

# 2016

ANNUAL REPORT



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE





## *Mission Statement*

**The Niagara Regional Police Service is dedicated to serving and protecting residents and visitors within the Regional Municipality of Niagara.  
In partnership with the community, we shall provide quality policing services with integrity, diligence and sensitivity.**

Members of the Niagara Regional Police Service believe...

- In pursuing excellence in every circumstance;
- In being fair and unbiased in the performance of duties in accordance with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms;
- In treating all victims of crime with compassion and understanding;
- In maintaining professional standards of conduct at all times;
- In being approachable, courteous and open to all;
- In developing creative solutions to policing concerns, through community oriented policing;
- In striving to be active participants and leaders in the community; and,
- In providing a professional satisfying work environment that respects employees' rights and encourages personal and professional growth.





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## Message from Bob Gale, Chair of the Niagara Police Services Board

On behalf of the Niagara Police Services Board, I am pleased to introduce the 2016 Annual Report of the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS).

The year 2016 marked a very special and historic event in the history of the Service with the completion of the new Police Headquarters and 2 District building. This 215,000 square foot critical public infrastructure facility is now home to approximately 600 members of the NRPS. It is a modern 'purpose-built' facility that will serve the public professionally and efficiently now and in the future.

There were a number of significant achievements to report on this past year.

A critical piece of work completed was the development of the 2016-2018 Business Plan for the Service in collaboration with police members and the community. It includes priorities identified by NRPS members and the community, as well as organizational priorities to find greater operational efficiencies and cost savings; formulate strategies for business sustainability; improve communications, information management and community engagement; enhance service delivery to youth, vulnerable persons, victims and people in crisis; and foster safer communities throughout Niagara.

The Board released a new Licensing By-law for the regulation of Transportation Networking Companies that ensures drivers and vehicles in both ride sharing and taxi industries are safe and properly insured. The new by-law maintains public and driver safety and provides consumer protection for public vehicle transportation services.

To demonstrate the Board's commitment to accountable, transparent and open governance, the Board enhanced its meeting schedule to hold at least two 'off-site' meetings a year. It is a Board responsibility to represent the public interest on matters of policing and to ensure community concerns are addressed in the policies adopted by the Board for the effective and adequate delivery of police services, and in planning for the future. By moving our Board meetings throughout the Region, the Board forges new partnerships with local Mayors, Councillors and Citizens and becomes more accessible and better connected to different communities in Niagara.

The Board also looked at shared services opportunities and the potential for greater collaboration between Police Services to reduce costs and improve services. Moving forward, we will continue to work with our policing partners to explore opportunities of working together to achieve greater efficiency.

The Board worked throughout 2016 to fulfill its obligations under the Police Services Act of ensuring adequate and effective police services, providing good governance and strategic direction for the Police Service. This is an important time in policing. The provincial legislation governing policing is under review for the first time in over 25 years, providing a unique opportunity for change that will result in enhanced community safety and well-being. Much consultation and work took place in 2016 and we look forward to seeing new provincial legislation by the end of 2017.

I want to thank each member of the Board for their dedication and contributions. I was encouraged to Chair such a committed Board and I am proud of our achievements to date. I would like to conclude by thanking our sworn and civilian members who continue to serve our community, day and night, with dedication, compassion, integrity and courage. Together we will continue to develop pro-active solutions that will improve policing services, prevent crime, and enhance the safety, security and quality of life for all citizens in Niagara Region.

Sincerely,

Regional Councillor Bob Gale  
Chair, Niagara Police Services Board



Provincial Appointee  
Kenneth A.W. Gansel  
Vice-Chair



Regional Councillor  
David Barrick  
Member



Provincial Appointee  
Terry Bonham  
Member



Regional Chair  
Alan Caslin  
Member



Provincial Appointee  
Bob Marshall  
Member



Provincial Appointee  
Vaughn Stewart  
Member



Deb Reid  
Executive Director





Message from the Chief of Police  
**Jeff McGuire, M.O.M.**

As Chief of Police I am proud to present the Service's 2016 Annual Report to the people we serve. Through the sharing of the information in this report it is my hope that residents will feel confident that members of this fine Service work diligently to ensure that Niagara remains a safe community to reside in

and a preferred destination for tourists to visit.

2016 was an exciting year for the Service as we moved headquarters and #2 District into our new and long awaited Police Headquarters in Niagara Falls. This building has been designed in a manner that will provide a suitable and efficient workspace for approximately 600 of our 1000 strong members. In the process we vacated five other buildings that were in use by the Service in 2016.

I personally want to thank Deputy Chief Joe Matthews, Inspector Richard Frayne, Detective Sergeant Tara Henderson and civilian member Mr. Chris Fisher for their tireless dedication to the new headquarters project over the last three years. Their hard work throughout various phases of this project ensured that our new headquarters facility would be completed in a timely manner.

Many civilian and sworn members retired from the Service in 2016 after many years of professional service. With their loss we are also able to benefit from a deep pool of experienced and skilled members to continue the work that they were so dedicated to throughout their careers.

In 2016 Niagara continued to see a reduction in fatal and life threatening injury collisions. Through a combination of enforcement, education and working with our community partners addressing engineering concerns. Our annual "Back To School" initiative continues to be successful and well received by the residents of our community.



We also saw a reduction in violent and property-related crimes. In 2016 we also had two large-scale investigations in 2016 that resulted in multiple arrests. One investigation dubbed "Project Icarus", in partnership with the R.C.M.P., O.P.P. Biker Enforcement Unit, Hamilton Police Service's Serious and Organized Crime Unit and the Halton Police, lead to the arrest of many Hells Angels' members and their Associates on cocaine and firearms charges. A second major investigation dubbed "Project Iceberg" into an alleged child abuse case resulted in 76 criminal charges and the arrest of 5 accused persons.

Since becoming Niagara Regional Police Service's Chief of Police of Police in 2012 I have unwaveringly felt a great deal of pride in the daily work of our members across the Service. The men and women of this Service have a strong commitment to public safety, and positively and effectively work with our community stakeholders across the Region and beyond.

As always, I continue to urge you and all of my employees to *"Have a little fun every day"* as we work together for public safety.

Sincerely,

*Jeff McGuire, M.O.M.*  
 Chief of Police



**Joe Matthews, M.O.M.**  
 Deputy Chief of Police  
 Support Services



**Bryan MacCulloch**  
 Deputy Chief of Police  
 Operational Services



**W. George Bench**  
 Superintendent  
 Executive Services



**Brett Flynn**  
 Superintendent  
 Emergency & Investigative  
 Services



**Scott McLean**  
 Superintendent  
 Operational Support



**Des Carter**  
 Superintendent  
 District Operations

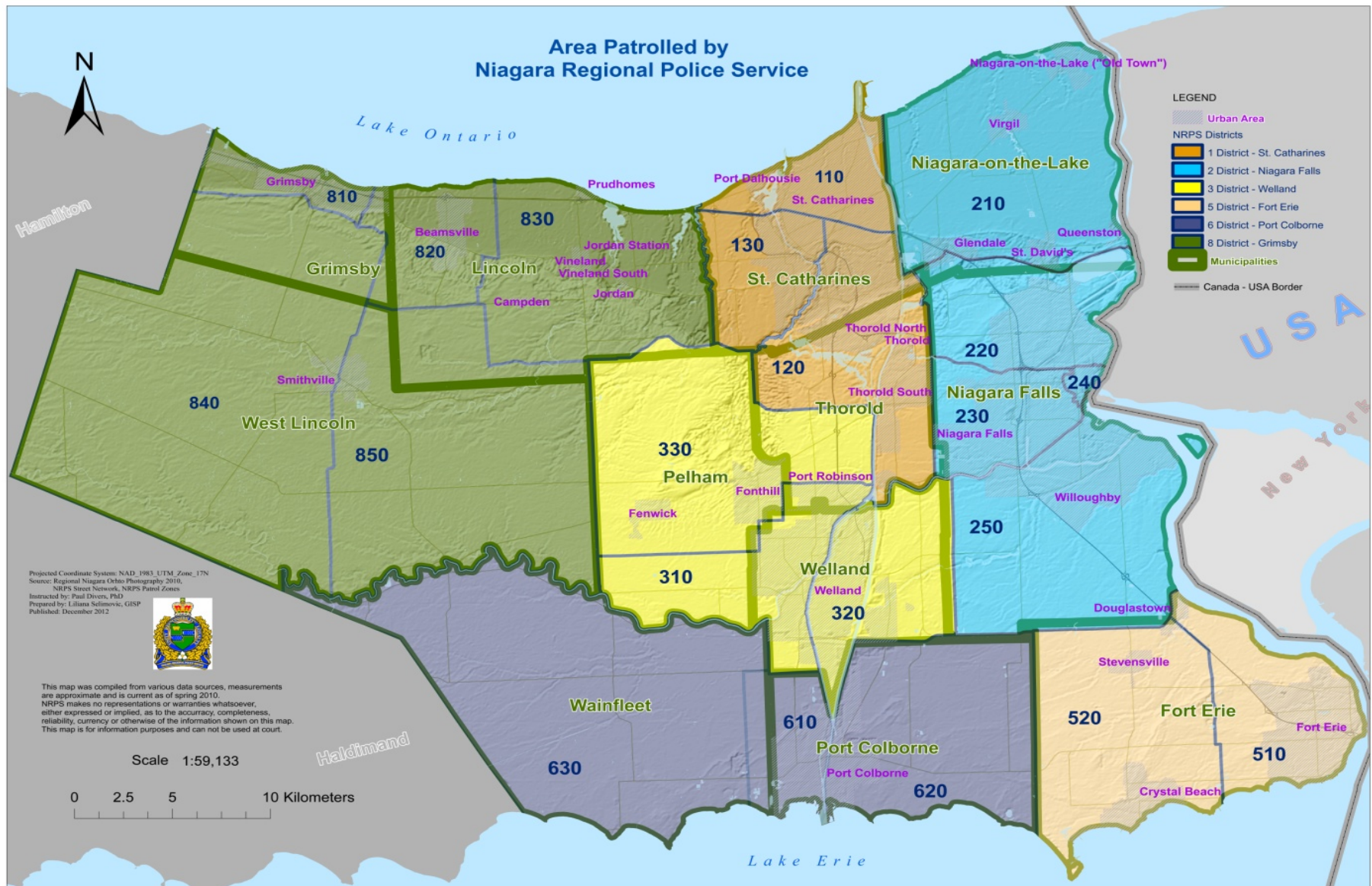


**Akram Askoul**  
 Director  
 Information & Communication  
 Technology



**sa DiDonato-DeChellis**  
 Director  
 Business Services





# Region of Niagara

## Calls for Service

The Communications Unit is a stand-alone secure centre staffed 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Its complement includes a Staff Sergeant, 4 civilian Supervisors, a Quality Assurance and Accreditation Supervisor, 12 - 911 Operators, 44 Communicators / Dispatchers, and a Training Coordinator. The Centre is extensively supported by radio, telephone and computer technology with back-up systems. The Service also maintains a back-up centre to ensure continuity of service delivery in case of the need to evacuate our primary operations centre.

### Calls for Service by Month

January	8,383
February	8,005
March	8,695
April	8,837
May	10,054
June	10,679
July	11,315
August	11,078
September	10,248
October	10,139
November	9,375
December	9,113
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,921</b>

On January 29, 2016 the Police Services Board formally approved the purchase and implementation of a structured call taking system, and a quality assurance / quality improvement program for the Service's Communications Centre. This structured call taking and quality assurance program has resulted in Communicators knowing exactly what the NRPS expects and how to fulfill those expectations. The NRPS knows that each incident receives the same standard of service, regardless of who answers the call. Members ask the right questions and give the right instructions, even for situations they have never encountered before, every time.

Calls for service are generated from calls received from the public and/or information received from officers in the course of their duties. These numbers do not represent police workload as they do not portray other duties such as traffic safety and

enforcement, proactive policing, nor do they reflect the seriousness of incident and length of time on a call/investigation.

### Calls for Service across Policing Districts

District 1 St. Catharines Thorold	District 2 Niagara Falls NOTL Casino	District 3 Welland Pelham	District 5 Fort Erie	District 6 Port Colborne Wainfleet	District 8 Grimsby Lincoln W. Lincoln
44,958	32,831	16,584	7,059	5,704	8,785
<b>Calls for Service per Police Officer in 2016</b>					
416.2	293.1	345.5	196.1	203.7	244.0







DANGER  
DUE TO  
OVERHEAD  
WIRES



POLICE

POLICE





## Community Patrol & Problem-Oriented Policing in Niagara

Problem-Oriented Policing focuses on actively solving problems in the community rather than merely responding to incidents. This approach views incidents as symptoms of larger complex problems. Police Officers act as community team leaders in identifying problems that negatively affect quality of life, and work through the community as a whole to find and apply appropriate solutions.

