

2023

Appendix “A” to report #24-050

Crime Prevention,

Volunteer & Auxiliary Branch

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COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

**HAMILTON
POLICE SERVICE**
Together. Stronger. Safer.

Crime Prevention Branch

The Hamilton Police Crime Prevention Branch is responsible for promoting and implementing community-based crime prevention initiatives within our diverse community.

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 are the Service's experts on home, business and personal safety. They routinely perform Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTED) 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. Additionally, the Crime Prevention Branch has used its social media presence as a way of connecting to an even bigger audience in our city and beyond.

The staffing complement in the Crime Prevention Branch consists of two Constables who report to the Staff Sergeant of the Community Mobilization Section.

Crime Prevention Branch - Community Safety

In 2023, the Crime Prevention Branch had 57 social media posts to disseminate crime prevention, safety awareness, and education to the public.

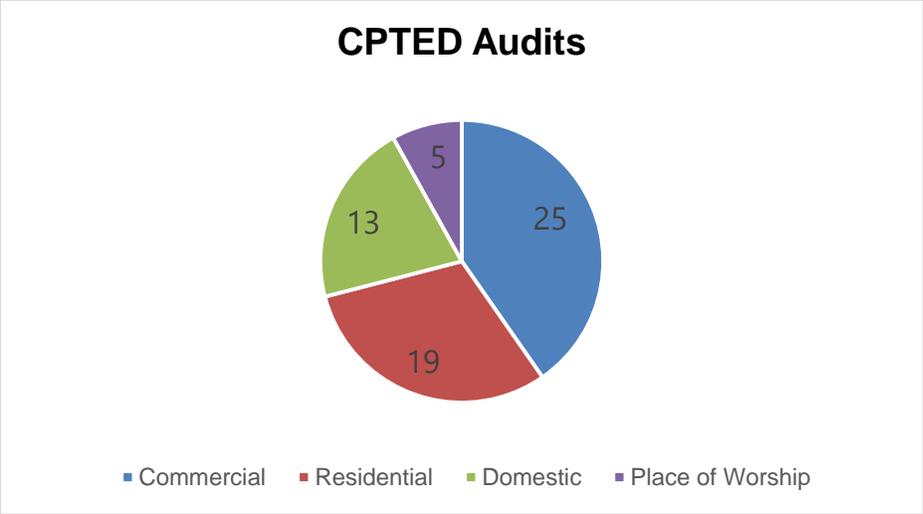
The topics ranged from:

- Fraud
- Residential security
- Personal safety to University students
- Bicycle safety
- Ransomware
- General safety tips to public
- Christmas shopping tips
- Halloween safety tips

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

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. In 2023 the Crime Prevention Branch conducted **62** audits for businesses, places of worship and residential properties throughout Hamilton. 25 commercial business, 19 residential, 13 high risk domestic violence victims, 5 places of worship.





Crime Prevention Branch - Engagement & Partnerships

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

Coffee with a Cop

Coffee with a Cop is an initiative where police officers attend local coffee shops or restaurants and have unscripted conversations with the community. These events give the community a chance to have conversations with sworn and civilian members. Each event has a theme based on days or months of significance. For example a 2S&LGBTQIA Coffee with a Cop was held in the community during Pride Month where 2S&LGBTQIA HPS members and ally's engaged the community.

In 2023, there were **12** Coffee with a Cop events with some highlights being Coffee with a Cop in Gore Park during Police Week, at Afrolicious during Black History Month, and at the Limeridge Mall during Pride Month.

Citizen's Police College

Starting in 1997, Hamilton Police Service was one of the first police services in Ontario to offer this type of program to its community members. Citizens' Police College was designed for individuals interested in learning more about the various aspects of policing. The Crime Prevention Branch hosts and facilitates these sessions. They bring in representatives from various units within he HPS to present to the class.

In 2023, there were **23** students who participated in six classes once a week for 3 hours. Several subjects were presented including:



- Communications
- Emergency Response Unit
- Mounted Unit
- Victim Services
- Crisis Response
- Traffic and Impaired Driving Unit
- Marine Unit and K-9
- Social Navigation Program
- Homicide Unit
- Forensics

Police week 2023

In 2023, police week ran from May 14th to May 20th. Each year the Ontario Association of Chief's of Police (OACP) puts out a theme for Police Week. Each service in Ontario works within that theme to create events during police week. The theme for 2023 was, "Building Bridges: Celebrating Police", which highlighted and celebrated the important relationships between police officers and communities to ensure that Ontarians live in a healthy and safe province.

