



# NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

## *2017 ANNUAL REPORT*

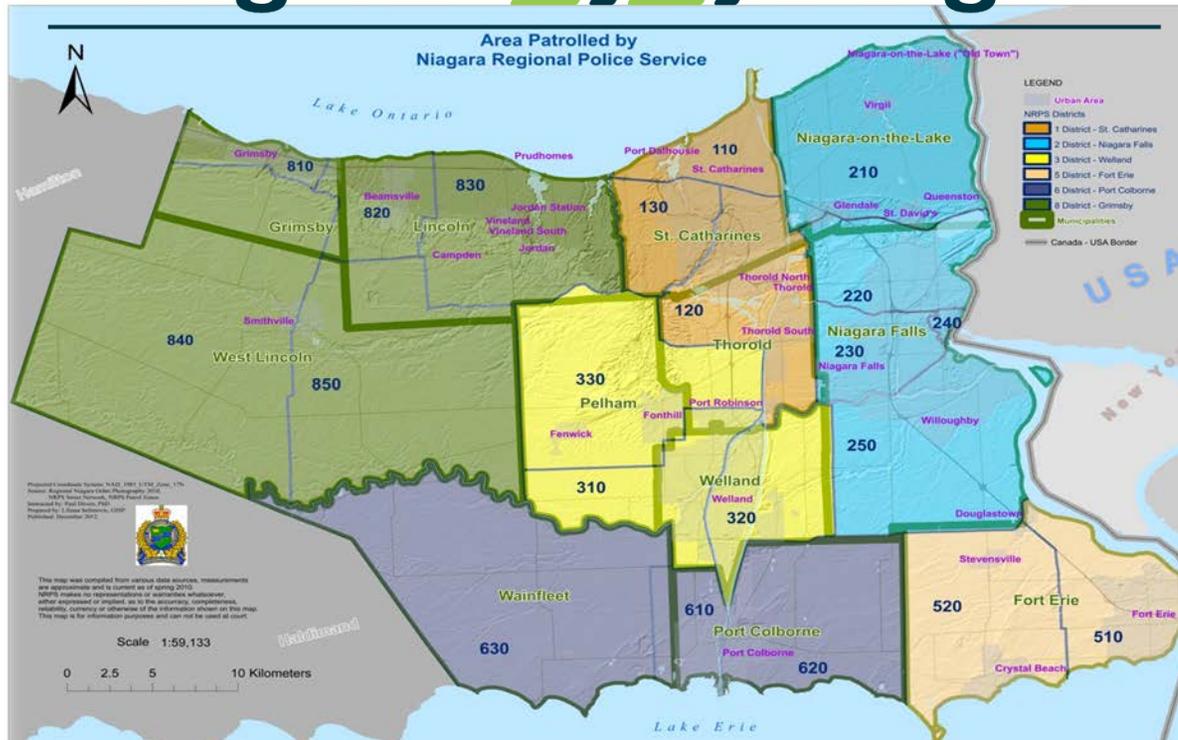


# About this Publication

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This document is also available in PDF format on our website at [nrps.com](http://nrps.com).

# Niagara Region



## About our Region...

12 unique municipalities

(St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Thorold, Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Wainfleet, Grimsby, Lincoln, West Lincoln)

1,850 square kilometers of land mass

161 kilometers of shoreline

1,500 square kilometers of international waters surrounding its borders

(Lake Ontario, Niagara River & Lake Erie)

## 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, while encouraging personal and professional growth.



## MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR BOB GALE



As Chair of the Niagara Police Services Board, I am pleased to introduce the 2017 Annual Report of the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS).

Looking back, 2017 was a year of transition. During the year, Board Member Bob Marshall ended his term and I would like to express the Board's appreciation for his contributions to police governance. The Board also received the re-appointment of Vice Chair

Ken Gansel and Board Member Vaughn Stewart and recognizes the added value they bring as veteran members of this Board.

We said farewell to Deputy Chief Joe Matthews and Chief of Police Jeff McGuire who retired from the Niagara Regional Police Service after a long career dedicated to policing and community development. The Board was thrilled to welcome a new Executive Command Team, consisting of Chief of Police Bryan MacCulloch, Deputy Chief of Police Bill Fordy and Deputy Chief of Police Brett Flynn. Together, they have a wealth of policing experience and I know they will serve Niagara's communities with dedication, compassion, integrity and professionalism.

Throughout 2017, the Board worked to fulfill its obligations under the Police Services Act of ensuring adequate and effective police services and providing good governance and strategic direction for the NRPS. I want to thank each member of the Board for their commitment and contributions.

Strengthening accountability and transparency continued to be a key priority for the Board in 2017. Board meetings were held offsite in the Town of West Lincoln and City of Welland to encourage greater public awareness of the Board's deliberations and decision making.

It also allows the public to address local community concerns and discuss community safety issues, local crime trends and policing services that are available to the community. All meetings are broadcast live over the Internet, and this engagement promotes accountability and higher levels of confidence in the Board and NRPS.

This is an important time in policing. There have been many legislative changes proposed to modernize policing to ensure it reflects the needs, values and expectations of communities. Whether it is dealing with new types of crimes or the shifting roles of governments, the landscape is ever changing and demands on today's police officers are growing.

This Annual Report highlights only a fraction of the work we do to make Niagara Region a safe community in which to live, work and visit. When we look back at 2017, it was a year of accomplishments and challenges. I was encouraged to Chair such a committed Board, and I am proud of our considerable achievements in 2017.

We've had a successful year. 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.

Regional Councillor Bob Gale  
Chair, Niagara Police Services Board



Ken Gansel  
Board Vice-Chair



David Barrick  
Board Member



Terry Bonham  
Board Member



Deb Reid  
Executive Director



Vaughn Stewart  
Board Member



Bob Marshall  
Board Member



Alan Caslin  
Board Member



## MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF POLICE BRYAN MACCULLOCH, M.O.M.



It is with great humility and honour that I accepted the position of Chief of Police of the Niagara Regional Police Service in 2017. As the 9<sup>th</sup> Chief of Police of the Service, I follow eight others who preceded me to make this Service one of the finest. It is with pleasure that I accept the challenge to continue their legacy.

In 2017, we also witnessed the retirements of Chief Jeff McGuire, O.O.M. and Deputy Chief Joe Matthews, M.O.M. Both of these experienced leaders worked diligently to make the Service one of the best in Ontario. With their retirements, two new Deputy Chiefs of Police were sworn in. Deputy Chief Brett Flynn, a career member with the Service and Deputy Chief Bill Fordy, former Assistant Commissioner with the Surrey, B.C., R.C.M.P. Both of these men bring years of dedicated policing experience, accountability, knowledge and skills to their new roles; and will be an asset to me personally and to our members and to the residents of Niagara.

I would also like to acknowledge the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board who has placed their faith in allowing us to lead the Service going forward. The Board has high expectations for us to provide adequate and effective policing and to strengthen the public's trust in our Service. This is a challenge we willingly accept.

In 2017 we began the process of examining the work we do in order to find greater efficiencies through process mapping. We also hired a consultant to conduct a workplace assessment to assist us in creating a healthy and productive workplace

culture. We expect to address the final report and recommendations in 2018.

This Annual Report provides an overview of the many activities that our Service members were engaged in 2017. In no way does it encapsulate the 2 million plus hours of dedicated service that our members provided to this community throughout the year.

I am confident that together in 2018 the Niagara Regional Police Service will continue to provide exceptional policing in partnership with the communities that we serve. The year ahead is faced with challenges not the least of which includes the changing economic climate, the evolving demographic shift of our organization, the need to provide adequate and effective policing all while meeting the needs of our community. However I am also confident that the men and women, civilian and sworn who represent our Service have the determination, fortitude and leadership necessary to meet all of the challenges that lay ahead.

Bryan MacCulloch, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police



Deputy Chief of Police  
Brett Flynn  
Operations



Deputy Chief of Police  
Bill Fordy, M.O.M  
Operational Support



Superintendent Brian Ast  
Emergency & Investigativ  
Services



Superintendent  
W. George Bench  
Executive Services



Superintendent  
Richard Frayne  
Operational Support



Superintendent  
Cindy White, M.O.M.  
District Operations



Akram Askoul  
Director, Technology Services



Lisa DiDonato-DeChellis  
Director, Business Services



## Table of Contents

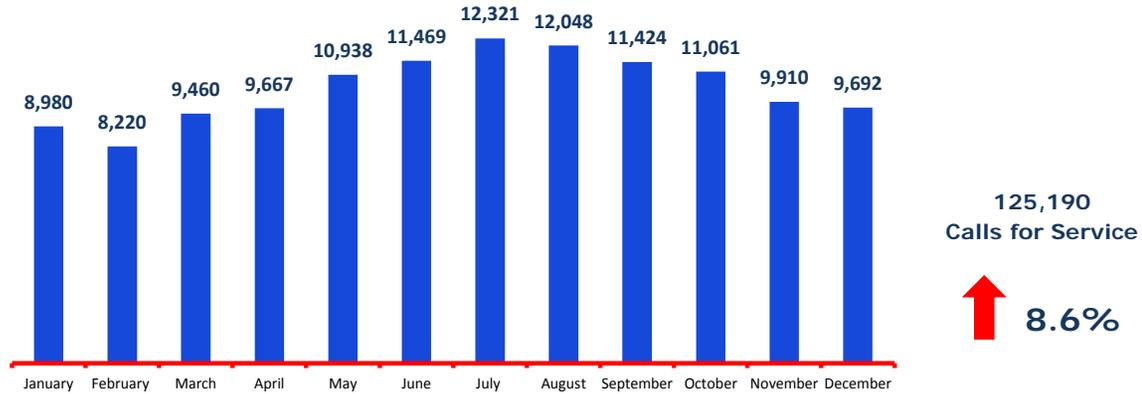
|   |           |                                       |           |
|---|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| About this Publication                                | i         | <b>Special Investigative Services</b> | <b>42</b> |
| Map of Regional Boundaries                            | ii        | ▪ Intelligence Unit                   | 43        |
| Mission Statement                                     | iii       | ▪ Guns, Gangs and Grows Unit          | 44        |
| Message from Police Services Board Chair Mr. Bob Gale | iv        | ▪ Mobile Surveillance Unit            | 49        |
| Message from Chief of Police Bryan MacCulloch, M.O.M. | v         | ▪ Morality Unit                       | 49        |
| Table of Contents                                     | vi        | ▪ Opioid Awareness and Enforcement    | 50        |
|   |           | ▪ Joint Forces Operations             | 52        |
|   |           | • Biker Enforcement Unit              | 52        |
| <b>Calls for Service</b>                              | <b>1</b>  | • Provincial Anti-Terrorism Section   | 52        |
|   |           | • Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit | 53        |
| <b>Crime in Niagara</b>                               | <b>2</b>  | <b>Corporate Communications</b>       | <b>54</b> |
|   |           | <b>Chaplains</b>                      | <b>56</b> |
| <b>Problem Oriented Policing</b>                      | <b>6</b>  | <b>Auxiliary</b>                      | <b>58</b> |
|   |           | <b>Public Complaints</b>              | <b>60</b> |
| <b>Special Victims</b>                                | <b>19</b> | <b>Human Resources</b>                | <b>61</b> |
| ▪ Domestic Violence                                   | 19        | <b>Exemplary Service Awards</b>       | <b>63</b> |
| ▪ Elder Abuse   | 21        | <b>Member Support</b>                 | <b>66</b> |
| ▪ Child Abuse Unit                                    | 23        | <b>In Memoriam</b>                    | <b>67</b> |
| ▪ Sexual Assault Unit                                 | 25        | <b>Budget Overview</b>                | <b>68</b> |
| ▪ Youth   | 27        |                                       |           |
| <b>Emergency Services</b>                             | <b>32</b> |                                       |           |
| ▪ Traffic Enforcement and Collision Reconstruction    | 32        |                                       |           |
| ▪ Marine Unit   | 35        |                                       |           |
| ▪ Underwater Search and Rescue Unit                   | 36        |                                       |           |
| ▪ Canine Unit   | 38        |                                       |           |
| ▪ Emergency Task Unit                                 | 39        |                                       |           |
| ▪ Explosives Disposal Unit                            | 41        |                                       |           |