Problem-oriented policing includes such initiatives as drug investigations, foot patrol, conducting targeted Highway Traffic Act enforcement, monitoring liquor establishments and illegal taxi operations, as well as by-law enforcement regarding noise and nuisance complaints.

Other projects are undertaken within our communities to address specific local issues as required. Such programs can involve

community partners including representatives of municipal governments, as well as other enforcement agencies such as the Alcohol and Gaming Commission, Municipal By-law Enforcement and Fire Prevention authorities.

Local community patrol and problem-oriented policing initiatives and partnerships across districts in 2016 include:

- **"Centennial Park Project"** – This initiative was planned and implemented as a shared cost project between the City of St. Catharines and the Community Policing Office of #1 District. Uniformed Officers worked along with the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team Mental Health Workers. They conduct foot patrols through the park and adjacent streets to address mental health issues as well as drug and alcohol issues. The patrols occurred during the early evening hours between May and October. Community leaders have expressed their appreciation after observing positive changes in the area since the start of this project.
- **"St. Patrick's' Day"** – This initiative was planned and implemented as a cost sharing project between Brock University Off-Campus housing and the Community Policing Office of #1 District. Uniformed officers working throughout the day identified houses of concern in the south end of St. Catharines and Thorold. Police officers continued to conduct checks throughout the late night hours before moving into the Downtown Core. The initiative was positively received by students, business owners, politicians and home owners who resided in the affected neighborhoods. As a result, there were no serious incidents reported to police during the 2016 St. Patrick's Day celebrations.



- **"South-end Noise Patrol"** – This initiative was developed as a shared cost project between Brock University Off-Campus housing and the Community Policing Office of #1 District. This annual initiative coincides with the return of University students who live in residential neighborhoods in south St. Catharines and Thorold. Uniformed officers respond to house parties and noise complaints where underage drinking is often problematic. The initiative dictates there will be a zero tolerance policy and the necessary enforcement is applied. Residents in the affected areas have been supportive of police presence during this time.
- **"Canada Day Celebration"** – This event takes place annually in Lakeside Park in Port Dalhousie, which attracts thousands of people. This is a cost sharing initiative between the City of St. Catharines and the Community Policing Office of #1 District. Additional uniform officers are present in the park and adjacent streets to ensure liquor licence compliance as well as public safety in and around the harbor and beach areas. The officers' presence reduces the risk of damage to public and personal property. Uniform officers also assist with traffic gridlock which commonly occurs at the end of the day. This initiative is well received by the Parks and Recreation committee and business owners in this popular tourist area.
- **"Project Impact"** – This program brings teenaged youth and officers together to play sports. It is a partnership between the District School Board of Niagara and the Niagara Regional Police Service. The initiative has proven to be beneficial for youths at risk and shall continue during the school year into 2017.
- **"Project Good Morning"** – This was an initiative which utilized uniform Bicycle Officers targeting areas within the Downtown Core of St. Catharines, as well as Montebello Park. Officers were deployed between 06:00-12:00 hours from May to September and focused their attention on persons who were aggressively soliciting members of the public. Persons found to be in contravention of the Safe Streets Act, the Trespass to Property Act or the St. Catharines Nuisance By-Law was served with the appropriate notice. This initiative proved to be very effective and was well received by the Downtown Business Association.
- **"Targeting HTA Offenders"** – This was an initiative running from May to September during which uniform officers were focused on driver education and awareness. Although the initiative encompassed all offences, the main focus was speed enforcement and the blocking of intersections during red lights. The initiative operated during peak traffic periods in and around school zones and high collision intersections. The result appears to have proven successful and will continue during 2017.
- **"Project Downtown Bars"** – This community safety initiative focused on elements of education, voluntary compliance, and if necessary, legal action taken against licensed establishments in St. Catharines and Thorold that do not adopt set out security procedures and nor install and maintain security surveillance and recording equipment. The initiative involved a partnership between the Niagara Regional Police, the O.P.P., the St. Catharines Fire Prevention, and the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario. Throughout the summer months inspections of downtown bars identified a number of security related

issues relating to lack of CCTV cameras and security guard licensing and uniforms. Bar owners and operators were receptive to the safety initiative.

- **"Project Roadhouse"** was a one day joint initiative where police, fire and the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario conducted liquor checks at fifteen licensed establishments. These particular bars were selected, as there had been repeated calls for service to the NRPS. The calls involved suspected drug activity, previous non-compliance with Liquor License regulations and places that were frequented by known criminals and criminal associates. Although no charges were laid by the NRPS, the project was successful, as substantial fines were issued by partner agencies for various infractions. Police issued verbal warnings and cautioned one establishment regarding drug use and gambling, where there were insufficient grounds to lay charges. This business has since been shut down. All agencies agreed that this joint venture was very productive and are interested in participating in future projects.
- **"Project Buckle Up"** was conducted when additional manpower was available in April and May. Officers performed spot checks focusing on seatbelt law infractions. There were four seatbelt tickets issued and two warnings given.
- **"Project Shutdown"** is a joint forces project with a goal to reduce the number of stolen vehicle occurrences and reduce the number of vehicle apprehension pursuits. In September of 2016, one NRP officer participated in this project. NRP involvement in this project has ended.

- **"Biker Gang Enforcement"** is an initiative that was commenced in December 2016. The purpose is to update and maintain the intelligence data base on organized crime groups within the Niagara Region, by increasing the involvement, abilities and knowledge base of uniform officers. As this project is in its infancy, no statistics are available at the time of this report.
- **"ATV Patrol Initiative"** – #3 District once again financially partnered with St. Lawrence Seaway Management and City of Welland to patrol numerous areas and recreational trails in Welland. This was done using all-terrain vehicles and was based on complaints received from residents living near the trails around Welland and on Seaway property. Twelve Provincial Offence Notices were issued for Trespass to Property and rider education was conducted. Officers also reported positive community response to the initiative.







- **"Project Conform"** is a continuing initiative which was originally created to check that individuals charged with criminal offences comply with their release orders and conditions. This program has been very successful and utilizes both uniform and detectives.
- The **"Friendship Trail"** runs from the Old Fort westwards to #6 District police station. Regular ATV patrols on this trail and recreational trails increases police visibility in these areas and is recognized as a crime prevention initiative ensuring the safe use of these pathways for everyone. This initiative also serves in enforcing compliance of the Off Road Vehicles Act and Motorized Snow Vehicles Act in what is becoming a popular off road vehicle recreational area.
- **"Beach Day"** concentrated on organized plans by high school students to skip school on Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> and attend various beach locations around the Niagara Region. These events are not sanctioned by the School Board, nor are they

supervised by school staff. In an effort to ensure public safety and order, members of the Niagara Regional Police Service were assigned to monitor these gatherings. A zero tolerance approach by police of inappropriate behavior, trespassing, alcohol possession or consumption resulted in a positive day for both students and area residents. The success of this day was directly attributable to joint cooperation of Town of Fort Erie Parks and Recreational Staff, police and neighboring residents.

- **"Project Cottage Check"** – Through the use of ATV's and cruisers, officers performed regular patrols in areas where cottages are left vacant throughout the winter months. This proactive strategy was designed to address and reduce break and enters to cottages which are vacant during the winter season. Officers conducting these patrols found that the initiative continues to be well received by the residents.
- **"East Village Policing"** – As the result of citizen complaints, 6 District Uniform officers and 3 District Street Crime Detectives continued to perform proactive and reactive policing and investigations in the area known as the "East Village". This on-going initiative resulted in the arrests of several offenders and continues to be active. Communication between police and residents of the East Village, regular meetings between the police and the East Village Community Task Force, and dialogue between police and the Office of the Mayor of Port Colborne assist to identify and mitigate community concerns. An increase in officer visibility occurred in this area, as well as the adjacent downtown core of Port Colborne, utilizing officers on foot patrol and bicycle patrol in addition to traditional method of cruiser deployment.

- **"Port Colborne Community Safety Committee and the Wainfleet Community Safety Committee"** – The 6 District Commander participates as a member of these committees, meeting on a monthly basis, to discuss community safety issues and coordinate the Community Safety Day which was held on May 28, 2016. The Community Safety Day was a success with members of the community, particularly youth, taking part in various presentations designed to increase their awareness of safe practices. NRPS provided an officer to interact with visitors at the Port Colborne event and operated a youth bicycle rodeo at the Wainfleet event. These events received positive feedback from the community and media.
- **"38th Annual Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival"** – The annual Port Colborne Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival occurs annually on the Civic Holiday in August and continues to bring large crowds to the City of Port Colborne. A large contingent of police officers continues to be deployed at the event to maintain a safe and enjoyable event for the local residents and festival participants. This assignment includes officers who are assigned to foot patrols in and around the festival, as well as, officers stationed at intersections to ensure the safe and orderly movement of pedestrians and vehicles. Officers from the Niagara Regional Police Marine Unit are deployed to the local waterways including Lake Erie to provide an enforcement and safety aspect to watercraft enjoying the festival.
- **"Project Big Wheel"** was conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Transportation. #8 District members conducted focused enforcement of commercial trucks operating in the area in order to ensure they were properly maintained,

equipped and in compliance with the Highway Traffic Act. A total of 44 commercial trucks were inspected. Eight vehicles were taken out of service and 19 Provincial Offence Notices were issued.

- **"Project P.A.R. – Promoting Awareness and Responsibility."** In July and August of 2016, police, fire, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario and the Tobacco Enforcement Unit inspected licensed establishments in Grimsby and Lincoln. A total of 18 locations were checked. Ten charges were laid under the Liquor Licence Act, two under the Smoke Free Ontario Act and 28 municipal fire code violations were addressed.
- **"Project Exotic Cars"** – This resulted from knowledge that a company based in Stoney Creek was guiding a convoy of high end exotic cars through 8 District. This was being conducted three to four times a week and they were often speeding and driving aggressively.



## Crimes against Persons (select incidents)

Select Incidents	2015 Incidents	2016 Incidents	Cleared By Charge	Cleared Otherwise <sup>1</sup>
Murder – 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	3	--	--	--
Murder – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	--	--	--	--
Manslaughter	4	1	1	--
Criminal Negligence Cause Death	1	--	--	--
Murder – Attempt	--	3	4	--
Sexual Assault – Aggravated	1	1	--	--
Sexual Assault – Weapons/Bodily Harm	4	7	5	--
Sexual Assault	259	229	24	25
Sexual Interference	6	39	24	1
Invitation To Sexual Touching	6	4	3	2
Sexual Exploitation	5	4	4	--
Lure Child Via Computer	11	10	10	--
Assault – Aggravated	29	31	28	--
Assault – Weapon or Cause Bodily Harm	336	354	255	24
Assault – Minor Harm	954	957	533	211
Assault – Police/Peace Officer	69	77	70	6
Criminal Negligence Cause Bodily Harm	1	1	1	--
Assault – Other	7	12	11	--
Forcible Confinement or Kidnapping	20	17	16	--
Robbery	156	141	79	1
Arson	2	8	7	--
Extortion	11	23	4	1
Intimidate Justice System	1	3	3	--
Criminal Harassment/Stalking	129	101	46	22
Threats – Person Death/Harm	286	189	75	56
Harassing Phone Calls	201	160	18	59
<b>Total Crimes Against Persons (All Incidents)</b>	<b>2,540</b>	<b>2,414</b>		

Percent Change 2015-2016 - ↓ 4.9 Percent

**CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS**

<sup>1</sup> Incidents can be "cleared otherwise" if police identify a suspect but do not have enough evidence to support the laying of a charge. Other incidents include cases of diplomatic immunity, instances where the complainant declines to proceed with charges against the accused, or cases where the alleged offender dies before he or she can be formally charged.



