



*To increase the community's participation in helping to prevent and solve crimes.*

## Crime Prevention / Media Officer

The mandate of the Crime Prevention officer is to provide support to the front line officers through the promotion and expansion of crime prevention initiatives. Through daily contact with the local media, the Crime Prevention officer provides information to the public about current police activities, criminal trends, proactive crime prevention techniques and our community policing initiatives.

Constable Anders Nielsen served as the Crime Prevention officer throughout 2008 but turned the reins over to Constable Cam Constable by year end in anticipation of his tenure as a seconded instructor at the Ontario Police College in 2009 – 2010.

**STEP (Seniors Taking Extra Precautions)** • Constable Nielsen presented information sessions that dealt with home security, personal safety, vehicle security, scams and identity theft. These seminars were held in a variety of locations including at each of the Ontario Housing buildings in St. Thomas.

**Neighbourhood Watch** • Neighbourhood Watch in St. Thomas moved into the electronic era in 2008. Application information is now available on the St. Thomas Police web site at [www.stps.on.ca](http://www.stps.on.ca). Police incidents of concern to the community are posted on the website for easy access. If you are interested in being a Neighbourhood Watch captain in your neighbourhood, contact Constable Cam Constable at 519-631-1224 ext 140.

**MADD** • MADD continues to sponsor RIDE programs in our community. MADD's Annual Memorial Service was held in November at the St. Thomas Christian Church to honour victims of drunk drivers. Constables Jason Geddes, James Fast, Anders Nielsen and Sergeant Chris Herridge served as an honour guard during the 2008 ceremony. MADD also sponsored the "You're your Car and Ride Free" event on New Year's Eve.

**Safe Communities** • The Safe Communities Committee, based at the Chamber of Commerce office is an extremely effective, working committee in our community. Members from the Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services and the Ministry of Transportation are partners with our Service on this committee. A tremendous amount of information is exchanged and implemented in safety initiatives throughout our community each year. The Safe Communities Committee sponsor events such as the RIDE program and the Police Emergency event.

**R-Safes (RAISE)** • This committee is based at the Health Unit and is co-chaired by two public health nurses. Their initiatives include the Road Safety Challenge, seatbelt campaigns, car-seat campaigns and the "Heroes" event. The "Heroes" event is a national safety campaign aimed at high school students for the purpose of informing them of the hazards they encounter on a daily basis and how to make the right decisions to avoid them.

**International Emergency Response Day** • International Emergency Response Day was replaced in 2008 with a two-day event at the Memorial Arena involving more than 2,000 local Grade 7 – 12 students. Smartrisk Heroes is a fast paced, theatrical presentation designed to catch the attention of young people through technology, music and imagery. An injury survivor, someone who has sustained a preventable injury, who narrates the audience through the program, hosted the show. Smartrisk Heroes took students on an emotional trip to provoke reflection. It makes them discover that their passion for living is worth more than reckless impulsiveness.

## Adopt-A-School Program

Our Police Service is committed to building positive relationships with the youth in our community and the Adopt-a-School Program continues to provide the opportunities to unite staff, students, parents and the police in the common goal of ensuring a safe environment in our schools.

The City of St Thomas has four high schools and an Alternative school. There are presently 19 frontline officers as well as the Community Resource Officer, and the Crime Prevention Officer that are involved in this volunteer program. These officers work their regular shifts performing their general patrol duties but commit to incorporating regular visits to their respective schools during their shifts. Officers take part in various activities such as participating in or attending sporting events and making classroom presentations.

The most common attendance of officers is not for a scheduled event but rather to just walk through the school and talk to students and teachers. The officer's presence demon-

strates their commitment to the students and strengthens the student/police relationship. The officers have been very well received and it has become a common sighting to see a uniformed officer in our high schools.

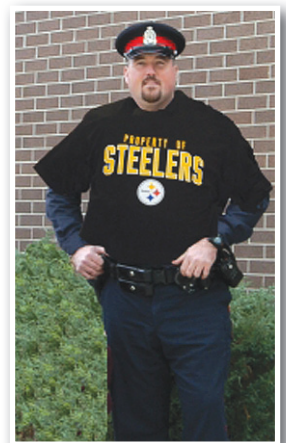
The success of this program can be attributed to the commitment of the officers involved along with the support and commitment of school staff, and cooperation and enthusiasm of the students.

The Community Resource Officer plays a key role in the communication from the schools to the frontline officer. This position commits an officer to the high schools on a daily basis. This officer has the most regular contact with school officials and students.

The goal of this program is to develop a rapport with students and provide law enforcement assistance to school personnel, parents and students. The goal has been met in the past years and we will continue to work together to make our schools a better place.



**Police Constable Cameron Constable**



**Constable Darren Congdon**

Our Police Service is involved with many other committees and programs including the Elder Abuse Action committee based at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital. This committee meets as needed to discuss and assess individual cases.

This office continued to address three major issues in 2009 – the misuse of the 911 system; thefts from vehicles and a variety of fraudulent scams. With the assistance of the local media,

educational materials on how to protect one's self against thefts and scams have been readily available. Furthermore, the fact that people are aware that such activity is taking place throughout the City enables people to better take action to avoid becoming a victim. A better understanding of the proper use of 911 assists the public in knowing when to use 911 and when to call the non-emergency police line (519-631-1364) or

business office (519-631-1224) for assistance.

Our website has been a most useful tool in providing accurate and up to date information to our community. Crime trends and patterns of criminal activity patterns are assessed; media releases and Most Wanted information is posted; and Crime Stoppers tip line is readily available to accept information via the web.