

Bridgewater Police Service
Annual Report 2010



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Message from the Chief

Message from the Chief of Bridgewater Police Service



In 2010, Bridgewater Police Service saw many changes in our service delivery model. The evolution of technology and the direct impact it has had on policing, here and across Canada, will be reflected in this Annual Report. Some of the issues explored will be new crime prevention programs, such as CYBER, which addresses the issue of bullying and child exploitation via the internet. Some of the other technological advances being addressed in this report relate to new efficiencies through technology that focus on requirements placed on us by the courts and society at large.

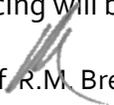
The Bridgewater Police Service continues to focus on the two most vulnerable sectors in our community; youth and seniors. Several programs identified in this Annual Report relate directly to these groups and the unique challenges they present. Traditional policing, as we have known it, does not sufficiently address these exceptional circumstances. In view of these challenges much effort has been expended designing programs to better address the youth and senior issues. We continue to see great benefits from having specific resources available for these purposes. Our School Safety Resource Program continues to pay huge dividends to that vulnerable sector of our community.

Included in this report is a comprehensive overview of the successes we have had in our Seniors Safety Program.

As in past reports we need to credit integration and partnerships with our policing colleagues as well as the Department of Justice. The funding provided by the Department of Justice makes these programs possible.

The Town of Bridgewater, similar to most jurisdictions in Canada, is seeing a reduced rate of crime which allows our police service to refocus its energies away from enforcement to more of a crime prevention model. The most noticeable aspect of this phenomenon is our ability for increased patrol by vehicle, bicycle and on foot.

We are proud of the service we provide the residents of Bridgewater as well as visitors and acknowledge the fact that this is only possible through the continued support of Bridgewater Town council and the Bridgewater Board of Police commissioners. In the future, the cost of policing will be a major consideration for all jurisdictions.

Chief  R.M. Brent Crowhurst



As Chairman of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners I want to congratulate the Bridgewater Police Service on the publishing of their 8th Annual Report that highlights the policing operations over the past year. The efforts of our Police Service to provide a safe and secure community is very much reflected in the programs and initiatives presented in this report.

As the body tasked with providing civilian governance & oversight of our Police Service, we are grateful for the excellent leadership and direction provided by the administration, members & support staff of our Police Service. We are provided with an excellent blend of crime enforcement and crime prevention. Our residents are well served by the professionalism of our service and the many programs they are involved in, directly or indirectly, that covers a broad range of topics and involve all ages of our community. From our involvement in our schools to our programs for the business community and our seniors, our Police Service continues to be proactive in their approach to community policing. We continue to be proud of the involvement of many members of our Police Service, who give of their time to assist local community groups.

Our Police Board is committed to providing informed civilian governance & oversight and to that end have provided a number of training sessions at our monthly Board Meetings. These sessions, combined with the opportunities at the Provincial and National level, ensure that our Board will be fully informed with regards to the complex issues that exist in the policing community. This positions us well to provide the necessary support to our Police Service.

Together in policing,

Deputy Mayor David Walker,
Chairman Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners

Board of Police Commissioners



The Bridgewater board of Police Commissioners operates under the authority of the NS Police Act as well as a municipal by-law entitled *Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners*.

The Board of Police Commissioners holds monthly public meetings at the Shirlen L. Seamone Memorial Police Facility at 5:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners

Town Appointees

Deputy Mayor David Walker – Chairperson
Councillor David Mitchell – Vice-Chair
Mayor Carroll Publicover

Citizen Appointees

Debra MacLean
Cecil McAloney
Patrick Cappello

Provincial Justice Appointee

Vacant

Chief Administrative Officer

Ken Smith, CAO

Recording Secretary

Beth George

Strategic Plan 2009-2012

The Police Act of Nova Scotia requires the filing of an annual report with the Police Board and Minister of Justice outlining programs and strategies which implement the services' goals, priorities and objectives.

The annual report should also detail the development and implementation of organizational plans and reflect programs to enhance policing services. The Bridgewater Police Service adopted its first strategic plan in 2004 covering the period of 2004-2007. The 2007-2009 Strategic Plan was the first time the Board members played an active role in drafting these strategic plans.

The enclosed strategic plan for 2009-2012 reflects the community needs for the next three years as identified by a facilitated working group comprised of Board members and police staff. It is fair to state that the primary focus of the Bridgewater Police Service delivery model for the next three years will be on youth and seniors.