## Calls for Service

Police calls for service originate from a number of sources including 911 calls, calls received through the police service non-emergency number, in-person reporting or “walk-ins”, as well as officer generated or officer discovered incidents. These numbers do not represent police workload as they do not portray other duties such as traffic safety and enforcement, proactive policing nor the length of time that specialty units spend on an investigation due to the seriousness and/or nature of the incident.

|                          | St. Catharines<br>1 District | Niagara Falls<br>2 District & Casino<br>Unit | Welland<br>3 District | Fort Erie<br>5 District | Port<br>Colborne<br>6 District | Grimsby<br>8 District |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Calls for Service</b> | 49,626                       | 36,106                                       | 17,292                | 7,104                   | 5,735                          | 9,304                 |

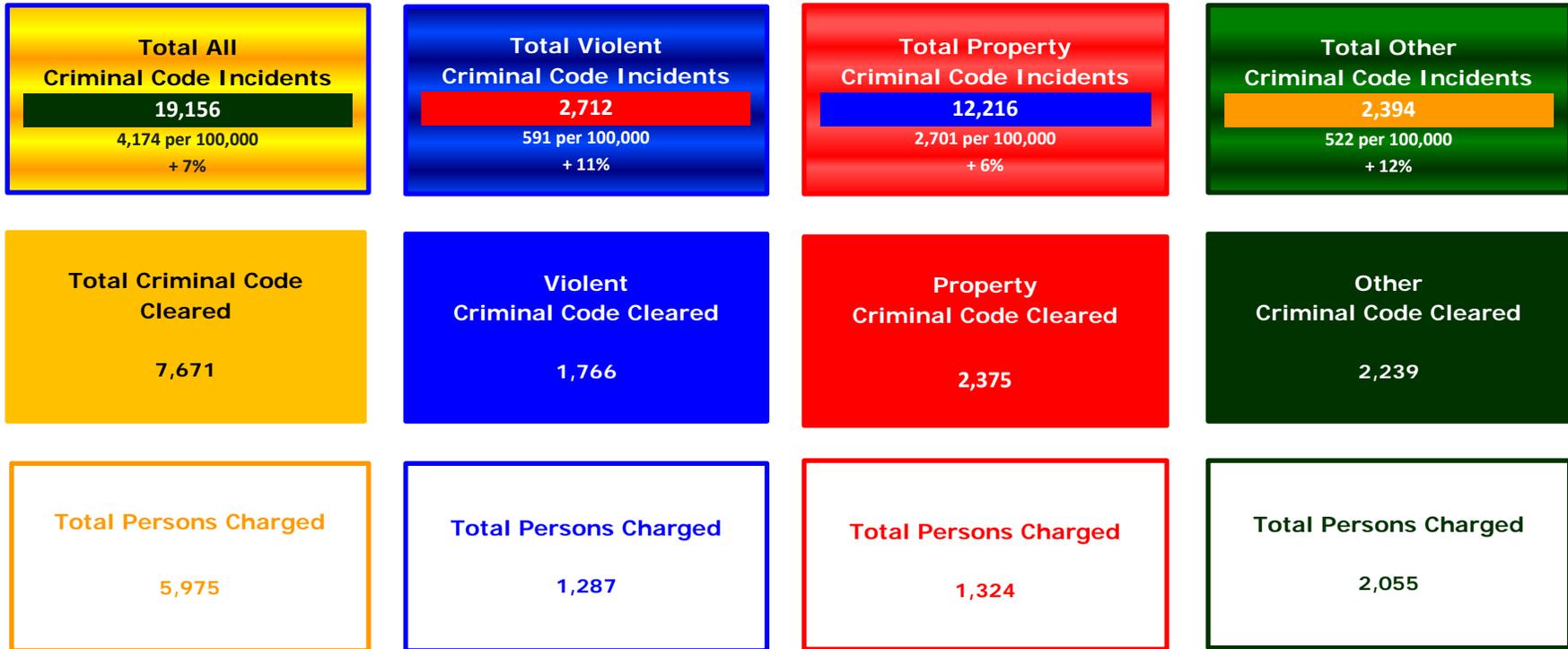
### Calls for Service by Month



| 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 115,685 | 114,107 | 112,169 | 115,921 | 125,190 |

**Calls for Service 5-year average was 116,614**

## Crime in Niagara



## Crime Against Persons – Selected Offences

| Select Incidents                                    | 2016 Incidents | 2017 Incidents | Cleared By Charge | Cleared Otherwise |
|---|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Murder – 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree                     | --             | 2              | 1                 | --                |
| Murder – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree                     | --             | 1              | 1                 | --                |
| Manslaughter  | 1              | --             | --                | --                |
| Criminal Negligence Cause Death                     | --             | 1              | 1                 | --                |
| Murder – Attempt                                    | 3              | 3              | 5                 | --                |
| Sexual Assault – Aggravated                         | 1              | 2              | 2                 | --                |
| Sexual Assault – Weapons/Bodily Harm                | 7              | 2              | --                | --                |
| Sexual Assault                                      | 229            | 266            | 26                | 25                |
| Sexual Interference                                 | 39             | 33             | 18                | 3                 |
| Total Sexual Violations Against Children            | 61             | 61             | 26                | 7                 |
| Invitation To Sexual Touching                       | 4              | 7              | 1                 | 3                 |
| Sexual Exploitation                                 | 4              | 1              | --                | --                |
| Lure Child Via Computer                             | 10             | 17             | 5                 | 1                 |
| Assault – Aggravated                                | 31             | 30             | 30                | --                |
| Assault – Weapon or Cause Bodily Harm               | 354            | 373            | 252               | 32                |
| Assault – Minor Harm                                | 957            | 970            | 561               | 191               |
| Assault – Police/Peace Officer                      | 77             | 93             | 79                | 15                |
| Criminal Negligence Cause Bodily Harm               | 1              | 1              | 1                 | --                |
| Assault – Other                                     | 12             | 15             | 14                | 1                 |
| Forcible Confinement or Kidnapping                  | 17             | 10             | 10                | --                |
| Robbery   | 141            | 160            | 73                | 1                 |
| Arson   | 8              | 7              | 8                 | --                |
| Extortion   | 23             | 22             | 1                 | 3                 |
| Intimidate Justice System                           | 3              | --             | --                | --                |
| Criminal Harassment/Stalking                        | 101            | 141            | 66                | 18                |
| Threats – Person Death/Harm                         | 189            | 284            | 125               | 67                |
| Indecent/Harassing communications                   | 160            | 196            | 26                | 49                |
| <b>Total Crimes Against Persons (All Incidents)</b> | <b>2,414</b>   | <b>2,712</b>   |                   |                   |

Percent Change 2016-2017 ↑ 11 Percent

Cleared incidents may be higher than actual incidents occurring in 2017. This difference is accounted for by incidents cleared from previous years.

### Sexual Assaults

↑ 14%

The increase in the number of incidents of sexual assault reported to police in 2017 may be partially explained by an increased societal awareness about various forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault. More public attention may have resulted in more victims deciding to report their victimization to police. In addition, media reports on the differences in how police classify sexual assaults as founded or unfounded resulted in reviews by police and renewed commitment to victims (Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police 2017). These events may have contributed to increases in reported sexual assaults across Niagara and many parts of Canada for 2017.

## Crimes Against Property – Selected Incidents

| Select Property Incidents              | 2016 Incidents | 2017 Incidents | Cleared by Charge | Cleared Otherwise |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Arson                                  | 84             | 82             | 12                | 7                 |
| Break & Enter                          | 1,691          | 1,859          | 201               | 58                |
| Theft Over \$5,000                     | 98             | 139            | 15                | 2                 |
| Theft Under \$5,000                    | 2,436          | 2,368          | 153               | 147               |
| Theft of Motor Vehicle                 | 726            | 771            | 54                | 20                |
| Theft from Motor Vehicle Over \$5,000  | 33             | 35             | 1                 | --                |
| Theft from Motor Vehicle Under \$5,000 | 1,589          | 2,008          | 37                | 25                |
| Shoplifting Under \$5,000              | 1,228          | 1,266          | 366               | 401               |
| Shoplifting Over \$5,000               | 8              | 4              | 1                 | --                |
| Possession Stolen Property             | 92             | 116            | 93                | 16                |
| Fraud                                  | 1,304          | 1,500          | 289               | 98                |
| Fraud – Identity Theft                 | 82             | 35             | 2                 | --                |
| Fraud – Identity Fraud                 | 241            | 265            | 5                 | 3                 |
| Mischief                               | 1,751          | 1,805          | 205               | 161               |
| Mischief to Religious Property         | 2              | --             | --                | --                |
| <b>Total Crimes Against Property</b>   | <b>11,370</b>  | <b>12,216</b>  |                   |                   |

### Property Crime

↑ 6.3%

The increase in property crime is directly due to the increase in the reporting of break & enters and theft from vehicles.

