



**AGENDA**  
**Community Policing Advisory Committee**

June 17, 2020

9:00 am

Council Chambers, Town Hall  
175 Queen Street East, St. Marys

Pages

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

**3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the June 17, 2020 Community Policing Advisory Committee agenda be accepted as presented.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**3**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the May 20, 2020 Community Policing Advisory Committee meeting minutes be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chair and the Secretary.

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**6. DELEGATIONS**

None

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 POLICE MONTHLY STATISTICS**

**9**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the May 2020 police monthly statistics be received for information.

## **7.2 CRIME STOPPERS REPORT**

14

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the April 2020 and May 2020 Crime Stoppers report be received for information.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **8.1 Stratford Police Service News Release re: COVID Crime Stats**

18

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the information provided through the Stratford Police Service media release regarding COVID crime stats be received.

## **9. DISCUSSION ITEMS RAISED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### **9.1 Update on Progress of Vision Zero Approach**

### **9.2 Need for Signage on Police Station**

### **9.3 Concerns Regarding Speeding on Queen Street East**

### **9.4 Health and Safety Inspection of Police Office**

### **9.5 Fireworks - Reports of People Discharging Contrary to By-law**

## **10. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

September 16, 2020 - 9:00 am, Location TBD

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** this meeting of the Community Policing Advisory Committee be adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ pm.



**MINUTES**  
**Community Policing Advisory Committee**

May 20, 2020  
9:00 am  
Video Conference

Committee Members Present: Councillor Winter  
Mayor Strathdee  
Doug Diplock  
Paul Dunseith  
Jacqueline Hibbert

Stratford Police Services Present: Chief Greg Skinner  
Deputy Chief Gerald Foster  
Community Resources Officer Nick Keating

Staff Present: Brent Kittmer, CAO / Clerk  
Jenna McCartney, Deputy Clerk

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Winter called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None declared.

**3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**Moved By** Paul Dunseith  
**Seconded By** Doug Diplock

**THAT** the May 20, 2020 Community Policing Advisory Committee agenda be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Moved By** Jacqui Hibbert  
**Seconded By** Paul Dunseith

**THAT** the February 19, 2020 Community Policing Advisory Committee meeting minutes be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chair and the Secretary.

**CARRIED**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**5.1 Park Patrol**

Deputy Chief Foster provided an update on the park patrol program as it will not be initiated in Stratford for 2020 due to the implications of COVID-19.

**6. DELEGATIONS**

None.

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 POLICE MONTHLY STATISTICS**

Deputy Chief Foster reviewed the February, March and April 2020 police monthly statistics.

In response to Chair Winter's inquiry about the process for responding to a shop lifting complaint, Deputy Chief Foster confirmed that the police often receive the complaint after the fact and will utilize video surveillance to investigate.

In response to Chair Winter's inquiry about a potential increase in domestic calls for service, Deputy Chief Foster stated that has been an increase in this type of call for service during the pandemic.

In response to Doug Diplock's inquiry about the break and enter calls for service in March, Deputy Chief Foster confirmed that the calls for service were related to residential properties but could not confirm how many had occurred prior to the declaration of a state of emergency by the province.

In response to Mayor Strathdee's inquiry about the protocols for calls for service as the province in preparing for the recovery of the pandemic, Deputy Chief Foster stated that an officer will continue to be deployed to a desk position whereby the officer will respond to specific calls for service over the phone rather than directly in-person. Stratford Police Service are investigating online reporting options like those at other services within the area.

For instances when in-person contact is required, screening from the call centre will be completed prior to police arriving on the scene. The officer responding in-person will determine which personal protective equipment is required taking several variants into consideration.

Following the transportation of a person placed under arrest, the vehicle will undergo a decontamination process.

In response to Chair Winter's inquiry about a person being a large in St. Marys, Community Resources Officer Keating confirmed that the individual has been apprehended as of this morning.

**Moved By** Doug Diplock

**Seconded By** Jacqui Hibbert

**THAT** the February, March and April 2020 police monthly statistics be received for information.

**CARRIED**

## **7.2 CRIME STOPPERS REPORT**

Chief Skinner reviewed the December 2019, January and March 2020 Crime Stoppers reports.