BPS Strategic Plan 2009-2012 - Guiding Principles

Communication

We will communicate in a clear, concise, direct and timely manner.

Accountability

We will be accountable for our decisions and conduct.

Integrity

We will perform our duties reliably, honestly, and ethically.

Partnership

We will work with individuals and groups to achieve a safer community.

Respect

We will treat all fairly and equitably.

Goals

Goal 1 – Public Order: Engage with youth and young adults to promote a safe and healthy lifestyle.

Goal 2 – Partnerships: Foster relationships to clarify roles and expectations to enhance service delivery.

Goal 3 – Prevention: Identify and deliver crime reduction strategies through education

Goal 4 – Enforcement: Analyze, maintain, and re-engineer enforcement strategies.

Goal 1 – Public Order: Engage with youth and young adults to promote a safe and healthy lifestyle.

1.1 Conduct Internal Scan

- Assigned to DV/Community Relations Coordinator.
- Completion date: end of June 2010

1.2 Conduct external scan – survey youth in schools/Empire House: looking for best practice programming that engages youth and promotes a safe and healthy lifestyle.

- Assigned to SSRO
- Completion date: end of June 2010

1.3 Develop a School Liaison Officer program for the 4 schools within TOB

- Assigned to Deputy Chief
- Completion date: end of September 2010

1.4 Education campaign for bar staff involving Liquor Inspector's office and police

- Assigned to Sgt. Cunningham
- Completion date: ongoing with annual evaluations each December

1.5 Education/Enforcement campaign. Re: excessive noise, traffic

- Assigned to Sgt. Richards
- Completion date: ongoing with annual evaluations each December



1.6 Identify a replacement for DARE with a broader based program.

- Assigned to SSRO
- Completion date: end of August 2010

Goal 2 – Partnerships: foster relationships to clarify roles and expectations to enhance service delivery.

2.1 Conduct Internal Scan: Looking for what works and what doesn't

- Assigned to DV/Community Relations Coordinator
- Completion date: end of June 2010

2.2 Conduct external scan: Best practices; survey current partners to determine what improvements need to be made.

- Assigned to DV/Community Relations Coordinator.
- Completion date: end of June 2010

2.3 Develop education opportunities and networking with local partners

- Assigned to Deputy Chief
- Completion date: ongoing with annual evaluation each December.

2.4 Partner with TOB to operate in a more environmentally friendly manner; bicycle patrols, foot patrols, test idle free fuel management systems, continue to utilize only the most fuel efficient, appropriate vehicles.

-Assigned to Chief

-Completion date: ongoing with annual evaluations each December

2.5 Education/Enforcement campaign. Re: excessive noise, traffic (spring)

-Assigned to Sgt. Richards

- Completion date: ongoing with annual evaluations each December

2.6 Partner with seniors to implement age-friendly programs

-Assigned to Senior's Safety Coordinator

- Completion date: ongoing with annual evaluation each December.

Goal 3 – Prevention: Identify and deliver crime reduction strategies through education

3.1 Internal Scan – inventory & assessment of existing crime prevention programs

-Assigned to DV/Community Relations Coordinator.

- Completion date: end of June 2010

3.2 External Scan – best practices

-Assigned to DV/ Community Relations Coordinator.

- Completion date: end of June 2010

3.3 Stats Can Analysis – crime stats to determine local crime issues

-Assigned to Chief

-Completion date: ongoing with annual evaluation each December.

3.4 Video surveillance of key hot spots where property crimes occur.

-Assigned to Chief

- Completion date: September 2010 with annual evaluation each December.

3.5 Deliver educational programs to address senior safety issues (e.g. elder abuse, identity theft, fraud, preventing falls, safe driving)

.

- Senior's Safety Coordinator

- Completion date: ongoing with annual evaluation each December

Goal 4 – Enforcement: Analyze, maintain, and re-engineer enforcement strategies.

4.1 Internal Scan – determine current enforcement strategies being used

– Assigned to D/Chief

- Completion date: end of June 2010

4.2 External Scan – comparison with other similar size municipal enforcement agencies in N.S.

- Assigned to Chief

- Completion date: end of June 2010

4.3 Continue to assess and access training opportunities

– Assigned to Training committee.

