

2024 Year End Report

Appendix A

Auxiliary Branch

Crime Prevention

Crime Stoppers

Mounted Patrol Unit

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Community Safety Division



**HAMILTON
POLICE SERVICE**
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Introduction

In 2024, the Hamilton Police Service reinforced its commitment to proactive community policing and meaningful public engagement through a range of integrated strategies and specialized programs. Anchored in the 2023–2026 Strategic Plan, this approach recognizes that effective crime prevention is a shared responsibility—one that involves early intervention, collaborative leadership, and strong community partnerships.

Crime prevention, at its core, is about stopping crime before it happens. Ontario defines this approach as:

“The anticipation, recognition and appraisal of a crime risk and the actions taken – including the integrated community leadership required – to remove or reduce it.”

This guiding definition reflects Hamilton Police Service’s philosophy: that public safety is best achieved by addressing the root causes of crime and building resilient, connected communities. In 2024, this philosophy came to life through the efforts key programs such as **the Community Engagement Unit, Auxiliary Unit, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), Crime Stoppers, and the Mounted Patrol Unit**. Each unit played a vital role in enhancing safety, supporting frontline operations, and strengthening community trust.

Despite ongoing staffing challenges and evolving public needs, these programs remained steadfast in their dedication to service excellence. Whether through volunteer support, crime prevention audits, visible patrols, educational outreach, or the facilitation of anonymous crime reporting, their collective impact underscores Hamilton Police Service’s ongoing commitment to innovation, accountability, and community partnership.

The following report outlines the contributions and accomplishments of these units throughout 2024 and highlights how their work continues to shape a safer, more engaged Hamilton.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is a foundational strategy in modern crime prevention. At its core, it involves building strong, trusting relationships between police and the communities we serve. Rather than relying solely on enforcement, community engagement focuses on collaboration, transparency, and shared responsibility for public safety.

Through regular dialogue, outreach, and partnership with residents, businesses, service providers, and local organizations, police gain deeper insights into the unique concerns,

needs, and risk factors affecting different neighbourhoods. This localized understanding helps inform more targeted, effective prevention efforts—such as youth outreach, safety audits, neighborhood programs, and social service referrals.

Engaged communities are more likely to report crime, participate in prevention programs, and contribute to solutions that address root causes of criminal behaviour—such as poverty, addiction, and social isolation.

In May 2024, Hamilton Police Service established the **Community Engagement Unit** to lead and coordinate its outreach efforts in a more strategic and impactful way. The unit includes two dedicated officers whose primary focus is building strong community connections through educational presentations, participation in local events, and the development of programs like the Citizen's Police College. Through these initiatives, the unit fosters trust, enhances public awareness, and encourages meaningful collaboration between police and the community.

In 2024, the Community Engagement Unit had 14,137 interactions with the community and attended 125 presentations and events.

- Presentations: 18
- Community Events: 45
- Cultural Events: 16
- School Events: 16
- Senior Events: 9
- Internal Events: 16
- Training / Seminars: 1
- Coffee with a Cop: 4

Community Engagement used Coppy, the Hamilton Police mascot, 20 times during events. The Unit also ran Citizen's Police College, Police in the Park and March Break Cop Camp.

In addition, Hamilton Police attended an additional 100 Town Halls and community meetings through the divisional Crime Managers.

Problem-Oriented Policing Projects

In 2024, Hamilton Police Service updated its Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) Projects and Police Driven Initiative (PDI) Plan to more effectively address persistent community concerns.

POP projects use the Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment (SARA) model to identify and resolve issues that contribute to crime and disorder, combining officer-led analysis with evidence-based strategies and community involvement.

PDI projects are a proactive project or strategy developed, led, and implemented by police to address specific issues impacting community safety, crime trends, or public well-being. These are not community driven.

In 2024, there were six POP projects, which included the following:

POP Project All Aboard: Designed to address the high amount of calls at the Hunter St Go Station relating to unhoused individuals defecating and using drugs in the stairwells, bathing and using drugs in the washrooms, exits and platforms being blocked and overdoses on site. Division 10 worked with Metrolinx transit security and the Special Constables on site, increasing Division 10 proactive patrols in and around Go Station to reduce crime and the issues identified through police and security presence. Project ran from March through May and reduced the calls for service from 169 to 44.

POP Project 3C (Communication, Collaboration & Compassion): Developed to increase area residents and businesses sense of safety in the neighbourhoods surrounding encampment areas. This project had a secondary goal of reducing crime (e.g., police occurrences, calls for service) in the neighbourhoods adjacent to encampment sites.

POP Project 'Clear Track': Hamilton Police Service (HPS) collaborated with CN Police Service (CNPS) to implement Operation Clear Track, a safety initiative that ran hand in hand with Rail Safety Week. The goal of this project was to educate the community about rail safety to help prevent train related accidents and injuries. Special attention was paid to school zone areas close to railway tracks.