## Crimes Against Property Incidents

Select Property Incidents	2015 Incidents	2016 Incidents	Cleared by Charge	Cleared Otherwise
Arson	78	84	6	--
Break & Enter	1,895	1,691	1514	57
Theft Over \$5,000	106	98	12	4
Shoplifting Over \$5,000	9	8	1	4
Theft Under \$5,000	5,480	5,252	520	656
Theft of Motor Vehicle	687	726	61	32
Theft from Motor Vehicle Over \$5,000	22	33	--	--
Theft from Motor Vehicle Under \$5,000	1,973	1,589	32	29
Shoplifting Under \$5,000	1,139	1,228	375	466
Shoplifting Over \$5,000	9	8	1	4
Possession Stolen Property	126	92	73	13
Fraud	1,150	1,304	258	84
Fraud – Identity Theft	23	82	6	--
Fraud – Identity Fraud	198	241	14	5
Mischief	1,855	1,751	144	153
Mischief to Religious Property	3	2	--	--
<b>Total Crimes Against Property (All Incidents in 2015 and 2016)</b>	<b>11,613</b>	<b>11,370</b>		
<b>Percent Change 2015-2016 -↓ 2.86 Percent</b>				

## Other Criminal Code Violations (select incidents)

Incident	2015 Incidents	2016 Incidents	Cleared	Cleared Otherwise
Prostitution	6	8	8	--
Prostitution – Bawdy House	1	--	--	--
Prostitution – <18 Years Living of the Avails	--	--	--	--
Prostitution – Procuring	--	--	--	--
Prostitution – Other	--	--	--	--
Explosives – Possess	--	--	--	--
Weapons – Possess	57	82	52	24
Unsafe Storage of Firearms	--	4	1	2
Weapons Possession Contrary to Order	2	5	5	--
Importing or Exporting of Weapons	3	2	1	--
Fail to Comply	549	634	578	43
Counterfeit Money	15	18	14	4
Cause Disturbance	22	24	12	12
Escape Custody	--	1	1	--
Indecent Act	76	92	22	14
Child Pornography	24	21	2	4
Corrupting Morals	1	--	--	--
Obstruct Resist Peace Officer	48	37	27	10
Unlawfully at Large	28	26	26	--
Breach of Probation – Adult Only	349	549	526	16
Utter Threats – Property/Animal	15	7	--	1
Public Order – Offence Against	12	11	11	--
Attempts, Conspiracies, Accessories	8	12	10	--
<b>Total Other Criminal Code Violations (All incidents)</b>	<b>1,746</b>	<b>2,107</b>		

Percent Change 2015-2016 -  21 Percent<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 2016 saw a dramatic change in weapons related offences and breach of probation.

## Controlled Drug and Substance Act Incidents

Select Controlled Drug and Substance Act (CDSA) Incidents	2015 Incidents	2016 Incidents	Cleared by Charge	Cleared Otherwise
Possession – Heroin	5	9	5	4
Possession – Cocaine	48	64	53	10
Possession – Cannabis	208	138	20	117
Possession – Crystal Methamphetamine (Crystal Meth)	31	32	28	8
Possession – Ecstasy	10	--	--	--
Trafficking – Heroin	13	13	12	--
Trafficking – Cocaine	91	67	72	--
Trafficking – Other CDSA	35	32	30	2
Trafficking – Cannabis	37	46	23	11
Trafficking – Crystal Methamphetamine (Crystal Meth)	28	17	16	1
Import Produce – Heroin	1	--	--	--
Import Produce – Cocaine	6	8	2	--
Import Produce – Other CDSA	5	5	2	--
Import Produce – Cannabis	12	10	--	1
Production – Cannabis	15	18	7	8
<b>Total Controlled Drug and Substance Act (All Incidents)</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>491</b>		

Percent Change 2015-2016 ↓ 15.4 Percent





## Engaging Youth in Niagara

In 2012 the Niagara Regional Police Service launched a new unit called the Corporate Communications and Community Engagement Unit which was developed to centralize community policing and engagement. This new unit was closely aligned to the Ministry's and Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) Mobilization and Engagement Model of Community Policing. With the creation of this unit seven School Resource Officers (SROs) were assigned to the CCCE with the mandate to patrol all the local high schools in the Niagara Region. In 2016 a Ministry directed review of our Protocol with the four school boards was completed. The Niagara Regional Police Service has developed a strong relationship with the District School Board of Niagara, Niagara Catholic District School Board, Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud and Conseil scolaire Viamonde.



School Resource Officer (SRO) activities for the 2016 calendar year include:

- a) Occurrences - 402
- b) Follow-ups - 408
- c) Cleared calls for service - 554
- d) Provincial Offence Notices - 102
- e) Provincial Offence Summons - 14
- f) Computer Assisted Dispatch Calls - 844
- g) Arrests - 57
- h) Criminal Charges - 54
- i) Calls cleared Non-reportable - 126
- j) Calls cleared Report to Follow - 463

For the summer of 2016 the School Resource Officers were re-deployed to the Marine Unit to conduct general patrol duties in parts of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, the Niagara River and other water sanctuaries within or bordering the Niagara Region. Working with the Marine Unit the SROs provided enforcement of the marine and navigation laws as well Criminal Code, Controlled Drug and Substances Act and Liquor Licence Act offences.

### Community Partnerships

The Niagara Regional Police Service endeavors to optimize relationships with community partners to improve service delivery to youth, victims, vulnerable persons and at-risk persons. The 2016-2018 Business Plan highlights this goal through working without community stakeholders and partners to address the needs of the youth of the Niagara Region. Our community partners include the following:

- Contact Niagara
- Port Cares Youth Justice Committee
- Family and Children Services ( FACS)
- Pathstone Mental Health

- Ministry of Children & Youth Services – Youth Justice Services
- Youth Resources Niagara
- TAPP – C ( The Arson Prevention Program for children )
- Niagara Threat Assessment Protocol

**Cop Shop:** On December 7, 2016 the 9th Annual Cop Shop event in partnership with the Pen Centre in St Catharines. Forty eight at-risk student’s ages 6 to 12 years from every grade school from St. Catharines and Thorold. Each student received a \$200 gift card from the Pen Centre to go shopping with their school officer shopping partners. This event which is a highlight for many police officers created high police visibility while encouraging local students to build valued relationships with members of the Niagara Regional Police, Ontario Provincial Police, Niagara Parks Police and CN Police.

**ProAction Cops & Kids Niagara Chapter** was officially on February 15, 2015. The Niagara Chapter council worked hard to fundraise for programs that involve officers and youth engagement. The Niagara Chapter council held its First Annual Chief’s Gala in 2016. It was a huge success in promoting the ProAction vision and raising funds to make the local programs a reality. ProAction Cops & Kids programs establish a positive relationship between cops and kids who are at risk.

The following are a few programs that were made possible by Proaction Cops & Kids in 2016:

**Camp MEDEBA** is a program in which youths from all the local high schools attend a leadership development camp. The SROs

partnered with the local school boards on May 9, 10, 11 for an opportunity to learn new skills at Camp Medeba. A total of 50 (male and female from each school) attended the camp which provided them with an opportunity to develop leadership, communication, trust, co-operation and team building skills. Each day was filled with rope climbing events, team building exercises, zip lining and camp fires. It provided a good setting for police and youth to make connections and build bridges of trust and understanding. The event involved nine (8) officers from the Service’s Corporate Communications and Community Engagement Unit with an additional four (4) volunteer front-line officers.



**Students Rock** is the evolution of the Music Not Mischief program with a truly Niagara flavour. Students Rock partners students, the police and the community where volunteer police mentors give guitar lessons to local kids. Students learn to play in a safe environment and, at the end of the initiative, they showcase their



talents in a stage performance with a local rock band. 2016 was the second year that Niagara held the competition, but the first under the Students Rock name and 13 students from across the Niagara Region worked with their police mentors for the guitar competition which was held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the ScotiaBank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls.

**Student Inter-School Film Festival:** In 2016 the Niagara Regional Police Service hosted the annual "Students Inter-School Film Festival" at Landmark Cinemas in the City of St. Catharines twice – once in February and once in December. The reason for the two events was to distribute our student events more evenly across the year. The theme for the February Festival was on 'Teen Suicide' and the theme for the December Festival focused on 'Buzzed driving is Impaired Driving'. Over 20 teams of high school students from

across the Niagara Region created Public Service Announcement videos for each event. A panel of celebrity judges scored each entry based on creativity, quality and ability to convey the message of distracted driving. The winning videos were featured on CHCH Tv.

The Student Inter-School Film Festivals allow students groups to partner with a police officer mentor to while they develop and create their public service announcement.

**Niagara Life Skills Culinary Program:**

A great example of collaboration between the Niagara Regional Police Service and our community agencies is the Niagara Life Skills Culinary Program. In the spring of 2016 NRPS members partnered with Youth Resources Niagara to run a program for teens that taught them important food handling and preparation skills which was again supported by ProAction Cops & Kids. Over six weeks officers met with the teens in their residential group home to prepare and share a meal with them. Nothing is as effective in building relationships as preparing and sharing a meal and this was evident as each week more teens connected with officers.



**Extrajudicial Measures Program**

The Niagara Regional Police Service relies upon the services of community partners such as John Howard Society, Family and



Children Services, Community Addiction Services, Port Cares, Youth Resources Niagara and Contact Niagara to provide not only extra judicial programs but also for assistance regarding all youth related concerns. Our partnerships allow for extra judicial measures that not only provide accountability for criminal acts but also provide support for the youth involved. The following is a summary of extrajudicial measures used in 2016:

- a) Community Addiction Services - **0**
- b) John Howard Society - **10**
- c) Niagara Native Centre - **0**
- d) Pathstone Mental Health - **2**
- e) Youth Justice Committee - **69**
- f) Youth Resources Niagara - **8**

Other youth focused community partners include: The Raft, Nightlite Shelter, Port Cares, FACS, Pathstone, Youth Probation and Parole and John Howard Society "Project Rewind. These continued relationships help build on community safety through information sharing. The establishment of these community partnerships has benefited the Niagara Regional Police Service's efforts to increase police visibility and crime prevention throughout the Niagara Region.

In 2016 six School Resource Officers patrolled all the high schools in the Region. The impact of police officers being fully involved in the local high school communities has led to a decrease in the number of criminal charges laid against young persons. SROs and school administrators are increasingly more proactive in engaging students to identify and address issues before they become criminal offences. Their efforts, coupled with the efforts of

the EJM referral agencies suggests that this downward trend in the number of youths being charged criminally will only continue. The effective and positive relationships established between the Niagara Regional Police Service, the school boards and partner agencies continue to yield positive results.





## Child Abuse

The current authorized strength of the Child Abuse Unit is ten (6) Detective Constables, supervised by one (1) Detective Sergeant. Six (6) members of the Unit are responsible for the investigation of all sexual offences against children under the age of sixteen (16) years, as well as incidents of physical abuse by a caregiver.

The Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre of Niagara (KFCACN) formally opened on September 16, 2008. The Niagara Regional Police Service supports the concept of a child friendly location where all agencies involved in the investigation of child abuse incidents can carry out their respective responsibilities. Child Abuse Unit investigators attend the Centre on an as-needed basis for the purpose of interviewing child victims of a criminal offence. Interview facilities and office space is provided at the Centre for this purpose. The Niagara Regional Police Service provides partial funding on an annual basis toward the operating costs of the KFCACN.

The Child Abuse Review Team (CART), led by FACS, continues to facilitate a coordinated multi-disciplinary review of child abuse and neglect issues. CART members include the Niagara Regional Police Service, FACS, local school boards, medical staff and mental health officials.

During 2016, the Child Abuse Unit received 308 criminal investigations that fell within the mandate of the Unit. Of note, one investigation in 2016 (**Project ICEBERG**) generated a total of 76 criminal charges for 5 accused persons).

### Comparison across Years, 2014-2016

Incident Clearance Type	2014	2015	2016
<b>Cleared by Charge</b>	105	104	145
<b>Cleared Otherwise</b>	47	165	122
<b>Cleared Unfounded Investigation</b>	90	29	27
<b>Suspended</b>	72	84	123
<b>Ongoing Investigation</b>	---	---	5

Child Abuse Unit investigators are specially trained in child interview techniques and had assisted uniform and other specialty unit investigations with child witness interviews on 36 occasions in 2016.



### **Project ICEBERG**

*Awards Ceremony with Chief McGuire (centre right) and Deputy Chief MacCulloch (centre left)*

**Detective Constable Amanda Sanders, Detective Constable Sarah Rose, Detective Constable Shane Secord, Detective Constable John Butler, Detective Sergeant Brett Atamanyk, Detective Constable Graeme Orr, Detective Constable Michael Pataran, Detective Constable Mike Delano, Detective Constable Jason Vormittag, Betty Deakin, Violent Crime Analyst, Tara Harmsworth, Violent Crime Analyst, and Lucie O'Neil, Violent Crime Analyst**



# Child Pornography Arrest

## Internet Child Exploitation (I.C.E.)

The Child Abuse Unit - Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Section has established a local police response to crimes against children perpetrated via the Internet. In addition to a reactive response to public complaints, investigators will proactively initiate investigations of identified targets, authoring search warrants that are judicially authorized and executed locally. This leads to the identification and arrest of offenders possessing, distributing and making child pornography, and persons who utilize the Internet to lure children into sexual activity.

The Unit continues full-time membership in the *Provincial Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet*, which the NRPS joined in 2007. This initiative has led to a high level of interagency co-operation and successful joint investigations of Internet Child Exploitation throughout the Province, as well as nationally and internationally.

