



Bridgewater Police Department

Report to the Community 2006-2007

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Chief's Message

This, our fourth Annual Report, provides an opportunity to effectively indicate to the community we police the possibilities, issues and concerns we face. In this reporting period, our department has seen many changes which have been brought about as a result of the recognition that certain deficiencies have been identified in our service delivery model.

In previous Annual Reports, in following the format required by the Department of Justice, it was necessary to articulate any known deficiencies. I am pleased to report that almost all identified deficiencies have now been addressed. The most graphic change, obviously, is the fact that we are about to move into our new facility which will provide the type of workspace suited to a modern policing agency. A great deal of the design of the new facility has been focused on the gathering and handling of evidence, as well as ensuring that the legal rights of any individuals we deal with are protected.



Some of the other deficiencies previously reported were the need for a dedicated drug investigator as well as a school liaison position. In this past year, as a result of a partnership with the South Shore Regional School Board, we have been able to provide a full time school liaison position working in the three schools within the Town of Bridgewater. I am also happy to report that through another partnership with the Province of NS and the RCMP, the need for a full time drug investigator has been addressed starting April 1, 2007. It is very gratifying to note that through partnerships and the support of the Board of Police Commissioners and Town Council, these identified needs can be addressed in an efficient and cost effective way.

As can be seen in this report, one of the remaining challenges for this department is recruitment and retention of well qualified and highly motivated officers. Great strides have been made in this regard through several innovative approaches which are described in some detail later in this report.

I would also like to highlight the fact that this report clearly indicates that even though there is a steady increase in the number of calls per service, a recent survey, which is enclosed, clearly indicates that there is overall satisfaction with the level of service being provided to the residents of the Town of Bridgewater. We must always be mindful of the fact that community safety is not only about the number of offences reported, but as importantly, how the public perceives their level of safety in their neighbourhood and the community at large.

I would be remiss if I did not comment on the hard work and dedication of our staff, police officers and support staff alike whose contributions continually help us provide an overall improved level of service.

Deficiencies of Service

As indicated in the policy statement from the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, there is a requirement for municipal police agencies to report any noted deficiencies each year. In the past three annual reports there were several issues identified which have now been rectified for the most part.

The entire concern related to the care and housing of prisoners has been addressed by means of entering into a contract with the RCMP to house and detain persons within their cell block at the Bridgewater office of the Lunenburg County Detachment.

In last year's annual report, there was a great deal of focus on the inadequate facilities which has now been resolved by means of a new facility to be opened in June 2007.



The official ground breaking ceremony took place on November 22, 2006.



By January 2007 there was a recognizable structure.



This aerial view was taken in March 2007.

Other issues identified in the past related to the collective agreement with the Police Association of NS Union which has now been negotiated and accepted.

The other two main deficiencies were the need for a full time school liaison position as well as the need for personnel dedicated full time to drug enforcement. Both these issues have now been addressed.



Cst. Bonnell and students



DARE Graduation, 2007.

At the beginning of the school year 2006, as a result of a partnership between the South Shore Regional School Board and the Bridgewater Police Department, Cst. Christine Bonnell filled the role of school liaison officer on a full time basis. Cst. Bonnell's time was shared between Parkview Education Centre, Bridgewater Elementary School and the Bridgewater Junior/Senior High School. This pilot project, for the school year 2006-2007, has been very successful and attempts are being made to secure funding to continue this worthwhile project.

The second major deficiency identified in last year's annual report has also been addressed with the full time position for drug enforcement. In November 2006, the Minister of Justice announced a plan for the Province of Nova Scotia to fund an additional 250 police officers as part of the Safer Communities Initiative. This announcement has translated into a four person integrated street crime unit to work out of the new Bridgewater Police facility. The mandate of this specialized unit completely addresses the noted deficiency.

Over the past three years as a result of the deficiencies being noted, support from the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners and the Bridgewater Town Council has resulted in these issues being fully addressed. The support shown is of major importance and also requires significant partnerships with the Province of Nova Scotia, South Shore Regional School Board, Business Community of Bridgewater as well as the community at large.

2007-2009 Strategic/Business Plan

In 2003 the Board of Police commissioners embarked on a formal strategic plan for a three (3) year period that has been previously reported in past annual reports. In November 2006, the Board of Police Commissioners again, with the assistance of an independent consultant developed a three (3) year strategic plan encompassing the period 2007-2009. The plan has five (5) major goals and outcomes.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Bridgewater Police Department is to promote a safe community by providing professional and efficient police service.

Our Core Values

- Caring
- Dedicated
- Ethical
- Loyal
- Professional
- Respectful

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Goal 1 | Identify and deliver effective communication strategies which inform and engage the community |
| Goal 2 | Identify and deliver effective strategies to recruit, retain and develop human resources which will provide a professional and efficient police service |
| Goal 3 | Identify and deliver effective strategies which promotes a positive relationship between youth, police and the community |
| Goal 4 | Identify and deliver effective strategies which provides safety and security for our seniors |
| Goal 5 | Identify and deliver strategies which engage the community in positive partnerships |

Outcomes

- ◆ Our community is satisfied with the service provided by the Bridgewater Police Department
- ◆ Our community is satisfied with the Bridgewater Police Departments visibility and presence in their community
- ◆ Our community feel safe where they live
- ◆ Our community feel safe in local areas where they go to school, shop, and work
- ◆ Our community is satisfied that the Bridgewater Police Department communicates effectively

Goal 1 Identify and deliver effective communication strategies which inform and engage the community

1.1 Conduct Town Hall meeting to inform and engage our community

1.1.1 Identify content and key message

Start: November 1st, 2006 **Finish:** December 15th, 2006

1.1.2 Identify and secure logistics

Start: November 1st, 2006 **Finish:** December 15th, 2006

1.1.3 Communicate to community

Start: January 2nd, 2007 **Finish:** January 19th, 2007

1.1.4 Deliver Town Hall meetings

Start: January 2nd, 2007 **Finish:** February 28th, 2007

1.1.5 Evaluate and revise as required for subsequent years

Start: March 3rd, 2007 **Finish:** Ongoing

Town Hall meeting was conducted for the community on February 15th, 2007 at which time the results of the Public Safety Survey was delivered. Another Town Hall meeting is planned for the end of 2007 to engage the community in discussion of our police service delivery.

1.2 Enhance the content of our web site to inform and engage our community

1.2.1 Review of internal web site

Start: January 2nd, 2007 **Finish:** March 2nd, 2007

1.2.2 External review of relevant web sites

Start: January 2nd, 2007 **Finish:** March 2nd, 2007

1.2.3 Identify enhancements

Start: March 5th, 2007 **Finish:** April 27th, 2007

1.2.4 Implement enhancements

Start: April 30th, 2007 **Finish:** June 29th, 2007

1.2.5 Evaluate and revise as required

Start: July 2nd, 2007 **Finish:** Ongoing

This goal has been accomplished as of January 2007 when the Bridgewater Police Department website joined the town of Bridgewater site. A member of the Police Department maintains the Police site and it is continually updated to ensure it is timely and topical

1.3 Develop and deliver a communication plan to inform and engage our community

1.3.1 Identify and deliver pro-active media stories

Start: January 2nd, 2007 **Finish:** April 27th, 2007

1.3.2 Identify and deliver reactive media stories

Start: January 2nd, 2007 **Finish:** April 27th, 2007

1.3.3 Identify and deliver branding strategy

Start: November 1st, 2006 **Finish:** March 30th, 2007

1.3.4 Identify and deliver marketing strategy (ie. service provided, awareness vs perception)

Start: April 30th, 2007 **Finish:** November 2nd, 2007

1.3.5 Prepare and deliver a yearly annual report & subsequent years

Start: January 2nd, 2007 **Finish:** June 1st, 2007

1.3.6 Identify and deliver internal communication initiatives

We have adopted a communication plan which includes ensuring pro-active media stories are now the norm. We continue to provide daily press releases where applicable so the community is aware of our enforcement efforts. Both of these concepts are on going.

The branding strategy has been developed and will be delivered at the time of the official opening of the new police facility which will include the renaming of the Bridgewater Police Department to Bridgewater Police Service, new uniform identification, graphics on the vehicles and a new corporate logo.

The Annual Report is completed each spring once the Town of Bridgewater budget is approved.

A new internal communication system has been adopted utilizing email which has proven very beneficial.

