



CRIME PREVENTION VOLUNTEER & AUXILIARY BRANCH 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Together. Stronger. Safer.

Overview – Crime Prevention Branch

The Hamilton Police Service (HPS) Crime Prevention Branch is responsible for promoting and implementing community-based Crime Prevention initiatives within our diverse community. These initiatives are geared towards engaging our community through a variety of unique events including:

- Police Week
- Crime Prevention Week
- Cop Camp
- School Safety Patroller Program
- Citizens' Police College
- Take Our Kids to Work Day

These events allow our Service to interact and build bridges with the community, instruct citizens about the role of police, and raise safety awareness while educating the public. Crime Prevention Officers (CPOs) are the Service's experts on home, business and personal safety. CPOs routinely perform security audits at businesses, residences and places of worship. In addition, they provide presentations on a number of Crime Prevention initiatives to various agencies and community groups upon request. Crime Prevention has also heavily increased its social media presence as a way of connecting to an even bigger audience in our city and beyond.

Overview - Auxiliary, Co-Op & Volunteer – COVID Restrictions

In 2020, the Auxiliary and Volunteer program was suspended as of March 19, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and mandatory government restrictions implemented in the workplace. The suspension of these programs continued throughout the entire year only allowing for three months to be captured within this report.

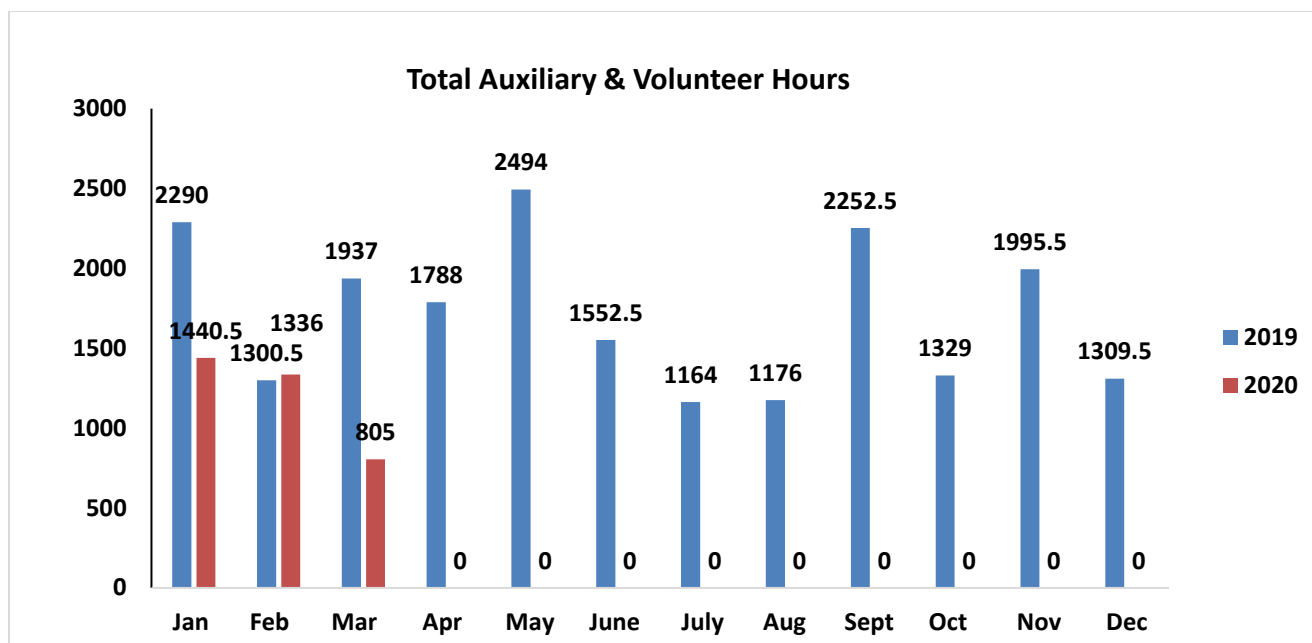
January, February & March Stats - COVID Restrictions in Effect

The Auxiliary & Volunteer Coordinator is responsible for Auxiliary Officers and Police Volunteers, Co-op Students, and the administration of these collective volunteer programs. Our police service and the community benefited from **3581.50** hours of volunteer service in 2020.