With the assignment of child pornography and luring investigations to three (3) specially trained officers, the Service has

ensured and maintained a consistently high quality specialized response to these types of incidents. All investigations are supervised by the officer-in-charge of the Child Abuse Unit and evaluated to confirm compliance with *Provincial Adequacy Standard Regulation* and General Orders with respect to Child Pornography and related criminal investigations.

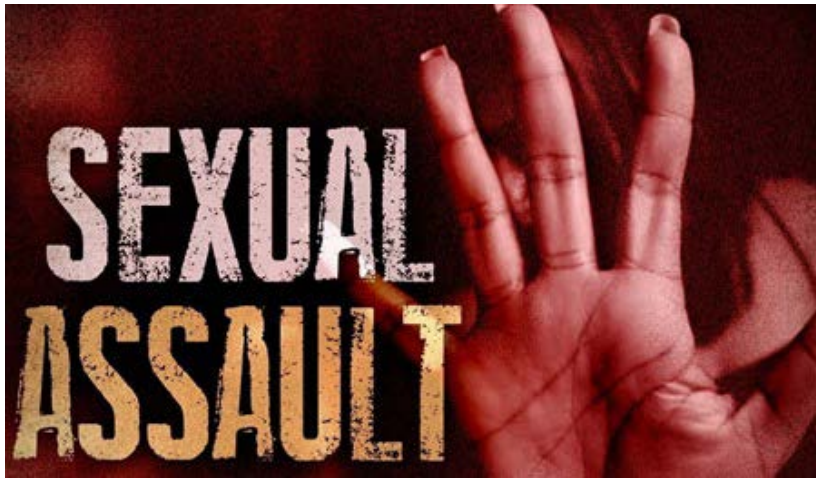
During 2016 I.C.E. Officers investigated 142 cases of Child Pornography and Internet Luring within the Niagara Region. The rise from previous years can be attributed in part to the Units proactive response to protect the safety of children and the rise in reporting by concerned citizens.

The daily subject matter and nature of these investigations can be psychologically and emotionally difficult for the most resilient of investigators. In addition to the regular competitive processes utilized in the selection of ICE investigators, psychological testing is conducted prior to the confirmation of an applicant, and yearly follow-up examinations are conducted to ensure the psychological health and well-being of investigators, in accordance with established recommendations and standards.

Incident	2014	2015	2016
Reported	61	47	142
Arrests	20	20	30
Criminal Charges	59	72	127

I.C.E. Investigations, 2014-2016





## Sexual Assault Unit

The Sexual Assault Unit (SAU) is a centralized Unit that services the entire Niagara Region. This Unit was formed in 1996 as a result of Justice Campbell's Report and is made up of five detectives including a supervisor.

Since 1997 the SAU has worked collaboratively to develop a coordinated Sexual Assault Response Protocol with our community partners. This Protocol has adapted over time and now includes: the Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Treatment Program at the NHS (SADV/TC), the Niagara Regional Sexual Assault Centre (CARSA), the Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP), Victim Services Niagara and the Crown Attorney-Ministry of Attorney General. This partnership has resulted in a consistent, comprehensive and knowledgeable response within our community and represents the 'best practice approach' in responding to these types of incidents.

Members of the Sexual Assault Unit and the Public Education Resource member of CARSA have continued to attend

and present at area high schools with information related to sexual assault, consent and drug facilitated offences. Members of SAU continue to make themselves available for the school presentations and also present to local sports teams and community groups.

In 2016 the Sexual Assault Unit saw an increase in sexual assault incidents being reported compared to 2015. The closure process is evidentiary based following the guidelines from Statistics Canada.

<b>Total Cases Investigated by the Sexual Assault Unit in 2016</b>	
<u>Investigations</u>	<u>Incidents</u>
<b>Cleared by Charge</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Cleared Otherwise</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Unfounded *</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Non CCJS **</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Investigation Suspended ***</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Total Investigated</b>	<b>285</b>

\* The category deemed "Unfounded" deals with a situation where after a thorough police investigation, it is concluded that no violation of the law took place or was attempted. The Service has begun a comprehensive review of all unfounded closed files and will report back to the Command Team to verify the final closure designation on these files.

\*\* The category deemed "Non CCJS" deals with a situation that is not criminal in nature. This type of incident is not able to be used for criminal stats. An example of this includes an "Information" or "Out of Town Occurrence" report.  
comprehensive

\*\*\* The category deemed "Investigation Suspended" deals with a situation where an investigation has been exhausted and little potential exists for solving it, or the victim of the crime has elected to have the investigation terminated. Pending new evidence, this category only ends an investigation, but does not prohibit it from being re-opened in the future.





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## Domestic Violence Unit

The Niagara Regional Police Service has adopted the Attorney General’s directive on instituting a Mandatory Charge Policy in all incidents of “intimate relationship” domestic violence occurrences. Intimate relationships include opposite-sex and same-sex partners. These relationships vary in duration and legal formality, and include current and former dating, common law and married couples.

Criminal Code offences include, but are not limited to homicide, assault, sexual assault, forcible confinement, threatening death or bodily harm, harassment/stalking, abduction, breaches of court orders and property related offences.

The Centralized Domestic Violence Unit and has been in operation since 2012. The Unit consists of twelve Domestic Violence Investigators who are trained in conducting “enhanced domestic violence” investigations. The Unit’s mandate is to assist and assume responsibility from front-line uniform personnel of all domestic violence incidents where there are grounds to proceed with criminal charges. Domestic Violence Investigators ensure

resources are available to uniform officers. This includes increased monitoring and reviewing all reported domestic and family violence cases, as well as a closer working relationship with the Domestic Violence Crown Attorneys and Victim Witness Assistance.

### Domestic Related Charges in 2016

<b>Domestic/Family Related Calls for Service</b>	<b>12,882</b>
<b>Domestic/Family Related Reports</b>	<b>10,918</b>
<b>Non-criminal Reports</b>	<b>9,522</b>
<b>Domestic Violence Criminal Investigations</b>	<b>1,369</b>
<b>Domestic Violence Criminal Investigations – Charges Laid</b>	<b>666</b>
Uniform/All Other Units	110
Domestic Violence Unit	556
<b>Domestic Violence Criminal Investigations – No Charges</b>	<b>703</b>
Uniform/All Other Units	597
Domestic Violence Unit	106

Offence Type	Investigations
<b>Assault (Simple)</b>	<b>409</b>
<b>Assault (Cause Bodily Harm)</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Breach of Probation</b>	<b>194</b>
<b>Breach of Recognizance</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>Criminal Harassment</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Forcible Confinement</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Harassing Communication</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Mischief</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Sexual Assault (Simple)</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Utter Threats</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Weapons/Firearms</b>	<b>12</b>



The Domestic Violence Unit continues to work collaboratively with Family and Children’s Services, Nova House, Gillian’s Place, Serenity House, the Coalition Ending Violence Against Women, Victim Services Niagara, Victim Witness Assistance Program, Probation and Parole, Crown Attorney’s and other appropriate community agencies.

## Elder Abuse



Due to an organizational change in 2012, Elder Abuse cases are being investigated by four separate units within the Service. The Centralized Fraud Unit investigates the financial abuse of seniors. The Domestic Violence Unit investigates domestic violence involving seniors. District Detective Offices investigate missing persons and physical abuse of seniors while the COAST Unit assists with the mental health and well-being of seniors through referrals from community agencies. The Behavioural Supports Ontario Community Outreach Team works with COAST to assist seniors who have cognitive impairments that can result in responsive behaviours such as wandering, exit seeking, verbal/physical agitation and repetitive actions. The BSO team staff offer services in crisis intervention, practical support and outreach, education, advocacy and coordination of services.

**Mobile Tracking Emergency Response System – MTERS:** As a result of the dissolution of the DVERS program, the Niagara Regional Police Service, Victim Services Niagara and Eyez-On Corporation have worked collaboratively to provide personal alarms for individuals who are deemed at “high risk” for violent victimization. MTERS is a GPS enabled mobile alarm system that is an intervention strategy to enhance the safety of individuals. The mobile tracking device is equipped with a panic button on the mobile alarm victim’s location is pin-pointed and police are dispatched to the victim’s

location. The MTERS program has been in service for the past year and has provided a number of clients with enhanced personal safety.

## Crisis Outreach and Support Team – COAST

COAST serves the community of the Niagara Region by completing Mental Status Examinations and Risk Assessments for those persons with mental health concerns who are in crisis. The COAST mobile team will meet with these individuals and when appropriate their families, to provide support, obtain information, and assess the individual’s current stressors, coping strategies, needs and risk.

The COAST Unit consists of two (2) full time, plain clothes police officers and four (4) Mental Health Workers (Nurses and Social Workers). There are two teams which include one police officer and one mental health worker on duty from 10:00am to 10:00pm, Monday through Saturday, with coverage from 12:00pm to 8:00pm on Sundays. A designated phone service is available for the diversion of non-priority calls involving mental health issues and clients. It is the goal of COAST to assist persons with mental health concerns who are in crisis in a manner that diverts from hospitalization and the criminal justice system. COAST served approximately 3,204 clients in 2016.

**COAST Referrals in 2016**

Referral Source	No. of Referrals
Police	2,216
Client/Family	922
Physician	9
Hospital	9
Community Agency	48





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## Traffic Enforcement Unit

In 2016 the Special Enforcement Unit ("S.E.U.") officially changed its name to the Traffic Enforcement Unit ("T.E.U."). The Unit is comprised of an authorized strength of four Sergeants and 16 Constables. Through a re-organization traffic administration a new administrative Staff Sergeant and an administrative Sergeant position were created. Each of these officers are dedicated to developing and implementing various traffic initiatives in problem areas throughout the region as well as leading and participating in joint forces enforcement operations.

This year the Traffic Enforcement Unit entered the world of social media with the development of the Twitter account "NRPS Road Safety". The Traffic Unit is now able to generate social media content to drive engagement and increase public awareness by providing them with updates in legislation, safe responsible driving tips and notification of current events and projects.

In 2016 the T.E.U. once again continued its commitment to traffic and enforcement initiatives throughout the Niagara Region. During the week of May 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, T.E.U. participated in the Annual Canada Road Safety Week which covers the Victoria Day long weekend. This enforcement-driven initiative is designed to increase public compliance with awareness of safe driving measures and, ultimately, save lives. This year the campaign targeted impaired drivers, distracted driving and speeding.

An important role of the Traffic Enforcement Unit is to address specific Highway Traffic Act matters, including locations associated to serious motor vehicle collisions. T.E.U. officers support the Service's goal of reducing serious personal injury and fatal collisions and it became apparent that attention needed to be directed to the area of Moyer Rd. in Welland. As a result of this enforcement, over 150 tickets were issued to motorists, with the



majority of them travelling well in excess of the posted speed limit, including three drivers who were charged with stunting and two drivers who were arrested for impaired driving.

On Tuesday, September 6, 2016, the Niagara Regional Police Service conducted its 16<sup>th</sup> annual back to school traffic safety and awareness day. The project coincides with the return to school for most of the Regions' school children. In addition to the usual speed and distracted driving enforcement, members of the Niagara Regional Police also focused on school bus and crossing guard compliance as a result of newly amended legislation. A total of 65 officers, including Executive Staff, Detectives and officers from several specialty units, assisted with this initiative. Officers stopped over 230 vehicles for various Highway Traffic Act offences, of which 121 Provincial Offence Notices were issued. A total of 11 drivers were charged with driving while operating a hand-held communication device, 7 drivers were issued tickets for failing to stop for school buses and one driver was charged with operating his vehicle with no insurance.

Once again the Niagara Regional Police received grant funding for the 2016/2017 year from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services as part of the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E) program. A total of 18 scheduled R.I.D.E. spot checks were conducted throughout the year with a significant amount of the dates scheduled during the holiday season. This year approximately 6,500 vehicles were stopped and checked, 114 roadside tests were conducted, 21 people had their licences suspended for 3 days or more, 12 people were charged criminally with impaired driving and 107 Provincial Act charges were issued.

T.E.U. officer's administrative duties include the Breath Technician and Drug Recognition programs and were responsible for conducting 546 alcohol-impaired tests and 29 drug-impaired tests across the region. These tests represent an increase of 11 percent and 123 percent respectively. This year we also saw two additional T.E.U. officers complete the three week long Drug Recognition Experts course and are now certified as DRE officers. In addition to the above tests completed, T.E.U. officers issued a total of 4,271 Provincial Offence Notices in 2016.

In addition to education, enforcement, and administrative duties, members of the Traffic Enforcement Unit are also called upon to assist with other matters and projects throughout the region. In 2016, several occasions arose where regional staffing levels could not be met and enforcement officers were called upon to be redeployed to assist with meeting this minimum. Officers also participated in collision investigations, parade escorts, labour disputes, as well as crowd and traffic control when warrants were executed.