- Completion date: ongoing with annual evaluation each December.

4.4 Routinely monitor enforcement strategies for appropriateness.

– Assigned to Sgt. Supervisors

- Completion date: ongoing with annual evaluation each December

4.5 Make adjustments to enforcement strategies as dictated by crime trends.

– Assigned to D/Chief

Completion date: ongoing with annual evaluation each December

Outcomes

Our community is satisfied with the:

- ✓ Service provided;
- ✓ Visibility of officers on patrol;
- ✓ Level of communication;
- ✓ Sustainability initiatives; and
- ✓ Feelings of safety where we learn, live, work and play.

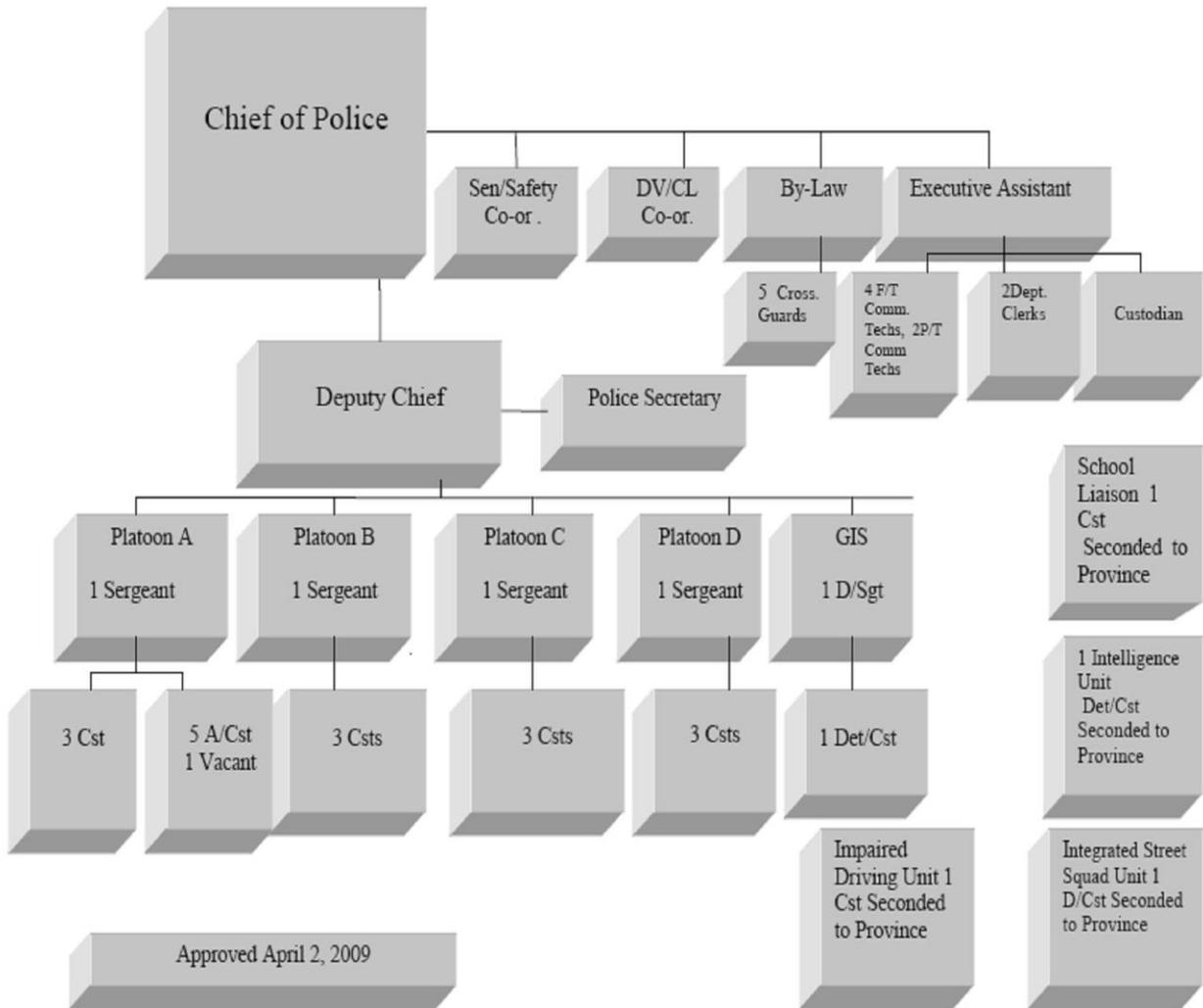
Personnel

Chief Brent Crowhurst
Deputy Chief John Collyer
Cst. Alfie O'Quinn
Sgt. Jerome Richard
Sgt. Ward Beck
Sgt. Scott Feener
Sgt. Dave Ramey
Det/Sgt. Al Cunningham
Det./Cst. Stephen Shipley
Det/Cst. Danny MacPhee (on secondment)
Det/Cst. Matthew Bennett (on secondment)
Cst. Wade Keddy
Cst. Terry Brekker
Cst. Paul Rogers
Cst. Trevor Mitchell
Cst. Angela Wareham
Cst. Morgan Gibson
Cst. William Creamer (on secondment)
Cst. James Dearing
Cst. Shawn Himmelman (on secondment)
Cst. Greg MacNeil

Cst. Sara MacDonald
Cst. Alexander Sparrow
Cst. Troy Vanderlinden
Cst. Shannon Bartlett
Special Cst. Luc Laliberte
Aux/Cst. Creig Veinot & Reba, tracking dog
Aux/Cst. Stephen Seney
DV/CR Coordinator Dale Saulnier
Seniors Safety Coor. Beth George
Executive Assistant Patty Sleep
Operational Secretary Toni Swim
Departmental Clerk Kathie MacDonnell
Departmental Clerk Dennis Swift
Communication Tech. Paula Cardinell
Communication Tech. Danny Seaman
Communication Tech. Susan LeBlanc
Communication Tech. Peter Hopkins
P/T Comm.Tech. Kim Weagle
P/T Comm.Tech. Tanya Burkholder
CYBER



Organizational Chart



Demands for Service

		2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008	2009	2010
		Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
Reported Criminal Code	Persons	149	172	169	180	192	155	211
	Property	383	336	349	422	390	362	418
Self-generated Enforcement								