POP Project KORA: A total of 472 outstanding offenders were arrested, and 326 offenders were designated as Project KORA targets, while another 146 wanted offenders from other divisions and other Policing agencies were arrested. Also of note, in addition to the above-mentioned wanted party arrests, Project KORA resulted in the following statistics:

- An additional 147 fresh charges being laid against offenders
- 4 Provincial Offences Notices being issued (HTA, TTPA, Safe Streets and Bylaw)
- 17.6 g Crack Cocaine, 155.9 g Fentanyl, 40.8 g Methamphetamine and 14.45 g Cocaine being seized
- \$6388.50 in Canadian currency being seized as proceeds of crime
- Weapons seized included: 4 BB guns, a can of mace, a spring loaded baton and a Taser.

POP Ignition 2.0. - This POP was created in 2023 at a Divisional level to address identified crime trends with respect to high target vehicle thefts. Stats and trends were updated regularly by the Divisional Analyst and sent to patrol officers in order to deploy resources effectively / in line with current trends being seen within the Division. This project continues to run as high target vehicle thefts continue to be a problem throughout the Division and across the GTA.

March Madness - Run as a service wide strategic initiative which was spearheaded by Division 3 officers. This initiative has previously run as a "POP project" with a goal of addressing and reducing the total number of outstanding wanted parties within the City. During this month-long initiative there were a total of 154 warrant arrests made city wide. At the start of this initiative there were 1,056 outstanding warrants. At the conclusion there were 1,026 outstanding warrants reducing the total amount by 30.

Hamilton Police Service Auxiliary Unit

The Hamilton Police Auxiliary Unit remains an integral part of community policing, comprised of dedicated volunteers who generously contribute their time to support frontline officers and enhance public safety. In 2024, the unit continued its essential work. While the unit remains modest in size, each member is expected to contribute a minimum of 144 volunteer hours annually—a commitment consistently met with professionalism and pride.

The following report highlights the unit's key contributions in 2024, including community engagement, operational support, training, recruitment, retention, and career development achievements.



Overview of the Auxiliary Unit – 2024

The Hamilton Police Auxiliary Unit continued to support both community engagement and operational policing throughout 2024.

Despite ongoing challenges in rebuilding post-pandemic, the unit made progress. One new class of five auxiliaries were hired in March and completed training by the end of April 2024. Throughout the year, seven members moved on to other pursuits, bringing the total number of active auxiliaries to 25 by year-end.



The Auxiliary Program continued to provide meaningful opportunities for members to participate in a wide range of duties—from high-profile public events to operational support. Collectively, 25 auxiliary officers contributed 2,710.75 volunteer hours in 2024, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to public service.

Operational Ride-Alongs

Auxiliaries remained actively involved in operational policing, participating in 672 hours of Ride-Alongs with frontline officers from various divisions. These experiences provided valuable insight into real-time policing and enhanced their situational awareness and preparedness.

The Auxiliary Unit maintained a strong, visible, and approachable presence at a wide range of community, ceremonial, and large-scale events throughout 2024. A notable highlight was the RBC Canadian Open in June, a nationally recognized event spanning a full week. Nineteen auxiliary officers contributed a total of 156 volunteer hours, supporting crowd management, traffic control, and evening concert security, with most hours focused over the busy weekend. Their professionalism was instrumental in ensuring a safe and well-coordinated event for all attendees.

Beyond the Canadian Open, auxiliaries actively participated in popular parades and festivals, including the Festival of Friends, Winona Peach Festival, Ribfest, and several fall fairs across Hamilton. They continued to support sporting events such as Forge FC and Hamilton Tiger-Cats home games, and assisted with traffic control and participant safety during the Ride to Conquer Cancer cycling fundraiser.

Auxiliary officers also contributed to high-visibility patrols in entertainment districts through McMaster University and Hess Village deployments, and proudly represented the Service during Remembrance Day ceremonies in Downtown Hamilton, Ancaster, and Gore Park. Educational support included helping instructors at Citizens Police College, as well as participating in three training nights, including a fall session with the Mounted Unit in Jerseyville. Additional duties included providing summer security at the Carbine training site and assisting with badge and awards presentations, helping to recognize and welcome both sworn and auxiliary members.

This range of participation highlights the Auxiliary Unit's versatility and commitment to supporting both public safety and community connection across the city.



Career Development and Recruitment

In the spring of 2024, a new class of five auxiliary officers successfully completed the seven-week training program and were fully deployed by May. The Auxiliary Program continues to serve as a valuable pathway into policing careers; this year, three auxiliaries were hired as sworn officers by the Hamilton Police Service, while four members retired from their roles. Ongoing engagement and training remained a priority throughout the year. The Auxiliary Coordinator facilitated three use-of-force training sessions to maintain member qualifications and hosted three unit meetings to encourage operational feedback and discussion. Additionally, mid-year interviews were conducted with all auxiliaries to support career development and align individual goals with future policing opportunities.

Retention and Recognition

In 2024, several members were acknowledged for their years of service and ongoing commitment:

- Three members celebrated 5 years of service.
- Two members reached 10 years of service.
- Two members marked 20 years of service.
- Two members were awarded the prestigious Jim Antinori Award.