Percent Change 2016-2017 ↑ 6.32 Percent



## Other Criminal Code Violations – Selected Incidents

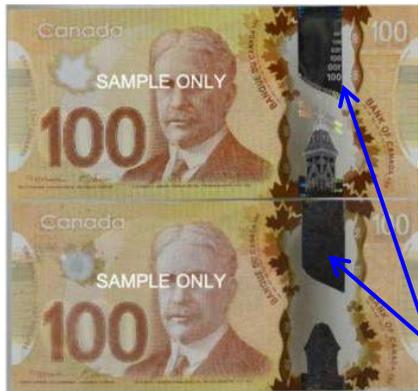
### Counterfeit Money

↑ 94%

The number of counterfeit money offences doubled in 2017. All offences were either "Cleared by Charge" or "Cleared Otherwise".

| Incident                                      | 2016<br>Incidents | 2017<br>Incidents | Cleared | Cleared<br>Otherwise |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Prostitution                                  | 8                 | --                | --      | --                   |
| Prostitution – Bawdy House                    | --                | --                | --      | --                   |
| Prostitution – <18 Years Living of the Avails | --                | --                | --      | --                   |
| Prostitution – Procuring                      | --                | --                | --      | --                   |
| Prostitution – Other                          | --                | --                | --      | --                   |
| Explosives – Possess                          | --                | --                | --      | --                   |
| Weapons – Possess                             | 82                | 82                | 58      | 15                   |
| Unsafe Storage of Firearms                    | 4                 | --                | --      | --                   |
| Weapons Possession Contrary to Order          | 5                 | 6                 | 6       | --                   |
| Importing or Exporting of Weapons             | 2                 | 3                 | 2       | --                   |
| Fail to Comply                                | 634               | 664               | 620     | 38                   |
| Counterfeit Money                             | 18                | 35                | 29      | 6                    |
| Disturb the Peace                             | 24                | 27                | 10      | 17                   |
| Escape Custody                                | 1                 | 1                 | 1       | --                   |
| Indecent Act                                  | 92                | 88                | 22      | 16                   |
| Child Pornography                             | 21                | 26                | 18      | 4                    |
| Incest  | --                | 1                 | 1       | --                   |
| Trafficking in Persons                        | 1                 | 6                 | 6       | --                   |
| Obstruct Resist Peace Officer                 | 37                | 42                | 36      | 6                    |
| Unlawfully at Large                           | 26                | 26                | 26      | --                   |
| Breach of Probation – Adult Only              | 549               | 542               | 526     | 16                   |
| Utter Threats                                 | 192               | 184               | 125     | 67                   |
| <b>Total Other Criminal Code Violations</b>   | <b>2,107</b>      | <b>2,394</b>      |         |                      |

Percent Change 2016-2017 ↑ 12 Percent



Top bill is genuine, bottom bill is counterfeit.

## 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.





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## 1 District – St. Catharines and Thorold

"Project LYSSA" - #1 District Uniform officers and Domestic Violence Unit officers developed this initiative to assist victims of domestic abuse. The purpose of this initiative was to educate victims of the types of abuse and encourage them to become part of the solution. Officers conducted compliance checks of accused persons bound by release orders and ensuring that they were following the orders. It also served as a way to collect information through public sources which allows officers to author "Feeney Warrants" to legally enter a dwelling house to arrest a wanted party.

"Project Theft from Motor Vehicles" – uniform officer from #1 District developed this initiative due to an increase in the number of thefts from motor vehicles. Areas within St Catharines and Thorold which showed a high volume of thefts from motor vehicle were targeted and officers were apprised of this and also person of interest who have historical involvement in this type of activity. Information that was collected was forwarded to #1 District CIB Detectives and has proven to benefit investigators.

"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 neighbourhoods in south end of 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.

"Out of the Cold" – this is a volunteer community initiative that has ran for over twenty (20) years in the city of St Catharines. In recent years organizers have seen a substantial increase in violent behaviour and illicit drug abuse and paraphernalia. Uniform officers regularly provided officer presence at "Start Me Up Niagara" on Gale Crescent to help reduce behaviour and provide safety to volunteers and citizens that use the program. As a result criminal activities in and around the facility have become almost non-existent.



## 2 District – Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake

"Project Street Crime Bike Theft" – officers from #2 District Street Crime unit dedicated five (5) weeks to run this project where a high number of bicycles thefts had occurred. During the duration of the five (5) weeks a total of nine (9) persons were charged, eight (8) persons were dealt with via other means and a total of twenty-five (25) stolen bikes were recovered.

"Lundy's Lane Liquor Licence Act Initiative" – uniform officers from #2 District developed this initiative to monitor, accumulate and analyze all calls for information when dealing with specific licenced premises. One hundred and eighty nine (189) LLA checks were conducted along Lundy's Lane.

"Liquor Licence Act Compliance Checks" – on two (2) separate occasions #2 District uniform officers along with Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) officers conducted inspections at various licenced establishments in Niagara Falls. The initiatives were in response to community concerns. Several charges were laid by ACGO officers.

"Project Theft from Motor Vehicles" – uniform officer from #2 District developed this initiative due to an increase in the number of thefts from motor vehicles. Areas within the City that showed a high volume of thefts from motor vehicle were targeted and officers were apprised of this and also person of interest who have historical involvement in this type of activity. Information that was collected was forwarded to #2 District CIB Detectives and has proven to benefit investigators.



### 3 District – Welland and Pelham

"#3 District Traffic Offences" – uniform officers located out of #3 District ran numerous initiatives. Two (2) successful initiatives that were developed were "Rural Traffic Offences" and "E-bikes Offences". These two (2) initiatives resulted in almost four hundred (400) provincial offence notices.

"Niagara College Directed Patrol" – this initiative was planned and implemented as a cost sharing project between Niagara College and #3 District Uniform Officers. Patrols were conducted at the Welland Campus at the beginning (September) and end (April) of the school year. The highly visible uniform officers demonstrated the commitment and zero tolerance for problematic and criminal behaviour. This initiative was well received by the community and students of Niagara College.

"Project Off-Road All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)" – this initiative was planned and implemented as a cost sharing project between St Lawrence Seaway Management and the City of Welland. ATV Officers patrolled problem areas and recreational trails in Welland focusing on crime prevention and enforcement of provincial statute offences and education for riders who often didn't realize they were operating in prohibited areas. This initiative was well received by the public.

"Community Safety Day" - #3 District Community Policing partnered with Safe Communities Welland Committee to promote safer, crime free communities with a safety day. This event was held during Police Week (May) at the Niagara Safety Village. Some of the different events during the day were Bike Safety Rodeo, NRPS K-9 Unit presentations, Welland Fire and EMS.



## 5 District – Fort Erie

"Project Beach Day 2017" – this initiative concentrated on organized plans by high school students to skip school on Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 and attend various beach locations around the Niagara Region. 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.

"Project Cottage Check" – this initiative is conducted by officers from #5 and #6 District through the use of ATV's and cruisers. Officers performed regular patrols in areas where cottages are left vacant throughout the winter months and during the summer season where over 15,000 people take up temporary residency. This proactive strategy was designed to address and reduce break and enters to cottages which are vacant during the winter season.

"#5 District Traffic Initiatives" – different initiatives were done throughout the 2017 year by uniformed patrol officers. Most initiatives were directed towards the enforcement and education of road users in speeding, seat belts, hands free driving. During the month of September officers conducted a direct enforcement at key intersections, school zones, school crossing and E-bikes. Seatbelts, head and tail lights and validation was the focus on this traffic initiative for November.

"Bicycle Enforcement Initiative" – uniform officer from #5 District conducted an initiative during August 2017 which focused on Highway Traffic Act violations relating to bicycles. Several cyclists were investigated when found violating provisions of the HTA. Several charges were laid during this initiative.



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## 6 District – Port Colborne and Wainfleet

"School Zone Crossing" - #6 District uniform officers identified concerns related to vehicles failing to yield to crossing guards. As a result of this initiative offenders who had been operating motor vehicles in a dangerous manner were dealt with through *Highway Traffic Act* fines.

"Project 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 resulted in an increase in officer visibility.

"39<sup>th</sup> 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.

"Downtown Foot Patrols" – uniform members of #6 District conducted regular foot patrols in the downtown areas of Port Colborne as well as Market Square, Skate Park and Vale Center. Their efforts served to enhance community relations within the community. Positive feedback was received from the community with respect to their interactions and visibility of police.



## 8 District – Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln

"Project Truck Blitz" – uniform officers from #8 District along with the Ministry of Transportation focused enforcement of commercial trucks to ensure they were properly maintained, equipped and complying with the Highway Traffic Act. A total of forty nine (49) commercial trucks were inspected. Seven (7) vehicles were taken out of service and Provincial Offence Notices were issued.

"Project Safe Drive" -#8 District Uniform officers initiative developed to assist the increase in complaints of youth related driving incidents within the Grimsby area. School areas before and after school and during lunch breaks were targeted. Several offence notices along with warnings were given out. This highly visible project resulted in a noticeable reduction of complaints from citizens in the targeted area.

"Project Good Friday Mud Run" – this proactive initiative was in response to complaints from West Lincoln residence for property damage from ATVs. Approximately eighty (80) ATV's were checked where fifteen (15) offence notices and two (2) summons were issued for Trespassing and violations of the Off Road Vehicle Act. One (1) person was arrested for driving while disqualified. This project was received very well by the affected residence.

"Project Overweight Vehicles" – on May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 uniform officers from #8 District conducted targeted enforcement to deal with ongoing problems of overweight vehicles on Park and Wolverton Road. One (1) unsafe truck was seized and an unqualified driver was intercepted. A total of seventeen (17) offence notices were issued throughout the blitz.

## 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 of reported domestic and family violence incidents, as well as a closer working relationship with the Domestic Violence Crown Attorneys and Victim Witness Assistance.