Start: November 1st, 2006 **Finish:** December 15th, 2006

1.4 Deliver community survey to obtain feedback

1.4.1 Develop survey

Start: October 2nd, 2006 **Finish:** October 13th, 2006

1.4.2 Administer survey

Start: October 16th, 2006 **Finish:** December 15th, 2006

1.4.3 Analysis of data

Start: December 4th, 2006 **Finish:** Match 2nd, 2007

1.4.4 Develop action plan based on recommendations

Start: March 5th, 2007 **Finish:** March 30th, 2007

Public Safety Survey results can be found in section entitled: Crime Prevention/Community Liaison

Goal 2 Identify and deliver effective strategies to recruit, retain and develop human resources which will provide a professional and efficient police service

2.1 Develop and implement recruitment strategies for Police Officers, Civilian Staff and Volunteers

2.1.1 Internal scan of present strategies

Start: January 2nd, 2007 **Finish:** April 27th, 2007

2.1.2 External scan of strategies

Start: January 2nd, 2007 **Finish:** April 27th, 2007

2.1.3 Analysis of data

Start: April 30th, 2007 **Finish:** June 29th, 2007

2.1.4 Development of strategies

What are we going to do?
Why are we doing it?
Who is going to do?
When is it going to be done?
What is it going to cost?

Start: April 30th, 2007 **Finish:** June 29th, 2007

2.1.5 Implement strategies

Start: January 1st, 2008 **Finish:** May 2nd, 2008

2.1.6 Evaluate and revise as required

Start: May 5th, 2008 **Finish:** Ongoing

Early in the calendar year of 2007, as a result of a full assessment of our immediate and anticipated staffing needs, a couple of new initiatives were implemented. As a result of a local advertising campaign, one cadet was identified and commenced training with Halifax Regional Police in January. That cadet will graduate and become a full time officer with us in October 2007.

A job fair was conducted at the Atlantic Police Academy which resulted in one cadet coming to Bridgewater to complete his on the job training during the summer of 2007.

Another issue that we hope will have a positive impact on attracting suitable candidates is the recent union contract negotiations where starting salaries were increased and new hires were ensured full time employment which makes the Bridgewater Police Department more attractive as an employer.

2.2 Develop and implement retention strategies

2.2.1 Internal scan of present strategies

Start: January 2nd, 2007 **Finish:** April 27th, 2007

2.2.2 External scan of strategies

Start: January 2nd, 2007 **Finish:** April 27th, 2007

2.2.3 Analysis of data

Start: April 30th, 2007 **Finish:** June 29th, 2007

2.2.4 Development of strategies

What are we going to do?
Why are we doing it?
Who is going to do?
When is it going to be done?
What is it going to cost?

Start: April 30th, 2007 **Finish:** June 29th, 2007

2.2.5 Implement strategies

Start: January 1st, 2008 **Finish:** May 2nd, 2008

2.2.6 Evaluate and revise as required

Start: May 5th, 2008 **Finish:** Ongoing

The recent contract negotiations will also provide a more attractive employment opportunity for qualified candidates since the compensation package is much improved and very competitive. One of the aspects of retaining qualified officers is the very fact that we will now be able to not only offer competitive compensation, but in many ways, better than average working conditions and remuneration.

2.3 Develop and deliver personal development strategies

2.3.1 Internal scan of present strategies

Start: January 2nd, 2007 **Finish:** April 27th, 2007

2.3.2 External scan of strategies

Start: January 2nd, 2007 **Finish:** April 27th, 2007

2.3.3 Analysis of data

Start: April 30th, 2007 **Finish:** June 29th, 2007

2.3.4 Development of strategies

What are we going to do?
Why are we doing it?
Who is going to do?
When is it going to be done?
What is it going to cost?

Start: April 30th, 2007 **Finish:** June 29th, 2007

2.3.5 Implement strategies

Start: January 1st, 2008

Finish: May 2nd, 2008

2.3.6 Evaluate and revise as required

Start: May 5th, 2008

Finish: Ongoing

This year, as in past years, the funding has increased for training and development of personnel as well as the provision of an ongoing learning environment. Members and staff are encouraged to participate fully in appropriate training opportunities. Training is accessed through the Canadian Police College, Atlantic Police Academy, Distance Education through Dalhousie University as well as online police training programs and traditional training models.

-
- Goal 3 Identify and deliver effective strategies which promotes a positive relationship between youth, police and the community**
- 3.1 Conduct an internal scan to determine what strategies are presently being used by the Bridgewater Police Department
- Start:** September 3rd, 2007 **Finish:** December 28th, 2007
- 3.2 Conduct an external scan to determine what strategies are being used externally
- Start:** September 3rd, 2007 **Finish:** December 28th, 2007
- 3.3 Analysis of date to determine which strategies would be used by Bridgewater Police Department
- Start:** January 1st, 2008 **Finish:** March 28th, 2008
- 3.4 Develop youth strategies
What are we going to do?
Why are we doing it?
Who is going to do?
When is it going to be done?
What is it going to cost?
- Start:** January 1st, 2008 **Finish:** March 28th, 2008
- 3.5 Identify and secure logistics required to deliver youth strategies
- Start:** March 31st, 2008 **Finish:** June 27th, 2008
- 3.6 Deliver youth strategies within our community
- Start:** September 1st, 2008 **Finish:** December 26th, 2008
- 3.7 Evaluate and revise strategies as required
- Start:** September 1st, 2008 **Finish:** Ongoing

This goal will be a major part of our 2007 program.

Goal 4 Identify and deliver effective strategies which provides safety and security for our seniors

4.1 Conduct an internal scan to determine what strategies are presently being used by the Bridgewater Police Department

Start: September 3rd, 2007 **Finish:** December 28th, 2007

4.2 Conduct an external scan to determine what strategies are being used externally

Start: September 3rd, 2007 **Finish:** December 28th, 2007

4.3 Analysis of date to determine which strategies would be used by Bridgewater Police Department

Start: January 1st, 2008 **Finish:** March 28th, 2008

4.4 Develop senior strategies
What are we going to do?
Why are we doing it?
Who is going to do?
When is it going to be done?
What is it going to cost?

Start: January 1st, 2008 **Finish:** March 28th, 2008

4.5 Identify and secure logistics required to deliver senior strategies

Start: March 31st, 2008 **Finish:** June 27th, 2008

4.6 Deliver senior strategies within our community

Start: September 1st, 2008 **Finish:** December 26th, 2008

4.7 Evaluate and revise strategies as required

Start: September 1st, 2008 **Finish:** Ongoing

This goal will be a major part of our 2007 program.

Goal 5 Identify and deliver strategies which engage the community in positive partnerships

5.1 Enhance safety programs which engage the community in positive partnerships

- 5.1.1 Internal scan of present programs
- 5.1.2 External scan of relevant programs
- 5.1.3 Analysis of data
- 5.1.4 Develop or revise programs
 - What are we going to do?
 - Why are we doing it?
 - Who is going to do?
 - When is it going to be done?
 - What is it going to cost?
- 5.1.5 Identify and secure logistics
- 5.1.6 Deliver programs
- 5.1.7 Evaluate and revise as required

Start: Dec. 2006

Finish: December 2009

Internal and external scans are ongoing at this time.

5.2 Enhance business/service programs which engage the community in positive partnerships

- 5.2.1 Internal scan of present programs
- 5.2.2 External scan of relevant programs
- 5.2.3 Analysis of data
- 5.2.4 Develop or revise programs
 - What are we going to do?
 - Why are we doing it?
 - Who is going to do?
 - When is it going to be done?
 - What is it going to cost?
- 5.2.5 Identify and secure logistics
- 5.2.6 Deliver programs
- 5.2.7 Evaluate and revise as required

Start: Dec. 2006

Finish: Dec. 2009

Internal and external scans are ongoing at this time.

5.3 Enhance crime prevention programs which engage the community in positive partnerships

- 5.3.1 Internal scan of present programs
- 5.3.2 External scan of relevant programs
- 5.3.3 Analysis of data
- 5.3.4 Develop or revise programs
 - What are we going to do?
 - Why are we doing it?
 - Who is going to do?
 - When is it going to be done?
 - What is it going to cost?
- 5.3.5 Identify and secure logistics
- 5.3.6 Deliver programs
- 5.3.7 Evaluate and revise as required

Start: Dec. 2006

Finish: Dec. 2009

Internal and external scans are ongoing at this time.

It needs to be recognized that with any multi-year plan, such as this three year plan, projects are spaced over the entire span rather than trying to accomplish everything in the first year.

