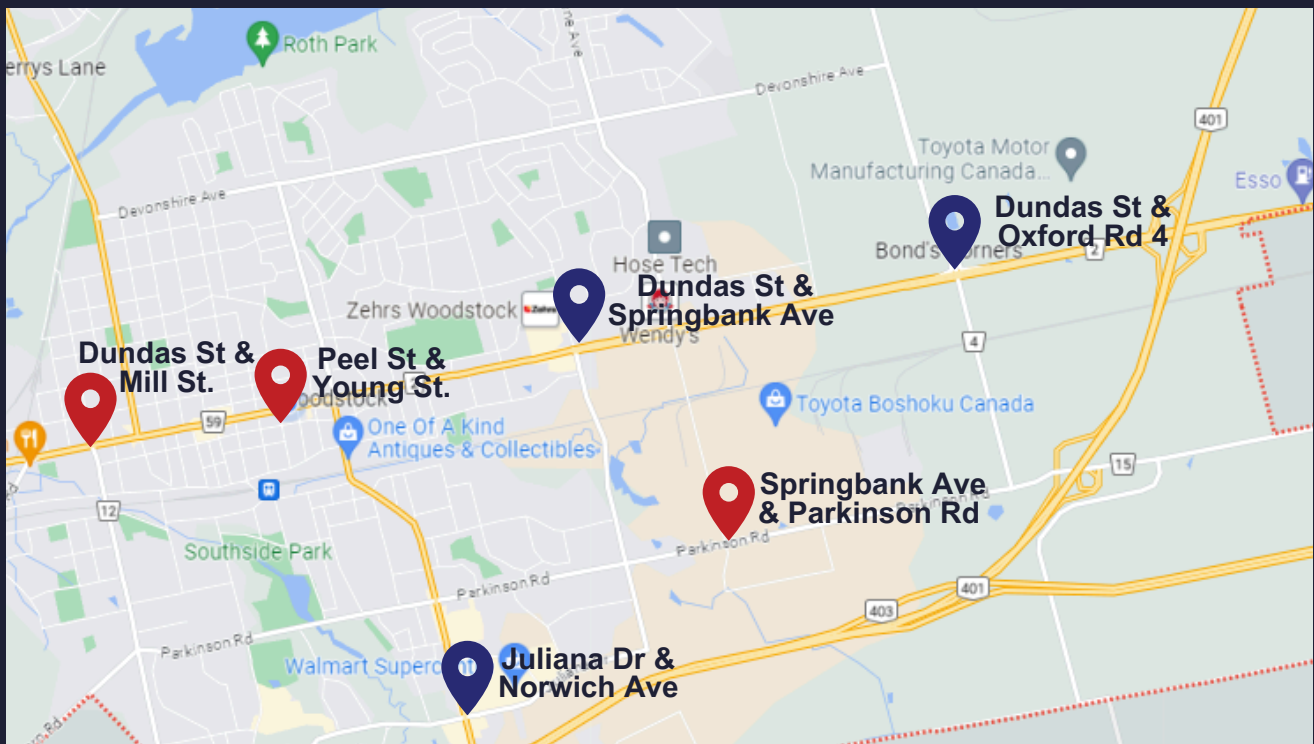
# CRIME STATISTICS



Types of Collisions	2023	2022	2021
Involving Drugs &/or Alcohol	12	15	12
Involving Cyclists	10	11	11
Involving Pedestrians	20	11	10
Involving Fail to Remain	147	117	114
Total Collisions	930	873	721

82% of the total collisions in 2023 took place when the environmental conditions were clear and 76% had dry road conditions.

The plot points on the map below represent intersections with the highest number of collisions in 2023. The blue plot points indicate these intersections were among those with the highest collision rates in 2022 as well.



## COLLISION STATISTICS









In early 2023, the Woodstock Police Service acquired a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS or drone) to assist officers in a variety of investigations. Six Woodstock Police Service officers are trained to operate and deploy the RPAS.

The RPAS was officially deployed for the first time in an investigative capacity in March 2023. It was utilized on 83 occasions throughout the year for a range of investigations, training and community service engagements, including; missing person calls, break and enters, stolen vehicles, weapons calls, drug offences, arsons, impaired driver collisions, memorial service parade in honour of PSD Taz and mock disaster scenarios.

Within the first year, the RPAS demonstrated its value by capturing overhead video and images of scenes that could be used as evidence, and providing a bird's eye view to assist in search for missing people and outstanding suspects.