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.

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 which when pressed pin-points the victim's location. Police are dispatched to the victim’s location and provided up to date information as the call unfolds. The MTERS program has been in operation since 2014 and has provided a number of clients with enhanced personal safety. In 2017 as a result of improved technology, new units were purchased for the MTERS program.

#### Domestic Violence Investigations in 2017

| Type of Investigations                             | Incidents |
|--|-----------|
| Domestic/Family Conflict Related Calls for Service | 11,334    |
| Domestic/Family Conflict Related Reports           | 10,062    |
| Total Domestic Violence Investigations             | 1,463     |
| Domestic Violence Investigations - Charges Laid    | 700       |
| By Uniform Patrol                                  | 119       |
| By Domestic Violence Unit / Other Detectives       | 581       |
| Domestic Violence Investigations - No Charges      | 763       |
| By Uniform Patrol                                  | 529       |
| By Domestic Violence Unit / Other Detectives       | 234       |

### Charges Laid in 2017

| Charges Laid                             | Number of Charges |
|--|-------------------|
| Assault (Simple)                         | 333               |
| Assault (Cause Bodily Harm)              | 79                |
| Breach of Probation                      | 143               |
| Breach of Recognizance                   | 169               |
| Criminal Harassment                      | 53                |
| Forcible Confinement                     | 9                 |
| Forcible Entry                           | 11                |
| Harassing Communications                 | 46                |
| Mischief                                 | 152               |
| Robbery                                  | 2                 |
| Sexual Assault (All Levels)              | 43                |
| Distribute Intimate Images (New Offence) | 11                |
| Utter Threats                            | 95                |
| Weapons/Firearms                         | 15                |

### Elder Abuse

Elder abuse cases are investigated by four separate units within the Niagara Regional Police Service. The Centralized Fraud Unit investigates the financial abuse of seniors. In 2017, Detectives within the Central Fraud Unit have attended approximately 26 organized functions to educate and inform seniors within the Region on current trends relating to ongoing fraudulent scams. Detectives offer a PowerPoint presentation plus a question and answer period in an effort to prevent victimization of seniors through internet, telephone and door to door scams and how to effectively protect themselves.

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 Behavioural Supports Ontario team staff offer services in crisis intervention, practical support and outreach, education, advocacy and coordination of services.

### **Project Life Saver**

Project Lifesaver International is a non-profit organization that bridges the technological gap for “at risk” populations and public safety agencies. Project Life Saver provides Niagara Regional Police officers with the training and equipment necessary to quickly locate and rescue “at risk” individuals prone to wandering. Characteristics of “at risk” individuals such as the Elderly or persons with cognitive disabilities which include, but are not limited to: Autism, Alzheimer's and/or Downs Syndrome.

Families that participate in the Project Lifesaver program are issued a bracelet that is worn by the "at risk" individual. The bracelet has a unique frequency that emits a tracking signal every second, 24 hours a day, the caregivers know their frequency. When officers respond to a missing person incident they should ask for a package containing: personal information, photo, and the frequency of the bracelet. The same information is available from the Canadian Police Information Centre and Record Management System. Responding officers will contact the Communications Unit to request a trained Project Lifesaver operator. There are already several Traffic Enforcement Unit officers trained as operators. Concurrently a minimum of three Emergency Tactical Unit officers will be paged by Communications to attend and assist in the search.

Project Lifesaver is an important tool available to officers which allows them the opportunity to quickly locate vulnerable individuals and mitigate the associated risks. Further information can be found on [www.projectlifesaverniagara.ca](http://www.projectlifesaverniagara.ca).



## Child Abuse Unit

Formed in 1992, the Child Abuse Unit is a centralized investigative unit with a mandate to investigate all incidents of child sexual abuse, child physical abuse and neglect where serious injuries have resulted, a life has been endangered or where there has been a failure to provide the necessities of life. Members of the Child Abuse Unit also provide assistance during investigations involving children, or requiring child interviews.

Child Abuse investigators are specially trained in sexual assault and offences against children investigations, investigative interviewing and major case management. These investigators work closely with community partners to deliver on a shared commitment to a comprehensive and coordinated response to allegations of child abuse. This collaboration is guided by the Child Abuse Protocol for the Niagara Region, involving the Niagara Regional Police Service, Family and Children's Services Niagara, Ministry of Attorney General – Crown Attorney, and Victim/Witness Assistance Program, and the Ontario Office of the Chief Coroner.



Joint child abuse investigations are conducted in partnership with Family and Children's Services (FACS) Niagara and benefit from the strong support of the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara. The Centre, formally opened on September 16, 2008 offers a safe, child friendly environment where the child and their family can be formally interviewed. Investigations also benefit from the expertise of physicians and staff at the McMaster University Children's Hospital – Child Advocacy and Assessment Program, and in addition are reviewed and tracked by the Child Abuse Review Team (CART), in accordance with adequacy standards set out in the Ontario Policing Standards Manual.

During 2017, the Child Abuse Unit took part in the investigation of 622 incidents, which involved children under the age of 16, as the mandated investigative unit, or in a supporting role. Members of the unit conducted 296 investigations.

#### Child Abuse Unit Investigations in 2017

| Incident Clearance Type    | Incidents  |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Cleared by Charge          | 56         |
| Cleared Otherwise          | 17         |
| Cleared Unfounded *        | 29         |
| Investigation Suspended ** | 87         |
| Ongoing Investigation      | 12         |
| Non-CCJS ***               | 95         |
| <b>Total Investigated</b>  | <b>296</b> |

\* The category of "Unfounded" describes incidents in which it has been determined through police investigation that the offence reported did not occur, nor was it attempted.

\*\* The category of "Investigation Suspended" describes incidents that may be still under investigation or there is insufficient evidence to proceed. Subject to the discovery of new evidence or the conclusion of an investigation, these incidents may be reclassified in the future.

\*\*\* The category of "Non CCJS" describes incidents that are determined – based on the content of the complaint – either not to be a criminal offence, or having occurred outside of the Niagara Region. An example of this includes an "Information" or "Out of Town Occurrence" report.

## Sexual Assault Unit

Formed in 1996, the Sexual Assault Unit (SAU) is a centralized investigative unit responsible for the coordination and response to reports of sexual assault in the Niagara Region, involving victims over the age of 16 years and reports of historical sexual abuse of child victims.

The detectives in this unit are specially trained in areas of sexual assault investigation, investigative interviewing, and major case management. The Sexual Assault Unit, in collaboration with its community partners, is committed to meet the needs of sexual assault victims and appropriately respond to public safety concerns. Our dedicated team of investigators manages cases from initial reporting to the conclusion of an investigation. They provide support to victims and witnesses through the court process, and action referrals to Victim Services Niagara and the Victim Witness Assistance Program.



The Sexual Assault Unit has worked collaboratively to develop a coordinated Sexual Assault Response Protocol with our community partners. Adapted over time, this protocol now includes: the Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Treatment Program at the Niagara Health System, the Niagara Regional Sexual Assault Centre, the Victim Witness Assistance Program, Victim Services Niagara and the Crown Attorney-Ministry of Attorney General. This partnership has resulted in a comprehensive and knowledgeable response to sexual assaults occurring within our community. Together with our partners we are celebrating 20 years of working collaboratively to provide the 'best practice' approach. Our partnership offers a coordinated community approach to service delivery and is essential to providing choices and meeting the many unique needs of sexual assault survivors.

### Sexual Assault Unit Investigations in 2017

| Incident Clearance Type     | 2016 Incidents | 2017 Incidents |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cleared by Charge           | 19             | 28             |
| Cleared Otherwise           | 5              | 23             |
| Unfounded *                 | 50             | 22             |
| Non CCJS **                 | 71             | 68             |
| Investigation Suspended *** | 140            | 167            |
| <b>Total Investigated</b>   | <b>285</b>     | <b>303</b>     |

\* The category of "Unfounded" describes incidents in which it has been determined through police investigation that the offence reported did not occur, nor was it attempted.

\*\* The category of "Investigation Suspended" describes incidents that may be still under investigation or there is insufficient evidence to proceed. Subject to the discovery of new evidence or the conclusion of an investigation, these incidents may be reclassified in the future.

\*\*\* The category of "Non CCJS" describes incidents that are determined – based on the content of the complaint – either not to be a criminal offence, or having occurred outside of the Niagara Region. An example of this includes an "Information" or "Out of Town Occurrence" report.

**The Sexual Assault Unit saw a 6.7% increase in the number of incidents reported in 2017.**

## Youth

The Corporate Communications and Community Engagement Unit was developed to centralize community policing and engagement. This unit has six School Resource Officers (SROs) whose mandate is to patrol all the local high schools in the Niagara Region. 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.



The following is a summary of the School Resource Officers (SROs) activities for the 2017 calendar year:

- a) Occurrences 410
- b) Follow-ups 334
- c) Cleared calls for service 359
- d) Provincial Offence Notices 123
- e) Provincial Offence Summons 17
- f) Computer Assisted Dispatch Calls 732
- g) Arrests 32
- h) Criminal Charges 21
- i) Calls cleared Non-reportable 102
- j) Calls cleared Report to Follow 468
- k) PBOM's (youth) 73



During the summer of 2017, 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 6, 2017 the 10th Annual Cop Shop event in partnership with the Pen Centre in St Catharines. Forty seven at-risk student's ages 6 to 12 years from every grade school from St. Catharines and Thorold participated this year. Each student received a \$200 gift card from the Pen Centre to go shopping with their school officer shopping partners. This event created high police visibility while encouraging local students to build valued relationships with members of the Niagara Regional Police Service, Ontario Provincial Police, Niagara Parks Police and CN Police.

**ProAction Cops & Kids Niagara Chapter** - The Niagara Chapter council worked hard again in 2017 to fundraise for programs that involve officers and youth engagement. The highlight of 2017 for the Niagara Chapter council was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chief's Gala which was a huge success. ProAction Cops & Kids programs establish a positive relationship between cops and kids who are at risk.

**Camp MEDEBA:** 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 8<sup>th</sup> through May 10<sup>th</sup> for an opportunity to help youth develop new skills at Camp Medeba. A total of 48 (male and female from local high schools) attended the camp 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.



**Students Rock:** 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. 2017 was the third year of the competition and 14 students from across the Niagara Region worked with their police mentors for the guitar competition which was held on April 18th at the Scotia Bank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls.