In response to Chair Winter's inquiry whether prostitution is prevalent in St. Marys, Chief Skinner confirmed that prostitution and human trafficking instances are occurring in the area however, the Crime Stoppers reports do not breakdown the tips into the two counties served other further into the specific municipality.

In response to Chair Winter's inquiry regarding tobacco tax enforcement, Chief Skinner stated contraband tobacco sales are an issue in the area which result in tax evasion investigation. Officers have been trained in tobacco enforcement and will follow up on these specific tips.

**Moved By** Paul Dunseith

**Seconded By** Doug Diplock

**THAT** the December, January and March 2020 Crime Stoppers reports be received for information.

**CARRIED**

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **8.1 2019 Budget Reconciliation**

Brent Kittmer provided a review of the correspondence received from Stratford Police Service regarding the 2019 budget reconciliation.

The Town has received notice of surplus from 2019 which will be placed into a reserve for future policing needs.

**Moved By** Jacqui Hibbert

**Seconded By** Doug Diplock

**THAT** the 2019 budget reconciliation from the Stratford Police Service be received for information.

**CARRIED**

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Response to Pandemic**

Chief Skinner provided a detailed overview of the Stratford Police Services' response to the pandemic.

Some of the highlights include:

- suspension of all external training
- suspension of auxiliary training program
- development of operation plan followed by various revisions
- consulted regarding court management process during pandemic
- tracking of COVID-19 related costs
- pandemic resulted in heightened stressors within the community and within the workplace and responded accordingly
- ongoing need to communicate clear and concise expectations of the public as provincial information could be misinterpreted
- criminal investigation and street crimes members were redeployed to assist with enhanced visibility on the streets and to reassure the public that police were present and available to respond to community needs
- public's initial response to the emergency orders significantly decreased the volume of calls for service however, there began an upward trend of speeding, domestic crime and mischief
- increased need to support individuals due to mental health triggers
- implemented voluntary health checks of all members attending work

- constant monitoring and purchasing to maintain enough inventory of personal protective equipment

## **9.2 Recovery Plan**

Deputy Chief Foster presented SPS's approach to recovery planning for its members and the community.

Highlights from the recovery plan approach include:

- phased reintegration to the workplace for those members that have been working remotely during the pandemic with the first phase of members anticipated for return by June 1
- members that were redeployed to another unit in response to the pandemic will return to primary position
- preparedness to respond to the member's and community's needs as emergency orders are extended or lifted

In response to Doug Diplock's inquiry whether a health and safety audit has been conducted at the St. Marys office, Deputy Chief Foster stated that an audit has not been completed but will investigate further.

Brent Kittmer identified the ongoing struggle to interpret messaging from the province and the medical officer of health. As emergency orders are lifted, Mr. Kittmer inquired to what degree the SPS would be able to patrol recreation amenities as they reopen.

Chief Skinner stated that the police will monitor recreation amenities and respond to calls for service based on a priority sequence.

## **9.3 Impersonating Police**

In response to Chair Winter's inquiry whether the act of impersonating a police officer was prevalent in St. Marys, Chief Skinner stated that the situation does exist across the province however, within the areas that SPS provides service, there are no known concerns at present.

## **10. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Chair Winter reviewed the upcoming meeting as presented on the agenda.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved By** Jacqui Hibbert