In 2016, T.E.U. officers conducted dozens of RADAR and LIDAR initial and requalification courses to assist with bringing officers qualifications up-to-date. Officers also successfully completed courses for shotgun, C8 carbine operators, commercial motor vehicle enforcement, Breath Technician and the earlier mentioned Drug Recognition Expert courses. This year, three officers also attended and successfully completed the Motorcycle Operator's course.

The Traffic Enforcement Unit also received exciting news at the end of 2016, when they were selected to receive money after applying to a Civil Remedies Grant for an Automated Licence Plate Recognition camera system. This three camera system will be mounted to a vehicle in 2017 and will compare every licence plate recognized by the cameras and compare those licence plates with a "Hot List", which is uploaded daily to a server from the MTO and CPIC. This operating system will ultimately alert the officer to licence plate infractions, suspended drivers, stolen vehicles and even vehicles involved in Amber Alerts.





## Collision Reconstruction

Section 29 of the Adequacy Standards Regulation requires that a police services board have a policy on traffic management, traffic law enforcement and road safety. In addition, section 5 (1) (d) requires that police services have technical collision investigation and collision reconstruction investigative supports.

The Niagara Regional Police Service is in compliance with the Adequacy Standards Regulation and has a dedicated Collision Reconstruction Unit. The Collision Reconstruction Unit is comprised of 6 Detective Constables and 1 Detective Sergeant and is mandated to investigate all fatal and serious life threatening motor vehicle collisions that occur within the Region.

Officers assigned to the Collision Reconstruction Unit are technically trained and dedicated investigators, who specialize in the field of collision investigation. Members assigned to the Unit are initially required to complete a minimum of 10 weeks of extensive collision investigation training at either the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Ontario or the Canadian Police College in Ottawa. Beyond their initial training, our collision investigators receive ongoing training to maintain and increase their skill set and expertise.

The six members assigned to the Collision Reconstruction Unit are divided into two teams and are available to respond to incidents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to investigating collisions, members of the Collision Reconstruction Unit also provide support to our Forensic Services Unit and Major Crime Unit by providing forensic mapping services during high profile criminal investigations.

In 2016, the Collision Reconstruction Unit investigated 20 fatal motor vehicle collisions that resulted in the death of 21 people and attended 24 life-threatening injury collisions.

Collision Type	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Fatal Collisions</b>	20	19	16	17	20
<b>MTO Reportable Deaths *</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Non-Reportable Deaths</b>	2	3	2	2	4
<b>Life Threatening Injuries</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>

\* MTO – Ministry of Transportation Ontario. MTO Reportable Deaths are deaths that were directly caused by injuries sustained in a collision. Non-Reportable Deaths are those that were caused by a medical event (e.g., heart attack, aneurysm, etc.) leading to a collision.



## Marine

The Niagara Regional Police Marine Unit continues to provide an effective police presence and response on the navigable waters within the jurisdiction of the service. Mandated by the Police Services Act of Ontario and Provincial Adequacy Standards, the Unit conducts proactive marine enforcement patrols and responds to water-related search and rescue calls throughout their 1,500 square kilometre response area. With one of the largest waterways patrol responsibilities in Canada, the team covers large portions of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie and both the Upper and Lower Niagara River which collectively border the Region on three sides. Vast networks of inland lakes, rivers and hydro canals fall within the Marine Unit's response area along with the Welland Shipping Canal, a critical component to commerce in both Canada and the United States.

The eight-officer unit is trained and equipped to meet the needs of the service and the public in four diverse areas: marine enforcement; tactical support; underwater search and recovery; and front-line uniform patrol. This multidisciplinary model is unique in that the breadth of skill of the officers is beyond that of most police services in Canada. With such a large area of responsibility, the Unit relied on strategic alliances and partnerships with federal and provincial partners to ensure public safety and timely emergency response.

The Marine Unit strives to educate the public in safe boating practices and effectively patrol and enforce the statutes applicable to the waters of Niagara. The team partnered with the Port Weller Canadian Coast Guard, who provided secure docking facilities and assisted with routine vessel maintenance. The Unit participated in joint interdiction efforts with both Canadian (RCMP, Ministry of Natural Resources) and US enforcement partners and supported a variety of special duties which included policing several

unsanctioned, end of high school beach parties along the shores of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie.

Throughout the year, Marine Unit officers took part in 24 community events and attended local public service clubs to educate the public on boating and water safety. During routine marine enforcement patrols, 306 Provincial Offences Notices were issued primarily for failing to comply with safety legislation found within the Canada Shipping Act, Liquor License Act and Highway Traffic Act. The Unit was dispatched to 627 calls for service resulting in 43 search and rescue responses and 35 arrests.

Two officers participated in national maritime security initiatives as contracted or seconded members. One officer supported the RCMP Marine Security Emergency Response Team (MSERT) as a Tactical Rescue Diver on a 24/7 callout basis and a second officer was seconded to the full-time RCMP Marine Security Enforcement Team operating from the Upper Niagara River to as far east as Windsor.

A unique and highly specialized service provided by the Marine Unit in support of the Emergency Task Unit is called the Tactical Support Group (TSG). Marine members provide perimeter containment and a variety of specialized tactical functions including breeching, sniper element, explosives disposal, and rappelling at high-risk incidents such as barricaded gunman calls or drug warrants. The Marine Unit continued developing the recently implemented Waterborne Crisis Intervention Response capability to deal with the rising number of persons in crisis calls at, near or in the water. In 2016, new Marine members successfully completed the Crisis Negotiators Course to advance their skills in crisis negotiating and de-escalating tactics. Marine members supported 30 tactical operations calls in 2016.







## Canine



The Canine Unit is a full time unit consisting of one Sergeant and six Constables. The Unit maintains seven general purpose police dogs all of which are cross trained in narcotics detection. In 2016, the Unit also had two dedicated explosives detection dogs. The Canine Unit provides support to front-line officers and investigators and maintained 100% night-shift coverage last year.

In 2016 the Canine Unit completed spring and fall re-certification training for 20 dog teams from Ontario and New York State. 2016 also saw the Unit complete Basic Canine Courses in the spring and fall for a total of eight dog teams for the Niagara Regional Police Service, Kawartha Lakes Police Service, Hamilton Police Service, Buffalo New York Police Department and the Amherst New York Police Department.

Calls for Service	
<b>Calls for Police Service Canines</b>	1,313
<b>Number of Times Canines Deployed</b>	642
<b>Non-Canine Calls</b>	558
<b>Canine Successes</b>	126
<b>Arrests</b>	106
<b>Support Apprehensions</b>	87

Breakdown of Calls	
<b>Calls for Patrol Dogs</b>	580
<i>Tracks</i>	417
<i>Open Searches</i>	42
<i>Building Searches</i>	75
<i>Article Searches</i>	46
<b>Calls for Narcotics Detection</b>	55
<b>Calls for Explosives Detection</b>	7





## Underwater Search and Recovery Unit

The NRPS Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU) provides the Niagara Region with a highly trained service capable of extending almost all aspects of the police function underwater on a 24-hour a day, 365 days a year basis. Duties of the USRU include assisting police investigators with the recovery of vehicles, vessels, aircraft, weapons, bodies and a variety of evidence that has found its way underwater by criminal or accidental means. The Unit supports the Explosive Disposal Unit with the recovery and render safe of underwater ordnance, marine markers and explosive devices. A USRU member responded to two explosives disposal incidents that resulted in the arrest of two subjects. In an effort to protect the public and the Regions critical infrastructures, USRU members are certified in CBRNE, harbour searching, ship hull inspection, and explosives' recognition.

The USRU was required to perform 29 dive operations within the Region during the 2016 calendar year and participated in three homicide cases in Waterloo Region. The NRPS USRU has provided contracted diving services for the Waterloo Regional Police since 1998.

### 2016 Activities

- 6 - body recoveries (concluded two missing persons cases)
- 3 - skeletal remains recoveries
- 3 - Waterloo Regional Police homicide investigations (seven days – 3 victims)
- 11 - vehicle recoveries
- 2 - IED render safe calls (support EDU)
- 1 - vessel recovery

## Explosives Disposal Unit

The Explosives Disposal Unit is trained and equipped to render safe improvised chemical, biological, radiological and explosive devices (CBRNE), military ordnance and provides technical support to the Emergency Task Unit. Additionally, the EDU provides specialized investigative support to other units and consults and educates Service and Community Organizations in matters relating to explosives and bomb threat procedures. In 2016 the EDU responded to 32 events and participated in 7 community functions.

The Unit consists of six part-time members who are certified by the Canadian Police College in bomb disposal, electronics, explosive forced entry and post blast investigation. Members participate in monthly local training and attend out of service courses and workshops for advanced and recertification training. In 2016 each Explosives Technician participated in an average of 25 days of training, practicing and building their individual and the Unit skill set toward the effective, efficient and timely resolution of incidents.

To ensure a high level of readiness, the unit holds active membership in a number of domestic and international associations, where information and training on the latest trends, threats and techniques is shared and learned. Strong working relationships with other Niagara stakeholders (Fire, Ambulance), as well as regular training and exchanges with neighbouring EDU's in Canada and the USA adds to the units high level of preparedness.

Explosive Disposal Unit - Calls for Service							
Chemical/Biological	Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)	Suspicious Package	Post Blast	Found Explosives	Hoax/Threats	Military Ordnance Fireworks	Other
2	2	5	1	3	1	6	12

## Emergency Task Unit



The Emergency Task Unit (ETU) is a fully operational Hostage Rescue Unit, capable of all functions from Perimeter Control and Containment to Hostage Rescue tactics. As an accredited Hostage Rescue Team, the ETU is comprised of two Sergeants and twelve Constables. The ETU is supported by other Emergency Services Units that come together to form the Tactical Support Group (TSG). These members provide the support necessary to permit the ETU to be capable of completing its mission.

The ETU responds to hostage takings, armed/barricaded persons, high-risk warrant service, building and area searches, high risk canine tracks, emotionally disturbed person calls, dignitary security, witness protection, high-risk court security, search and rescue of missing/vulnerable persons, and other duties as assigned. A highly trained and disciplined team is required to provide this specialized support. To provide a greater support for front line officers, ETU members will perform patrol duties when not engaged in tactical support operations, training, or special assignments.

The ETU is a specialized support unit with a broad mandate that assists and augments all operational areas within the Niagara Regional Police Service. In 2016 the ETU continued to provide significant support directly to the front line on its night shift rotation through redeployment. When required the unit also assists the Training Unit by providing firearms and use of force instructors. The Emergency Task Unit responded to 105 requests for its services throughout 2016. This total includes non-tactical type operations for which the ETU is responsible; such as VIP security, high risk escorts, community outreach, and missing persons - search & rescue operations. In addition, ETU members responded to containment or

tactical calls for service as an Immediate Response Team (IRT) in circumstances that did not necessarily require a full team response.

### 2016 Noteworthy Activity

- VIP security and tactical protection for the President of Poland.
- High risk arrest warrant concluded as part of "Project Skyway" which targeted a significant drug trafficking network in the Halton-Hamilton corridor.
- High risk arrest of an "anti-government" MHA male in possession of homemade explosives in Niagara Falls.
- High risk arrest warrant concluded as part of "Project Icarus" which dismantled a large-scale cocaine trafficking ring.
- VIP security and tactical protection for the President of Kosovo.
- VIP security and tactical protection for the President of Mongolia.
- Successfully located a missing vulnerable person using "Project Lifesaver" tracking equipment.
- VIP security and tactical protection for the Premier of Ontario.
- VIP security and tactical protection for the Prime Minister of Canada.

### 2016 ETU Activity

VIP	Warrants	Searches, Missing Persons	Court Security, High Risk Prisoner Escorts	High Risk Arrests	High Risk K-9 Tracks	Mental Health Act Crisis	Other – Outreach
9	16	20	2	20	2	5	16





EXPLOSIVE  
1.1D  
1

NIAGARA REGIONAL  
POLICE

M. Whittaker  
POLICE

POLICE  
R. Cirilo

NIAGARA REGIONAL  
POLICE  
ETU



## Special Investigative Services (S.I.S.)



The Niagara Regional Police Special Investigative Services (S.I.S.) Unit deploys 31 sworn officers, 1 civilian analyst and 1 civilian clerk. This Police investigative Unit is also assisted by an embedded officer from the Canada Border Services Agency and three officers

working in a modified capacity. All Unit members have extensive training in criminal investigations and many have specialized training and experience search and seizure, technical investigations, proceeds of crime and organized crime investigations. The Unit is responsible for high level drug and organized crime investigations along with extremism and cross border issues.