**Student Inter-School Film Festival:** In December 2017, over 20 teams of high school students from across the Niagara Region created Public Service Announcement videos addressing bullying. 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 television.

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 2017 NRPS members partnered with a Muslim school in Niagara to run a program for students that taught them how to cook traditional Muslim food. They also learned important food handling and preparation skill. Nothing is as effective in building relationships as preparing and sharing a meal and this was evident as officers were able to build relationship with some great young people.



**Cops & Basketball:** One of the new programs for 2017 was the Cops & Basketball program. This program was created to develop young people with an interest in developing their basketball skills by partnering them with No Limit Performance, a high caliber basketball training program led by a former police officer. Niagara Regional Police Service officers attended with 16 teens for 10 weeks and cooperatively developed their skills and love for the game of basketball. The program was so successful its first time that it was organized again for the winter of 2018.

The Niagara Regional Police Service's partnership with ProAction Cops & Kids is providing opportunities to engage the young people of the Niagara Region that would not otherwise be available. Great partnership achieving great results!

### **Extrajudicial Measures Program (EJM)**

In 2017, six School Resource Officers (SROs) patrolled all the high schools in the Niagara 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 young persons 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.

The Niagara Regional Police Service relies upon the services of community partners such as Contact Niagara, John Howard Society, Family and Children Services, Port Cares, Pathstone, Youth Probation and Parole and Youth Resources 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.

#### **2017 Summary of Extrajudicial Measures**

| <b>Community Partner</b>       | <b>Extrajudicial Measures</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>John Howard Society</b>     | 11                            |
| <b>Niagara Native Centre</b>   | 0                             |
| <b>Pathstone Mental Health</b> | 4                             |
| <b>Youth Justice Committee</b> | 37                            |
| <b>Youth Resources Niagara</b> | 20                            |

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. The development of monthly meetings with the Youth Probation and Parole officers has proven to be profitable for information sharing.

## Traffic Enforcement and Collision Reconstruction

The Traffic Enforcement Unit ("T.E.U.") is comprised of four Sergeants and 16 Constables. 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.

T.E.U. officers are all trained in and conduct 100s of RADAR and LIDAR operations throughout the year. Officers are also required to successfully complete courses for shotgun, C8 carbine operators, commercial motor vehicle enforcement, Breath Technician and complete the Drug Recognition Expert courses.

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.

Once again the Niagara Regional Police received grant funding for the 2017/2018 year from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services as part of the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E) program. R.I.D.E. spot checks were conducted throughout the year with a significant amount of the dates scheduled during the holiday season. Unfortunately we have seen an increase in impaired driving over the last 2 years.

### Impaired Driving Charges, 2013 - 2017

| Impaired Driving    | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Charges Laid</b> | 468  | 471  | 492  | 545  | 530  |

### Provincial Offence Notices (PONS), 2013 - 2017

| PONS        | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | % Change<br>2016/2017 |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------|
| <b>PONS</b> | 46,279 | 42,445 | 36,853 | 30,469 | 33,902 | 11.2%                 |



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 18 fatal motor vehicle collisions that resulted in the death of 16 people and attended 8 life-threatening injury collisions.

**Fatal and Life Threatening Injury Collisions, 2013 – 2017**

| Collision Type                   | 2013      | 2014      | 2015      | 2016      | 2017      |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Fatal Collisions                 | 19        | 16        | 17        | 20        | 18        |
| <b>MTO Reportable Deaths *</b>   | <b>20</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>16</b> |
| Non-Reportable Deaths            | 3         | 2         | 2         | 4         | 2         |
| <b>Life Threatening Injuries</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>8</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.



**Driver error, which includes distracted driving, is the leading cause of fatal and life threatening injury collisions in Canada.**

## Marine Unit

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 new border integrity initiative called Shiprider with the RCMP and United States Coast Guard.

Throughout the year, Marine Unit officers took part in 22 community events and attended local public service clubs to educate the public on boating and water safety. During routine marine enforcement patrols, 277 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 497 calls for service resulting in 66 search and rescue responses and 20 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 breaching, sniper element, explosives disposal, and rappelling at high-risk incidents such as barricaded gunman calls or drug warrants. Working collaboratively with internal and external partners including fire services, the Marine Unit took on a lead role in developing a Region-wide CBRN response with an emphasis on providing decontamination services to the public and fellow first responders. In 2017, new Marine members successfully completed the Crisis Negotiators Course to advance their skills in crisis negotiating and de-escalating tactics. Marine members supported 33 tactical operations calls in 2017.

## Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU)

The NRPS Underwater Search and Recovery Unit 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. 2017 saw the certification of a marine member as a Police Explosives Technician. The Marine Unit supports the Explosive Disposal Unit with the recovery and render safe of underwater ordnance, marine markers and explosive devices. The USRU qualified members responded to three explosives disposal incidents in 2017. 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 16 dive operations within the Region during the 2017 calendar year. Members responded to an extremely difficult case in the Upper Niagara River off Buffalo to assist with the rescue of canine colleague and fellow police diver, Officer Craig Lehner. Craig, a nine-year veteran of the Buffalo Police Department, graduated from the NRPS canine course in June 2016. On October 13, 2017, Officer Lehner, 34, was taking part in a police diving exercise and became trapped underwater in the swift current. The NRPS USRU took part in a grueling search with their US counterparts that lasted for five days before Craig was finally recovered from the Niagara River.

*2017 activities included...*

**5 body recoveries**

**1 skeletal remains recovery**

**2 vehicle recoveries**

**3 explosives disposal calls**



**Marine Unit**

**Underwater Search  
and Rescue Unit  
(USRU)**

## Canine Unit

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. The Unit for 2017 also had two dedicated explosives detection dogs. The Canine Unit is dedicated to providing support to front-line officers and investigators in the areas of tracking, open searches, building searches, evidence searches and suspect apprehension. The Canine Unit maintained 100% night-shift coverage last year.

| Activity                      | Number |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Calls for Police Service Dogs | 1,387  |
| Number of Times Canines Used  | 732    |
| Non K-9 Calls                 | 702    |
| K9 Successes                  | 132    |
| Arrests                       | 91     |
| Support Apprehensions         | 99     |
| Calls for Patrol Dogs         | 643    |
| Calls for Narcotics Detection | 85     |
| Tracks                        | 447    |
| Open Searches                 | 24     |
| Building Searches             | 70     |
| Article Searches              | 48     |



## 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 “Force Multipliers” that 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 2017 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 137 requests for its services throughout 2017.

| VIP | Warrants | Armed/Barricaded<br>Persons | Searches | High Risk<br>Arrest | Mental Health<br>Crisis | Other |
|-----|----------|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| 16  | 14       | 15                          | 19       | 35                  | 16                      | 14    |

**Other highlights:**

- VIP security and tactical protection for the Prime Minister of Ireland.
- VIP security and tactical protection for the Prime Minister.
- Successfully located a missing person through the use of night vision and FLIR.
- VIP security and tactical protection for the Premier of Ontario.
- Site security for New Year's celebrations.



## 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 provide technical support to the Emergency Task Unit. Additionally, the EDU provides specialized investigative support to other Service units, consults and educates Service and Community Organizations in matters relating to explosives and bomb threat procedures. In 2017 the EDU responded to 30 events and participated in 4 community functions.

The Unit consists of six part-time members who are certified in bomb disposal, electronics, explosive forced entry and post blast investigation by the Canadian Police College. Members participate in monthly local training and attend out of service courses and workshops for advanced and recertification training. In 2017 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 other police 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   | 1                                   | 4                  | 0          | 5                | 2            | 8                           | 8     |

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



The Niagara Regional Police Special Investigative Services (S.I.S.) unit consists of 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 two officers working in a modified capacity. All unit members have extensive training in criminal investigations and many have specialized training and experience in search and seizure, technical investigations, undercover techniques, organized crime investigations and large scale drug

investigations. The unit is responsible for high level drug and organized crime investigations along with extremism and cross border issues. The Special Investigative Services unit is a highly experienced, hardworking unit dedicated to the goals of the Police Service.

The unit is comprised of a Guns Gangs and Grows unit, Intelligence unit, Mobile Surveillance unit, Morality unit and the Opiate Education and Enforcement (formerly 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). One officer is also assigned to the Prescription Unit. Another officer is the Covert Asset Manager.

Several high profile investigations took place in 2017. These included investigations that resulted in the seizure of large amounts of narcotics including fentanyl and marihuana along with Human Trafficking investigations and extremism. 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 Unit was also responsible for several internal investigations throughout the year.

The following is a general overview of the combined activities of the Special Investigative Services Unit for the year 2017 by unit.

### **Intelligence Unit**

The Intelligence unit is responsible for a variety of tasks which includes the monitoring of protests within the Region. The unit also houses the Hate Crime officer who is part of the Provincial Hate crime team. He monitors Hate Crime type incidents within the Niagara Region.

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. The final trial for the Project Roadmaster took place in 2017. Two males charged as a result of that project were convicted on several counts in September of 2017. The two were sentenced to prison terms of twenty and twenty two years respectively.

In early 2017 members of the Intelligence Unit assisted Halifax RCMP with a Human trafficking investigation that originated in Nova Scotia but made its way to several cities in Ontario including within the Niagara Region. The investigation resulted in the arrest of three persons in Niagara who were charged with numerous human trafficking related offences. A handgun and a substantial amount of cash were seized as a result of the arrest.

#### **Guns, Gangs and Grows unit**

In 2017 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 Regional. The unit executed a total of 55 search warrants that resulted in the seizure of processed marihuana, marihuana plants, weapons, cash and various other narcotics.

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

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Grow Investigations</b> | <b>Plants Seized</b> |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 2013        | 174                        | 7,714                |
| 2014        | 109                        | 3,726                |
| 2015        | 56                         | 5,876                |
| 2016        | 42                         | 6,359                |
| 2017        | 55                         | 7,516                |

The unit conducted 55 separate investigations into the production and trafficking of marihuana and other narcotics that resulted in 50 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 17,516 marihuana plants in various stages of grow worth an estimated 17.5 million dollars. Also seized during these investigations was \$679,000 worth of dried, ready for sale marihuana and marihuana products.

During these investigations various other illegal drugs worth an estimated \$1.2 million were seized. This included seizures of cannabis resin, cocaine and prescription pills. Below are examples of investigations conducted by this unit in 2017.