**Seconded By** Paul Dunseith

**THAT** this meeting of the Community Policing Advisory Committee be adjourned at 10:11 am.

**CARRIED**

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Chair Winter

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Brent Kittmer, CAO / Clerk



# Stratford Police Service



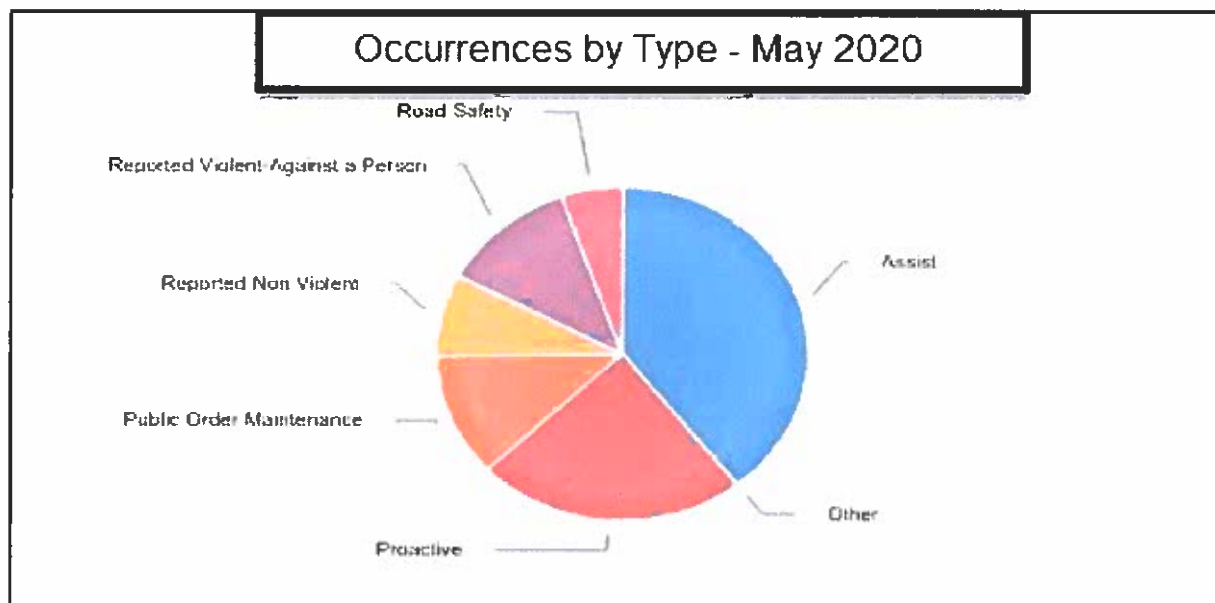
SERVING SINCE 1854

## **BOARD MONTHLY STATS**

**St Marys  
2020 MAY**

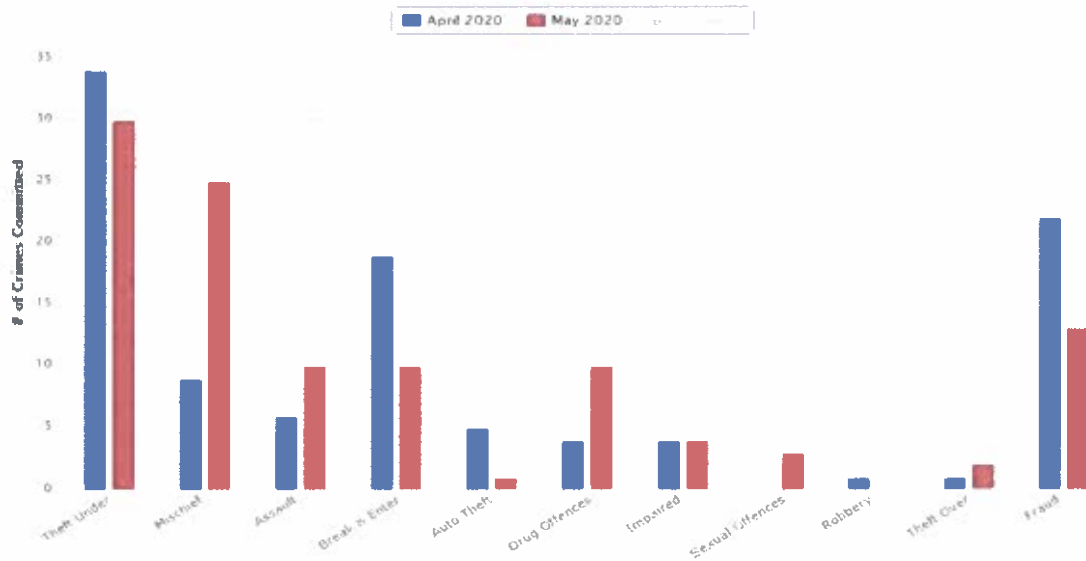


| OCCURRENCE STATISTICS          |                         |            |                  |            |              |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------------|------------|--------------|
|                                | Same Month<br>Last Year | Last Month | Current<br>Month | Last Year  | Current Year |
| OCCURRENCES                    | 2019 May                | 2020 Apr   | 2020 May         | Total 2019 | Total 2020   |
| CALLS FOR SERVICE              | 317                     | 145        | 214              | 3435       | 1050         |
| E-TICKETS included in total    | 76                      | 0          | 8                | 704        | 114          |
| PON WARNINGS included in total | 32                      | 0          | 13               | 384        | 65           |
| PART III SUMMONS charges       | /                       | 0          | 5                | /          | 21           |