Two auxiliaries completed their 2024 FIT PIN, with one achieving a remarkable 19 consecutive years of qualification.

Ottawa Memorial Event

For the first time in five years, the Hamilton Police Auxiliary Unit proudly participated in the Canadian Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Weekend in Ottawa (September 2024).

Five auxiliaries, all of whom completed over 144 hours of service in the previous year, were selected based on merit to represent the unit. Their commitment was honored with an overnight stay sponsored by the Hamilton Police Association. This participation not only demonstrated dedication but also reaffirmed the value of their role within the broader policing community.



The Hamilton Police Auxiliary Unit's accomplishments in 2024 reflect a year of service, resilience, and continued dedication to the community. With over 2,700 hours of volunteer time, participation in major events, and critical support during Ride-Alongs and patrols, auxiliaries proved to be a reliable and valued resource. Training, recruitment, and career advancement efforts were maintained, and members were rightfully recognized for their longstanding contributions.

As the unit continues to grow, the foundation laid in 2024 will serve as a strong stepping stone for future growth. With professionalism and pride, the Auxiliary Unit remains committed to its mission: supporting frontline policing, fostering community trust, and providing meaningful public service opportunities. The outlook for 2025 is promising, with continued focus on expanding membership, enhancing training, and maximizing the Auxiliary Unit's impact across Hamilton.

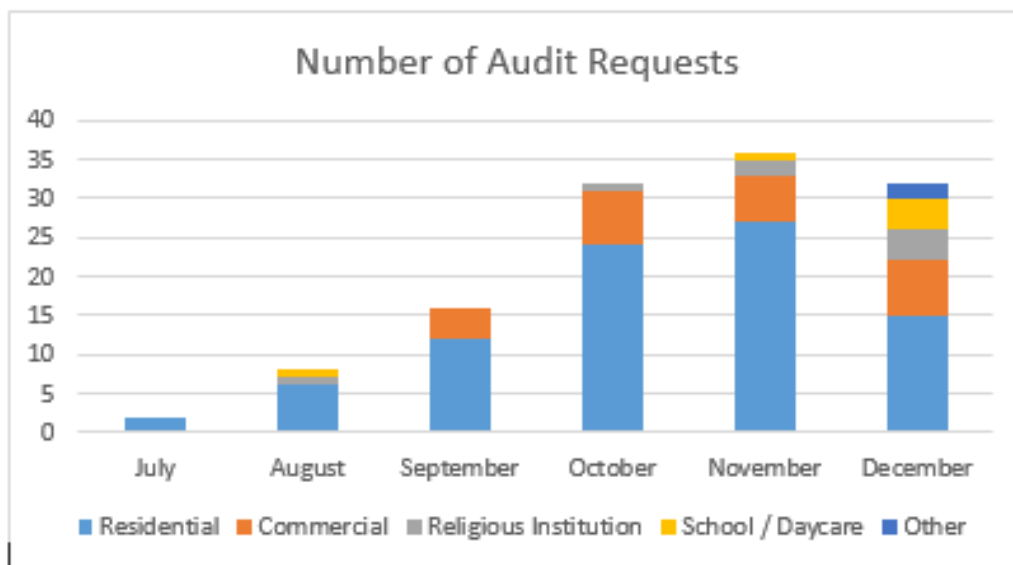
Crime Prevention **through** Environmental Design

In 2024, the Hamilton Police Service continued its commitment to proactive crime prevention through the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTED focuses on reducing opportunities for crime and enhancing community safety through smart environmental design and property layout.

As of July 2024 The CPTED program is supported by two part-time civilian employees who are retired police officers. These retired officers conduct audits and provide practical recommendations to victims of crime, property owners, businesses, and community organizations. These assessments focus on improving natural surveillance, access control, territorial reinforcement, and maintenance—core CPTED principles.

Throughout the year, the CPTED team worked collaboratively with city departments, business improvement areas, victims and private property owners to address safety concerns and enhance the security of public and private spaces. Their contributions continue to support long-term crime reduction and strengthen community partnerships.

2024 Year End CPTED Stats



2024 Total Audits:

Residential: 94

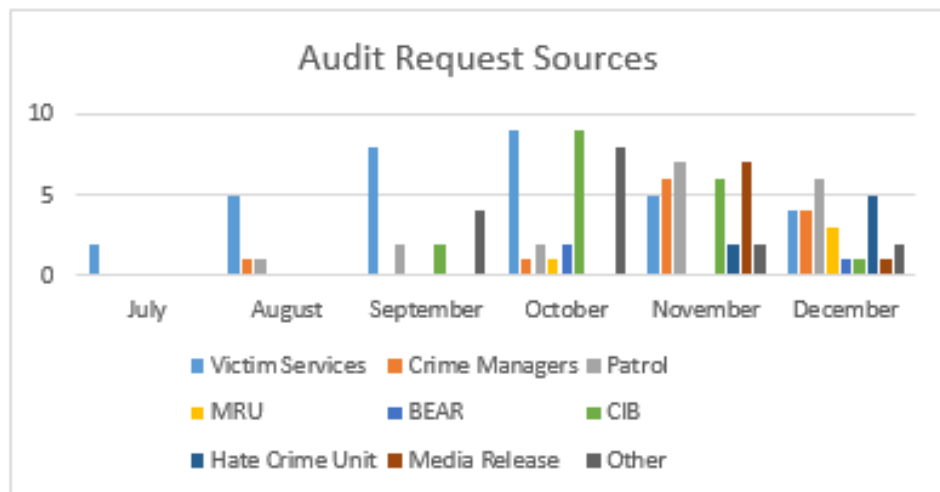
Commercial: 25

Religious Institution: 8

School / Daycare: 6

Other: 2 (storage unit and Hamilton Fire Station)