Demands for Service

		2003	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
		Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
Reported Criminal Code	Persons	165	149	172	169
	Property	436	383	336	349
Self-generated Enforcement					
<i>Motor Vehicle</i>		673	847	783	790
<i>Liquor Control</i>		99	163	137	162
<i>Drugs</i>		40	39	27	51
<i>Impaired Driving</i>		42	47	39	49
<i>MV Collision</i>		136	135	124	128
Total calls for Service		3418	3503	4416	4465

Police Personnel in Municipal Services 2006

Location	Population	Police Officers	Population Per Officers	Operating Expenditures\$	Per Capita Costs\$
Bridgewater	8027	20	401	2,009,837	250
Amherst	9570	22	435	2,243,452	234
Kentville	5,885	15	392	1,521,300	259
New Glasgow	9458	25	378	2,645,300	280
Truro	11,581	32	362	3,361,206	290

The above statistics are the most current available from Stats Canada and are based on 2005 budget year.

Expansion of Service Delivery

CISNS – Criminal Intelligence Service Nova Scotia

Criminal Intelligence Service Nova Scotia (CISNS) is responsible for collecting, collating, producing and sharing information and intelligence on organized and serious crime in the province.

In January 2006, with funding from the provincial Department of Justice, CISNS began a partnership with the RCMP and municipal police agencies in Nova Scotia, as well as Corrections Services. As a result of this partnership, six two-person Local Intelligence Officer (LIO) teams were established in districts throughout the province.

The South Shore LIO team is based out of the Bridgewater Police Department and is responsible for the area from Hubbards to Yarmouth. The unit consists of one member of the Bridgewater Police Department and one member of the RCMP from Lunenburg County.

Through developing and sharing information, the CISNS team has assisted in many notable investigations on the South Shore, including several in Bridgewater.

At least eight search warrants have been prepared and executed in the town, based in whole or in part on the information provided by the South Shore LIOs. They were also directly involved in an investigation in the Fall of 2006, involving threats made at a local high school.

The CISNS LIOs in Bridgewater are dedicated to combating the ongoing battle with weapons and violence, illicit drugs and illegal tobacco in the South Shore. Working together with their partners in municipal police, the RCMP and various government departments, the CISNS LIOs are helping to provide Bridgewater residents with safer homes, streets and communities.

School Liaison Officer Program – Cst. Christine Bonnell

The Bridgewater School Liaison Project was initiated in the hopes of building a trusting relationship between the police and youth from grades primary to twelve with the overall aim of assisting those youth at risk of offending and those at risk of being victimized before an opportunity could present itself. Through the combination of education, investigation, law enforcement, and community relations, we have been able to meet the diverse needs of residents in the school community.

The School Liaison Program began at a time when certain issues were taking precedence over regular duties. Having an officer full time in the schools during this time of Columbine –like threats and fears, proved to be invaluable in gaining trust of students and parents and alleviating worries, in part by being able to respond to questions immediately. During this time all critical partners were able to work together to develop an Evacuation Emergency Plan and an Intruder Plan for Bridgewater Junior/Senior High and Bridgewater Elementary. The Education Minister for the Province of Nova Scotia has made it clear that emergency planning is a top priority at this time. A Halifax officer has been seconded to the Department of Education and tasked with implementing a province wide school security plan.

Since September 2006, there have been 97 occurrences involving the Bridgewater Police with the three schools. These calls included everything from drugs and intoxication to threats and assaults. These occurrences do not include all the situations that the School Liaison Officer was able to deal with immediately and in many cases, did not need to result in charges being laid. During this same time period last year, September 2005-May 2006, there were 152 calls to the police. Clearly, having the liaison officer available to respond to situations immediately helps to diffuse situations before they get out of control.

The requests to participate in school presentations have been coming in regularly. This, along with the regularly scheduled events such as Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE), Options to Anger and Prevent Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth (PARTY) have made these months very busy yet successful. Working with the students on a daily basis has opened up doors that were not there previously. Barriers have begun to come down and students are feeling comfortable about discussing their issues with a police officer.

Policing Costs

	2007/2008 ¹²	<u>2006/2007</u>	<u>2005/2006</u>	<u>2004/2005</u>	<u>2003/2004</u>
	<u>Projected budget</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>Total budget</u>	<u>Total budget</u>	<u>Total budget</u>
PROTECTIVE SERVICES					
Police Services		-	-	-	-
Police Commission	25,000	36,000	53,268	11,677	3,364.00
Administration	201,016	190,110	187,028	145,293	116,723.00
Crime Prevention	1,952,780	1,649,795	1,611,414	1,581,101	156,5716.00
Community Policing	125,804	63,940	73,122		
Training	27,875	25,836	26,478	18,834	11,026.00
Police Station Expenditures	245,800	50,455	52,369	45,908	39,899.00
Police Automotive Equip.	93,700	82,343	84,113	72,877	62,119.00
Detention and Custody	68,500	68,500	67,883	2,206	17,10.00
Other	62,500	49,331	45,689	47,005	45,820.00
Law Enforcement	20,728	20,347	23,327		
	2,823,703	2,236,657	2,224,690	1,924,901	1,846,377
revenue(minus)	587,046	308,729	315,908	170,937	64,279
NET	2,236,657	1,927,928	1,908,782	1,753,964	1,782,098

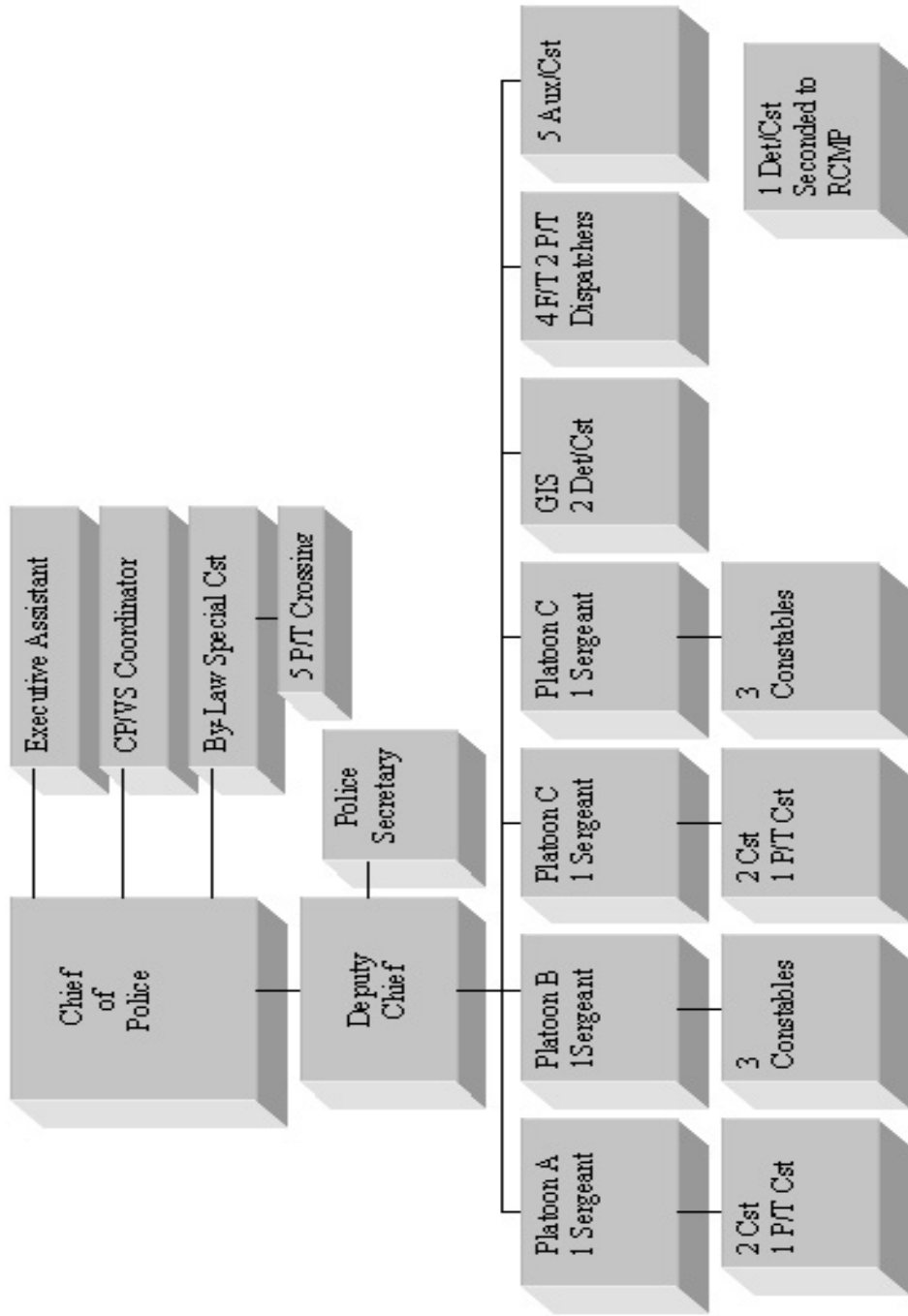
¹ The approved projected budget for the fiscal year 2007-2008 shows a significant increase. The two major contributing factors are the cost of the new police facility and the cost of a new collective agreement with the PANS Union. These two factors account for close to \$400,000 in increases.