Events for Police Week 2023 were:

- Awards Night – The event recognized HPS members receiving
 - Leonard G Lawrence
 - Member of the Year
 - POP Project of the Year
 - Citizens Partnership Awards, Citizens Courage Awards
 - Crime Stoppers Award
 - Victim Services Award
- Coffee with a Cop – Gore Park
- Chief for a Day - Kids in Grades 7&8 are invited to submit 1-2 minute videos over social media explaining why they should be selected as the Chief for a Day. The Crime Prevention Branch selected three students to act as Chief and two Deputy Chiefs for a day, which included meeting the Chief and touring various units within the police service.
- Cops vs Kids Volleyball Game at the Catholic School Board
- Police in the Park at Bayfront
- Police on Street community engagement (various locations)

Presentations & Community Events:

Many organizations contact the Crime Prevention Branch for education and awareness training on a range of topics. The Crime Prevention Branch developed and delivered **55** safety awareness, and education presentations to internal units and community groups. These



presentations are delivered to diverse community groups and organizations such as but not limited to:

- Hamilton Hebrew Academy
- Centre de Santé Communautaire
- Ukrainian Refugees
- YWCA newcomers
- Dundas Seniors
- Catholic elementary schools
- Beavers and Sparks

Hamilton has many community events across the city that the community invites Hamilton Police to participate in. These community events provide police and the community the opportunity to:

- Informally engage in a positive environment which will help to build personal connections and trust.
- A place for community members to offer feedback, voice concerns, and communicate directly with officers.
- Foster collaboration between the police and various community organizations, schools, businesses, and local government.

The Crime Prevention Branch participated in **73** community events. Some of these events are but not limited to:

- McHappy Day
- Police in the Park
- Eid Festival
- Caribbean Culture Camp (Jamaica Foundation Hamilton)
- The Grey Cup
- Santa Claus Parade

Auxiliary, Volunteer, & Co-op

The Auxiliary Coordinator is responsible for hiring, training and scheduling auxiliary officers and the administration of this program. Auxiliary officers are volunteers from the community who, through an application process, are hired to be ambassadors of the Hamilton Police Service and assist the Hamilton Police Service within the community.

In March of 2022, events slowly returned after a two year hiatus due to COVID-19, allowing the Auxiliary Branch to once again participate. However, there was a noticeable drop in auxiliary



officer numbers after the COVID 2-year program shutdown due to life changes, new jobs, natural attrition, and retirements.

In 2023, the volunteer and co-op placement programs were taken out of the Community Mobilization Branch and managed by the individual units that they are in. For example Victim Services and The Mounted Unit. As of 2024 they are now managed through Human Resources.

Auxiliary Branch - Community Safety

The Auxiliary Branch continues to provide volunteer opportunities for auxiliaries officers to participate at events such as, ride-long's, parades, and ceremonies. The unit continues to serve with pride and professionalism, **30** auxiliary officers completed **3063** hours of volunteer service in 2023. Auxiliary officers participated in supporting HPS at large-scale events, most notably in November for the Grey Cup and its festivities, where **19** Auxiliary Officers participated.

Below is a list of large scale events in 2023 where auxiliary officers were present.

- OPP Funeral in Barrie
- Around the Bay Road Race
- Concerts at First Ontario Place
- Forge Games – (10 games)
- Ti-Cat Games – (9 games)
- Paris to Ancaster Bike Race
- Ontario Police Memorial
- Police in the Park – Bayfront
- Ancaster Heritage Days
- Ride to Conquer Cancer
- Canada Day Celebrations
- Super Crawl
- Grey Cup
- Santa Claus Parades

Auxiliary, Volunteer, & Co-op - Engagement & Partnerships

The Auxiliary Branch was able to provide support for Hamilton-based charity events such as the Ride to Conquer Cancer, Social Navigator Coat Drive, Tiger-Cat and Forge Soccer games, and various festivals.

Recruitment

In the fall of 2023, a class of four new auxiliary officers were trained. The successful applicants completed their 7-week training requirements and were ready for deployment in December 2023, making their debut at the Grey Cup festivities.



Career Development

The auxiliary officer program is a great way for community members to learn if policing is a career for them to pursue. In 2023, there were a number of auxiliary officers that gained employment in policing or other aspects of law enforcement:

- 1 – Constable position with NISHNAWBE ASKI POLICE SERVICE (NAPS)
- 1 – Constable position with Toronto Police Service
- 1 – Constable position with Waterloo Regional Police Service
- 1 – Special Constable hired with HPS

Training

The Auxiliary Coordinator kept the auxiliaries officers engaged via training and meetings. In 2023, there were three use-of-force training sessions to keep their qualifications up-to-date and three team meetings to discuss challenges and share ideas. A phone interview was conducted with all active auxiliary members halfway through the calendar year to discuss personal goals and their future plans with Hamilton Police Service. A training initiative was implemented in January 2022 that provided auxiliary officers with free access to training on the HPS Canadian Police Knowledge Network (CPKN) portal. The auxiliary officers embraced this opportunity and allowed them to keep updated on policing education and provide hours to their volunteer bank.

Total CPKN courses completed: 132

Total CPKN volunteer hours: 428

Retention

In 2023, auxiliary officers were recognized for their significant years of committed service.

- Two members with five years of service
- Two members with 10 years of service

Two auxiliaries completed their 2023 FIT PIN. One auxiliary achieving 19-consecutive FIT PIN years.

One auxiliary was recognized for lifesaving measures in 2023.

Conclusion

The Crime Prevention Branch and the Auxiliary Branch continued to engage the community in 2023 to provide our community with strategies to reduce or prevent crime.

The Crime Prevention Branch continued to connect with the community in various ways to improve relationships within the community.



The Auxiliary Branch dedicated 3063 hours of volunteer time to various activities over the past year. These valued members attended an array of important community programs and events that would not have been otherwise possible without their presence.