In 2020, the Auxiliary & Volunteer Branch saw **12** Co-op students participate in the program during the first three months. In March, government restrictions suspended their participation. A new recruit class of **24** was sworn in January 2020, but training was cut short due to the program suspension.

Currently, there are **80** Auxiliary members and **15** volunteers. There are **two** on a leave of absence which brings our total to **95** active members and **97** total members. We recognize the significant positive impact our volunteers have within our Service and community. The HPS looks forward to our volunteers once again being able to participate in our various community events.





Overview - Unit Goals

The Crime Prevention Branch and the Auxiliary & Volunteer Branch uses the Hamilton Police Service 2019-2021 Business Plan as a framework for setting their annual goals. With that in mind, they strategically worked on projects and events throughout the year using the Business Plan as a roadmap. Several goals were implemented at the start of the year but were not successfully achieved due to COVID restrictions.

Goals Suspended Due to COVID-19

Goals for the 2020 calendar year were put on hold due to members not actively working. Despite COVID restrictions, a training opportunity was implemented for our volunteers at the beginning of September. This initiative provided our volunteers free access to training on the HPS Canadian Police Knowledge Network (CPKN) portal. To begin, six mandatory courses were to be completed by November 1st. Many Auxiliaries and volunteers were excited by the training and seized the opportunity to complete other elective CPKN courses.

CPKN Stats

- Total CPKN courses completed: **563**
- Total CPKN volunteer hours: **2252**



Milestones

Employment

Members of the Auxiliary & Volunteer Branch continued to find employment in their chosen field of law enforcement this year. The number of members who were hired internally and externally speaks to the experience our Auxiliary Officers develop through their volunteerism:

- 9 with Hamilton Police Service as Police Constables
- 1 with Hamilton Police Service as Cadet
- 1 with Toronto Police Service as a Police Constable
- 1 with Toronto Police Service as a Special Constable
- 1 with Waterloo Regional Police Service as a Police Constable
- 1 with Peel Regional Police Service as a Police Constable
- 1 with Ontario Provincial Police Service as a Police Constable
- 1 with Canada Boarder Service Agency

Performance Measures:

- 16 members gained employment in 2020 (16 members in 2019)

Years of Service/Retention

In 2020, many of our Auxiliary Officers and volunteers were recognized for their significant years of committed service:

- 5 members with five years of service
- 8 members with 10 years of service
- 3 members with 15 years of service
- 1 member with 30 years of service

Fitness Pin

- 2 Auxiliary Officers received their Ontario Fitness PINS in 2020 and this is a voluntary achievement (12 in 2019, Fitness PIN Testing was paused in 2020 due to the pandemic)

Recruiting New Members

- 24 Auxiliary Recruit Officers (24 in 2019)
- 12 Co-op students

Goals - Crime Prevention Branch

Community Safety

To ensure the safety of the communities we serve.

Maximize communication with our community as it relates to services and supports, as well as crime prevention, public safety and harm reduction while addressing community concerns that affect public safety.



Performance Measures:

- By using social media, traditional media including Cable 14 and print media, Crime Prevention was able to exceed the goal of 50 messages. (256 messages)
- Crime Prevention used Instagram polls 8 times to interact directly with members of the public who requested information on Forensics, Recruiting, Marine, Vice and Drugs, Communications, K9, MPU and Crime Prevention
- Crime Prevention developed two virtual programs to reach a large section of the community through virtual Coffee with a Cop and virtual Citizens Police College

Engagement & Partnerships**To foster effective relationships with all of our communities.**

Crime Prevention has continued to enhance communication with our communities to promote information sharing and mutual respect while engaging in strategic organizational partnerships.