#### **East West Line, Niagara on the Lake, Ontario**

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Members of the Guns, Gangs and Grow unit executed a search warrant at East West Line in Niagara on the Lake. Upon entry and search, a loaded rifle with magazine attached and round in the chamber was located under the pillows on the accused bed. More ammunition along with cocaine, heroin, prescription pills and bulk marihuana was seized. A small indoor marihuana grow operation was also dismantled. The accused male was charged with multiple drug and firearm offences.

#### **Multiple Locations in St. Catharines, Niagara on the Lake and Niagara Falls**

This larger scale investigation into Marihuana trafficking resulted in the execution of multiple search warrants on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. This investigation resulted in the seizure of cocaine, a large amount of processed marihuana and \$483,050 in Canadian currency. Six Niagara residents were charged with a variety of narcotics and proceeds of crime offences.



**Mitchell Avenue. Niagara Falls.**

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 members of the unit executed a search warrant at Mitchell Avenue in Niagara Falls. The accused person attempted to flee on foot through neighboring yards when approached by police at the time of his arrest. While running from police, the accused person attempted to discard drugs as he ran. Upon his arrest a search warrant was executed at his residence where cocaine, heroin, currency over \$5000.00 was seized along with a handgun, ammunition and body armor. The accused male was charged with numerous drug and firearm offences.



### **Mobile Surveillance Unit**

The Niagara Regional Police Service's Mobile Surveillance Unit is a six officer team that is a support service 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.

In 2017 the unit was involved in several high profile arrests of suspects ranging from robberies and attempt murder to human trafficking suspects.

### **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 are part of the Ontario Anti Human Trafficking network. Multiple Human trafficking investigations were conducted by the unit in 2017 that resulted in the rescuing of many survivors of Human Trafficking and the prosecutions of several offenders for this crime. In



2017 Project Resurgence (2013) was concluded with the forfeiture of the property on Page Street in St Catharines. This project targeted members of the Outlaws motorcycle club who were trying to reestablish a chapter in St Catharines at the time. A Page Street address was the gang's clubhouse.

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. Below is an example of an investigation conducted by this unit in 2017.

### **Opioid Education and Enforcement Unit**

Members of the Opioid Education and Enforcement unit (O.E.E.U.) are made up of officers formerly part of the Provincial Anti Violence Strategy (P.A.V.I.S.) This unit is responsible for enforcement of laws pertaining to the use, sale and distribution of all Opiates including Fentanyl. The mandate of the unit also includes a Police Service and public safety component which has seen many early successes from the unit.

In regards public stakeholder education, member of the unit are involved in many working groups including with Public Health Niagara, Addictions Niagara and other provincial working groups to get the message out about the deadly dangers of Opioid use.

With the proliferation of the illegal use of Fentanyl in this region, the O.E.E.U. 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 2017 several successful investigations resulted in the seizure of fentanyl and other opioids resulting in multiple charges against several persons. Below are examples of investigations that the unit is involved in.

#### **Drummond Road. Niagara Falls.**

After a lengthy investigation the O.E.E.U. unit executed a search warrant at an apartment at Drummond Road on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 As a result of the search, unit members seized 30 Fentanyl patches along with a quantity of cash. Two Niagara Falls men were charged with Possession of Fentanyl for the purposes of trafficking.



### **Pelham Street. Pelham**

In the fall of 2017 the O.E.E.U. unit along with other members of Special Investigative Services conducted an investigation into the drug trafficking activities of a Pelham male. On October 24<sup>th</sup> unit members obtained search warrants for two residences and a vehicle associated to the male they were investigating. As a result of the search detectives seized 27 grams of cocaine and 17 fentanyl patches. A Pelham man was charged accordingly.

### **Opioid Education and Enforcement Unit**

| <b>Activity</b>                   | <b>Number</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>O.E.E.U. Investigations</b>    | 36            |
| <b>Criminal Arrest</b>            | 22            |
| <b>Charges Laid</b>               | 60            |
| <b>Search Warrants Executed</b>   | 16            |
| <b>Drug Seizures Total Value</b>  | \$620,000     |
| <b>Drug Related Cash Seizures</b> | \$630,800     |



## Joint Forces Operations

### Biker Enforcement Unit - BEU

The Biker Enforcement Unit is an Ontario Provincial Police led Joint Forces Operation comprised of 12 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. Part of their mandate is to develop expert officers for use at trials and civil proceedings.

In 2017 the Niagara chapter of the Hells Angels continued their presence in the region and other parts of Canada through put the year after a nine year absence due to enforcement activities. The Niagara member seconded to the Provincial BEU unit was involved in several high profile investigations across Ontario and locally in Niagara in 2017.



### Provincial Anti-terrorism Section - PATS

PATS is 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 the 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. The seconded Niagara member was involved in many local initiatives along with major investigative projects in 2017.

**Provincial Weapons Enforcement unit - PWEU**



PWEU is an O.P.P. led Joint Forces Operation made up of 11 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.

**PWEU Activity in 2017**

| Activity                       | Number |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Niagara Related Investigations | 12     |
| Arrests                        | 14     |
| Search Warrants Executed       | 18     |
| Seizures                       |        |
| • Ammunition                   | 1,027  |
| • Rifles                       | 16     |
| • Handguns                     | 24     |
| • Shotguns                     | 6      |
| • Other weapons                | 5      |



Mitchell Avenue  
Niagara Falls



## Corporate Communications and Community Engagement

### Media Relations



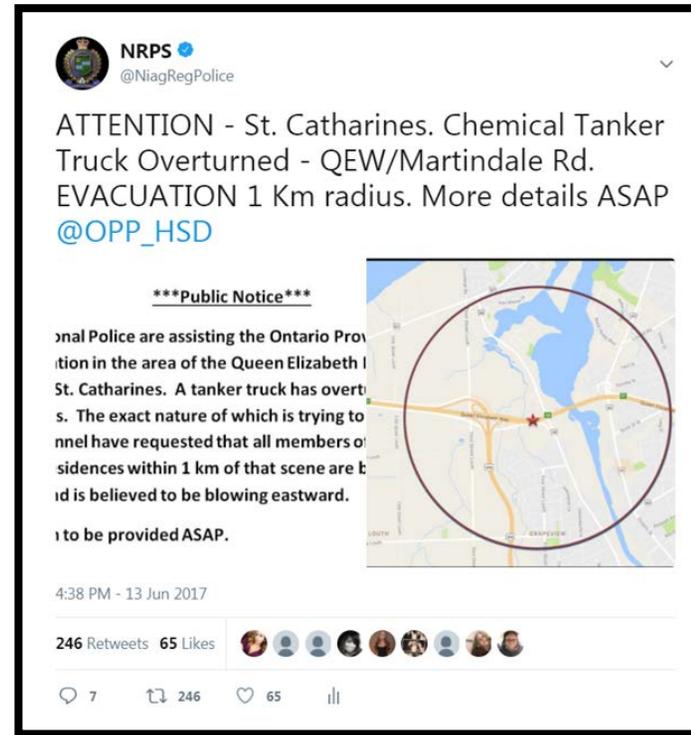
The Corporate Communications and Community Engagement Unit (CCCE) include the Media Relations Office. The Media Relations Office manages external and internal communications as well as promoting and maintaining the NRPS brand. In 2017, a civilian Media Relations Specialist was added to compliment the unit, bringing further expertise and stability to the office in the years to come. 2017 saw the development of Service Corporate Communications Strategy, as well as the Emergency Communications Strategy. The Corporate Communications Plan provides direction and framework on how to deliver internal and external information in a strategic fashion. The Emergency Communications Strategy was developed to assist in the management of various sized incidents with media and public involvement by the CCCE Unit.

The CCCE Unit is leading the development of the Niagara Emergency Communications Network (NECN) within the Niagara Region. NECN is a collective of media relations personnel from upper tier agencies that come together on a bi-annual basis. The overarching goal of the NECN is better inter- agency communications, which ultimately translates to better and more cohesive communications with the public and media.

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.

The Media Relations Office maintains the Niagara Regional Police Service Facebook account, Twitter accounts, Instagram account, Youtube account 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 2017 with approximately 25,900 followers while the Twitter account had over 19,000 followers.

The Niagara Regional Police Service website [www.niagarapolice.ca](http://www.niagarapolice.ca) takes the online presence of the Service beyond social media platforms that can sometimes have limitations. Our AODA website is the cornerstone of the Service's online presence and a useful community resource for in-depth information on community policing and crime prevention.



### Community Events

Making the community aware of important Community Events is another commitment the Corporate Communications and Community Engagement Unit has undertaken. Community awareness is often leveraged by the use of media partners in the areas of print, radio and television. Using our media partnerships allows us to share positive stories of community involvement and engagement. The CCCE Unit supports many positive events such as: 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, Coffee with Cop, Pride in the Park, Niagara River Lions – Hero Game, Pearl Gloves – MS, the Great Holiday Food Drive, and various other community events. The end result is a Service that has strong and accessible lines of communication with our community.

## Chaplains

The Chaplains Unit consists of 6 involved and caring local clergy from various religious denominations across Niagara. The unit was incepted in 2011 with a goal of providing confidential counselling and support for all Service personnel in a non-denominational manner. The Chaplains are available 24/7 on call out through Communications and they have a variety of counselling skills and vast experience with people from all walks of life with every kind of life issue. Their wealth of experience helps police Officers deal with persons in crisis, victims of crime, death notification, illness, PTSD and critical incident stress both on a personal level with Officers or with persons Officers assist in the public. Our Chaplains receive ongoing special training in relevant fields and hold certification in some specialties. They are members of the Canadian Police Chaplains Association (CPCA). Chaplains are volunteers to the Service and hold the honorary rank of Inspector. Chaplains report to the 3 District Commander.

Service Chaplains volunteered over 1,000 hours in 2017 by going with Officers on ride-alongs on patrol, celebrating special family ceremonies like funerals or marriages when asked, giving benedictions at Service ceremonies, visiting sick members, working with the Victims Services Unit, working with the Critical Incident Stress Team and attending required police training.



**Chaplain Jennifer Donnell** was sworn in as a Chaplain with NRPS in May of 2011. She is an Ordained Minister with the Free Methodist Church of Canada.