	<i>Motor Vehicle</i>	847	783	790	757	617	753	722
	<i>Liquor Control</i>	163	137	162	132	92	101	142
	<i>Drugs</i>	39	27	51	101	51	44	70
	<i>Impaired Driving</i>	47	39	49	38	26	27	22
	<i>MV Collision</i>	135	124	128	166	148	135	153
Total calls for Service		3503	4416	4465	4658	4380	4610	5094

This chart reveals that all calls for service continue to increase. Both person's cases and property cases continue to trend upward. The chart below shows the comparison of other NS Police Departments relative to crime severity and clearance rates.

Police Reported Crime Severity Index Data, Selected Municipal Police Services, Nova Scotia 2010

Population	Police Service Name	Crime Severity Index	Violent Crime Severity Index	Crime Severity Index Clearance	Violent Crime Severity Index Clearance
9499	Amherst	114.9	96.3	51.6	80.4
7993	Bridgewater	84.1	94.8	55.5	83.2
5875	Kentville	93.5	65.4	54	70.2
12,258	Truro	145.3	131.9	62.3	61.5
9360	New Glasgow	124.9	180.6	56.4	85.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

Policing Costs

	2011-2012 Projected Budget	<u>2010- 2011</u> Budget	<u>2009/2010</u> Total Budget	<u>2008/2009</u> Total Budget	<u>2007/2008</u> Total Budget	<u>2006/2007</u> Total Budget
PROTECTIVE SERVICES						-
Police Services						
Police Commission	54,500	54,500	44,000	16,000	25,000	36,000
Administration	282,246	279,949	284,557	249,151	201,016	190,110
Crime Prevention	2,197,645	2,235,717	2,149,755	2,121,832	1,952,780	1,649,795
Community Policing	138,992	138,764	135,764	159,644	125,804	63,940
Training	32,200	32,100	29,100	30,800	27,875	25,836
Police Station Expenditures	321,176	312,841	311,108	295,900	245,800	50,455
Police Auto. Equipment	99,731	114,500	112,700	114,200	93,700	82,343
Detention and Custody	90,500	90,500	68,500	68,500	68,500	68,500
Other	477,606	271,920	194,964	146,125	62,500	49,331
Law Enforcement	28,500	24,200	25,700	22,700	20,728	20,347
Total	3,723,091	3,554,991	3,356,148	3,224,852	2,823,703	2,236,657
Revenue (minus)	481,566	750,000	838,868	844,186	587,046	308,729
NET	3,241,530	2,804,991	2,517,280	2,380,666	2,236,657	1,927,928