Total Audits 2024: 135 (since CPTED Auditor Position commenced in July 2024)



Note: A social media release was done in November resulting in a slight and temporary increase in audit requests. Since October, more units service wide, have become aware of the CPTED audit service resulting in an increase in requests.

Throughout 2024, the dedication of the CPTED team helped address safety concerns, enhance property security, and strengthen partnerships across the city. As we move forward, HPS remains committed to supporting and expanding this program to ensure continued collaboration with the public and long-term crime prevention through smart environmental design.

Crime Stoppers

Hamilton Crime Stoppers is a vital community partnership program operated in collaboration with the Hamilton Police Service, local media, and the public. Since 1983 the program has provided a safe and anonymous way for individuals to report information about criminal activity, contributing to a safer community while protecting the identity of tipsters.

Through its anonymous tip line and online reporting tools, Crime Stoppers encourages citizens to play an active role in crime prevention. The program supports investigations involving drugs, weapons, human trafficking, wanted persons, and other serious crimes. In doing so, it enhances public safety while fostering community trust and cooperation.

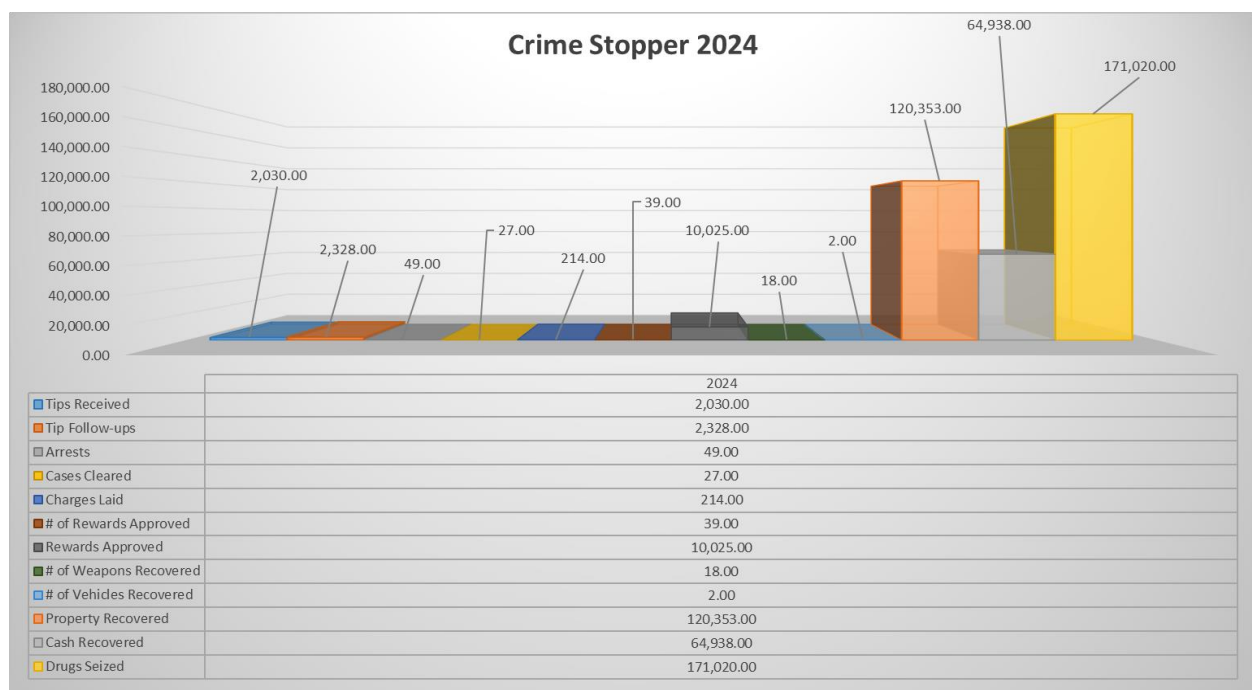




Special visit from “The Hulk,” Lou Ferrigno

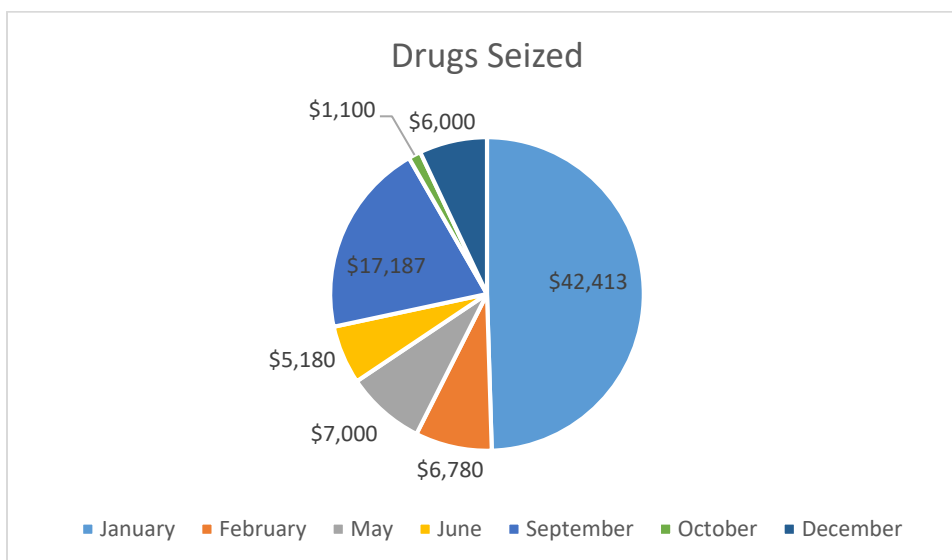
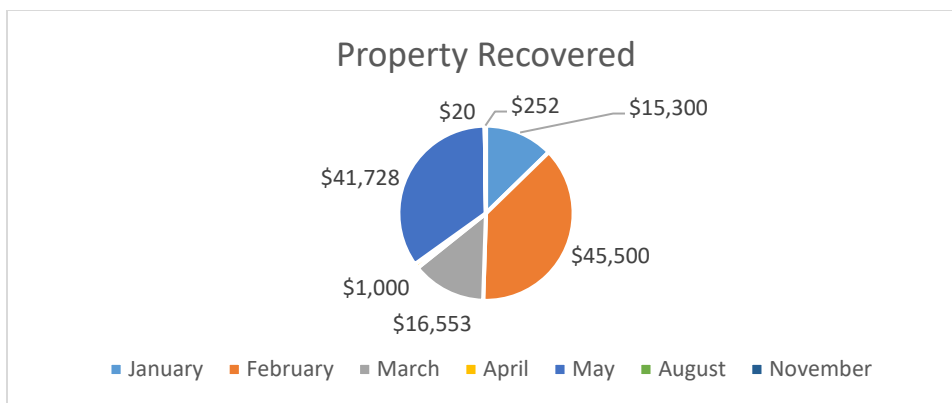
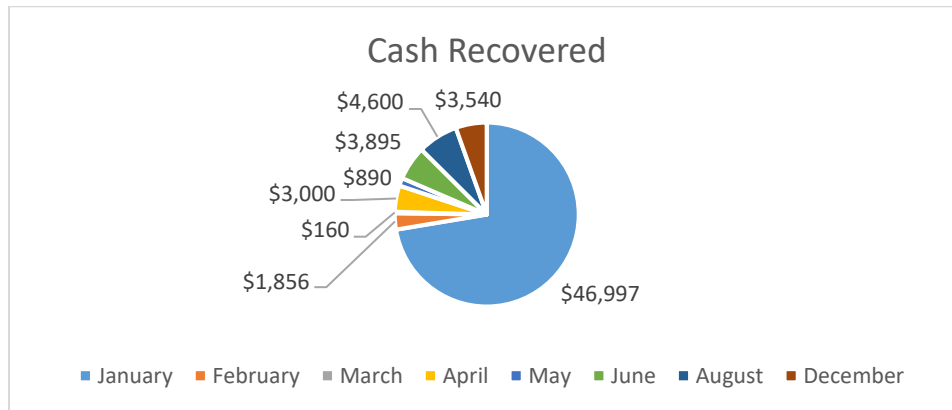
Rewards and Seizures

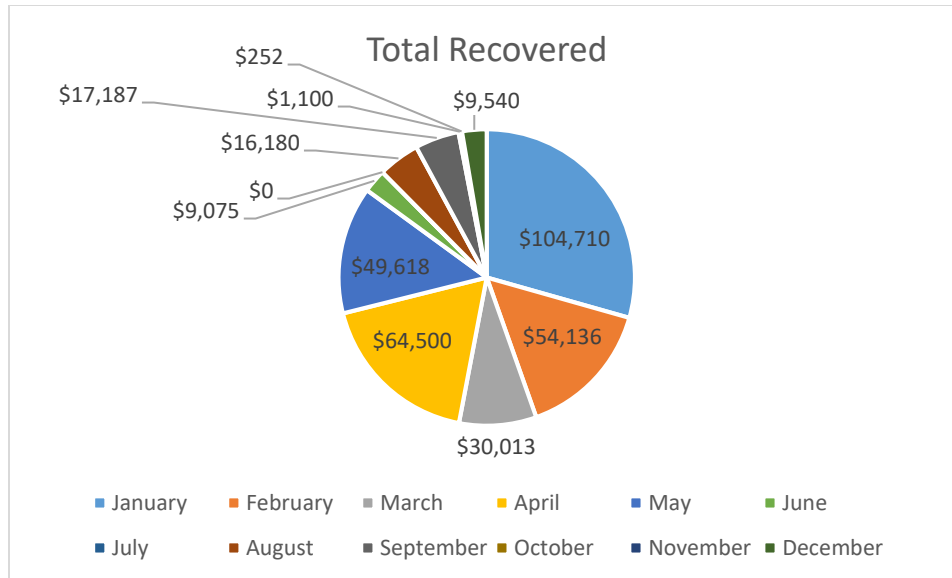
In 2024, Hamilton Crime Stoppers remained a vital resource in promoting public safety through anonymous tip submissions. A total of 2,030 new tips were received, with an additional 2,328 tip follow-ups submitted—these follow-ups often included added information such as photos or updates from the original tipster. The program approved 39 rewards, resulting in a total of \$10,025 paid out over the year. The highest reward payouts occurred in May, August, and December, reflecting periods of particularly impactful tips. These results demonstrate the strong partnership between the community and law enforcement in working together to reduce crime and keep Hamilton safe.



