POLICE SERVICES

St. Thomas Police Service Annual Report 2008 - 3

To continue as a "Community Police Service" identifying and addressing those issues that concern the citizens of St. Thomas.

Capital Budget

Police Operating Budget*

	2008	2009
Revenue		
Salaries and Benefits		
OMERS	\$636,466	\$611,992
Training	\$40,000	\$40,000
Public Education	\$10,000	\$10,000
Overtime	\$80,000	\$90,000
Vehicle Operations	\$195,000	\$195,000
Total Budget	\$8,246,271	\$8,684,391
* these numbers do not include all budget figures.		

Uniform Division

The most important factor of our service delivery to the community lies with the front line officer. It is the front line officer that provides a visible police presence in the downtown core, in shopping malls, in the parks and playgrounds and in each neighbourhood. They are the first responders to all emergencies as well as the personal touch of the Service responding to the non-emergency calls for service and concerns of individual citizens.

The St. Thomas Police Service provides community patrol utilizing marked and unmarked police cruisers, old clothes assignments of beat, bicycle and cruiser patrols, as well as uniformed foot and bicycle patrols.

Through observation and enforcement, officers implement patrol strategies based on crime and calls analysis, crime trends and intelligence information to address issues in the community.

The St. Thomas Police Service is a member of the Four-County Police Cooperative. This partnership links our Service with the RCMP, the OPP, London Police, Oxford Community Police, Stratford Police, Aylmer Police and Strathroy-Caradoc Police Services.

The Uniform Division is equipped with mobile data terminals in their vehicles providing a direct link to vital information. Officers have the ability to access information via CPIC directly from the in-car computers without relaying information over the police communications systems.

Furthermore, a digital mug shot system has been introduced providing officers with the ability to view photographs at their desktop computers or in the mobile environment, providing a visual confirmation of identity of persons. Technology continues to enhance the capabilities of our front line officers.

The Office of the Chaplain

No one is confronted with more situations that demoralize and create emotional, mental and spiritual burdens than today's law enforcement officer. These burdens also affect the officer's family and other members of the Police Service. Law enforcement agencies need the specialized guidance, counselling and assistance for their officers, families and communities.

A law enforcement chaplain is a clergyperson with special interest and training for providing pastoral care in the high powered and dangerous world of law enforcement. This pastoral care is offered to all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, creed, or religion. The law enforcement chaplain is available and ready to serve those in need. The chaplain's ministry provides a source of strength to the law enforcement staff and their families and the community. Chaplains listen and participate in the workplace of law enforcement officers with empathy and experience, advising calmly in the midst of turmoil and danger, and offering assistance when appropriate or requested.

The St. Thomas Police Service is fortunate to have Reverend Roger Landell serving as our Police Chaplain. Reverend Landell, a former Toronto Police officer, understands the demands of policing and volunteers his time and efforts to support our members and their families, always offering a confidential, non-threatening, listening ear. He also participates as a runner in the annual Special Olympics Torch Run and is a member, "identified target" and "enforcer" of the Golden Rule on our Police hockey team for charity hockey events. His enthusiasm, positive personality and unwavering support is greatly



also approved \$13,000 to replace The old silver model Smith and Wesson obsolete computer servers for our 4046 and the new Smith and Wesson M & P semi automatic 40 calibre the computer aided dispatch centre. Board purchased.

munications and are again mandated by the Ministry. In early 2009, Council approved \$65,000 to replace obsolete semi automatic pistols with new pistols for the uniform division. The transition has now been completed and all officers have been issued, trained and re-qualified in the use of the new semi automatic pistol.

Civilian Division

The servers are required for the stor-

age and retrieval of all police com-

Members of the Civilian division including the Police Communicators, Business office staff, Special Constables and Police Cadets, perform a variety of tasks in support of the front line officers.

Police Communicators are the initial call takers who assess the needs of callers and dispatch the necessary officers and support agencies to respond appropriately to emergency situations. Our Business office staff are responsible for a wide range of clerical duties from front reception, data entry of all police reports, transcription, record management, CPIC entry and validation, Freedom of Information requests, statistical compilation and relief communication and dispatch. Special Constables provide security in courtrooms; manage persons being held in custody, escort prisoners to and from courts from our holding cells and other prison facilities throughout the province.

Our Police Service, like most organizations, is reliant on the efficiencies of computer technology. In recent years, many changes have been implemented to introduce new technology to improve the way in which a variety of tasks are performed in both the uniform and civilian divisions. In 2008, an Information Technology Specialist, Rick Busch was hired to maintain our current systems, provide technical support, and plan, recommend and implement approved future changes to our technology and communications systems. Rick's experience will be most beneficial in planning and implementing new infrastructure and technology systems in the new police headquarters.

> appreciated by the members of the St. Thomas Police Service.

Rev. Roger Landell