Investigative	Training	Community Service	Assisting Other Agency	Total
41	37	4	1	83

## REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM



As street drugs become increasingly toxic and prevalent, the Woodstock Police Service Drug Enforcement & Criminal Intelligence Unit (Drugs & Intel Unit) works diligently to combat drug trafficking in the City of Woodstock.

The Drugs & Intel Unit authored **29 warrants** that contributed to drug trafficking investigations in 2023. In the same year, **66 charges under the Controlled Drugs & Substances Act (CDSA)** and **35 charges under the Criminal Code of Canada (CCC)**, were laid by the Unit. They seized a **total street value of \$2,201,970 worth of drugs**, including fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine from the streets of Woodstock. Additionally, the unit seized a number of weapons, property, and currency as proceeds of crime.



*Pictured are some of the weapons and drugs seized in the investigation detailed below.*

In late September 2023, the Woodstock Police Service investigated a suspicious vehicle report that lead to one of the most significant seizure of the year. A combined **28 charges against two individuals** were laid including several related to drug trafficking and firearms.

During this investigation, police seized varying amounts of **fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine and LSD (acid)**. Additionally, a number of weapons including a loaded sawed off semi-automatic rifle, airsoft replica handgun, cattle prod, knives, axes and a baseball bat were all seized.

## DRUG ENFORCEMENT & CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE









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; a 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, Detective, etc. as their primary function.

In 2023 the ERU had 12 active members, seven training days, responded to seven call outs and were deployed in a number of different capacities. Additionally, members of the ERU were used while on duty for a number of critical incidents that resolved prior to the full team being deployed.

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 Canine Unit, Negotiators, Incident Command, Training Unit, Communications, Media Relations, Scribes, etc. in both training and real life scenarios to ensure community safety efficiently.

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT



The Woodstock Police Service currently has **one full time** Forensic Identification (Ident) Officer. The Ident Officer is responsible for the day to day operations of the Forensic Identification Section (FIS). Supporting the FIS are **15 Scenes of Crime Officers** (SOCO) who collect and photograph items requiring further examination and processing.

Additionally, Special Constables in the court security and cadet roles are trained in the collection of DNA samples from those convicted of criminal offences.

In 2023, the unit:

- Executed 84 DNA orders for the National DNA Data Bank.
- Fingerprinted 375 people for Pardons, Employment, Immigration and Vulnerable Sector checks.
- Fingerprinted 656 individuals for criminal charges.
- Conducted 10 3D scans of crime scenes.

# FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION









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.

## TRAINING UNIT



The Community Response Unit (CRU) is a dedicated team of officers focused on proactive policing measures to address the community's needs and concerns.

The unit is comprised of one sergeant and three constables. The CRU Sergeant oversees the CRU constables, Traffic Unit, Canine Unit, Community Engagement Officer and Community Service Officer.

CRU prioritizes policing initiatives and targeted enforcement based on community concerns, crime trends and identified hot spots within the city. This unit also conducts daily foot patrol in the downtown core to increase police presence and deter crime. Members of CRU actively engage with downtown business owners and their staff to collaboratively address their safety concerns, ongoing issues in the area or crime they witness.

Additionally, CRU assists Uniform Patrol, Drugs & Intel and ERU to execute warrants, assist in investigations or manage the volume of calls for service.



## COMMUNITY RESPONSE UNIT



The Woodstock Police Service conducts a number of traffic initiatives throughout the year. Some initiatives involve partnering with other WPS units and outside agencies, such as: the Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Finance, City of Woodstock By-Law Officers and various other police services, including Oxford OPP.

WPS has an officer qualified as a 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 including RADAR and LiDAR.

Some initiatives the Traffic Unit focuses on includes:

- 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

## TRAFFIC UNIT







The Canine (K9) Unit spends a significant amount of time training and honing the skill of WPS's Police Service Dogs (PSDs) to ensure they are prepared to successfully handle dynamic calls for service of varying nature. To keep their skills sharp, the WPS K9 Unit dedicates time training with the K9 Units of other partnering police services, including: London Police Service, St. Thomas Police Service, Stratford Police Service and Strathroy Caradoc Police Service.

The K9 Unit maintains a busy schedule that includes training, tracking people, searching for evidence, executing warrants, working with ERU, Community Service and the Traffic Unit.