In 2024, tips submitted through Hamilton Crime Stoppers contributed to the recovery of significant illicit items and assets. A total of \$171,020 in drugs were seized, alongside \$64,938 in cash, often identified as proceeds of crime and subject to additional Criminal

Code charges. Furthermore, \$120,353 in stolen or related property was recovered, bringing the total value of recovered items to \$356,311. These tips also led to 49 arrests, 27 cases cleared, and 214 criminal charges laid, demonstrating the tangible impact of community-submitted information on local investigations and public safety outcomes.





Hamilton Crime Stoppers continues to be a trusted and effective tool in supporting public safety. Through strong community partnerships and anonymous reporting, the program has helped generate meaningful results—leading to arrests, charges, and the recovery of illicit items—while reinforcing that everyone has a role to play in keeping our city safe.

The Mounted Patrol Unit

The Mounted Patrol Unit (MPU), established in January 2010, continues to serve as a valuable operational unit within the Hamilton Police Service. Officers assigned to the MPU are formally trained through the Toronto Police Service's Basic Equitation course, which provides a strong foundation in horsemanship and riding skills required to deploy in various situations.

The MPU's mandate focuses on community engagement, high-visibility patrol, crowd management, and proactive crime prevention across the City of Hamilton. The unit works closely with the Public Order Unit and regularly assists in demonstrations, large public events, and search for missing persons.

The MPU enhances the Service's ability to deliver:

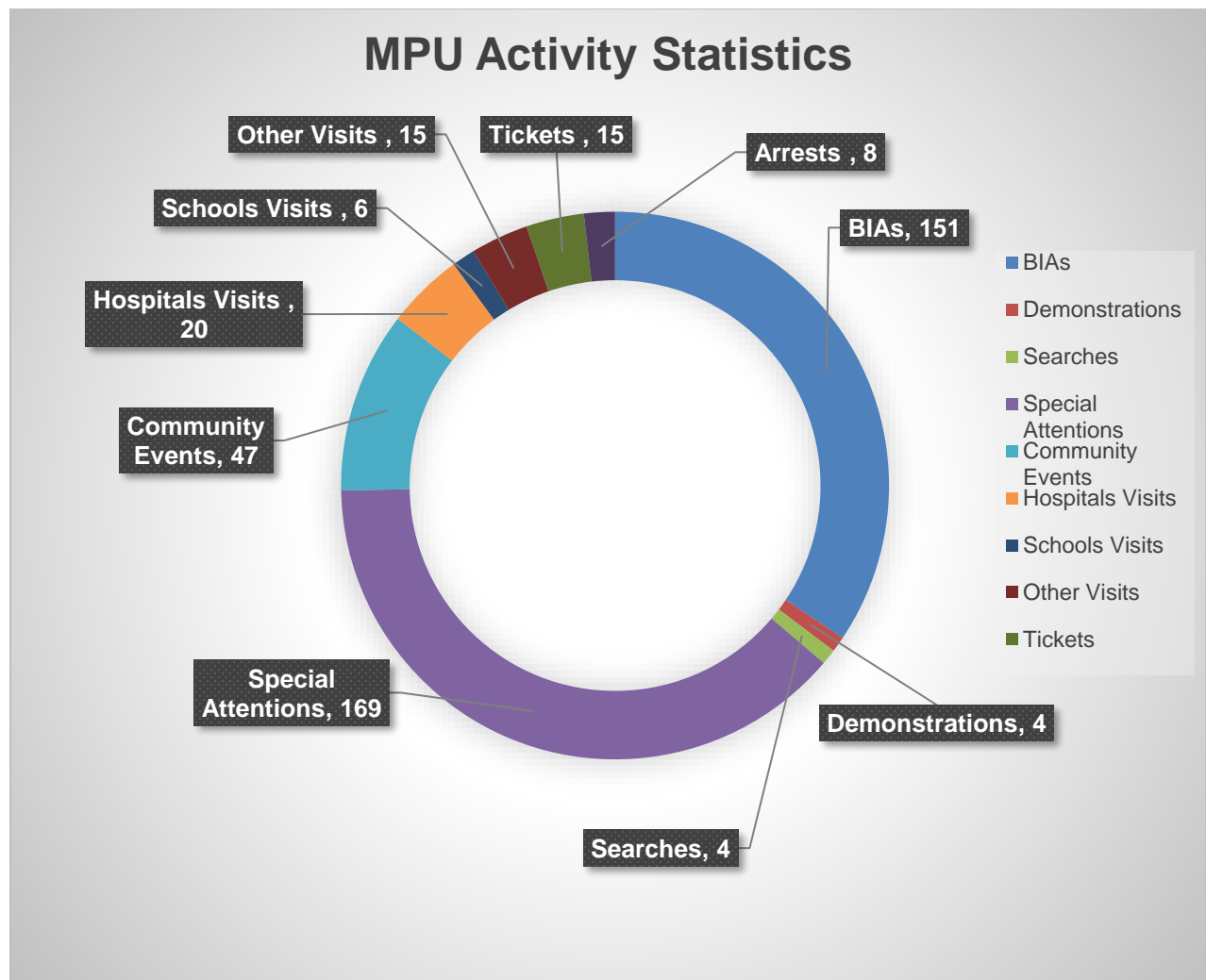
- Crime prevention
- Community engagement
- Search and rescue operations
- Park and trail safety