Public Complaints

Complaints by Municipal Agency

Department	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	PC	ID	PC	ID	PC	ID	PC	ID	PC	ID
Amherst	3	2	6	1	8	2	6	2	4	0
Annapolis Royal	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Bridgewater	7	2	1	1	4	6	3	4	1	5
CBRPS	33	5	36	5	28	14	21	4	27	3
HRPS	67	13	102	28	88	33	74	14	34	30
Kentville	4	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	1
New Glasgow	5	0	3	2	4	4	2	3	3	0
Springhill	3	0	2	0	3	1	6	0	1	0
Stellarton	2	0	7	0	1	0	9	0	3	1
Trenton	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Truro	4	2	7	6	8	1	5	3	5	2
Westville	1	0	1	0	4	0	4	0	4	0
Totals	129	25	167	44	150	61	136	31	82	43

*Data extracted from the published annual reports by the N.S. Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner.

For 2010 five internal disciplinary matters were investigated, three of which could not be completed since the officers no longer work for the Bridgewater Police Service and the other two matters were dealt with as provided for in the Police Act Regulations of Nova Scotia. The one public complaint is still outstanding at the time of this report.

Safety and Crime Reduction Initiatives in 2010

As part of the Service's 2009-2012 Strategic Plan's stated goals, emphasis was placed upon creating safety and crime reduction programs focused specifically on youth and seniors.

CYBER: Programmed for Safety was introduced to the students of the Bridgewater Elementary School in October 2010. This innovative program was originally developed by the Truro Police Service to offer children safety tips on the use of technology such as the internet and cellular phones. The program also offers insight into a disturbing new trend common amongst some youth called 'cyber-bullying'. This activity often has unexpected and tragic consequences for all involved and may constitute a criminal offense.



Through the use of an interactive, live 'robot' called CYBER and a powerful video presentation, CYBER talks about what constitutes cyber-bullying. It also educates children about the dangers of the internet and the consequences of using such technology improperly. CYBER talks about how to use the technology in a healthy, responsible manner and closes with CYBER's OATH:

- I promise not to hurt anyone's feelings by spreading rumors, making fun of them or making threats in any way.
- I promise to consider everyone's feelings before I send or say anything online.
- I promise to respect everyone's privacy, especially my own!

CYBER's presentation is not easily forgotten. With a 'rock concert' atmosphere featuring a local rock band 'The TRIPS', CYBER was extremely well received by students, teachers and parents alike. A colourful and informative brochure sent home with every student reaffirms CYBER's key message and provides parents with some internet safety tips to talk over with their children.

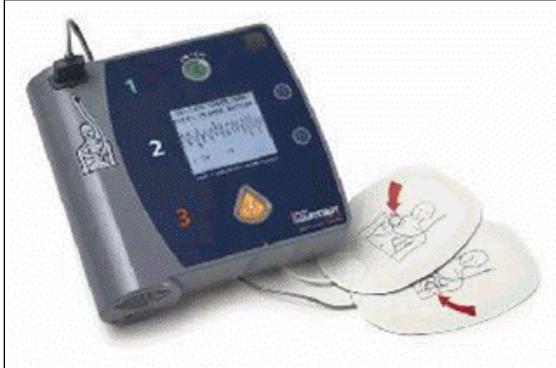


Our version of **CYBER: Programmed for Safety** was developed with the assistance of the Truro Police Service and a Lunenburg based company, Fourth Monkey Media. It was made possible through funding provided by the provincial Department of Justice's LIGHTHOUSE program as well as Intelligence Choice Computers of Bridgewater.

At the heart of the initiative are a number of High School students from both Bridgewater High School and Parkview Education Centre. To date, these individuals have volunteered their time to bring this important message to over 1350 students in six elementary schools in Lunenburg and Queens County.

Technology

The use of technology by police throughout North America over the past decade has brought about significant changes in how evidence is captured, recorded and presented to courts. Bridgewater Police



Service has invested heavily in many forms of technology to ensure the best evidence available can be presented in court. There are other forms of technology which we have adopted for health and safety reasons such as equipping all of our patrol cars with automatic external defibrillators. These defibrillators were acquired with the generous contributions of several service clubs in the Town of Bridgewater. We are happy to report this program has resulted in the saving of at least one life.