Performance Measures:

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Auxiliary deployments were suspended in March 2020.
- Crime Prevention developed and delivered 7 presentations to new Canadians and members of our diverse community (Trios College x3, Mac International Students, Virtual Babysitting x2, Drug Presentation). This exceeded the goal of three presentations.

People & Performance**To increase organizational capacity and effectiveness by attracting, developing and retaining our members.**

The Crime Prevention Branch continues to implement effective delivery of internal and external training by looking for courses to develop the knowledge, skills and abilities of our Crime Prevention staff.

Performance Measures:

- Members of the Crime Prevention Branch exceeded this goal by completing courses in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, Social Media in Communications, Police Liaison Team Training (PLT), Indigenous Awareness, Indigenous Studies at University of Alberta as well as the COYO (youth) Conference

Technology & Asset Management**To ensure we have the necessary plans in place to address facilities, fleet and technology needs.**

Research and implement social media strategies and provide adequate training to members of the Crime Prevention Branch for this purpose.

Performance Measures:

- Crime Prevention used social media 245 times this year, exceeding the goal of 200 (Instagram 111, Twitter 134)
- Crime Prevention used social media to engage the community by implementing programs such as Instagram Q&A, virtual Coffee with a Cop, virtual Citizens Police College and Kindness During Covid



Milestones and Events

March Break Cop Camp – Cancelled Due to COVID-19

Over 200 students ages 9-12 years old were registered and set to attend Division 20 for four single day camps exposing them to various specialty units within the Hamilton Police Service including: K9, ACTION, ERU and Mounted Unit. However, due to the pandemic this annual event had to be cancelled.

Police Week - May 9th - 15th, 2020

“Working Together To Keep Our Communities Safe”

Once again the Crime Prevention Branch had to adjust their normal way of doing business and transition to a virtual format by hosting interactive events on-line. By pivoting to on-line community engagement, we were able to use our skills to rebrand Crime Prevention and Police Week over various social media platforms. The virtual Police Week was comprised of several events including:

- Virtual Awards Night
- Virtual Coffee with a Cop featuring Chief Girt on Instagram Live
- Kids asking Cops Questions during COVID featuring various units over Instagram
- Kindness During COVID social media campaign
- Virtual Police in the Park featuring Communications, K9, ERU and Mounted Patrol
- Q&A with... Forensics, Marine Unit, Communications – over Instagram Stories

Coffee with a Cop

Crime Prevention hosted two on location installments of Coffee With a Cop this year:

- January – Paisley Coffee House, Westdale BIA
- February – Starbucks, Dundas BIA

Due to COVID, a transition was made to a virtual platform. This saw Coffee with a Cop broadcast virtually over Instagram Live. Crime Prevention Officers covered a variety of topics and had several subject matter experts present during the 17 episodes on Instagram Live. These included:

- Chief Girt, Victim Services, Community Relations, 2S&LGBTQIA+ Liaison, Social Navigator, K9, and more
- On location with the Marine Unit and Mounted Patrol Unit

Virtual Citizens Police College

Hamilton Police Service is one of the first police services in Ontario to offer this type of program to its community members. Thousands of citizens have participated in Citizens' Police College since we opened our doors in 1997. Citizens' Police College is designed for individuals interested in learning more about policing. Due to the challenges of COVID, we transitioned to an on-line format for one of our longest running programs. This year we included a question and answer period where our attendees had the chance to ask our Officers questions based on videos