S.S.S. is comprised of a Guns Gangs and Grows Unit, Intelligence Unit, Mobile Surveillance Unit, Morality Unit and the Provincial Anti-Violence investigation team (P.A.V.I.S.). Several officers are deployed to Joint Forces Operations including, Biker Enforcement (O.P.P.), Provincial Weapons Enforcement (O.P.P.), Provincial Anti-Terrorism Investigations (O.P.P., R.C.M.P.) and the Border Enforcement Security Task Force (Canadian and American Authorities). There are two officers that deal with the Service investigations involving the seizure of proceeds of crime.

Several high profile investigations and one major project took place in 2016. The Special Investigative Service Unit is also a support to all other Units of the Service providing expertise, technical support and surveillance to various investigations.

The following is a general overview of the combined activities of the Special Investigative Services Unit for the year 2016.

### "Project Icarus"

"Project Icarus" was a Joint Forces investigation into the illegal activities of members and associates of the Hells Angels Motorcycle club - Niagara chapter. The NRPS was the lead agency during the investigation and partnered successfully with the O.P.P. Biker Enforcement Unit, the R.C.M.P. Serious and Organized Crime Unit from Hamilton and the Halton Regional Police Service. Through various investigational techniques, police gathered sufficient evidence during the summer months of 2016. The project was led by members of the Guns, Gangs and Grows Unit but each officer within Special Investigative Services had a role in this project.

The takedown of "Project Icarus" was executed at 6:00 a.m. on August 31, 2016. The operation included 110 officers from various Police Services in Southern Ontario including two tactical entries by tactical teams from Niagara. Thirteen search and arrest warrants were executed in Welland, Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Oakville and Niagara Falls, Ontario. Twelve persons were charged as a result of the project. Various charges including trafficking cocaine were laid in this matter.

Seizures as a result of the project included, but are not limited to, the following:

- \$175,000 cash
- \$25,000 worth of cocaine
- 2011 Mercedes Benz S63 (\$40,000)
- 11 firearms including one handgun
- Various other weapons including Switchblades and brass knuckles
- \$25,000 worth of stolen property
- Multiple electronic devices seized for examination



"Project Icarus" seizures...



### **Guns, Gangs and Grows Unit**

In 2016 the Guns, Gangs and Grow Unit continued with enforcement of illegal marihuana grow operations and sales of marihuana within the Region of Niagara. The Unit also conducted probes into the large scale trafficking of Marihuana in the Niagara Region. The Unit executed a total of 22 search warrants that resulted in the seizure of processed marihuana, marihuana plants, weapons, cash and various other narcotics. This Unit was also involved, for part of the year, in Project Icarus.

The Unit conducted 42 separate investigations into the production and trafficking of marihuana that resulted in 31 suspect arrests and the laying of multiple Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and criminal charges.

Consistent with their mandate, the Guns gangs and grow Unit seized 6,359 marihuana plants in various stages of grow worth an estimated 6.3 million dollars. Also seized during these investigations was \$142,000 worth of dried, ready for sale marihuana.

During these investigations various other illegal drugs worth an estimated \$29,200 were seized. This included seizures of cannabis resin, cocaine and prescription pills.

### **Vineland, Ontario**

On February 18, 2016, Members of the Guns, Gangs and Grow Unit executed the Controlled Drugs and Substance Act search warrant at a residence in Vineland. As a result of the search police seized 918 grams of processed marihuana and 135 grams of Hashish. Also seized was \$32,760 cash believed to be proceeds of crime. Two Vineland residents face charges as a result of the investigation.

### **Niagara on the Lake, Ontario**

In 2016 members of the Guns, Gangs and Grows Unit investigated the marihuana growing operation located in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The investigation revolved around the misuse of Health Canada marihuana growing licenses at that premises. On October 6, 2016 police obtained a search warrant for the premises. As a result of the search police seized 2,782 marihuana plants in various stages of growth. Two Toronto residents face charges as a result of the investigation



On November 16, 2016, Members of the Guns, Gangs and Grow Unit executed the Controlled Drugs and Substance Act search warrant at an address in St. Catharines. Police located 1,237 marihuana plants and 1,584 grams of dried marihuana ready for use. Also seized were several non-restricted long guns. One St.



Catharines resident faces numerous charges as a result of this investigation

### **Guns, Gangs and Grow Unit Investigations and Seizures**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Grow Investigations</b>	<b>Plants seized</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>17,385</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>7,714</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>3,726</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>5,876</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>6,359</b>

### **Intelligence Unit**

The Criminal Intelligence Unit is comprised of members of the Niagara Regional Police Service who develop and collect information regarding organized criminal activity in the Niagara Region. These members work with other Criminal Intelligence Units with other law enforcement agencies to ensure that this process is timely and effective.

This Unit is responsible for the monitoring and investigation of various ethnic based organized crime groups and extremism groups. The Unit works hand in hand with law enforcement agencies across Ontario and New York State and is responsible for information sharing on criminal matters not only locally but nationally and internationally.

This Unit is responsible for the technical aspect of Intelligence and Investigational operations including the use of

interception of private communications under Part VI of the Criminal Code of Canada. This Unit is also responsible for the investigation of Hate Crime and administering the Witness Protection program. The officer in charge of the Covert Asset management system for the Region is also attached to the Criminal Intelligence Unit.

There is a criminal analyst attached to this Unit, who among other duties is responsible for the collection, collation and distribution of information regarding crime trends and patterns in the Niagara Region. Members of this Unit were the lead officers on Project Roadmaster in 2014 and have led the prosecution of that matter into 2017.

Members of this Unit, along with being involved in Project Icarus, were also involved in several other sensitive investigative projects through the year with the Region of Niagara and elsewhere in the province of Ontario. Officers with this Unit monitor extremist groups and gatherings at various times throughout the year.

### **Mobile Surveillance Unit**

The Niagara Regional Police Service's Mobile Surveillance Unit is a six person team that is a support mechanism for all investigations conducted within Special Investigation Services. The Unit also is a support Unit for the other Units within Investigations Services and Divisional Detective Services Units.

The Unit is responsible for supporting major projects from Homicide investigations to organized crime probes. On a regular basis the Mobile Surveillance Unit assists with Divisional investigations in each area of Niagara. Members of this Unit are also



responsible for instruction of surveillance techniques to officers in Niagara and are part of the surveillance training team at the Ontario Police College.

### Morality Unit

The Morality Unit is responsible for mid to high level drug investigations within the Niagara Region and elsewhere in Ontario. Each officer is highly trained in search and seizure law, technical investigations and undercover work. They work hand in hand with Divisional detectives on a number of investigations and also assist and work with other drug squads around the province. Members of this Unit are also responsible for the investigation of human trafficking incidents within Niagara and work alongside their provincial partners combatting this issue. Multiple investigations were conducted by the Unit in 2016 that resulted in the rescuing of many survivors of Human Trafficking and the prosecutions of several offenders for this crime.

The Unit's expertise was utilized to great lengths during "Project Icarus". Each officer is highly skilled in narcotics investigations and specifically skilled in the drafting of judicial authorizations in support of investigations. They also offer community outreach programs that included presentations on drug abuse and human trafficking.

### Prescription Unit

The mandate of the Niagara Regional Police Service Prescription Unit is to enforce the escalating problems that have been found to be associated to Oxycodone and other synthetic opiates such as Fentanyl. The Unit concentrates on the misuse of prescriptions, double doctoring, prescription forgery and unlawful drug trafficking of what are commonly known as prescription pain medication.

The Unit is responsible for the very successful Prescription Take Back day. This initiative is conducted presently in cooperation with the Niagara Health department. During this year's Take Back Day the PAVIS Unit collected 1,322 regulated prescription pills for disposal.



# FENTANYL POTENCY

50-100x > morphine

30-50x > heroin

### P.A.V.I.S. Unit

PAVIS (Provincial Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy) is a multi-agency police initiative funded by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. The Niagara Regional Police Service has been a part of this initiative since 2007.



One of the goals of this initiative is to take a more aggressive approach to the issues that arise locally as a result of the proliferation of street gangs. One of the Unit's main goals is to curtail the activities of local street gangs through enforcement of criminal and drug laws and education of the public regarding downfalls of gang membership and activity. The Unit is also involved in investigation into narcotics trafficking by persons involved in the area drug sub-culture

Efforts to achieve these goals include programs to educate the community, particularly school aged youth about street gang activity. The Niagara PAVIS Unit has formed partnerships with interest groups, school boards, the Canadian Border Security Agency, the Crown Attorney's office along with the local Probation offices.

The Niagara PAVIS Unit's focused mandate includes reducing illegal drug and weapons activities in the Region through intervention, prevention, enforcement and community mobilization and partnership.

With the proliferation of the illegal use of Fentanyl, the PAVIS Unit has taken on a lead role in enforcement of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act laws regarding the possession and use of this dangerous narcotic. In 2016 several successful investigations resulted in the seizure of fentanyl and multiple charges against several persons.

PAVIS Unit members were also an integral part of the Project Bluenose investigation. The P.A.V.I.S. Unit was also responsible for three community outreach programs along with four partnerships with various area groups residing a wide array of community initiatives.

### 2016 PAVIS Enforcement at a Glance

PAVIS Investigations	16
Criminal Arrest	25
Charge Laid	40
Search Warrants Executed	5
Gang Members Identified	6
Drug Seizures Total value	\$10,050
Drug related cash seizures	\$9,740

## Joint Forces Operations

### Biker Enforcement Unit - BEU



The Biker Enforcement Unit is an O.P.P. led Joint Forces Operation comprised of 17 law enforcement agencies including the Niagara Regional Police Service.

The BEU is committed to investigating and disrupting the organized criminal activities of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs through shared policing expertise throughout the Province of Ontario. The main objective of this Unit is to monitor the activities and movements of outlaw motorcycle gang members within the Niagara Region and to enforce applicable laws when necessary in regards to any illegal activity of gang members and associates.

In 2016 the Niagara chapter of the Hells Angels reappeared after an eight year absence. That absence was as a result of the arrests made during Project Tandem (2007) and other successful prosecutions involving area gang members in the past 5 years. The chapter was immediately investigated and identified partly through the investigation known as Project Icarus.



The Niagara member seconded to the Provincial BEU Unit was involved in several high profile investigations across Ontario and locally in Niagara in 2016.

**Provincial Anti-terrorism Section - PATS**

PATS are an O.P.P. led Joint Forces Operation that has active participation from all the major police services in Ontario including the Niagara Regional Police Service. The Unit works very closely with members of the U.S. Intelligence community in addressing threats of terrorism.

The section was established in the aftermath of September 11th, 2001, in recognition of the fact that additional resources were needed to combat the threat of terrorism in Ontario. Investigators within PATS investigate criminal extremism throughout the province.

As a border community, Niagara is a strategic site for human smuggling and transport of terrorist-related contraband to and from the United States. The primary objective of this Unit is to conduct investigations on individuals and organized crime groups involved in terrorism-related activities.

The Niagara officer seconded to PATS is one of the longest serving, most experienced members of PATS. The Niagara officer seconded to PATS conducts several local programs during the year with various Niagara cultural groups and officials responsible for local infrastructure.

**Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit - PWEU**

PWEU is an O.P.P. led Joint Forces Operation made up of 14 law enforcement agencies including the Niagara Regional Police Service.

The mandate of the Unit is to identify persons involved in the illegal movement of firearms and to take enforcement action. This includes the offences of smuggling, trafficking and possession of “crime guns”. Many “crime guns” found or used in the commission of offences have their origins in the United States and PWEU has established a strong working relationship with their American counterparts.

<b>Niagara-related investigations</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Arrests</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Search warrants executed</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Seizures: <i>Ammunition</i></b>	<b>725 rounds</b>
<i>Rifles</i>	<b>5</b>
<i>Handguns</i>	<b>20</b>
<i>Shotguns</i>	<b>5</b>





## Court Services

A large and diverse Unit, Court Services is responsible for the intake of arrested individuals into our Central Holding Facility, Prisoner Care, Crown Brief Preparation and Review, Audit of Police Reports, Crown Brief File Management, Judiciary Disclosure, Criminal / Provincial Courthouse Security, Prisoner Transport to and from detention locations/ Courthouses and prisoner management at the Region's Courthouse, as well as Court related document service.

The Court Services Unit is comprised of 117 full time members (40 Police Officers, 58 full time Special Constables, 19 Civilian Support Staff, and 18 available temporary Special Constables).

Officers assigned to Court Services have duties that include prisoner escorts, wanted person apprehension and detention, court security for bail hearings, trials, and other court sittings where there is the potential of disruptive behavior (physical, emotional and mental). The administrative aspect of Court Services provides for the management and maintenance of all the crown brief folders and general assistance to the Crown Attorneys assigned to the Niagara Region.

Court Services is responsible for court security which may include weapons screening at six court facilities within the Niagara Region: Robert S.K. Welch Courthouse, 59 Church St., St. Catharines, 71 King St., St. Catharines, 4635 Queen St., Niagara Falls, Welland Courthouse, 102 East Main St., Welland, 3 Cross St., Welland and 200 Jarvis St., Fort Erie. These courthouses have 23 courtrooms in total.