² In the budget for 2007-2008 there are three seconded positions. Two are paid for by the Province of Nova Scotia and one is cost shared with the South Shore Regional School Board in the case of the School Liaison position.

Personnel³

Chief Brent Crowhurst	Cst. Jennifer Russell
Deputy Chief Bob Smith	Cst. David Gallant
Sgt. Alfie O'Quinn	P/T Cst. Angela Wareham
Sgt. Richard Milbury	Special Constable Luc Laliberte
Sgt. John Collyer	Aux/Cst. Creig Veinot
Sgt. Al Cunningham	Aux/Cst. Stephen Seney
Det/Cst. Trevor Mitchell	Aux/Cst. Darren Hamper
Det/Cst. Dave Ramey	Reba (tracking dog)
Cst. Jerome Richard	CP/DV Coordinator Dale Saulnier
Cst. Wade Keddy	Executive Assistant Patty Sleep
Cst. Ward Beck	Operational Secretary Toni Swim
Cst. Ron Graves	Departmental Clerk Kathie MacDonnell
Cst. Christine Bonnell	Communication Technician Sharon Mitchell
Cst. Terry Brekker	Communication Technician Paula Cardinell
Cst. Paul Rogers	Communication Technician Kim Weagle
Cst. Danny MacPhee	Communication Technician Danny Seaman
Det/Cst. Scott Feener (on secondment to CISNS)	P/T Comm. Tech. Susan LeBlanc
	P/T Comm. Tech. Monica Garland

Organizational Chart



As of March 31st, 2006

Public Complaints

Complaints by Department

Department	2003		2004		2005		2006	
	PC	I	PC	ID	PC	ID	PC	ID
Amherst	8	2	19	3	10	1	3	2
Annapolis Royal	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bridgewater	4	0	1	1	5	0	7	2
CBRPS	29	13	30	9	26	3	33	5
HRPS	85	11	46	13	31	12	67	13
Kentville	0	0	3	0	4	0	4	1
New Glasgow	14	0	4	0	9	1	5	0
Springhill	1	0	1	0	3	1	3	0
Stellarton	5	1	3	0	3	0	2	0
Trenton	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Truro	8	3	8	5	8	4	4	2
Westville	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	160	30	117	31	99	22	129	25

* PC = Public Complaint; ID = Internal Discipline

In the calendar year 2006, there were seven (7) complaints from the public concerning the conduct by members of this police department. There were also two (2) cases of internal discipline reported to the Nova Scotia Police Commission which were matters identified for investigation by management. Of the nine reported matters, one was withdrawn and one was not accepted by the NS Police Commission. Of the remaining seven cases, officers were found to have committed disciplinary defaults resulting in penalties ranging from two day suspensions to a requirement to provide a letter of apology. One case remains open on appeal.

Crime Prevention/ Community Liaison

Crime and Public Safety Survey

During the month of January 2007, the Bridgewater Police undertook a public opinion survey to address issues and concerns with regards to the Bridgewater Police and public safety in the town of Bridgewater. This report is based on the results of that survey.

Policing and public safety are vital to the well-being and security of every community. The Bridgewater Police, as a component of their strategic planning process for the period 2007–9, recognized the importance of listening to our community as business plans are formulated. In order to “hear” the voices of our community, the police used several activities designed to encourage public input. This survey was complimented by an open forum with the Chief of Police on the 15th of February, 2007.

Methodology

Hoping to learn their attitudes, opinions, and specific concerns regarding police performance, we mailed surveys to 2800 persons and also made the survey available online. The sample size of 511 respondents is considered appropriate to achieve a balance between a level of confidence for the results and the time allotted to conduct the survey. In this instance, the sample size allows for data results that are 95% accurate with an error rate of plus or minus 4%.⁴

The survey covered the following issues:

- Crime Perceptions and concerns: we examined issues relating to the perceived levels of crime and community concerns regarding crime and safety. Specifically, the type and extent of perceived local problems and fear of victimisation, and feelings of safety.
- Police-community relationships: A range of issues relating to police-community relationships were covered in this survey.
- Satisfaction: the level of public satisfaction in relation to overall perceptions of police, specific personal contacts with police, and police visibility.

Copies of this report are available on our website at www.bridgewaterpolice.ca, or by contacting the Bridgewater Police Department at 543-2464.

⁴ In calculating percentage(s), a degree of rounding has taken place; therefore, not all percentages will add up to 100.

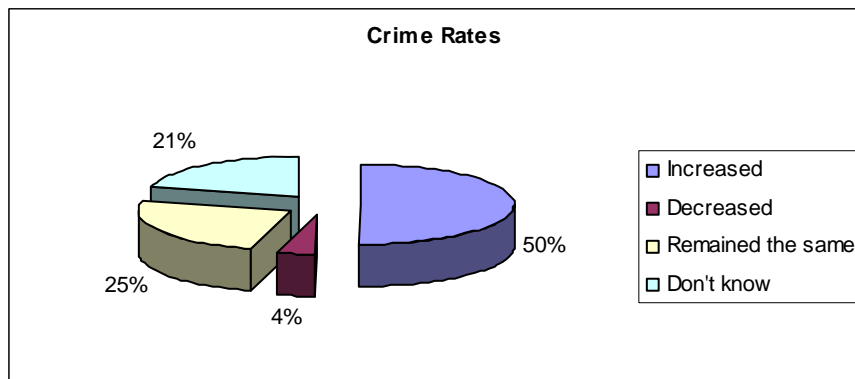
Survey Highlights:

- ❑ 49% of those surveyed think that crime has increased, while 26% feel that it has stayed the same and only 5% think that crime has decreased.
- ❑ 19% of respondents thought Theft/Break & Enter was a major problem 18% of respondents recognized street drugs as a major problem in Bridgewater while 21% saw lack of police visibility as a major concern.
- ❑ When asked if they had contacted the Bridgewater Police in the past year, 73% of respondents said “no”.
- ❑ When asked if Bridgewater requires additional police officers, 37% said “no”.
- ❑ Police visibility appears to be a problem in Bridgewater. Only 10% said that the police were “very visible”. 34% indicated that the police are only “somewhat visible”.
- ❑ When asked if the Bridgewater Police were doing a good job at policing the town, 21% strongly agreed and 32% somewhat agreed. 5% strongly disagreed.
- ❑ The average age of the respondent was 58 years and had lived an average of 11 years in their neighbourhood. 52% of respondents were male. 76% are married or in a common-law relationship. 48% of our respondents indicated they were retired.
- ❑ 3% of respondents were from the same postal code area encompassing 14 streets located on the edge of town.

Crime perceptions and concerns:

Patterns of crime in Canada are traced through reports submitted by every police service to Statistics Canada using the Uniform Crime Reporting system. These statistics create a national database that allows for comparisons across provincial, regional, and municipal police jurisdictions. However, perception is an important element when dealing with fear of crime and a sense of personal safety and security. One question of the public survey dealt with perceptions on levels of crime within the town.

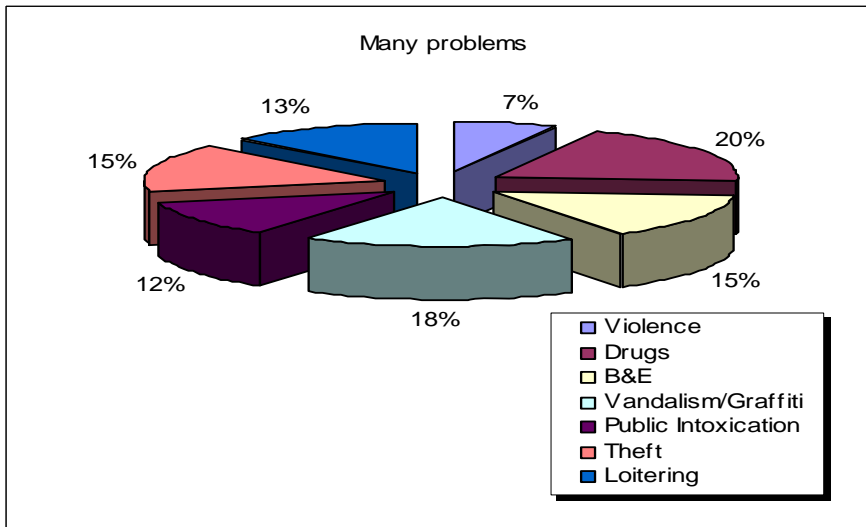
Q. Do you think that crime in the Bridgewater area has increased, decreased or remained the same over the past two years?