Our police service like many other police services throughout North America has begun deploying Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW), generally referred to as Tasers. Currently Bridgewater Police Service is the only police service in Nova Scotia that equips each officer while on patrol with a conducted energy weapon, each of which is equipped with a video camera. The reason it was important to equip our CEW's with cameras was to provide a higher level of accountability that can be examined in-depth in a court of law.



In keeping with the use of technology for capturing evidence, we have now equipped three of our patrol vehicles with in car video systems. These capture and record not only the visual images, but also



all sounds and conversation between the officer and individuals with whom the officer is interacting. A typical application of this technology is when a suspected impaired driver is being pulled over at a traffic stop, the camera captures all driving evidence. Once the officer approaches the vehicle, the audio captures conversation, breathalyzer demands, etc. Should the driver be detained for a breathalyzer test a recording is made of the prisoner in the back seat of the police vehicle which will record any utterances, threats, hiding of contraband, etc. The in car video systems have proved invaluable. Frequently, this will result in less court time being

expended due to the accurate depiction of all the events which can be examined in-depth by both Crown prosecutors and defense council.

In the past year, we have installed four video surveillance cameras in the downtown area of Bridgewater. These cameras are used to monitor illegal activities in public areas. These are the areas where in the past there have been serious assaults, up to and including, attempted murder.



The cameras have the capability of being directed through a pan, tilt and zoom program available in our dispatch centre. Our telecommunications technicians can follow and record suspicious activity when necessary. This program has been in effect for only the past four months and has already proved valuable in solving crimes such as a false report of a robbery.

When Bridgewater Police Service moved into the new police station on Exhibition Drive it was equipped with video surveillance systems capturing all activities in interview rooms, breathalyzer room and hall way areas. This was an effort to ensure an accurate record was made of the movement and actions of accused persons and police officers alike. We believe we are the only police service in Nova Scotia that automatically records breathalyzer tests which then forms part of the electronic disclosure package available to crown prosecutors, defense council and the courts.

In the past year we have been fortunate in having a dedicated, part time IT resource available each day to ensure all of the technology systems in use can be maintained properly. As part of his duties, we have now been able to fully upgrade all computer systems and early in 2011 our access to the National Police Service computer systems was modified so we now control the maintenance and service of our own system as opposed to contracting out those services through the RCMP. This has been a significant change in how we access our computer records management systems thus making it much more efficient and cost effective.

Special Units

South Shore Street Crime Enforcement Unit (SSSCEU)

This unit has been in operation for four years with the mandate of targeting low to medium level crime groups, serious crime and ensuring compliance with interim judicial releases. The South Shore Street Crime Enforcement Unit focuses a great deal of attention on drug offence crimes throughout Lunenburg and Queens Counties.

They also provide assistance whenever a police commander in Lunenburg County, Queens County or the Town of Bridgewater calls upon the unit to provide extra resources and expertise.

The unit is comprised of three RCMP officers, two from the Lunenburg District RCMP and one from the Queens Detachment. A fourth officer is from the Bridgewater Police Service.

This unit shares office space in the Shirlen L. Seamone Memorial building with the BPS GIS unit and the CISNS local intelligence office. This co-location of plain clothes investigators provides a resource pool of expertise that was not available to this community in the past. The level of success experienced is a direct result of collaborative partnerships as well as funding through the N.S. Department of Justice Building on Safe Communities Program.

Major Highlights for 2010:

Number of organized crime groups identified – 8

Number of organized crime groups disrupted – 4

Number of arrests – 39

Number of search warrants executed – 28

Number of charges laid – 78

Illegal cigarettes seized – 126,912



Total estimated street value of drugs, contraband and property seized - \$623,821.00





CISNS is a partnership of law enforcement agencies that gathers and shares intelligence on organized and serious crime in Nova Scotia.

Based in Bridgewater, the CISNS South Shore unit consists of one Bridgewater Police Service officer and one member of the RCMP from Lunenburg County. These two local intelligence officers are responsible for the area of Lunenburg and Queens Counties.

This unit has a provincial mandate of collecting and sharing criminal intelligence for the entire South Shore region.

Like their counterparts across the province, the CISNS South Shore officers work closely with many partner agencies, including Bridgewater Police, RCMP, Canada Border Services Agency, Natural Resources and Revenue Canada.