Court Services has the primary duty of escorting prisoners from the Central Holding Facility to our St. Catharines Courthouse, as well as transporting prisoners to Detention Centre's.

Court Services expanded in May 2014 with the implementation of the Quality Assurance / Central Holding Unit which incorporates some of the best practices currently being offered by other Services throughout the Province. In the fall of 2016, our Central Holding facility moved from Number 1 District in St. Catharines to our New Headquarters / 2 District Facility in Niagara Falls. This state of the art facility is equipped with 43 cells, 3 interview rooms and receives all prisoners from throughout the Niagara Region. The Officer-in-Charge of the Central Holding Facility and the Quality Assurance Cell Sergeant are responsible for the care and control of all prisoners escorted into custody, as well as the quality, preparation and approval of all Crown Briefs.



## Corporate Communications & Community Engagement



### Media Relations

The Corporate Communications and Community Engagement Unit (CCCEU) include the Media Relations Office which manages external and internal communications as well as promoting and defending the NRPS brand. The CCCE unit is always looking for new and improved ways to deliver key messages, share information and receive feedback. The NRPS Media Relations Office is the lead in all aspects of communications and is committed to developing diverse and contemporary communication mediums for

providing accurate and timely information to members, the residents and visitors of the Niagara Region and the world at large.

### Social Media

The Media Relations Office maintains the Niagara Regional Police Service Facebook Account, Twitter Accounts and the Niagara Regional Police website. These accounts have become the primary and most reliable sources of police information in Niagara by media outlets and members of the public. The Service's Facebook page finished 2016 with approximately 20,000 likes and the Twitter account had over 14,000 followers.

In 2016 1 District St. Catharines began using a Divisional Twitter account to promote the good work of the patrol and CIB officers who keep St. Catharines and Thorold safe. The Service also launched the NRPS Road Safety Twitter account which is operated by the Traffic Enforcement Unit and promotes road safety in Niagara. Both of these accounts represent the Niagara Regional Police Service's commitment to leveraging social media for community engagement and will lead to the development of the use of social media accounts by other specialty units to better inform the residents and visitors of the Niagara Region.





The Niagara Regional Police Service website at [www.niagarapolice.ca](http://www.niagarapolice.ca) continues to be the foundation for online information related to all areas of the Service. The website is not only the primary link for our media releases and general inquiries but it is also used to provide more in depth information on community policing and crime prevention. In compliance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians Disabilities Act (AODA)*, our website is a reliable resource for everyone. It allows the Service to educate, inform and engage the public beyond the capabilities of our social media channels. It also allows us to further promote and support our community partners and various community events.

## Community Events

The Corporate Communications and Community Engagement Unit is committed to leveraging print, radio and television broadcast media to increase community awareness of important events that affect the Niagara Region. These partnerships are influential in raising community awareness of initiatives that positively promote our community. Examples include but are not limited to: Law Enforcement Special Olympics Torch Run, Motorcycle Ride for Dad, Police Week, CopShop, Chief's Christmas Breakfast, Just Give – Cram a Cruiser Campaign, Ice Dog Teddy Bear Toss, Toronto Pride Parade, Pride in the Park and various other community events.

The use of positive public safety messaging along with the promotion of community sponsored events has led to a greater awareness of the Service in the public eye.

# JUST GIVE

## CRAM-A-CRUISER FOOD DRIVE





## Recruiting

The Recruiting Unit is comprised of one Sergeant, two Constables and a shared civilian member with Career Development. During the summer months the Unit also utilizes members from the Training Unit and School Resource Officers (SRO's) who are trained in the process. Background investigations are sourced out to Detectives throughout the Service by the Staff Sergeant in charge of the Professional Standards Unit.

In 2016 The Niagara Regional Police Service Recruiting Unit continued to utilize the Constable Selection System (CSS). The Unit strives to hire the best candidates possible from both the currently serving applicants and new hires "recruits", and the recruiting process is managed via the rules and regulations set-out by the OACP. The Recruiting Unit did transition to a new Essential Competency interview process. The previous interview process was in place over the last two decades and the Unit wanted to incorporate



recommendations from the IACOBUCCI report relating to stress, leadership and mental health experiences. For the 2016 calendar year, there were 20 total hires, all of which were "new" hires. Thirty percent of the hires in 2016 were visible minorities or female recruits. Of the 20 new Constables, 10 were either a Special Constable or Auxiliary Constable upon acceptance.

The Recruiting Unit is still engaged in promoting a positive relationship and engagement within the LGBT community. The Unit has participated in the Pride in the Park festivities as well as "OUT formation-job fair", and supported all community Pride Niagara events. The Unit attends the annual Unity Awards dinner.

In 2016 the Recruiting Unit continued to work with both Brock University and Niagara College through job fairs, ride along opportunities and specific mentorship programs. The Unit interviews and completes background checks on candidates from both the Niagara College ride-along program and the Brock University mentorship program. The ride along program enters its 17<sup>th</sup> year and provides a chance for Police Foundations students to observe the role of the front line uniform patrol officer over a block of 2 days and 2 nights. The Brock mentorship program is similar but students are introduced to 4 days of job shadowing in the Training Unit, K9, Special Victims Unit, uniform patrol and an introduction to the criminal court system. This intense experience occurs over the University reading week. Recruit Constable Joseph VIZZA was hired in 2016 and is a past graduate of the mentorship program.



**Questions:** [Recruiting@NiagaraPolice.ca](mailto:Recruiting@NiagaraPolice.ca)



Police College graduate Constable Anna Lester delivers commencement address to new graduates



## Human Resources

The Human Resources Unit continues to support the Service in providing quality policing services to the residents and visitors of the Niagara Region.

In 2016, the Unit focused on implementation of the staffing model developed for the transition to the new headquarters which occurred in October. The elimination and repurposing of a number of civilian administrative positions to meet service demands in the new headquarters environment support the overall goal of improving efficiency and streamlining processes.

In the fall of 2016, in continued support of member wellness, the Service began transitioning to a new EFAP (Employee and Family Assistance Program) provider which involved a formal tendering process in conjunction with the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Collective Bargaining of the Niagara Region Police Association Civilian and Uniform Collective Agreements continued throughout 2016 with significant support from the Human Resources and Finance Units.

2016 Total Hires			
	Uniform		19
	Civilian		10
2016 Retirements/Resignations *			
Sworn		Civilian	
Superintendent	1	Senior Civilian	2
Staff Sergeant	3	Civilian	13
Sergeant	2		
Constable	12		
* Includes 3 deaths and 6 resignations			

## Authorized Strength

### Uniform Personnel

Chief of Police	1
Deputy Chief of Police	2
Superintendent	4
Inspector	14
Staff Sergeant	29
Sergeant	112
Constable	536

**Total Uniform 698**

### Civilian Personnel

Directors	2
Managers	11
Civilian Personnel (includes all Special Constables, subject matter specialists, technical and administrative positions)	292

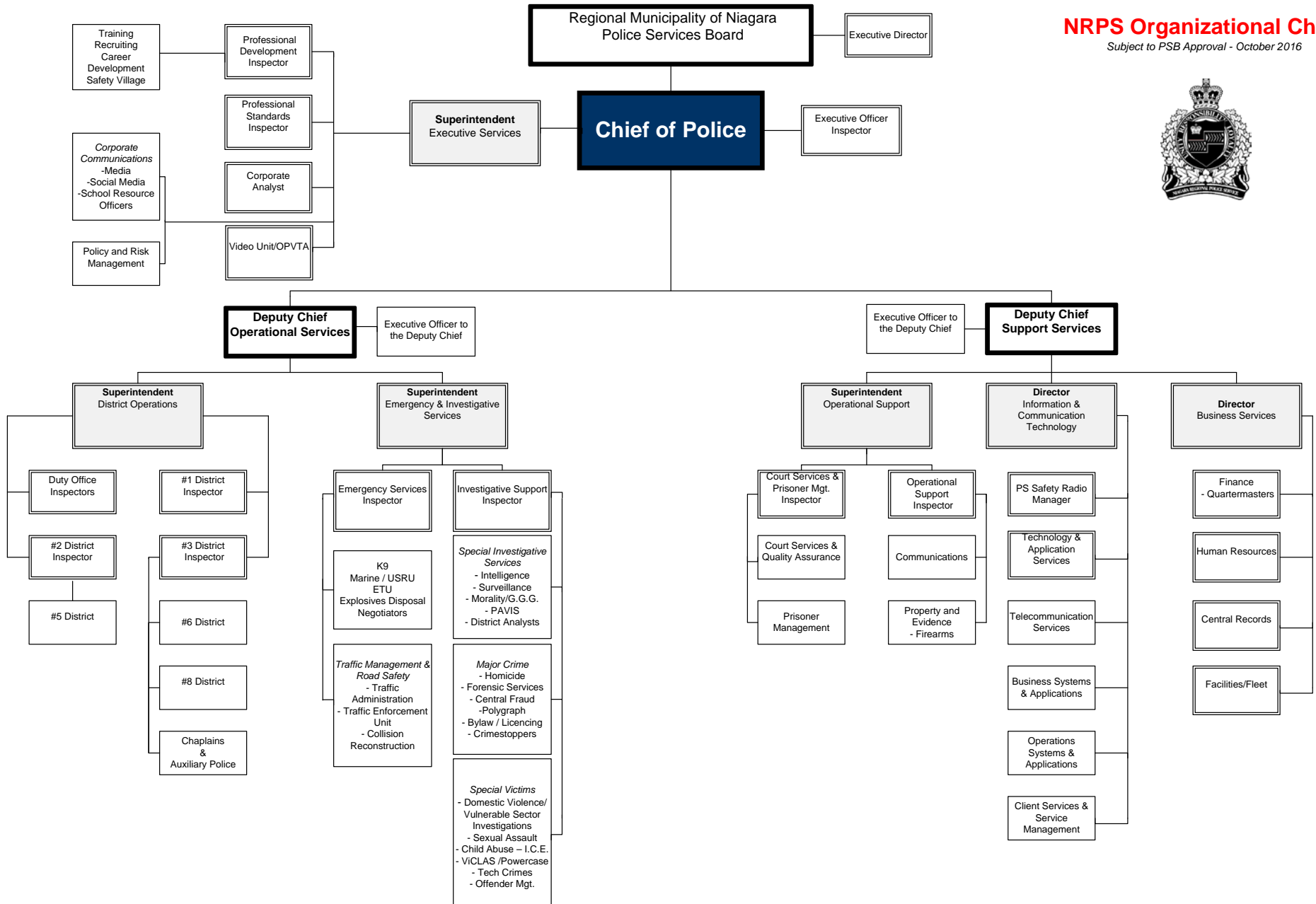
**Total Civilian 305**

**All Personnel 1,003**



# NRPS Organizational Chart

Subject to PSB Approval - October 2016







## Command Staff

Chief Jeff McGuire, M.O.M.

Deputy Chief Joe Matthews, M.O.M.  
Deputy Chief Bryan MacCulloch

## Senior Officers

### Superintendents

Superintendent W. George Bench  
Superintendent Des Carter  
Superintendent Brett Flynn  
Superintendent Scott McLean  
Superintendent Mark McMullen (Ret.)  
Superintendent Geoffrey Skaftfeld (Ret.)