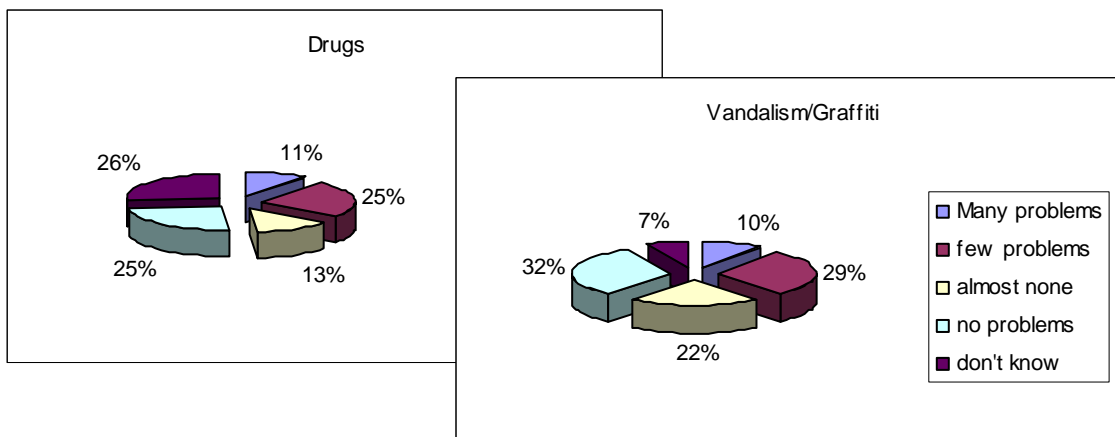
These results indicate that a number of respondents (50%) believe that crime has increased in the town of Bridgewater. This represents an area where the Bridgewater Police can undertake more focused discussion with various stakeholders, community groups, and individuals to learn more about these perceptions. Certainly fear of crime is one important indicator of the level of well-being in any community, and efforts will be made to explore these perceptions further.

Most serious problems in Bridgewater:

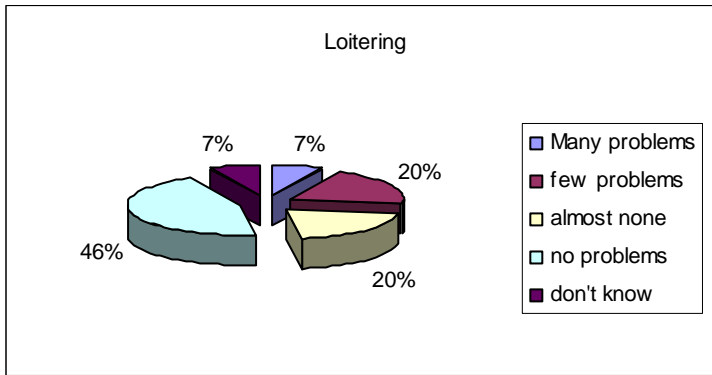
To begin the process of identifying the problems that people feel are the most serious, respondents were asked to select items that reflected their greatest concerns. Respondents were limited to seven problems. The results are outlined below.



Drugs, followed closely by vandalism/graffiti, are perceived as the main problems in our town. It will be important to maintain close attention to the problems that have been identified as significant among our community members.



Do you consider the following to be problems in your neighbourhood?

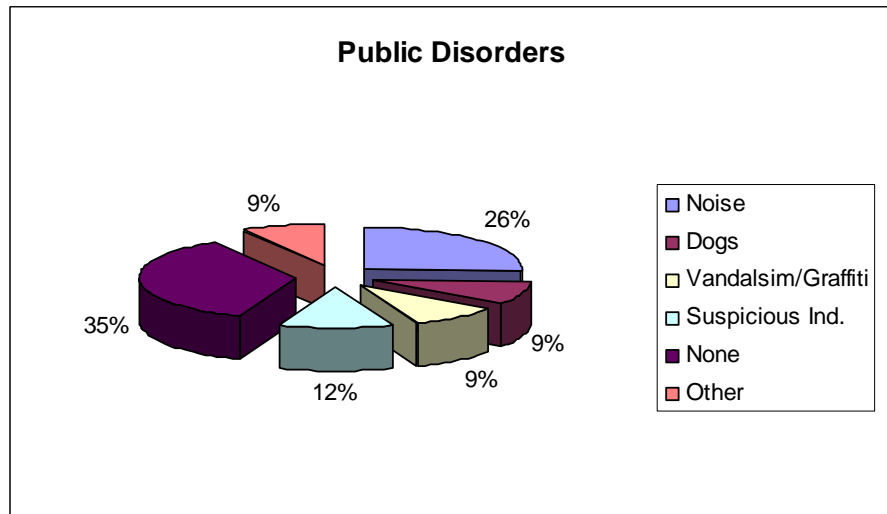


Options available in this survey were: Violence, Drugs, Break and Enter, Vandalism/Graffiti, Public Intoxication, Theft and Loitering. Most respondents felt that there were many problems with Street Drugs. Loitering was seen as being the least problematic.

In the past 12 months have you been bothered by any of the following public disorders?

Options in this area were Noise, Dogs, Vandalism/Graffiti, or Suspicious Individuals.

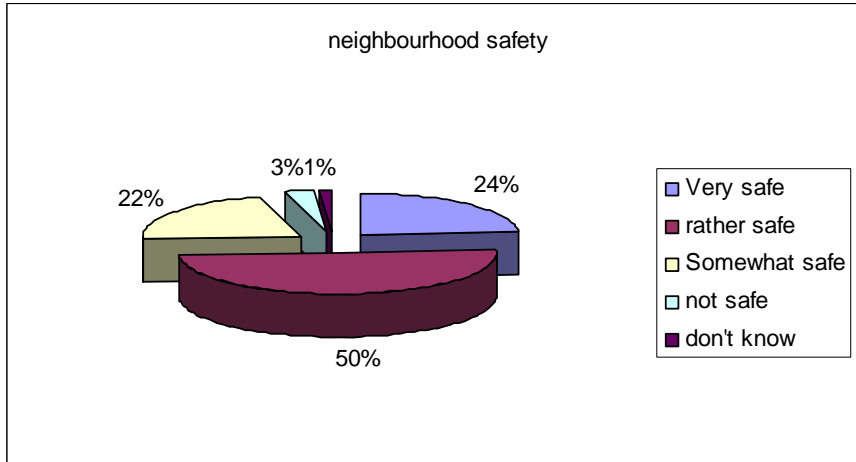
35% of respondents had not been bothered by any of the public disorders listed. Of nuisances listed, 26% stated noise as their major concern. They listed dogs barking and loud car stereo systems as the major cause of noise in their neighbourhoods.



Perceptions of Safety:

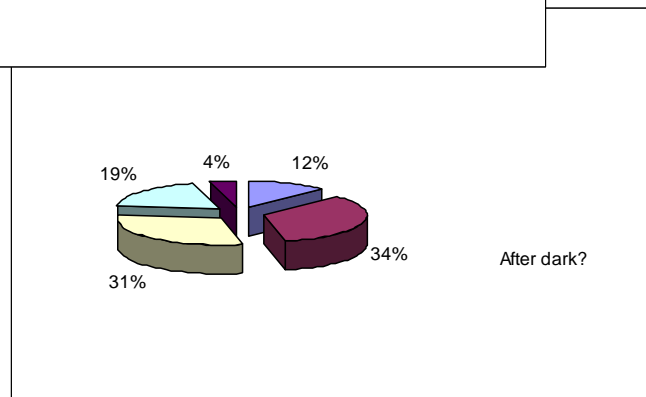
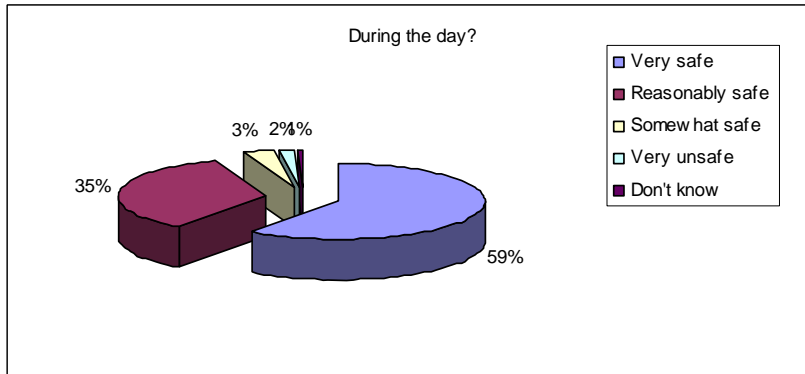
Q. When you think about your neighbourhood, which of the following applies:

50 % of respondents indicated that they feel “Rather Safe”. Only 3% felt “Not safe at all” and 24% felt “Very Safe”. It will be valuable to compare responses to postal areas to determine in which locations respondents feel most vulnerable.