CISNS shares intelligence with these partner agencies and gathers information from a variety of sources to help close intelligence gaps regarding organized crime in their district.

They profile existing organized crime groups and identify emerging groups and trends. They also gather information needed for search warrants and surveillance of known criminals operating in the area. Working with other units, they are often active participants in executing these searches and conducting surveillance.

Information provided by the CISNS South Shore officers regularly leads to the seizure of illicit drugs, weapons and illegal tobacco, and the arrest of organized and serious criminals in the area.

The CISNS South Shore office is dedicated to working with their partners to combat organized and serious crime in Nova Scotia, and provide residents with safer homes and communities.

The impact on the Town of Bridgewater is that the criminal intelligence generated for this jurisdiction is now immediately acted upon by the two enforcement units located adjacent to the local intelligence office. Our GIS unit and the Street Squad are very closely linked and have the capacity to immediately act upon intelligence as it is generated.

School Safety Resource Officer (SSRO)

In 2010, the School Safety Resource Officer was responsible for providing police services to the three schools in the Town of Bridgewater; Bridgewater Elementary, Bridgewater Junior/Senior High and Parkview Education Centre. Between students and staff, the school safety program reached out to about 2,200 individuals. The SSRO also partnered with the South Shore Regional School Board, parents and outside agencies to help build and establish communal support for students at risk.



He is responsible for building relationships within the school population. He is expected to be a positive role model for students and is often another resource for students, parents, and staff dealing with the complex issues of school life.

In addition, the tracking of high risk young offenders was completed through weekly attendance at Provincial Youth court. Formal safety audits at all three Bridgewater Schools were completed. The SSRO responded to calls including everything from drugs and intoxication to threats and assaults. The Restorative Justice Pilot program was expanded from PVEC to Bridgewater Jr/Sr High School.

Through a recent school survey conducted by the SSRO, the issues of drugs, bullying and areas of safety were identified as student concerns. These were addressed by educational programs, presentations, and increased police presence where students identified as feeling less safe. The survey indicated that 33% of students feel safer having an officer at the school.



During the 2010-2011 school year, we created two School Liason Officer positions. Cst. M. Gibson and Cst. S. MacDonald will provide additional uniformed presence at the schools and are tasked with building relationships within the school population.

General Investigation Section

The Bridgewater Police Services General Investigation Section (GIS) is comprised of two senior investigators, a Detective Sergeant and a Detective Constable. These members have been selected for their investigative abilities. The members attend the Canadian Police College in Ottawa and must successfully complete a major crime course. This course allows them to investigate and manage serious crimes.

GIS also works frequently with Criminal Intelligence Nova Scotia and South Shore Integrated Street Crime Enforcement Unit as one integrated team. These teams conduct investigations within Lunenburg and Queens Counties. The following two cases were investigated using this integrated team approach.

In July 2010, GIS members went to Oshawa, Ontario, and returned an adult male who was wanted on numerous drugs and weapons charges here in Bridgewater. The individual was searched in 2006 by Bridgewater Police Service GIS who seized drugs and a loaded rifle. The accused plead guilty and is currently incarcerated serving Federal Time.

Members of the integrated team executed a Criminal Code Search Warrant on a residence in West Northfield, Lunenburg County. This search resulted in 11,209 illegal cigarettes and a small amount of illegal cigars being seized at the scene. A 58 year old male from West Northfield, was charged and convicted under the Federal Excise Act.



Bridgewater GIS assisted the South Shore Integrated Street Crime Enforcement Unit in the executing of two search warrants in the Town of Lunenburg. Police seized cocaine, marihuana, magic mushrooms and tablets of endocet.



Bridgewater GIS assisted the South Shore Integrated Street Crime Enforcement Unit execution of two search warrant for illegal cigarettes. Police seized in excess of 95,000 illegal cigarettes

A suspicious fire at the Argyle Inn was investigated by GIS. Several rooms were destroyed, and a number of residents had to move. The fire investigation was determined accidental.

Bridgewater GIS assisted the South Shore Integrated Street Crime Enforcement Unit in a search under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. One pound of marihuana and approximately \$ 2,800.00 was seized.