**Chaplain Gerard Power** is a Roman Catholic Priest with the Order of Carmelites. Chaplain Power has ministered as Parochial Vicar and Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish, Niagara Falls since June 2002. He has been a Service Chaplain since 2011.



**Chaplain Gary Screaton Page, OMC**, is a member and retired Sr. Pastor of First Baptist Church-Fort Erie. In January 2017 Gary was awarded the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship (OMC) for his dedication to the betterment of community and others. He has been with our Service 8 years.



**Chaplain Craig Danielson** has been leading Pastor of Calvary Church in St. Catharines since 2009. He was sworn in as Chaplain in May 2017.



**Chaplain Paul Fletcher** is an officiant with Celebrating Life Ministries. He was sworn in as a Chaplain in May of 2017.



**Chaplain Carson W. Culp** is a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America and has been senior Pastor at Christ Community Church in Welland since 2006. He was sworn in as a Chaplain in 2017.

## Auxiliary Unit

### History

The combined Auxiliary Forces of Grimsby, Niagara Falls, St.Catharines, Wainfleet and Welland were formed in 1956 as a section of the Civil Defense Organization, later becoming the Emergency Measures Organization. On January 1, 1971, all existing Auxiliary Forces in the Niagara Region became one unit under the Niagara Regional Police Service.

### Volunteers

Niagara Regional Police Auxiliary members are volunteers and provide a valuable service to policing and the community in the Niagara Region. Members must volunteer a minimum of 36 hours quarterly. In 2017, 65 members of the Auxiliary Unit volunteered in excess of 12,000 hours of service. We have Auxiliary volunteer members who have served as many as 40 years and have been promoted as high as the rank of Superintendent.

### Duties

Once qualified and trained Auxiliary members are issued and wear a full police uniform much the same as our Officers but with Auxiliary designation on it. They follow the Service's chain of command and have promotion opportunities to higher ranks within the unit. Their main duties include accompanying Police Officers on patrol, participating in crime prevention strategies, traffic safety programs, search and rescue operations, assisting at parades, festivals and other special events. Auxiliary members are subject to being called in to duty for disasters or emergencies as directed by the Chief of Police. In 2017 there were several such emergency call outs and in one major incident an Auxiliary member was able to get to the emergency scene in 15 minutes and 28 more members were there, ready for service, in only 90 minutes.

### Training

Recruit candidates meet the qualifications set out in the Service general orders and are described on our Service web site. Over the years several Auxiliary members have successfully applied and been hired as full time Police Officers. The Auxiliary Unit members receive the same extensive training as our Police Officers. While they are not issued firearms they are still trained and must fully qualify in firearms training. Other police specific

training they are given includes Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, police powers of arrest, criminal code and provincial offences legislation, Service policies and procedures, traffic control, defensive tactics, tactical communication, first aid including CPR, weapons handling and awareness, conductive energy weapons (Taser), baton, handcuffing, radio communications, search and rescue and much more. Annual requalification in several areas is mandatory. There are other periodic training meetings that require consistent attendance.



**2017 Auxiliary Graduates class at the Training Unit**

## Public Complaints

|  | 2016       | 2017      |
|--|------------|-----------|
| <b>Conduct Complaints</b>  | 99         | 93        |
| <b>Service Complaints</b>  | 1          | 3         |
| <b>Total Public Complaints</b>   | <b>100</b> | <b>96</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         | 29        |
| <b>Withdrawn</b>   | 18         | 13        |
| <b>Customer Service Resolution</b> (Before investigation)  | --         | 4         |
| <b>Informal Resolution</b> (During investigation)  | 2          | 1         |
| <b>Unsubstantiated Complaints</b> (Following investigation)  | 23         | 38        |
| <b>Substantiated Complaints</b> (Following investigation)  | 8          | 4         |
| <b>Pending / Open Investigations</b>   | 1          | 4         |
| <b>Substantiated Complaint Resolutions</b>   | <b>8</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>No Further Action</b>   | --         | --        |
| <b>Action Taken</b>  | 1          | 2         |
| <b>Informal Resolution</b>   | --         | 1         |
| <b>Disposition Without A Hearing</b>   | 4          | --        |
| <b>Awaiting Disposition</b>  | 3          | --        |
| <b>Disciplinary Hearing</b>  | --         | 1         |

**The Service saw a 4% decrease in the number of public complaints in 2017.**

## Human Resources

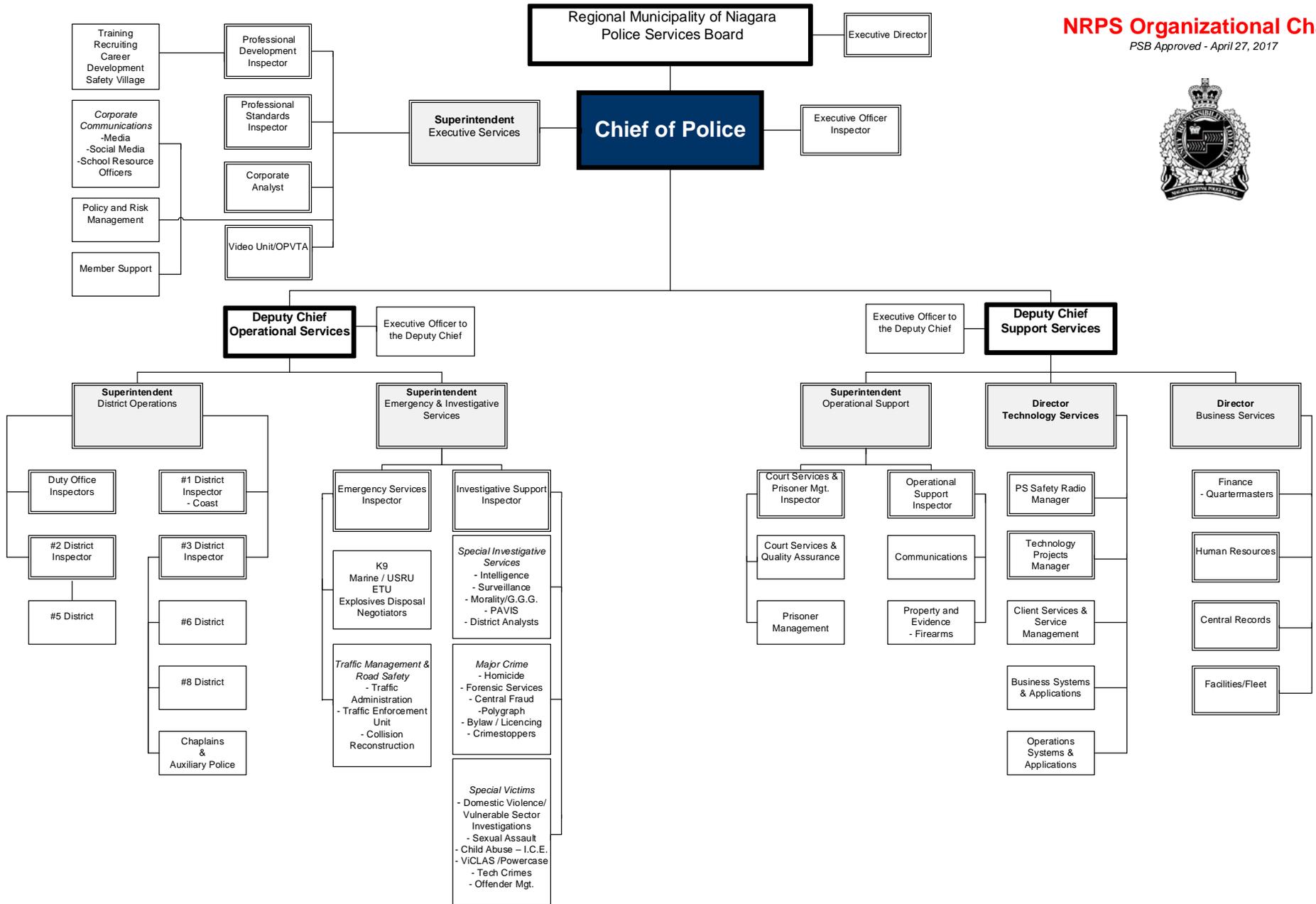
The Human Resources Unit continues to support the Service in providing quality policing services to the residents and visitors of the Niagara Region. In 2017, the Unit continued to focus on the implementation of the staffing model developed for the transition to the new headquarters which occurred in October 2016. A review of the internal staffing process for civilian positions was conducted in 2017 which led to changes in the process for both supporting staff development opportunities and ensuring a highly skilled membership.

In the fall of 2017, following a review of costs and a formal request for proposal process, the Service transitioned to a new insurance carrier for employee health benefits. An efficient transition was achieved due in large part to the significant planning and timely communication to all affected members.

| <b>2017 Authorized Strength</b> |              | <b>2017 Total Hires</b>                  |           |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--|-----------|
| <b><u>Uniform</u></b>           |              |  |           |
| Chief of Police                 | 1            | Uniform                                  | 29        |
| Deputy Chief of Police          | 2            | Civilian                                 | 21        |
| Superintendent                  | 4            | <b>Total</b>                             | <b>50</b> |
| Inspector                       | 14           | <b>2017 Retirements and Resignations</b> |           |
| Staff Sergeant                  | 29           | Chief                                    | 1         |
| Sergeant                        | 114          | Deputy Chief                             | 1         |
| Constable                       | 534          | Superintendent                           | 3         |
| <b>Total Uniform</b>            | <b>698</b>   | Staff Sergeant                           | 5         |
| <b><u>Civilian</u></b>          |              | Sergeant                                 | 7         |
| Director                        | 2            | Constable                                | 12        |
| Managers                        | 9            | <b>Total</b>                             | <b>29</b> |
| Civilian Personnel              | 296          | Senior Civilian                          | 1         |
| <b>Total Civilian</b>           | <b>307</b>   | Civilian                                 | 20        |
| <b>All Personnel</b>            | <b>1,005</b> | <b>Total</b>                             | <b>15</b> |

# NRPS Organizational Chart

PSB Approved - April 27, 2017





## Command Staff

**Chief of Police**  
**Bryan MacCulloch, M.O.M.**

**Deputy Chief Bill Fordy M.O.M.**  
**Deputy Chief Brett Flynn**

### Senior Officers

#### Superintendents

**Superintendent W. George Bench**  
**Superintendent Richard Frayne**  
**Superintendent Cindy White**  
**Superintendent Brian Ash**