| CHARGES LAID                   | 106                     | 7          | 32               | 1062       | 269          |
| YOUTH CHARGED                  | 1                       | 0          | 0                | 2          | 0            |
| YOUTH DIVERTED                 | 0                       | 0          | 0                | 5          | 0            |
| FALSE ALARMS                   | 7                       | 2          | 6                | 115        | 37           |
| HATE / BIAS INCIDENTS          | 0                       | 0          | 0                | 0          | 0            |
| MENTAL HEALTH RELATED - RPT    | 2                       | 4          | 5                | 49         | 18           |
| SUICIDES (includes attempted)  | 0                       | 1          | 0                | 3          | 2            |
| OVERDOSES                      | 0                       | 1          | 1                | 2          | 2            |
| DOMESTIC RELATED OCC'S         | 7                       | 10         | 13               | 81         | 51           |
| OCC'S WITH DOMESTIC CHARGES    | 1                       | 1          | 1                | 18         | 4            |



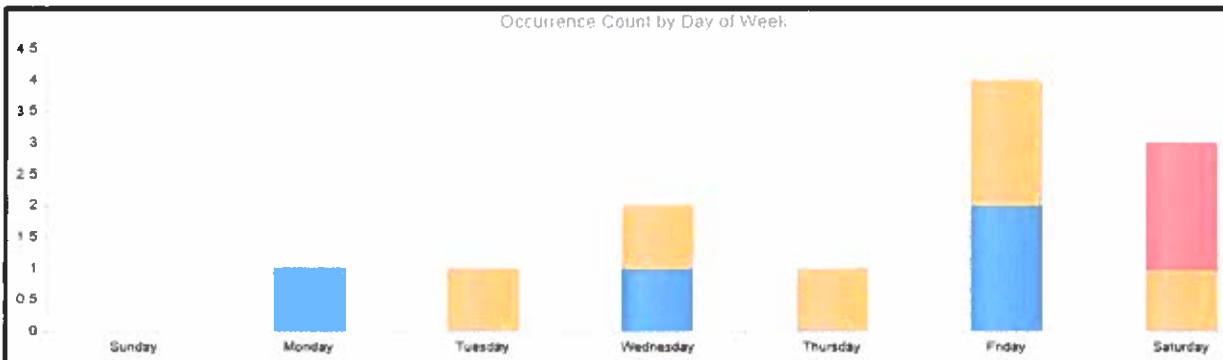
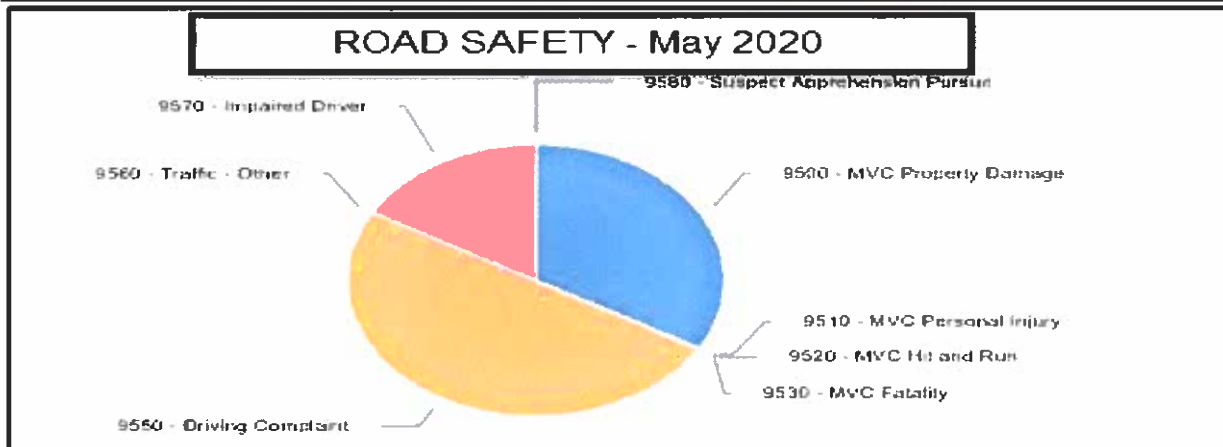
## OCCURRENCE CRIME REPORT