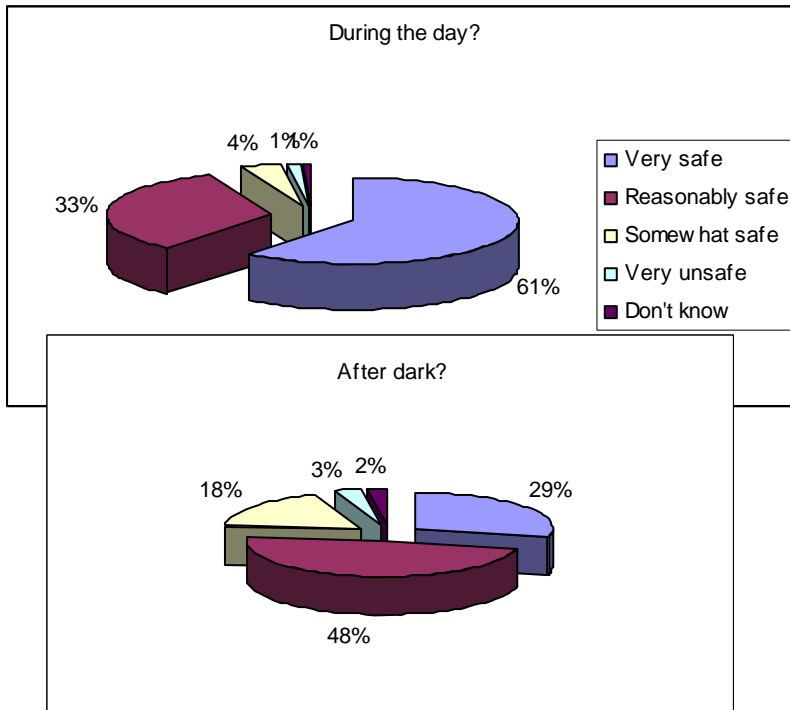


How safe do you feel walking alone in your neighbourhood?

Most respondents (59%) stated that they feel very safe walking during the day and reasonably safe (34%) after dark. 19% feel very unsafe going out after dark.



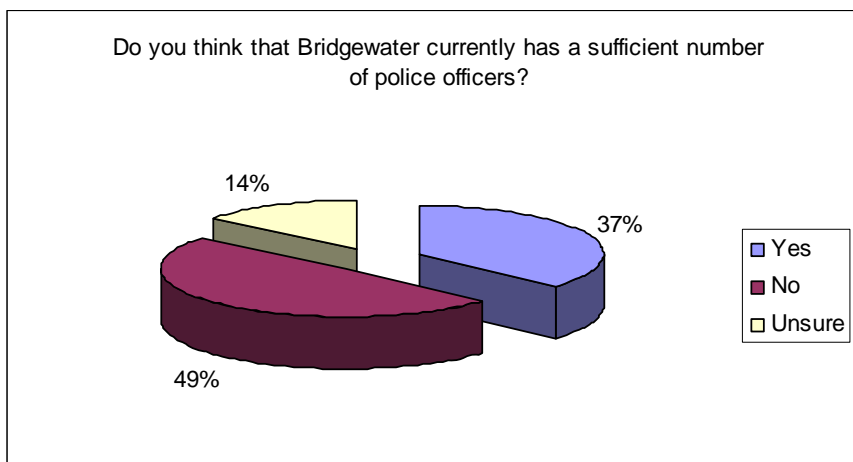
How safe do you feel when home alone in your neighbourhood?



We took this opportunity to ask the public if there were enough officers policing the town of Bridgewater.

Q. Do you think that Bridgewater currently has a sufficient number of police officers?

37% responded that we do not need more officers for the Bridgewater Police department while 49% indicated that we do need more officers. 14% were unsure or did not answer the question.



Policing issues and concerns:

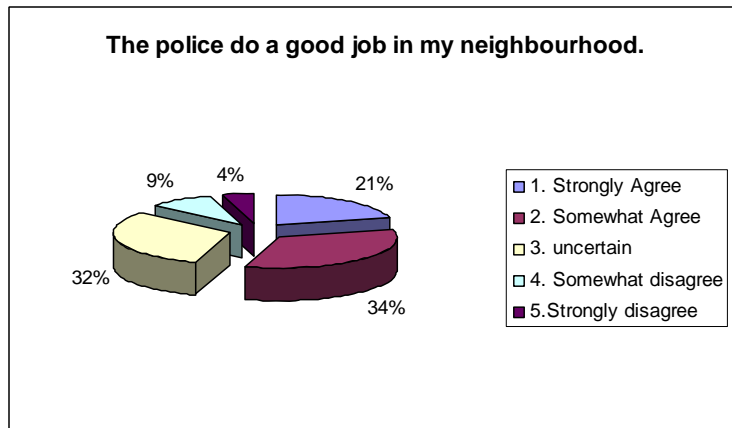
In the past 12 months have you needed to contact the Bridgewater Police Department?

73% of respondents indicated they had not had the need to contact the Bridgewater Police in the past 12 months. Of the 27% who had contacted the police over the past year, the most common complaints were noise, suspicious individuals and vehicles speeding in their neighbourhoods. Many respondents indicated that response time was quick and they were satisfied with the officer's handling of the situation.

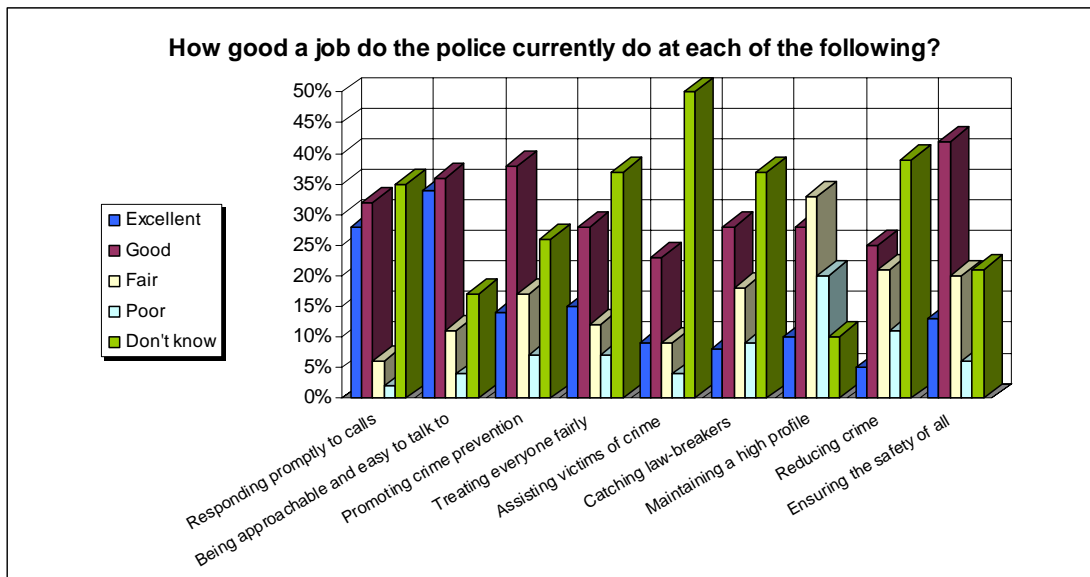
To what extent do you agree with the following comment: The police do a good job in my neighbourhood?

1= strongly agree...5= strongly disagree.

21 % strongly agreed with the statement and 34% of respondents somewhat agreed with the statement. 4% strongly disagreed.