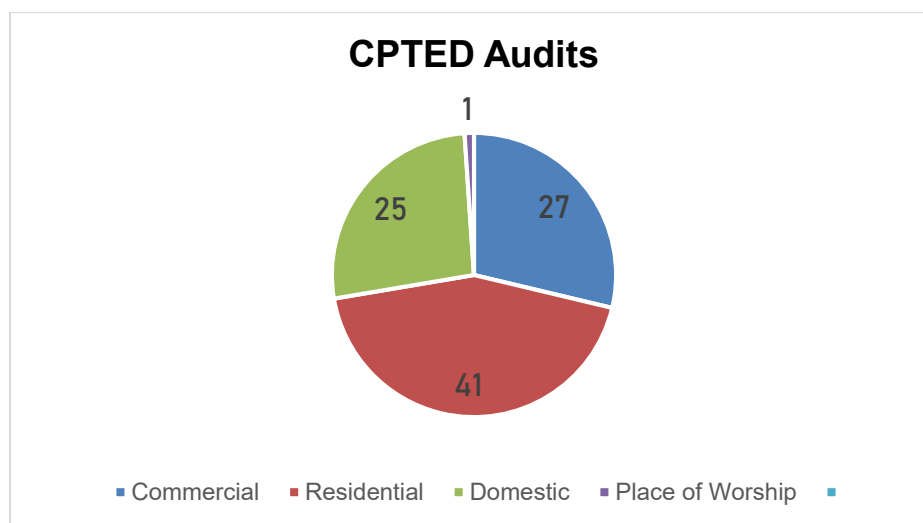


prepared by their specific units. This year 66 students (52 in 2019) received in depth presentations on:

- Vice & Drugs
- Emergency Response Unit
- Homicide
- Marine Unit
- Traffic – Breath Tech
- Forensic Services
- Major Fraud
- Social Navigator
- Tech Crimes
- Mounted Patrol Unit
- Recruiting
- K9

Security Audits - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Audits are a critical component of safety planning for certain members of the community. The Crime Prevention Branch is trained in CPTED principles in order to provide crime reduction and prevention strategies. Crime Prevention conducted 66 audits for businesses, places of worship and residential properties throughout Hamilton. Due to COVID-19, Crime Prevention had to transition to some on-line CPTED and virtual visits, however did respond in person to situations that were deemed high risk.



Performance Measures: 94 total CPTED security audits in 2020 (66 in 2019)

Crime Prevention Officer Presentations

The pandemic also disrupted scheduled presentations, which are an extremely important component of our day-to-day work. In 2020, we delivered 18 community presentations to a wide variety of organizations, with 13 being delivered in January and February prior to the shutdown. Presentations included:

- personal safety
- criminal law
- interacting with the police



- traffic law and domestic violence were provided to large groups of Canadian newcomers
- various presentations for seniors, community groups, businesses, international students, city staff and government institutions

Performance Measures:

- 18 total community presentations by Crime Prevention Officers in 2020 (150 in 2019)

Conclusion

The Crime Prevention Branch and the Auxiliary & Volunteer Branch continued to engage the community in 2020 amidst very challenging circumstances as a result of a global pandemic. We continued to provide our community with strategies to reduce or prevent crime and improve traffic safety. This was done in concert with supporting our volunteer members by providing them meaningful work.

During 2020, the Crime Prevention Branch overcame great adversity relating to community engagement. This was in large part due to COVID-19 however there were also political events, both globally and locally, that made engaging with the public challenging. Crime Prevention took on this challenge and found unique and innovative ways to build relationships with the community while still being respectful of community needs and wishes. Crime Prevention built on their 2019 Social Media Strategy this year by continuing to embrace technology as a means to interact and engage with the community. We saw the birth of virtual Coffee with a Cop and virtual Citizens Police College. By running these programs virtually, it enabled us to reach a broader audience while still providing the same quality service as we had in the past. Looking ahead, the Crime Prevention Branch will continue to explore facilitating other programs virtually.

The Auxiliary & Volunteer Branch members of the Hamilton Police Service dedicated **3581** hours to various activities over the past year, including the completion of 563 CPKN Courses. These valued members allowed our Service to facilitate an array of important community programs that would not have been otherwise possible. At the same time, the program continued to provide its members with meaningful opportunities that allowed them to gain valuable skills as they work towards careers in policing and law enforcement. As a result, 16 members found successful employment in their chosen fields.

The Crime Prevention and Auxiliary & Volunteer Branches look forward to continued engagement with our community partners in 2021.

Report prepared by:

Staff Sergeant Jonathan Curtis - Crime Prevention Coordinator

Constable Lorraine Edwards - Volunteer / Auxiliary Coordinator

Hamilton Police Service Community Mobilization Division (905) 546-4900