|                           | Same Month<br>Last Year | Last Month | Current<br>Month | Last Year  | Current Year |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------------|------------|--------------|
| OCCURRENCES               | 2019 May                | 2020 Apr   | 2020 May         | Total 2019 | Total 2020   |
| <b>VIOLENT CRIME</b>      |                         |            |                  |            |              |
| ASSAULT                   | 1                       | 1          | 1                | 13         | 6            |
| SEXUAL OFFENCES           | 0                       | 0          | 0                | 6          | 1            |
| ROBBERY                   | 0                       | 0          | 0                | 0          | 1            |
| <b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>     |                         |            |                  |            |              |
| BREAK & ENTER             | 1                       | 1          | 2                | 31         | 12           |
| MISCHIEF                  | 4                       | 1          | 5                | 35         | 13           |
| AUTO THEFT                | 0                       | 0          | 0                | 11         | 4            |
| THEFT OVER - OTHER        | 0                       | 0          | 0                | 1          | 0            |
| THEFT UNDER - OTHER       | 4                       | 1          | 2                | 59         | 15           |
| SHOPLIFTING               | 0                       | 1          | 2                | 10         | 13           |
| THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE  | 1                       | 0          | 1                | 25         | 5            |
| FRAUDS                    | 5                       | 2          | 0                | 33         | 8            |
| FRAUD ATTEMPTS            | 1                       | 4          | 0                | 11         | 6            |
| <b>DRUG/ALCOHOL CRIME</b> |                         |            |                  |            |              |
| DRUG OFFENCES             | 0                       | 0          | 0                | 10         | 3            |
| IMPAIRED BY ALCOHOL       | 2                       | 0          | 0                | 4          | 0            |
| IMPAIRED BY DRUG          | 0                       | 0          | 0                | 0          | 0            |



\* Above chart includes Stratford and Perth South.

| MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS         |                         |            |                  |            |              |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------------|------------|--------------|
|                                  | Same Month<br>Last Year | Last Month | Current<br>Month | Last Year  | Current Year |
| OCCURRENCES                      | 2019 May                | 2020 Apr   | 2020 May         | Total 2019 | Total 2020   |
| MVC Total                        | 7                       | 2          | 4                | 90         | 25           |
| MVC Personal Injury              | 1                       | 0          | 0                | 5          | 3            |
| MVC PD Only                      | 4                       | 0          | 4                | 63         | 17           |
| MVC Hit & Run                    | 2                       | 2          | 0                | 21         | 5            |
| MVC Fatal                        | 0                       | 0          | 0                | 1          | 0            |
| TOP 5 E-TICKETS ISSUED           | 65                      | 0          | 4                | 622        | 99           |
| Speeding                         | 52                      | 0          | 1                | 421        | 61           |
| No validated permit              | 5                       | 0          | 1                | 70         | 17           |
| No currently validation on plate | 6                       | 0          | 1                | 89         | 9            |
| Driving while under suspension   | 1                       | 0          | 0                | 36         | 6            |
| Drive - no licence               | 1                       | 0          | 1                | 6          | 6            |



| TRAFFIC STATISTICS              |          |                     |              |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------|--------------|
| OCCURRENCES                     | 2020 May | Vehicles<br>Stopped | Charges Laid |
| RIDE PROGRAMS                   | 0        | 0                   | 0            |
| VEHICLE PURSUITS / FAIL TO STOP | 0        | 0                   | 0            |