#### Inspectors

**Inspector Shawn Dowd**  
**Inspector Darrin Forbes**  
**Inspector Joseph Garvey**  
**Inspector Marco Giannico**  
**Inspector James Leigh**  
**Inspector James MacKay**  
**Inspector Pat McCauley**  
**Inspector James McCaffery**  
**Inspector John Sawicki**  
**Inspector Steve Tchang**  
**Inspector Michael Woods**

#### Directors

**Akram Askoul**  
**Lisa DiDonato-DeChellis**

#### Managers

**Rany Audeh**  
**Paul Divers**  
**Gary Holden**  
**Linda Jerome**  
**Timothy Roome**  
**Laura Rullo**  
**Jamie Saunders**  
**Cathy Ross**

## Exemplary Service Awards

2017

### Police Services Board Award of Excellence

Staff Sergeant Sandy Staniforth

**Chief of Police Award** William Wiley

### Chief of Police Commendations

**Welfare Check** Sergeant Vincent Wong  
**Attempt Suicide** Constable Frank Alma

**Project Roadmaster**  
Ms. Lisa Matthews Ms. Amber Paschuk Ms. Ruth McGuirl  
Ms. Renee Totman Mr. Ian Bell

**Motor Vehicle Collision**  
Mr. Dale Cooley Lisa McGrath Sydney McGrath  
Ivy Cooley Colin Lowe

**9-1-1**  
Sergeant Dennis Osti Constable Brett Richardson Constable Adam Novakovich  
Constable Samuel Jackson Constable Jesse Hicks Communicator Aundree Glover

**Project Gale**  
Detective Sergeant Sean Polly Detective Sergeant Brett Atamanyk  
Detective Constable Bryce Diemer Detective Constable Ted Riehl  
Detective Constable Matthew King Detective Constable Kevin Neufeld  
Halton Regional Police Service – BEU Retired Detective Ralph Hopiavuori

**Break Enter & Commit Robbery**  
Constable Tim Ciaramitaro Constable Shelley Dube Constable Jamie Hamilton  
Constable Charles McChesney Constable David Kukoly Constable David Sinclair  
Constable Ben Tomiuk Constable John Krajcovic Constable Paolo Rinaldo  
Sergeant Steve Ward Inspector Joe Garvey Provincial Constable Kevin Munro  
Deputy Shawn Young, Erie County Sheriff's Office Captain Kevin Caffrey, Erie County Sheriff's Office  
Citizen Victoria Baago

**Forty Year Second Bar** Chief Jeff McGuire (R)

**Thirty Year Exemplary Service Bar**

|                                  |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Constable Darryn Barrow          | Constable Edward Bednarowski     | Sergeant Pamela Carter    |
| Inspector Christopher Cincio (R) | Sergeant Scott Elliott (R)       | Inspector Joe Garvey      |
| Inspector Marco Giannico         | Constable Tammy Hollard          | Constable Daniel Ihasz    |
| Sergeant Scott Johnstone         | Constable Donald Laing           | Constable Richardas Lukos |
| Sergeant Patrick McGilly         | Superintendent Mark McMullen (R) | Inspector David Meade     |
| Sergeant James Munro             | Staff Sergeant Gordon Nash       | Sergeant Sean Polly       |
| Constable Barbara Schertzer      | Constable Malcolm Scott (R)      | Sergeant Paul Spiridi (R) |
| Constable Richard Trapnell (R)   | Sergeant Michael Waters          |                           |

**Twenty Year Exemplary Medal**

|                         |                            |                       |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Inspector Darrin Forbes | Sergeant Shane Donovan     | Sergeant Ken McGregor |
| Sergeant Barry Wills    | Constable Patrick McCready | Constable Ryan Dool   |

**Police Officer of the Year Award**

**Executive Services** Constable Nicole Abbott

**Auxiliary Unit** Auxiliary Constable Alexander Hay

**Investigative Support** D/Sergeant Christopher Lemaich

**Court Services/Quality Assurance** Shannon Gibson

**Emergency Services** Constable Blair Palmer

**1 District, St. Catharines** Christian Lott

**2 District, Niagara Falls** Constable Graeme Gaunt

**3 District, Welland** Christopher Lindey

**5 District, Fort Erie** James Sunners

**6 District, Port Colborne** Robert McClelland

**8 District, Grimsby** Kristofer Doyle

**Casino Patrol Unit** Constable George Arseneau

**Traffic Safety Leadership Award** Charles Letford



## 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 Reid**  
**Executive Director**

**Dawn Cichocki**  
**Executive Assistant**

## Niagara Regional Police Service Chaplains

**Father Brian Bevan**  
**Chaplain Carson Culp**  
**Chaplain Craig Danielson**  
**Chaplain Paul Fletcher**  
**Reverend Clive Pick**  
**Reverend Jennifer Anderson**  
**Reverend Gerard Power**  
**Reverend Gary Page**

**Community Policing Officer of the Year Award** Special Constable Larry Norgate

**30-Year Civilian Service Recognition**

|                           |                                  |   |                                     |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Maria Izzo<br>Terry Smith | Tammy Duncan (R)<br>Rose Pierson | Diana Girardi-Jackson (R)<br>Marjorie deVries | Catharine Hunt<br>Patricia Pracchia |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|

**20-Year Peace Officer Medal** Special Constable Shawn Sexton

**20 Year Civilian Service Recognition**

|                     |                 |               |               |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Elizabeth Kierstead | Shirley Valstar | Joe Fragomeni | Diane Poulsen |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|

**Auxiliary 30 Year Bar** Auxiliary Constable Leslie Jackson

**Auxiliary 20 Year Medal** Auxiliary Constable Lisa Doyle

**Executive or Operational Services** Patricia Durocher      **Support Services** Krista Neilson

**Telecommunicator of the Year Award** Angela Boswell

**Sergeant Major Brian Davidson Memorial Award** Frank Chadwick

**James A. Gayder Award** Mary McEwen

**Constable Dale Racine Educational Bursary**

|                                    |  |                                  |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Jesse Finlay-Sellman, DSBN Academy | Kyla Krajcovic, Lakeshore Catholic High School | Leah Heinen, Grimsby High School |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|

**Retirees - Sworn Member**

|                               |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Constable Angelo Blancato     | Sergeant Paul Bradford        |                              |
| Staff Sergeant David Brennan  | Superintendent Desmond Carter | Staff Sergeant John Curran   |
| Sergeant Paul Day             | Constable Richard DiSimoni    | Sergeant Scott Elliott       |
| Sergeant Carol Hanna          | Constable Colin Hoare         | Constable Lisa Isherwood     |
| Constable Richardas Lukos     | Superintendent Scott McLean   | Superintendent Mark McMullen |
| Staff Sergeant Joseph Picton  | Sergeant Brian Smith          | Sergeant Paul Spiridi        |
| Staff Sergeant Todd Stevenson | Sergeant Bradley Swan         | Constable Michel Thibodeau   |
| Constable Richard Trapnell    |                               |                              |

**Civilian Member**

|                                  |                             |                 |              |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Carol Berry                      | Alison Carr-Kohut           | Deborah Cusick  | Tammy Duncan |
| Special Constable Richard Gordon | Special Constable Brian Hay | Viola Knudson   | Debrah Lewis |
| Frances MacLeod                  | Donna McIntosh              | Catharine Scott |              |
| Special Constable John Schutt    | Sandra Wilson               |                 |              |

## Member Support Unit



The Member Support Unit was introduced in November of 2017. During the initial startup, the unit was comprised of a Staff Sergeant who oversees Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) as well as the creation of new programs. The overall goal was to reduce the stigma associated with mental improved response to traumatic events.

The unit took over the responsibility of the CISM team and call out procedures as well as the creation of a Peer Support team and required training. The remainder of 2017 involved a nomination process for the Peer Support Team which was successful in identifying members who would be instrumental in the foundation of the program. The organizational desire to assist fellow members was impressive.

Our CISM team responded to three incidents over the two month period and assisted with diffusing for our members and any addition follow up that was identified. The unit responded to over 20 outreach contacts to different members of the service requiring assistance or additional referrals. Some were initiated by the unit becoming aware through other fellow members, or calls for service with trauma being identified. Some members reached out for assistance on their own, recognizing the scope of the new unit.

Planning for the training of the Peer Support team will continue in 2018 started as well as other areas of increased support for the NRPS members and their families. Redefining policy and practices as well as initiating a reduce stigma campaign. The unit will continue to grow and expand their capabilities with the intent of improved member wellness and prevention of psychological stress within the workplace during 2018.



# *In Memoriam*

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*In 2017 the Niagara Regional Police Service lost four members of our family.  
We would be remiss if we did not take the time to remember them.*

**Shelley Jesik**

**Special Constable Brian Davidson**

**Susan Smith**

**Constable Wayne Brown**



*Sadly missed along life's way, quietly remembered every day...  
No longer in our life to share,  
But in our hearts, you're always there.*

## Budget Overview

### Budgeted vs. Actual Expenditures

| Expenditure                                   | Budgeted           | Actual             |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel Costs                               | 134,470,702        | 141,695,473        |
| Administrative Expenses                       | 3,943,220          | 3,796,972          |
| Operational & Supply                          | 2,142,893          | 2,243,618          |
| Occupancy & Infrastructure                    | 341,375            | 307,122            |
| Equipment, Vehicles, Technology               | 5,832,285          | 5,665,926          |
| Financial Expenditures & Regional Chargebacks | (1,271,988)        | (1,273,755)        |
| Net Transfers to Reserves                     | 9,360,060          | 4,831,550          |
| <b>Total Gross Expenditure</b>                | <b>154,818,547</b> | <b>157,266,906</b> |

Personnel related costs accounted for approximately 90% of the Service's gross expenditure in 2017.

### Budget vs. Actual Recoveries and Revenue

| Revenue Description              | Budgeted           | Actual             |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fees & Service Charges           | 7,119,300          | 6,819,795          |
| Ontario/Canada Grants            | 9,050,766          | 9,069,399          |
| Other Revenue                    | 1,389,276          | 1,766,636          |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>            | <b>17,559,342</b>  | <b>17,655,830</b>  |
| <b>Budgeted vs. Actual Costs</b> | <b>137,259,205</b> | <b>139,611,076</b> |



CANADA 150



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