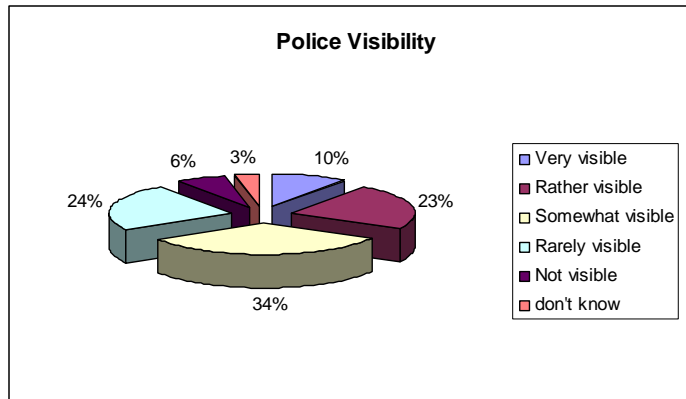
It is important to understand which areas of policing the public feel the officers excel or fail in.



Police visibility issues:

Generally speaking, would you say the police are visible in your neighbourhood?

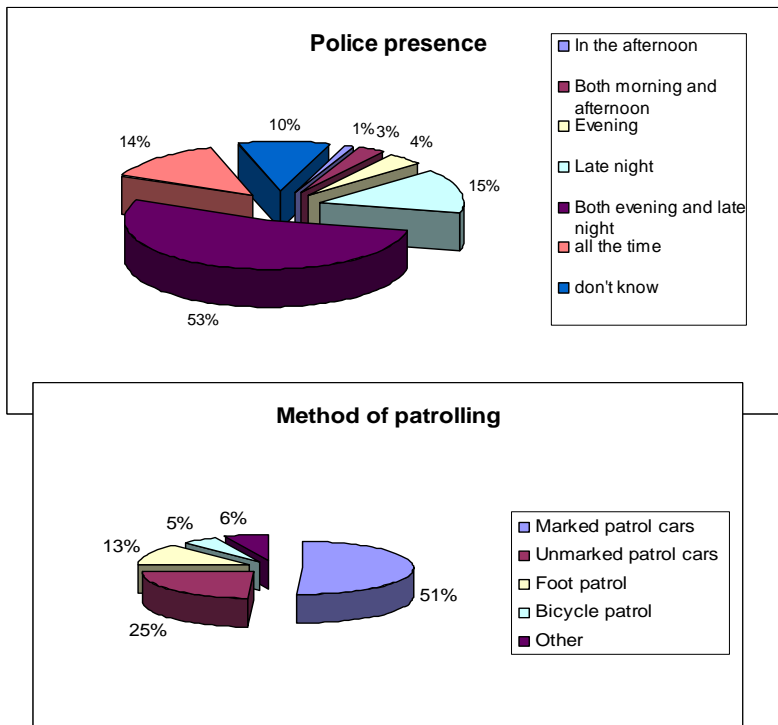
The majority of respondents said that the police were only “Somewhat visible”. 24% indicated the police were “rarely visible” and 6% stated that officers were “not visible”.



It is generally accepted that crime and the fear of crime are increasingly important issues affecting quality of life. The Bridgewater Police Department must examine and determine best practices for providing a reassuring presence in all areas of town.

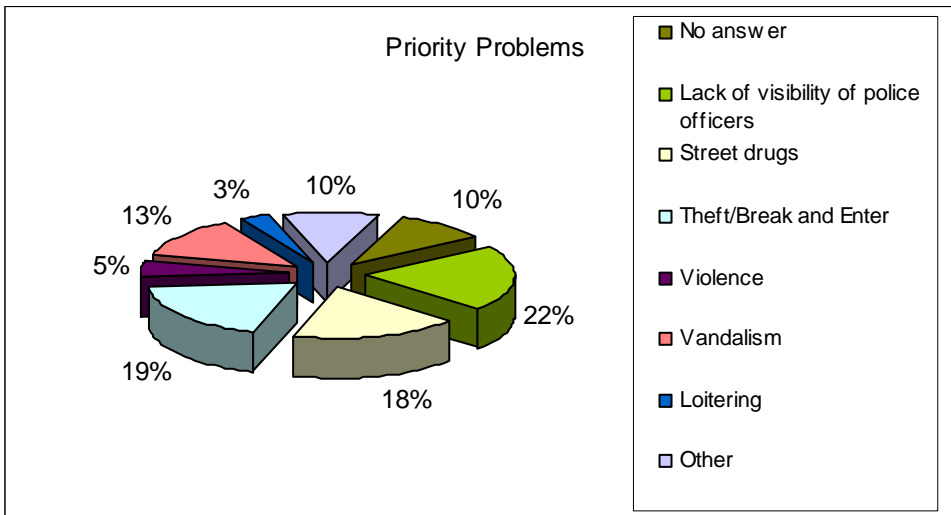
This leads to questions in terms of patrol times and method of patrols that resident’s would feel safest with.

Q. When should there be the most police presence in your neighbourhood? What method of patrolling would you like to see more of?



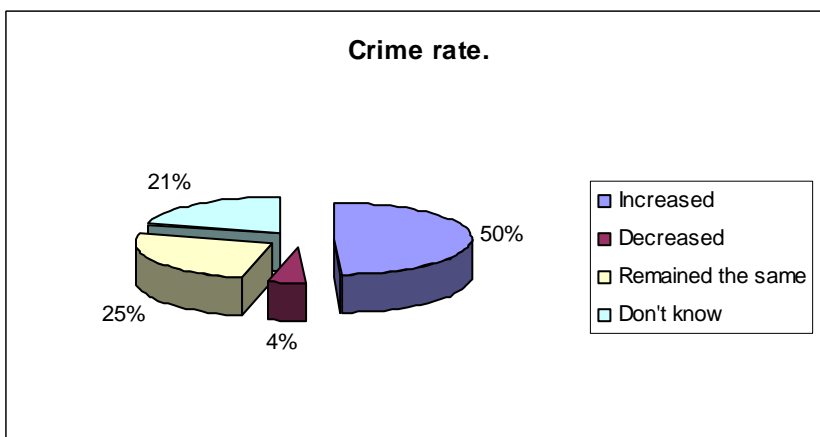
If you were to tell the Bridgewater Police Department which problem they should address in priority, what would that problem be?

The majority of respondents feel that lack of visibility of police officers is the priority problem. Theft/Break and Enter was considered another priority concern followed closely by street drugs.



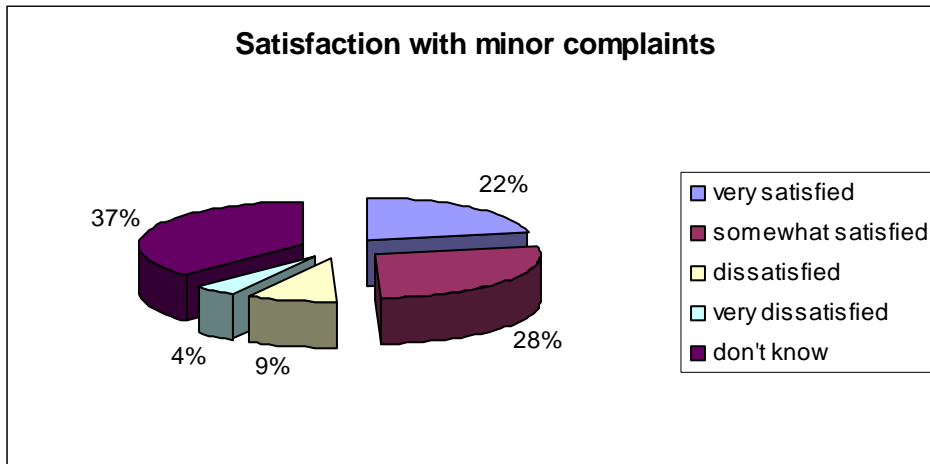
Do you think that crime in the Bridgewater area has increased, decreased or remained the same over the past two year?

50% believe that crime has increased over the past two years. 25% indicated that they felt it had remained the same while only 4% felt it had decreased.



How satisfied are you with the police in the manner with which they handle minor complaints such as noisy parties, loitering, cars squealing tires, etc.?

28% of respondents are somewhat satisfied with the manner in which minor complaints are handled. 9% were dissatisfied.



Conclusion:

This report provides an outline of the results of our 2007 Bridgewater Police Crime and Public Safety Survey. The need to approach the community directly on policing and public safety is an important responsibility for the Bridgewater Police. It is now up to the Bridgewater Police to use the information to improve areas that have been exposed as weak, to educate the public where perceptions are misleading and to continue to seek public input whenever possible.