### MEMBER DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING

| Number of Attending | Type of Course/Workshop | Location | Duration |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| 1                   | PSHSA Part 2            | Online   | 2 days   |
| 1                   | Canine                  | London   | 3 days   |

### MEMBER COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

| Member Name | Reported By | Type of Occurrence |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
|             |             |                    |
|             |             |                    |

### RECRUITMENT

| Competition                     | Competition Status | Number of Applicants | Standing                                     |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| ERU Member                      | Closed             | 6                    | On Hold                                      |
| PT Clerk Communicator           | Closed             | 2                    | On Hold                                      |
| PT Special Constable (Internal) | Closed             | 8                    | On Hold                                      |
| Park Patrol                     | Closed             | 25                   | Final - M. Atchison, B. DeYoung & D. Pacheco |

### POLICE CHECKS - ST. MARYS

| Type  | Walk-in  | On-Line  | Money Collected |
|---|----------|----------|-----------------|
| Criminal Records Check - Volunteer                      | 0        | 1        | \$15            |
| Criminal Records Check - Employment                     | 0        | 1        | \$25            |
| Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check - Volunteer  | 0        | 0        | \$0             |
| Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check - Employment | 0        | 2        | \$50            |
| Police Vulnerable Sector Check - Volunteer              | 0        | 0        | \$0             |
| Police Vulnerable Sector Check - Employment             | 0        | 2        | \$100           |
| Insurance Request                                       | 0        | 0        | \$0             |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>   | <b>0</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>\$190</b>    |

### COMMUNITY RESOURCE/YOUTH OFFICER REPORT - ST. MARYS

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  |  |
| SECONDARY SCHOOL   |  |
| COMMUNITY EVENTS:  |  |
| OTHER INITIATIVES: |  |

### MEDIA RELEASES - ST. MARYS

| DATE   | DESCRIPTION                               |
|--------|---|
| 05-May | 20-6706 - Broken Window                   |
| 06-May | 20-6779 - Impaired Driver Arrested        |
| 17-May | 20-7192 & 7312 - Wanted Person BOLO       |
| 20-May | 20-7445 - Wanted Person Located/Arrested  |
| 21-May | 20-7461 & 7469 - Arrest Warrants Executed |



Crime Stoppers of Huron & Perth Counties  
245 Main Street North  
Exeter, Ontario, N0M 1S3  
519-235-0110  
crimestopper@ezlink.ca

## Month-End Report for APRIL 2020

### Coordinator: Juanita DRAPER

To: Staff Sergeant Dave SINKO, Huron County OPP  
D/Sgt Tom MacLEAN, Huron County OPP  
And to: Inspector Rob SCOTT, Perth/Huron County OPP  
Chief of Police Greg SKINNER, Stratford Police Service  
A/Staff Sergeant Scott LOBB, Perth County OPP  
A/D/Sgt. J.L. Meyer, Perth County OPP  
Sgt. Manny COELHO, North Perth OPP  
Sgt. Scott BENTLEY, West Perth OPP  
Constable Nick KEATING, Stratford Police Service – Crime Stoppers Liaison  
P/C Shawn McFALLS  
Sgt. Avery BASSETT

### Monthly Statistics for April 2020

- 98 Total Calls to Huron Perth County Crime Stoppers this month (tips and follow up calls)
- 48 New codes issued for Huron Perth County Crime Stoppers
  
- 30 Total new OPP tips (Huron County only)
  - 04 Huron Drugs
  - 26 Huron Intelligence
- 05 Total new OPP tips (Perth County only)
  - 01 Perth Drugs
  - 04 Perth Intelligence
- 07 Total new Stratford Police Service tips
  - 01 S.P.S. Drugs
  - 06 S.P.S. Intelligence
- 05 Assigned out to other Crime Stopper Programs (caller in Huron County)
- 01 Assigned out to other agencies (i.e. Health unit, OSPCA, M.N.R., R.C.M.P.)