Operating year-round, the MPU consists of one Sergeant, four constables, two spare constables, a civilian barn manager and volunteers. In 2024 there were seven Percheron or Percheron-cross horses in the unit. The Mounted Unit works eight shifts per week across day and afternoon coverage consistently providing highly visible presence throughout Hamilton's urban areas and green spaces.

Each horse in the MPU is named in honour of a significant figure or symbol tied to Hamilton's history and identity:

- **Lincoln** – Named in memory of The Honourable Lincoln Alexander, the first Black Member of Parliament and former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.
- **RHLI (Riley)** – Named for the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, recognizing the city's proud military heritage.
- **MacNab** – In honour of Sir Allan MacNab, former Premier of the Province of Canada and resident of Dundurn Castle, who fought in the War of 1812.
- **Sawyer** – Named after Chief Joseph Sawyer, a respected leader of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation from 1828 to 1863.
- **Tiger Cat (T.C.)** – A tribute to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats football team, symbolizing the city's strong sports culture and community spirit.
- **Griffin** – Named in the honour of Enefers Griffin who was one of Ancaster's first black settlers who escaped slavery in Virginia and settled in Ancaster with his wife Percilla in the early 1800's
- **Sutherland** - Named for the Argyles and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada primary reserve infantry regiment of the Canadian Armed Forces based in Hamilton

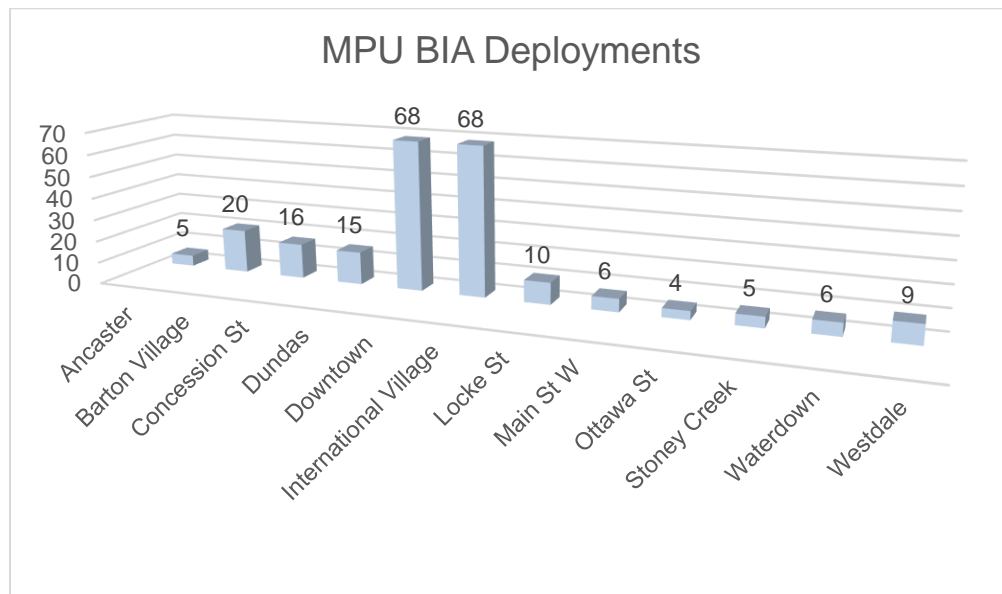
MPU Statistics



The MPU is deployed 12 months of the year—rain or shine. In 2024, officers logged 1,511.5 hours on horseback patrolling the community, with peak patrol occurring between June and October. Additionally, the unit recorded 179.25 hours in transit to deployment sites. Even while traveling, the distinctive mounted vehicle and horse trailer serve as a moving symbol of police presence, often greeted by enthusiastic waves and cheers from children and community members.