The next step in approaching the community directly, in regards to safety and crime prevention issues, was to meet personally with members of the community to discuss and share concerns. On February 15th, 2007 there was an opportunity for members of the community to meet with the Chief of Police to discuss these and other concerns. The open forum enabled the community to voice their issues publicly and directly. The Bridgewater Police Department had hoped to receive more information to use when delivering the strategic plan.

The main purpose of the survey and public meeting was to better understand citizens' concerns and priorities for the police and citizens' overall satisfaction with the Bridgewater Police Department. The information we now have will be included as a major input to help determine priorities in the execution of the 3-year strategic plan.

Updated Web Design

The Bridgewater Police Department website is now linked to the Town of Bridgewater site. www.bridgewater.ca This uniform design gives a professional feel to the service being provided. Our homepage can still be reached through our old address: www.bridgewaterpolice.ca and the site is updated regularly.

The image displays two screenshots of the Bridgewater Police Department website. The top screenshot shows the homepage with a navigation menu and a main banner featuring police officers and a patrol car. The bottom screenshot shows a page titled "VIAL of Life Program" with a central image of a VIAL of Life container and text describing the program's purpose and contact information.

Homepage Screenshot:

- Header: "WELCOME TO BRIDGEWATER INCORPORATED 1899" and "Mainstreet of the South Shore".
- Contact: 60 Pleasant Street, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, Canada B4V 3X9. Tel: 902-543-4651, Email: admin@bridgewater.ca.
- Navigation: Home, Our Town, Town Council, Town Services, Community Services, Facilities, News & Events, Answers.
- Main Content: "Bridgewater Police Department" section with a description of the department's structure and a notice about a move to a new location at 45 Exhibition Drive.
- Left Sidebar: Police - Home, The Department, Our People, News and Events, Crime Prevention, Special Services, Youth & Teens, Contact Us.

VIAL of Life Program Screenshot:

- Header: "WELCOME TO BRIDGEWATER INCORPORATED 1899" and "Mainstreet of the South Shore".
- Contact: 60 Pleasant Street, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, Canada B4V 3X9. Tel: 902-543-4651, Email: admin@bridgewater.ca.
- Navigation: Home, Our Town, Town Council, Town Services, Community Services, Facilities, News & Events, Answers.
- Main Content: "VIAL of Life Program" section with a description of the program's purpose and contact information for Lighthouse Publishing and Bridgewater Pharmasave.
- Left Sidebar: Bridgewater Police, Police - Home, The Department, Our People, News and Events, Crime Prevention, Special Services, Youth & Teens, Contact Us.
- Bottom Navigation: VIAL of Life, School Liason Officer, Heartsafe Program, DARE Program, Special Investigations, Auxiliary Program / Tracking Dogs, Crime Prevention / Domestic Violence Program.
- Footer: All Rights Reserved. Powered by Digital Fusion.

News, events and special programs can all be located on our site.

Partnerships with the Community

To effectively create safer communities, our police develop working partnerships with these groups in our community:

- Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD)
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
- South Shore Safe Communities (SSSC)
- Crime Prevention Society of Nova Scotia (CPSNS)
- Crime Stoppers
- Neighbourhood Watch
- SANE* (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) * program is currently being developed for our area

In addition, there are other informal partnerships that have been established with various stakeholders to address specific instances of crime related issues.

- Residential and business community
- Schools
- Media
- Other police agencies
- Government agencies

Priorities that have been established for the upcoming year include:

- Support of Seniors in our community
- SANE program development
- Further development of safety presentations for youth
- Police guided activities for youth

Initiatives:

- Safety Check In program
- VIAL of Life
- Neighbourhood Watch
- School Liaison Program
- DARE
- Road Safety Check Points

Victim Assistance Program

Spousal violence

In the majority of violent spousal relationships, the violence is not an isolated incident. Overall, half of those who self reported spousal violence in a current or previous relationship stated that the violence occurred on more than one occasion. (54%)

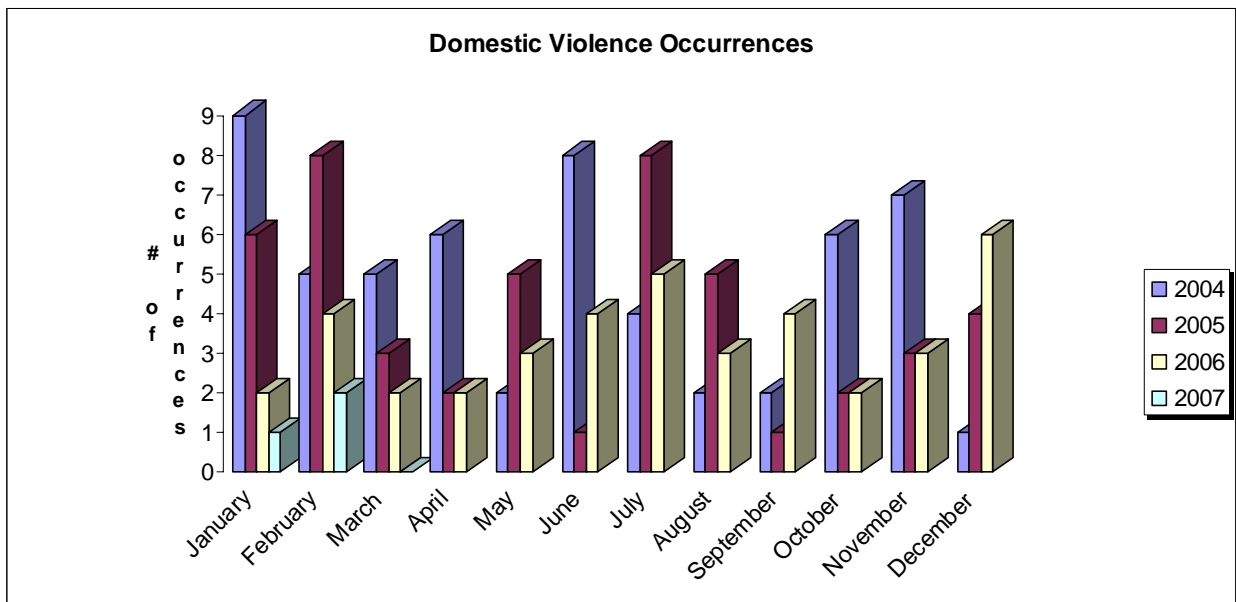
Statistics Canada: Family Violence in Canada 2005

Department Stats (April 2006-March 2007):

The Bridgewater Police responded to 36 Domestic Violence cases, seven (7) of which were assessed to be High Risk for Lethality.

Charges were laid in 25 of the cases. In regards to the High Risk cases, two had Domestic Violence Emergency Response alarms (DVer's) installed in their homes.

2 Peace Bonds were served.



Major Cases

Steroid Laboratory Seizure

In April 2006 the Bridgewater Police were asked by the Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA) to assist in conducting an investigation into the illegal import and possession of certain substances. The CBSA had intercepted raw steroids that were being shipped in from China. These products were being used in the making of steroids and other drugs that are used to combat the side effects of the steroids. "Illusion Laboratory" was using the internet to sell products throughout North America.



On January 21st 2007, \$34,000 was seized at the Bridgewater residence along with ingredients and paraphernalia for making the drugs.

This case is presently before the courts.



Motel Room Torture

On March 18th, 2006 an 18 year old male became the victim of a brutal assault and torture at a local motel. A group of friends had rented the room for the night to celebrate the end of March Break. At some point in the evening the friendly get together turned violent. The victim had had several drinks and passed out. When he came to he was covered in lacerations and burn marks. There were two gashes on his back one eighteen and one eight inches long, lacerations on his arms and legs where he was tied down, 18 cigarette burns on his back, and more burns in his ear, on his neck, on his forehead and on other parts of his body.



Four teens were charged in connection with the assault and all plead guilty. Three of the accused were charged with aggravated assault and assault causing bodily harm. One female was charged with assault.

All involved received conditional sentences which included house arrest and probation.

Conclusion

This annual report identifies the many challenges we as a Police Department face as we attempt to provide professional and efficient police service.

We continue to enjoy sound support from Bridgewater Town Council and the Board of Police Commissioners. Our partnerships include the RCMP, Province of Nova Scotia Department of Justice and the South Shore Regional School Board. These partnerships and support have allowed us to progress and offer an enforcement level of service which previously had not been possible.

It is our hope to build on these successes and programs in order to further benefit the community we serve.

We, the members and staff of the Bridgewater Police Department, remain committed to continually strive for an ever safer community.

Respectfully submitted:



R.M. Brent Crowhurst
Chief of Police