



To promote an understanding through the service that the true measure of police effectiveness is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them.

St. Thomas Police Service • Crime Statistics Comparison - 2008

		2008	2007	2006
		Total	Total	Total
* These numbers reflect the actual number of criminal charges laid. ** These numbers are for the most serious charge with- in a given incident (i.e. if a male & female were each charged in the same incident the only number reflected in this category would be the sex of the person charged with the most serious violation)				
Crimes of Violence	Homicide/Attempt Murder	0	1	3
	Robbery	23	6	15
	Sexual Assaults & Other Sexual Offences	27	34	22
	Non-Sexual Assaults	241	261	265
Crimes Against Property	Break & Enter	291	206	252
	Thefts - Motor Vehicle and Thefts Over, Under & Possession	901	905	831
	Fraud	120	95	97
	Arson	14	11	13
	Mischief	420	429	544
Other Criminal Code	Weapons	14	11	11
	Bail Violations	140	152	163
Controlled Drugs and Substances Act	All C.D.S.A. Offences	69	82	102
Criminal Driving Offences	Impaired Driving/Over .08	86	92	140
	Refuse Breath Sample	4	5	2
	Disqualified Driving	8	14	7
Criminal Charges - General Statistics	Number of Criminal Charges	1685	1361	1852
	Adult Males Charged	540	573	661
	Adult Females Charged	164	142	166
	Young Offender Males Charged	95	93	127
	Young Offender Females Charged	35	27	35
Provincial Offences and By-Law Statistics	Highway Traffic Act (PON's Issued)	3161	3121	3385
	Liquor Licence Act (PON's Issued)	295	304	360
	Parking Violations	944	896	1042
Motor Vehicle Collisions	Fatal MVC's	1	0	0
	Reportable MVC's (without Injuries)	329	315	357
	Reportable MVC's (with Injuries)	111	114	114
	Number of People Injured	156	152	169
General Statistics	Number of Incidents	16,524	16,458	17,343

Use of Force Options Utilized in the Field

Trends 2006 - 2008

During the period of 2006-2008, the number of use of force Incidents has remained relatively stable, although members of the Service have displayed firearms to effect arrests in almost twice as many situations. This is the result of an increasing level of threat facing officers in their daily duties.

In 2008, officers drew their firearms in twenty-two (22) cases, facing threats of guns, knives, as well as vicious animals. In 2006, officers drew their firearms nine (9) times, and in 2007 fifteen (15) times. In 2006-2007, the most common weapons that officers faced were knives. In 2008, it was the use, or suspected use, of a firearm.

The Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) or Taser, has not been excessively used during this timeframe. The Taser has been deployed on five (5) occasions over three years and displayed to public view on two occasions. It has been used five times to subdue violent persons who were being arrested or apprehended under the Mental Health Act. The Taser was fired twice and used in the drive stun mode three times. It has also been displayed to the public on two occasions to gain compliance of individuals during arrest. To date, no injuries have been sustained by the use of the Taser.

O/C or pepper spray use has been consistent from 2006-2008 having been used four times in 2006, three

times in 2007, and twice in 2008. The O/C spray was used primary to subdue threaten- ing individuals who were actively resisting arrest or were demonstrating violent or suicidal tendencies. Weapons were present once in 2008; none in 2007; and were present once in 2006.

The baton has only been used once from 2006-2008. In late 2008, an officer used his baton on a male party who was using a makeshift weapon to actively resist arrest for a multitude of criminal offences including dangerous driving and drinking and driving. Officers tried empty hand techniques on the subject with limited success. A Supervisor used a baton to gain control of the subject. No injuries were sustained as a result of using the baton.

It was also noted that some level of intoxication appears to be present in many of the situations where officers use empty hand techniques to gain control of and arrested or apprehended suspects. In 2006, all three persons, where empty hand techniques were required, were intoxicated; in 2007, one of the three persons were intoxicated; in 2008, one of the two persons, where empty hand techniques were required, were intoxicated.

The Use of Force statistics reflect some areas of the yearly Crime Statistics. 2008 saw a marked increase in robberies from 2007 as well as an increase in weapons offences from 2007. It appears the use of firearms is increasing in our community and is a threat that officers must always be

prepared to deal with.

During 2008, our members chose the proper Use of Force options available to them and utilized them adequately and effectively in the performance of their duties. Good judgment was displayed and a minimal amount of force was used wherever possible.

Firearms were drawn or displayed to public view in Twenty two (22) incidents during the year. On Eleven (11) occasions firearms were utilized to dispatch injured animals for humanitarian purposes. The Conducted Energy Device (Taser) was utilized on Two (2) occasions in 2008. Aerosol weapons (O/C Spray) were utilized on Two (2) occasions in 2008. The baton was used in One (1) incident in 2008. Empty hand techniques were also used in Three (3) situations in 2008.

Firearms

In the first incident, an 18 year old male, wanted for assault with a weapon (2 knives) and uttering death threats, was approached by officers a short time after the original incident. Officers drew their firearms to affect the arrest and did so without incident.

The second incident involved the arrest of a male believed to be carrying a concealed gun. A member of the public called in the complaint and a male matching the description of the suspect was stopped. Officers drew their firearms and arrested the male. A search of the male uncovered a replica firearm. The male was subsequently