Drug  
Detection



Community  
Service



Firearm  
Detection



Ammunition  
Detection



Currency  
Detection

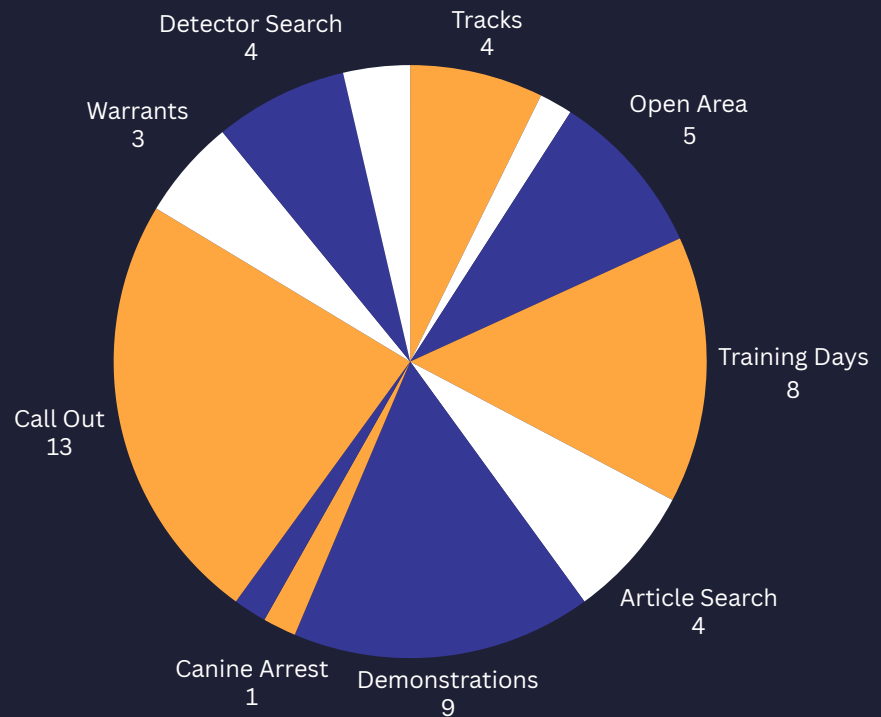


Person  
Detection

### PSD Taz



### PSD Striker



# CANINE UNIT





*Click the image to view the memorial video.*

On July 5th, 2023 the Woodstock Police Service publicly announced the line of duty death of Police Service Dog Taz.

The WPS K9 Unit responded to a request for assistance by the Stratford Police Service with a drug related investigation Monday, July 3, 2023. While conducting a search, PSD Taz and PSD Striker both appeared to ingest drugs. Narcan was administered and both Police Service Dogs were rushed to a Veterinarian Clinic. PSD Taz did not recover and died in the line of duty. PSD Striker remained at the clinic under observation, but was released a few days later and was able to make a full recovery.

PSD Taz joined the Woodstock Police Service K9 Unit and began his training in 2021 and was officially deployed in 2022. He was young but respected throughout the K9 community, as he had developed into an outstanding detection dog. In his short but successful career, PSD Taz, assisted with a number of arrests, drugs and weapons investigations, missing persons investigations and community service engagements.

PSD Taz was well loved and cared for. He is greatly missed by his family, the entire Woodstock Police Service, his K9 friends and all of the groomers, vets and therapists who worked closely with him.

On August 1, 2023 a memorial service was held at the Community Complex where approximately 70 K9 teams from various police services walked, while community members lined the streets of the parade route in honour of PSD Taz.

## PSD TAZ MEMORIAL









*Click the image to view the informative MHEART video.*

Calls for service related to mental health and individuals in crisis are continuing to rise for police services across the country.

The Community Engagement Officer (CEO) role was created specifically to address mental health calls for service. The CEO is responsible for providing primary assistance and responding to calls involving individuals in crisis or suffering from mental illness. The CEO collaborates closely with the Mental Health Engagement and Response Team (MHEART) and the Community Response Unit (CRU). MHEART, a team of crisis clinicians from the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), responds to mental health-related calls alongside the CEO or other available officers to offer support and community referrals.

Additionally, the CEO and MHEART work with community partners at the Oxford County Situation Table to connect those at acute risk with various community agencies for support and resources. Follow-up check-ins and outreach by the CEO and MHEART are part of the preventative actions offered to the community.