BIA Deployments

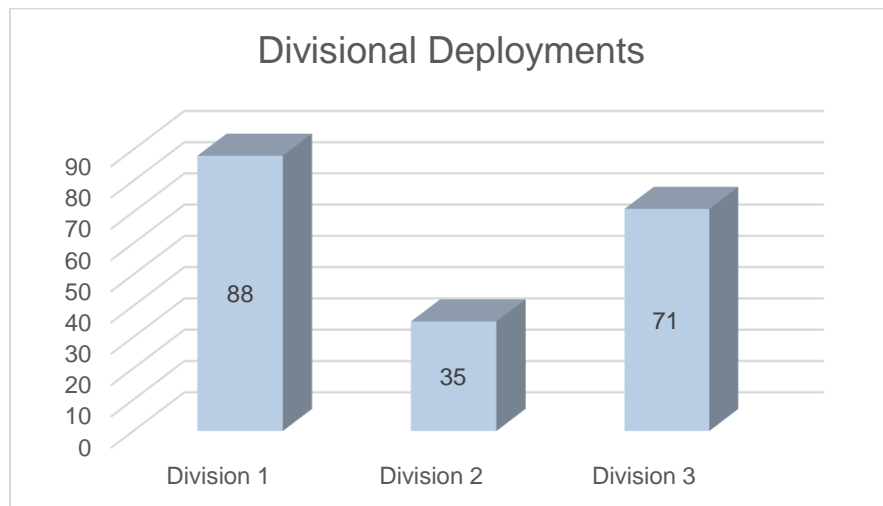
The MPU conducted 151 Business Improvement Area (BIA) visits, with a strong focus on the downtown core, International Village and James Street North. These high-visibility helped improve public perception of safety and addressed ongoing community concerns. In addition, officers carried out 169 Special Attentions—proactive, targeted patrols aimed at deterring crime, responding to resident complaints, and reassuring the public in areas of concern.



Divisional Deployments

The Mounted Patrol Unit actively patrols all three Hamilton Police Service divisions, with the majority of time spent in Division 1. Officers on horseback are a regular and

welcome presence in city parks, trails, the downtown core, and throughout local neighbourhoods. Their visibility and approachability make them a favourite among adults, children, and seniors alike—many of whom enjoy the opportunity to see and interact with the horses up close.



The MPU also assisted in four large scale searches for missing or vulnerable individuals and many small searches while assisting patrol officers on the front line. Their ability to navigate challenging terrain—such as wooded areas, open fields, and rural landscapes—provided a tactical advantage over traditional patrols. The elevated vantage point of horseback officers, combined with the horses’ calming presence, often proved crucial in locating individuals, particularly children or those with cognitive or neurodevelopmental challenges. The horses also serve as a welcoming presence, encouraging those in distress to approach officers for help.



Community Engagement

Beyond operational support, the MPU was a strong ambassador for the Service in 2024, participating in 47 community events. These included major gatherings such as the Hamilton Remembrance Day Parade, Rockton Fair, Festival of Friends, and McMaster Homecoming. The Unit was also present at seasonal events like Santa Claus parades, Halloween and fall festivals, and cultural and religious gatherings including the Rwandan Genocide Memorial and patrols at Jewish places of worship. The Unit connected with youth through school visits, summer camps, and graduation ceremonies, and participated in outreach events like Cram-a-Cruiser, Camp Day, and Touch-a-Truck. Notably, the MPU introduced their newest horse, T.C., at a Tiger-Cats game and made a special visit to Caledonia to bring joy to a terminally ill youth—further demonstrating their commitment to compassionate community engagement.



In 2024, the Mounted Patrol Unit maintained its essential role in both operational support and community policing. Through 47 community events, strategic patrols, and specialized responses, the MPU helped strengthen public trust and enhance police visibility across the city. Their efforts fostered countless positive interactions, particularly with youth and families, reinforcing their role as approachable and valued members of the Service.

Whether patrolling trails, managing large crowds, or engaging with residents at community events, the MPU continued to demonstrate the unique effectiveness of mounted officers in promoting public safety. The horses' symbolic names deepen the Unit's connection to Hamilton's heritage, bridging the past and present in service to the community.

Looking ahead, the Mounted Patrol Unit remains committed to being a trusted, visible, and community-driven resource that proudly upholds the values and traditions of the Hamilton Police Service.

Conclusion

Throughout 2024, the Auxiliary Unit, CPTED Program, Crime Stoppers and Mounted Unit each demonstrated the vital role they play in the success of the Hamilton Police Service's community-focused mission. From thousands of volunteer hours and high-visibility patrols to environmental audits and tip-based investigations, these programs have collectively strengthened public safety, improved police visibility, and enhanced community trust.

As we look toward 2025, these initiatives will continue to grow, evolve, and adapt—guided by a commitment to professionalism, innovation, and public service. The Hamilton Police Service remains proud of these contributions and confident in the continued positive impact these units will have on our city and its residents.