

To establish a recruiting, training, education and developmental capacity within the service that will maximize the potential of all our members.

Training

Inspector Mark Traichevich

The St. Thomas Police Service spent a considerable amount of time engaged in formal and in-service training in 2008.

Five police recruits commenced a period of orientation and in-service training in 2008 before commencing formal Basic Constable training at the Ontario Police College in Aylmer. Each recruit spent 315 days in a formal training setting. After successfully completing the training, they returned to the St. Thomas Police Service and were sworn in as Fourth Class Constables and then spent another 2-3 months under the direction of a Coach Officer and their respective supervisors.

Six individuals were hired in 2008 as entry level Police Cadets who are assigned to a myriad of duties including communications and dispatch, summons and subpoena service, care and control of prisoners, fingerprinting, photographing and other related duties as assigned at the platoon level. Cadets free up sworn Constables from time consuming, minor tasks, thus allowing our service to keep our trained police officers on the street dealing with daily issues, criminal activities and enforcement duties. More than 100 in-service training days are dedicated to bring cadets up to speed and the training continues in-house on a regular basis.



Immediate rapid response situational training in local school

Space on seventy-five senior courses was secured at various training venues. Several officers took part in upgrade training totaling another 300 full training days over the course of the year. Some of those courses included sexual assault investigations; homicide investigations;

general investigative techniques, domestic violence, mobile surveillance training. Accident reconstruction officers upgraded to technical collision reconstruction level 4 status and another Scenes of Crime Officer was trained to enhance the existing compliment and the Forensic Identification Unit in their investigations. Other training included investigating offences against children, drug enforcement investigations, advanced patrol training and training in Health & Safety issues.

The primary training venue was once again the Ontario Police College, but our service also took advantage of training opportunities hosted by the Canadian Police College in Ottawa, the London, Toronto, Waterloo, Stratford Police Service, and Oxford Community Police Services as well as the OPP in Orillia. Officers were also enrolled at Durham College, the Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa, the St. Thomas Senior's Centre and St. Joseph's Hospital in London.

A yearly component of in-service training involves provincially mandated Use of Force training for all sworn members including annual re-qualification in semi-automatic pistols and shotguns as well as the use of the ASP Baton and O/C (pepper) spray. The Taser X26 conducted energy weapons are reviewed and the front line supervisors undergo annual re-qualification at the operator/handler level. In addition, re-qualification entails defensive tactics, suspect apprehension pursuit driver training and although not mandate, our officers undergo refresher training in "Immediate Rapid Deployment to an Active Shooter" with various realistic scenario based training exercises conducted at local schools. All front line officers



Use of Force Instructors, left to right: Constables Travis Sandham, Reagan Wells, Anders Nielsen

and several civilian members re-qualified in basic First Aid and CPR as well as radar operator training.

Training remains a very high priority for the St. Thomas Police Service. The knowledge, skills and abilities of our members is second to none in the Province. The experiences gained and the networks established through formal training proved worthwhile in 2008 with the successful completion of several high profile cases. Our well-training criminal investigators brought several major cases to a successful conclusion with arrests in the Marcel Lachance homicide, the missing baby- Abbygail Dice case and in the Alma College arson case.

Lateral transfers to various branches in our Service and the subsequent specialized training enhance the skill and abilities of our officers. Officers who serve a tenure in specific branches or units of our Service such as criminal investigations, drugs, intelligence or support services eventually return to the uniform patrol branch and resume their front line patrol duties and bring that training and experience to the daily enforcement and investigations which assists other officers on their platoon. Our training program enhances the abilities of our members to deliver the best possible policing services to the community we serve.

Police Pursuits

Members of the St. Thomas Police Service initiated three police suspect apprehension pursuits during 2008 as compared to seven pursuits in 2007. In all instances where individuals were apprehended, appropriate criminal and/or provincial, charges were laid. In each incident, members of the Service followed established procedures and used good judgement in the execution of their duties. The issue of officer and public safety in these types of situations remains paramount.

Summary of Pursuits: On February 21, 2008 at approximately 9:00 p.m., police observed a male driving a motor vehicle northbound on Fairview Avenue at a high rate of speed. The officer attempted to stop the vehicle using the roof lights. The vehicle did not stop. The officer obtained a plate number and discontinued the attempt to stop the vehicle. The vehicle was subsequently located but the driver was not identified. No injuries or damage was sustained to Police Service personnel or property as a result of this incident.

On August 21, 2008, a male and female were under surveillance by our Drug Enforcement Unit for outstanding arrest warrants. The plain clothes officers observed the wanted parties enter a vehicle and subsequently requested a marked patrol car to stop the vehicle in question. The uniformed officer pulled in front of the

vehicle when it came to a stop at an intersection. The suspect reversed away from the marked unit and fled down a residential street. The uniformed officer activated his roof lights and siren and initiated a pursuit. The Criminal Investigations branch Sergeant was in the area and immediately called off the pursuit as it was learned that the driver was identified and the pursuit would be a danger to public safety. A short time later, the accused was located on foot and arrested after a short chase. The female passenger was also located and arrested. The vehicle was located a short distance away. The male was charged with nine criminal offences including failing to stop for police. The female was charged with one criminal offence. No injuries or damage was sustained as a result of this incident.

On October 9, 2008 at approximately 12:53 a.m., officers in an unmarked police unit observed a vehicle near the rear of a commercial building with just the tail lights visible to the officer. The officer, who was in full uniform, attended at the location and spoke to the driver of the vehicle. The male was questioned about his presence at this location at that time of night. The male was hesitant to answer questions. The officer asked the male to identify himself and produce his drivers' license and vehicle documents, but the male refused stating he had done nothing wrong. The male moved his truck for-

ward and was instructed to put the vehicle in park. The male was told he must produce the documents by law. He refused and pulled away stating that "if you want it, you'll have to follow me home." The officer ordered the driver to stop but he did not. The officer called in a second officer in a fully marked unit to attend and position himself behind the suspect vehicle and they attempted to stop the vehicle using roof lights and siren. The suspect vehicle refused to stop. Speeds were 45 km/h for approximately 0.4 km. At this time, two cruisers boxed the suspect vehicle in forcing the driver to stop. The male was arrested for failing to stop for police. There was no vehicle ownership in the vehicle and the insurance slip had expired. Several traffic summonses were issued and the driver was released. There were no injuries or damage sustained as a result of this incident.

2008 POLICE PURSUITS STATISTICS

Incidents concluded with apprehension and charges	2
Stolen vehicles involved in pursuits	0
Highway Traffic Act Offences	2
Pursuits Terminated	2
Criminal Code Charges	8
Highway Traffic Act Charges	4
Controlled Drugs and Substances Act Charges	0
TOTAL PURSUITS	3