## **2020 Year-To-Date Highlights – HURON PERTH**

|  | YTD             | S.I. (1988)         |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>TIPS</b>                            | <b>172</b>      | <b>12,956</b>       |
| <b>Arrests</b>                         | <b>9</b>        | <b>1,373</b>        |
| <b>Cases Cleared</b>                   | <b>6</b>        | <b>2,585</b>        |
| <b>Charges Laid</b>                    | <b>24</b>       | <b>2,797</b>        |
| <b>Weapons Seized</b>                  | <b>0</b>        | <b>1,092</b>        |
| <b>Property/Cash Recovered</b>         | <b>\$13,305</b> | <b>\$3,748,498</b>  |
| <b>Drugs Seized</b>                    | <b>\$10,564</b> | <b>\$13,619,897</b> |
| <b>Total Drugs, Cash,<br/>Property</b> | <b>\$23,869</b> | <b>\$17,368,395</b> |
| <b>Rewards Approved</b>                | <b>\$1,425</b>  | <b>\$129,935</b>    |

### **April Tips by Type**

|                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Assault:1</b>           | <b>Impaired Drive: 3</b>       |
| <b>Break &amp; Enter:2</b> | <b>Information: 1</b>          |
| <b>Child Porn:1</b>        | <b>Mischief: 2</b>             |
| <b>Covid:11</b>            | <b>Other Prov Stat: 3</b>      |
| <b>Drive Disq:1</b>        | <b>Poaching: 1</b>             |
| <b>Drugs:6</b>             | <b>Stolen Prop: 1</b>          |
| <b>Extortion:1</b>         | <b>Suspicious Behaviour: 4</b> |
| <b>Fraud:1</b>             | <b>Theft: 3</b>                |
| <b>HTA:1</b>               | <b>Threats: 2</b>              |
| <b>Homicide:1</b>          | <b>Warrants: 2</b>             |

### **Upcoming Events**

| <b>DATE</b>                                | <b>LOCATION</b>           | <b>EVENT</b>                  |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>May 13<sup>th</sup></b>                 | <b>Teleconference</b>     | <b>HP Board Meeting</b>       |
| <b>June 5 – 7<sup>th</sup> – CANCELLED</b> | <b>OFC Gravenhurst</b>    | <b>OACS Annual Conference</b> |
| <b>June 13<sup>th</sup> - CANCELLED</b>    | <b>Mitchell Golf Club</b> | <b>Annual HP Tournament</b>   |
| <b>August 2<sup>nd</sup> – TBD</b>         | <b>Goderich Airport</b>   | <b>Runway Classic</b>         |

## **Month-End Report for MAY 2020**

### **Coordinator: Juanita DRAPER**

To: Staff Sergeant Dave SINKO, Huron County OPP  
D/Sgt Tom MacLEAN, Huron County OPP

And to: Inspector Rob SCOTT, Perth/Huron County OPP  
Chief of Police Greg SKINNER, Stratford Police Service  
A/Staff Sergeant Scott LOBB, Perth County OPP  
A/D/Sgt. J.L. Meyer, Perth County OPP  
Sgt. Manny COELHO, North Perth OPP  
Sgt. Scott BENTLEY, West Perth OPP  
Constable Nick KEATING, Stratford Police Service – Crime Stoppers Liaison  
P/C Shawn McFALLS  
Sgt. Avery BASSETT

### **Monthly Statistics for May 2020**

- 68 Total Calls to Huron Perth County Crime Stoppers this month (tips and follow up calls)
- 33 New codes issued for Huron Perth County Crime Stoppers
  
- 18 Total new OPP tips (Huron County only)
  - 04 Huron Drugs
  - 14 Huron Intelligence
- 04 Total new OPP tips (Perth County only)
  - 00 Perth Drugs
  - 04 Perth Intelligence
- 04 Total new Stratford Police Service tips
  - 02 S.P.S. Drugs
  - 02 S.P.S. Intelligence
- 07 Assigned out to other Crime Stopper Programs (caller in Huron County)
- 00 Assigned out to other agencies (i.e. Health unit, OSPCA, M.N.R., R.C.M.P.)