### Inspectors

Inspector Brian Ash  
Inspector Christopher Cincio  
Inspector Shawn Dowd  
Inspector Richard Frayne  
Inspector Joseph Garvey  
Inspector Marco Giannico  
Inspector James MacKay  
Inspector Pat McCauley  
Inspector James McCaffery  
Inspector John Sawicki  
Inspector James Prinsen  
Inspector Cindy White  
Inspector Michael Woods

### Directors

Akram Askoul  
Lisa DiDonato-DeChellis

### Managers

Carol Berry  
Paul Divers  
Chris Fisher (Ret.)  
Gary Holden  
Linda Jerome  
Timothy Roome  
Laura Rullo  
Jamie Saunders  
Cathy Ross

# Exemplary Service Awards

## Police Services Board Award of Excellence

Civilian Member Nancy Speck

## Police Services Board Commendations

Chris Ridabock      Amy Carlucci      Brian Howell  
Kevin Brochu      Laura Coens  
Rick Brochu

**Hamilton Paramedic Services**      Commander Hal Klassen

**Pelham Fire & Protection Services**      District Chief Jim Waldeck      Lieutenant Joe Kita  
Lieutenant Chris Ker      Firefighter Darcy Baker  
Firefighter Greg Haegens      Firefighter Scott Harrison  
Firefighter John Lockey      Firefighter Shawn Litalien  
Firefighter Jody Leavens      Firefighter Sean Young

## Chief of Police Award

### Project Iceberg

Detective Constable Amanda Sanders      Detective Constable Sarah Rose  
Detective Constable Shane Secord      Detective Constable John Butler  
Detective Sergeant Brett Atamanyk      Detective Constable Graeme Orr  
Detective Constable Michael Pataran      Detective Constable Mike Delano  
Detective Constable Jason Vormittag      Betty Deakin, Violent Crime Analyst  
Tara Harmsworth, Violent Crime Analyst      Lucie O'Neil, Violent Crime Analyst  
T. Patricia Vadamchino, Assistant Crown Attorney  
Renee Johnson, Family & Children's Services

## Chief of Police Commendations

Sergeant Greg Beaulieu      Sergeant David Biggar      Constable Gary Holt  
Constable Todd Farquhar      Constable Jeff Cross      Constable Glen Hamilton

Constable Cathie Gage  
Constable Jesse Hicks and Police Service Dog Kona

Detective Sergeant Margaret Devine	Sergeant Brian Essery	
Detective Constable Mike Ryan	Detective Constable Tracey Rinaldo	
Detective Constable Leisha Holmes	Detective Constable Mike Delano	
Detective Constable Amanda Sanders	Detective Constable Chris Balkou	
Detective Constable Andrew Watson	Detective Constable Matthew King	
Detective Constable John Butler	Detective Constable Matthew McDonald	
Constable Michelle Head	Constable Jacqueline Clark	Constable Ben Tomiuck
Constable Melissa Spano	Constable Mark Sathmary	

Constable Richardas Lukos	Sergeant Michael Woodfine	Sergeant Tara Henderson
Constable Mark Denhoed		Sergeant Drew Wallace
Communicator Lori Haist	Constable Glen Hamilton	Constable Avril Murphy
Communicator Andrew McChesney		Civilian Member James Berg

Constable Matthew Bell	Acting Sergeant Rick Trapnell	Citizen David Reece
Constable Nicholas Hawrylyshyn	Constable Matt Sigfrid	Citizen Kirt Alan Reece
Constable Ernie Cupiraggi	Constable Bill Schoenhals	
Constable Mark Eitzen		
Constable Matthew Whitely	Citizen Gerald Dietz	Civilian Member Shirley Valstar
Constable Paul Eles		
Constable Ryan Cirillo	Citizen Mark Browser	
Communicator Jacqueline Gallant		
Communicator Lisa Pajtasz	Civilian Member Craig Johnson	

Constable Neil Ridley  
Constable Daniel Bassi  
Constable Al Rivet  
Constable Jake Braun  
Constable Joshua Kalailieff

## Forty Year Bar

Constable John Derda	Constable Frederick Smith
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## Thirty Year Exemplary Service Bar

Superintendent Des Carter	Staff Sergeant Tim Carter	Constable Richard Dykema
Inspector Richard Frayne	Constable David Grubber	Staff Sergeant William Harris
Constable Stuart Murray	Staff Sergeant Joe Picton	Inspector James Prinsen



## Police Services Board and Staff

**Bob Gale, Chair**  
Ken Gansel, Vice-Chair

### Board Members

David Barrick  
Terry Bonham  
Alan Caslin  
Robert Marshall  
Vaughn Stewart

### Board Staff

Deb Morton  
Executive Director

Dawn Cichocki  
Executive Assistant

## Niagara Regional Police Service Chaplains

Father Brian Bevan  
Reverend Clive Page  
Reverend Jennifer Anderson  
Reverend Gerard Power  
Reverend Gary Page



Superintendent Geoffrey Skafffeld  
Sergeant William Wiley

Constable Michel Thibodeau

Constable Derrick Wells

## Twenty Year Exemplary Medal

Constable Nicole Abbott  
Sergeant Kelly Dolynski  
Staff Sergeant Eric Ellwood  
Constable Valerie Hall  
Sergeant David Maniaci  
Constable Brien Noble  
Constable Ken Schonewille  
Sergeant Drew Wallace

Sergeant David Bridel  
Constable Kristofer Doyle  
Sergeant Richard Gauthier  
Constable Colin Hoare  
Sergeant Damian McMenamin  
Sergeant Tony Rupnik  
Constable Michael Sorley

Constable Robert Conroy  
Constable Michelle Dywan  
Staff Sergeant David Gomez  
Constable Van Joncas  
Constable Darlene Millin  
Constable Mark Scaletta  
Sergeant Paul Thomas

## Police Officer of the Year Award

**Executive Services** Sergeant Richard Gadreau  
**Investigative Support** Detective Constable Amanda Sanders  
**Emergency Services** Detective Constable Chris Lucy  
**2 District, Niagara Falls** Constable Shawn Haley  
**5 District, Fort Erie** Constable Yvette St. Germaine  
**8 District, Grimsby** Constable Lindsey Williams  
**Traffic Safety Leadership Award** Constable Steve DeAngelis  
**Community Policing Officer of the Year Award** Detective Sergeant Martin Cook

**Auxiliary Unit** Auxiliary Constable Frank Chadwick  
**Court Services/Quality Assurance** Constable Richard Dykema  
**1 District, St. Catharines** Constable Daniel Bielby  
**3 District, Welland** Constable David Brown  
**6 District, Port Colborne** Constable Todd Farquhar  
**Casino Patrol Unit** Constable Larry Tartaglia

## Civilian Personnel Pins/Bars

### 30-Year Civilian Service Recognition

Craig Johnson    Penny McClean    Hugh Naylor    Maria Sgambati

### 20-Year Civilian Service Recognition

Teresa Hamilton    William Mullin    Margaret Simon

## Peace Officer Medals & Bars

Special Constable John Fischer  
Special Constable Richard Gordon  
Special Constable Jane Kerr

Special Constable Dennis Tessmer  
Special Constable Ruth Johnson

Special Constable Hugh Naylor  
Special Constable Sherry Napper

## Civilian Member of the Year Award

**Executive or Operational Services** Maureen Phelan

**Support Services** Ingrid Barker

## Telecommunicator of the Year Award

Chantelle Brown

## Related Awards

### **James A. Gayder Award**

Brenda Sawchuk

### **Media Award**

Stephanie Sabourin, CKTB 610 Radio

### **Outstanding Service & Commitment Award**

Dwight Penner  
Lauran Sabourin

### **Constable Dale Racine Educational Bursary**

Laura M. Ferreira, Lakeshore Catholic Secondary School  
Karlie R. Haining, Blessed Trinity Catholic School  
Eva Ren, Eden High School

### **Monika George Educational Bursary**

Anastasia Groch, Notre Dame college School

### **Sergeant Major Brian Davidson Memorial Award**

Special Constable Jo-Anne Rollin

## Retirees

### **Sworn Member**

Superintendent Geoffrey Skaftfeld  
Staff Sergeant Chris Scotland  
Sergeant Mark Fleg  
Constable Daniel Borowski  
Constable Mark McNeil

Staff Sergeant Marjorie Smith  
Sergeant Michael McAllister  
Constable Vincent D'Amico  
Constable Michael Miller

Staff Sergeant Joe Starrs  
Constable Graeme Abbott  
Constable John Derda  
Constable James Purdie

### **Civilian Member**

Susan Fickel, Communicator  
Christopher Fisher, Fleet & Facilities Manager  
Suzanne Kirley, Communicator  
Catherine Tracey, Communicator

John Fischer, Special Constable  
Starlet Kemp, C.P.I.C. Supervisor  
Linda Sutherland, C.P.I.C. Audit Clerk

Pattye Fougere, C.P.I.C. Operator  
Jane Kerr, Special Constable  
Dennis Tessmer, Special Constable



# *In Memoriam*

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*In 2016 the Niagara Regional Police Service lost three members of our family.  
We would be remiss if we did not take the opportunity to remember them.*

**Evelyn Barkley**

**Mary Wilkes**

**Constable Steven Kinnaird**



*Our heartfelt condolences are extended to their families.*

## Service Mourns the Passing of Retired Chief Wendy E. Southall, o.o.m.

It was with deep regret that Chief Jeff McGuire of the Niagara Regional Police Service announced the death of former NRPS Chief of Police Wendy Southall. On June 1st, 2016, Chief Southall passed away at a local hospital after a battling a lengthy illness.

Chief Southall began her policing career in 1970 with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Service. In 1982, Chief Southall joined the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Service Board, serving as an Enforcement Officer in charge of the Licensing Department. In 1989, she was promoted to Administrator of the Police Services Board. She continued to strive in the policing environment resulting in her appointment to the Niagara Regional Police Service in February 2000 and eventual promotion to Chief Administrative Officer in January 2001. Chief Southall provided governance and oversight to the Finance Unit, Fleet and Facilities Management and Human Resources which included Recruiting, Training, Career Development, Information Services and Police Records.

On January 1, 2005 Wendy Southall was named the 7th Chief of Police for the Niagara Regional Police Service. Chief Southall's unwavering commitment to the safety of Niagara residents remained steadfast as she focused on making area roads the safest in Ontario. As such, Chief Southall led the Niagara Regional Road Safety Committee, creating a five-year strategic plan which focused on educating the community on safe driving practices coupled with directed enforcement. In the end, this plan resulted in an overall reduction in fatal and serious motor vehicle collisions across the Niagara Region.

In May 2011, Chief Southall received the Order of Merit from Honorable Governor General David Johnston. At that time, she was one of only eight people nationally to receive a badge of the Order of Merit at the higher-status of "Officer" level. Chief Southall's legacy will continue within the Service as she played an integral role in the early planning and development of what is now the Service's new Headquarters and Number 2 District in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Chief Southall's generosity and unwavering commitment towards others could be seen in the countless hours she spent volunteering within the community, during and after her policing career.



Chief Southall led the NRPS with distinction until her retirement in March 2012.



## Public Complaints - Conduct and Service

	2016	2015
Conduct Complaints	99	83
Service Complaints	1	2
<b>Total Public Complaints</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Complaint Conclusions</b>		
<b>Other</b> – No investigation conducted as per the decision of the OIPRD – Not in the public interest, complaint more than 6 months old, frivolous /vexatious, no PSA breach, insufficient information provided use another forum (i.e., Court).	48	41
<b>Withdrawn</b>	18	12
<b>Customer Service Resolution</b> (Before investigation)	--	2
<b>Informal Resolution</b> (During investigation)	2	2
<b>Unsubstantiated Complaints</b> (Following investigation)	23	22
<b>Substantiated Complaints</b> (Following investigation)	8	6
<b>Pending / Open Investigations</b>	1	1
<b>Substantiated Complaint Resolutions (Conduct &amp; Service)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>No Further Action</b>	--	--
<b>Action Taken</b>	1	1
<b>Informal Resolution</b>	--	2
<b>Disposition Without A Hearing</b>	4	2
<b>Awaiting Disposition</b>	3	N/A
<b>Disciplinary Hearing</b>	--	1

## Budget Overview

### Budgeted vs. Actual Expenditures

Expenditure	Budgeted	Actual
Personnel Costs	133,004,126	138,903,863
Administrative Expenses	3,874,452	3,457,589
Operational & Supply	2,341,593	1,941,973
Occupancy & Infrastructure	533,066	368,149
Equipment, Vehicles, Technology	5,452,171	5,001,651
Financial Expenditures & Regional Chargebacks	(1,169,061)	(1,195,490)
<b>Net Transfers to Reserves</b>	<b>6,775,508</b>	<b>3,814,072</b>
<b>Total Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>\$150,811,855</b>	<b>\$152,291,807</b>

Personnel related costs accounted for approximately 98% of the Service's net expenditure in 2016.

### Budget vs. Actual Recoveries and Revenue

Revenue Description	Budgeted	Actual
Fees & Service Charges	6,775,480	8,144,355
Ontario/Canada Grants	8,024,366	8,012,747
Other Revenue	1,642,340	1,765,036
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>16,442,186</b>	<b>17,922,138</b>
<b>Budgeted vs. Actual Costs</b>	<b>\$134,369,669</b>	<b>\$134,369,669</b>





# Service Directory

Chief of Police Jeffrey McGuire, M.O.M.

## Headquarters & 2 District (Niagara Falls)

5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 1X8  
Tel. 905.688.4111

### No. 1 District

68 Church Street  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2R 3C6  
Tel. 905.688.4111

### No. 3 District

5 Lincoln Street  
Welland, ON  
L3C 5H9  
Tel. 905.735.7811

### No. 5 District

650 Gilmore Road  
Fort Erie, ON  
L2A 5M4  
Tel. 905.871.2300

### No. 6 District

501 Fielden Avenue  
Port Colborne, ON  
L3K 4T9  
Tel. 905.735.7811

### No. 8 District

45 Clarke Street  
Grimsby, ON  
L3M 1Y5  
Tel. 905.945.2211

[www.niagarapolice.ca](http://www.niagarapolice.ca)