The CEO possesses extensive knowledge in mental health, heads the Negotiators team, and facilitates crisis intervention training for staff members of WPS, other police services, and organizations.

## MENTAL HEALTH



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.

In 2023, the Community Service Officer (CSO) hosted two students for the Youth In Policing Initiative summer student program. These two youth were provided the unique opportunity to learn more about policing from behind the scenes and developing leadership and life skills through various community engagements. They were tasked with volunteering at local organizations including the YMCA and Operation Sharing and also coordinating a food drive for the local food bank and a fundraiser for the charity of their choice.

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. The CSO is responsible for managing and maintaining these platforms and ensuring the public is updated with accurate information.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE







The Woodstock Police Service Communications Centre is a Primary Public Safety Answering Point. This means all 9-1-1 calls made within Oxford County are routed through and answered by 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, Oxford County Paramedic Services, other county fire departments, etc.).

In addition to answering 9-1-1 calls, non-emergent calls for service and general inquiries, these dedicated staff were responsible for dispatching calls for service to the Woodstock Police Service and the Woodstock Fire Department. In some larger services, call takers and dispatchers have separate roles and responsibilities. At the WPS, Communicators work as a cohesive team while managing both call taking and dispatching responsibilities.

The Communications Centre is made up of one supervisor, ten full time and six part time call communicators, who are responsible for handling the tens of thousands of phone calls from the public each year. Three communicators manage dayshift calls, while two manage night shift, with a third covering a busier portion of the night shift and breaks.



## COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE



The WPS Auxiliary Unit is made up of a compliment of 13 dedicated local volunteers that work along side WPS officers to ensure the safety and well-being of the community. They partake in regular training to ensure they can support officers in a variety of situations and volunteer thousands of hours each year.

Auxiliary members volunteer at various events throughout the year such as:

- Major city events (Canada Day, etc)
- Parades (Victoria Day, Santa Claus, etc.)
- Summer Programming (Kids & Cops Baseball, Day Camp, etc)
- Fill A Cruiser Food Drives
- Touch-a-truck events
- Walks/runs for a cause (Hike for Hospice, Terry Fox Run, etc.) & more!

Auxiliary members also assist officers with patrolling the community by going on ride alongs and assisting in investigations such as searching for missing people.

In 2023, the WPS Auxiliary Unit contributed a total of 2130 hours of their time to patrol, training, and community events with a majority of the events taking place between April - September.



## AUXILIARY UNIT







Category of Expenditure	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	Variance
Personnel Costs	\$18,144,080	\$18,103,626	\$40,454
Police Service Board	\$102,428	\$104,607	(\$2,179)
Administrative Expenses	\$3,517,607	\$4,551,575	(\$1,033,968)
Grant Expenses	\$97,800	\$97,629	\$171
Building Maintenance and Utilities	\$354,876	\$308,641	\$46,235
Fleet	\$306,448	\$303,014	\$3,434
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$22,523,239</b>	<b>\$23,469,094</b>	<b>(\$945,855)</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>(\$3,092,329)</b>	<b>(\$4,678,541)</b>	<b>\$1,586,212</b>
<b>Net Budget Allocation</b>	<b>\$19,430,910</b>	<b>\$18,790,553</b>	<b>\$640,357</b>

**WOODSTOCK  
POLICE**



**ANNUAL BUDGET**



	2023	2022	2021
<b>Total Chief's Complaints</b>	0	3	1
<b>Total Public Complaints</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>
• Conduct	5	8	11
• Service	4	2	2
• Policy	4	0	0
<b>Allegations</b>			
• Incivility/Insubordination	1	1	0
• Neglect of Duty	1	1	1
• Discreditable Conduct	0	6	10
• Excessive/Unnecessary Use of Force	3	1	0
• Unlawful/Unnecessary Exercise of Authority	1	1	2
• Unsatisfactory Work Performance	1	0	0
• Other Service Complaints	4	1	0
<b>Resolutions</b>			
• Deemed frivolous, vexatious, bad faith, outdated or not affected by the Office of the Independent Review Director	5	2	7
• Informal Resolution without a hearing	0	1	1
• Withdrawn by Complainant	3	2	2
• Unsubstantiated Through Investigation	2	2	2
• Police Service Act Hearing	0	0	0
• Lost Jurisdiction	3	0	0
• Early Resolution	0	2	0

# COMPLAINTS





615 Dundas St.  
Woodstock, ON  
N4S 1E1



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



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