## **2020 Year-To-Date Highlights – HURON PERTH**

|  | <b>YTD</b>      | <b>S.I. (1988)</b>  |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>TIPS</b>                            | <b>205</b>      | <b>12,989</b>       |
| <b>Arrests</b>                         | <b>9</b>        | <b>1,373</b>        |
| <b>Cases Cleared</b>                   | <b>6</b>        | <b>2,585</b>        |
| <b>Charges Laid</b>                    | <b>24</b>       | <b>2,797</b>        |
| <b>Weapons Seized</b>                  | <b>0</b>        | <b>1,092</b>        |
| <b>Property/Cash Recovered</b>         | <b>\$13,305</b> | <b>\$3,748,498</b>  |
| <b>Drugs Seized</b>                    | <b>\$10,564</b> | <b>\$13,619,897</b> |
| <b>Total Drugs, Cash,<br/>Property</b> | <b>\$23,869</b> | <b>\$17,368,395</b> |
| <b>Rewards Approved</b>                | <b>\$1,975</b>  | <b>\$130,485</b>    |

### **May Tips by Type**

**Animal Cruelty: 1**  
**Break & Enter: 2**  
**Covid: 7**  
**Drive Disq: 2**  
**Drugs: 9**  
**Fraud: 1**  
**HTA: 2**

**Impaired Drive: 1**  
**Impersonation: 1**  
**Information: 1**  
**Susp Person/Veh: 3**  
**Theft: 1**  
**TPA: 1**  
**Weapon: 1**

### **Upcoming Events**

| <b>DATE</b>                              | <b>LOCATION</b>         | <b>EVENT</b>            |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>June 10<sup>th</sup></b>              | <b>Teleconference</b>   | <b>HP Board Meeting</b> |
| <b>June 23<sup>rd</sup></b>              | <b>Teleconference</b>   | <b>SW Zone Meeting</b>  |
| <b>August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cancelled</b> | <b>Goderich Airport</b> | <b>Runway Classic</b>   |



## **Stratford Police Service News Release**

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**FROM/DE:** Stratford Police Service

**DATE:** June 8, 2020

### **COVID Crime Stats**

Message from Chief Greg Skinner;

The Stratford Police Service would like to thank the community for its overwhelming support in voluntarily following the Emergency Orders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We recognize that this is new legislation to most, and that the instructions and expectations have changed rapidly as the response to the pandemic has evolved. That's why the Stratford Police Service took the position that we would enhance our community visibility in an effort to promote voluntary compliance with the Emergency Orders, and focus more on education and awareness before moving to enforcement where there was no voluntary compliance.

Stratford Police have responded to numerous Emergency Order complaints of violations, mostly relating to social distancing, congregating in groups greater than five, and non-emergency businesses remaining open. There have been even more requests for interpretations of the Emergency Order so that people could educate themselves on what was and was not allowed.

I am pleased to say that the level of voluntary compliance and the efforts people have made to keep each other safe has meant that Stratford Police have not had to take any enforcement action to date specific to contraventions of the Emergency Orders.

After having seen significant year-over-year increases in certain types of calls during the months of March and April (for example, mental health calls up 51%, domestic/family dispute calls up 18%, vandalism calls up 72%) the month of May has seen those trends begin to reverse. Mental health calls for service increased 19% over May of 2019, and drug-related arrests and seizures increased by almost 60%, compared to May of 2019. Property crime, which had seen a significant increase early in the pandemic, has decreased drastically, in part because of the work done by investigators to identify; arrest and charge offenders. Violent crime continues to trend downward with only assaults showing an increase from 11 reported in May 2019 to 21 reported this May. Motor vehicle collisions for the month were down by almost 50% from last May.



## **Stratford Police Service News Release**

As the local economy begins to reopen and the community enters the next phase of this pandemic response, Stratford Police will continue to be here working alongside the community to get through these challenges.

We are very appreciative of the support shown by the community and the local businesses and individuals who have gone above and beyond to provide us with food, coffee, personal protective equipment, and moral support.

Stay safe and look after one another.

- Stratford Police Chief Greg Skinner