GIS and SSSCEU executed a search warrant at a local residence in Bridgewater. Prescription medication pills and cannabis marihuana was seized. A male was charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking in selling hydromorphine pills in Bridgewater

GIS and SSCEU collaborated in the execution of a Controlled Drug and Substance Act warrant, and seized 800 pounds of bud weed. Charges were laid.

A male from the metro area was charged with theft over \$ 5,000.00 resulting in an investigation of stealing electronic equipment from a local Bridgewater store.

The investigation of a suspicious death at a local business determined the cause of death was a massive heart attack. The members have been trained by Provincial Medical Examiner to investigate natural or suspicious deaths. These courses are considered beneficial to members to establish any investigations into the cause of deaths.

Crime Prevention and Community Initiatives

The impact of crime on any community can be considerable. Crime, and the perception of crime, can negatively affect a community's ability to function in a positive manner. Costs associated with crime go beyond the cost to victims alone; the taxpayer is also left to bear the cost associated with increased policing expenditures, higher insurance premiums, higher prices for everyday commodities and even possibly decreases in property value. Crime Prevention initiatives can help keep these costs to a minimum when the community works together with law enforcement to provide proactive means of fighting crime.

It is the role of the Community Resource Coordinator to form partnerships with community organizations that will enhance crime prevention efforts. She is involved actively with South Shore Safe Communities Leadership Table, South Shore Safe Communities Bullying Awareness Group, South Shore FASD, MADD Lunenburg-Queens and Neighbourhood Watch. Through maintenance of the website, the CR Coordinator keeps the community updated on crime prevention activities as well as police related notices such as CrimeStopper bulletins.

The Bridgewater Police Service has been involved in a number of successful projects over the past several years. Our projects are all community driven and are aimed at working in partnership with other organizations, businesses and individuals.

Our community involvement:

- **Our Kids 'n' Kops**

- This program is in its fifth year and in cooperation with South Shore Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Queens District RCMP, we are able to offer two one-week programs to thirty children. Not only is this program beneficial to the youth who participate, but our officers and volunteers gain knowledge and understanding of the circumstances of the children in our community. Kids 'N' Kops provides an excellent opportunity for relationship building between police and youth that will pay dividends in the future.



- **Neighbourhood Watch**

- This program is aimed at reducing crime in the community by getting neighbours working together, alert to the potential of crime and keeping an eye on each other's interest. Neighbourhood Watch continues to develop as we meet with the Watch leaders to discuss growth in their communities, current crime schemes that they should be aware of and problem-solve any community related issues that may have arisen. We meet once a year to discuss community concerns for the Glen Allen area, Eisenhower Place, LaHave Heights and the Prince Street communities.

- Crime Stoppers
 - One of our officers sits on this committee. We maintain crime stopper bulletins on our website and promote the use of Crimestoppers to encourage potential tipsters to call in with their information that may potentially lead to solving a crime.

- M.A.D.D.

- We work closely with MADD Lunenburg-Queens to help promote education and information sharing in regards to the problem of driving while intoxicated. Our officers work with the MADD volunteers several times a year on road checkpoints, candlelight vigils, and the red ribbon campaign. This year we conducted more than ten Sobriety Road Checks with MADD.



- South Shore Safe Communities Steering Committee

- This group has made great strides in Lunenburg-Queens as it brings together many different organizations with a common goal. Since its inception four years ago, it has grown to include members from about ten organizations and has developed five sub-committees that revolve around safety issues. The sub-committees are:



- Bullying Awareness
- Workplace Safety
- Suicide Prevention
- Falls Prevention

- Safe Communities Bullying Awareness Sub-group

- The goals of the bullying committee are to increase awareness about what bullying is and the incidence of bullying in our community and to partner with stakeholders to advance strategies and programs to prevent bullying.
- The group has been working throughout 2010 to plan and implement a Bullying Symposium which will take place in 2011.

- Long term goals are to bring more awareness of bullying and cyber-bullying issues to both school and business communities.

- Bridgewater Police Service Website (www.bridgewaterpolice.ca)

- We developed this site in the fall of 2004 and since then we have received visits from around the world. The majority of our visitors are from this area and we have regulars who check the media releases and crime stopper bulletins daily. The site has opened the doors to the public as they are now able to see the programs and projects we are involved in. We receive calls and emails requesting information about these programs as well as emails informing us of criminal activity that has taken place in town. With approximately 2,000 unique users each month, the website has proven to be a useful tool to both the public and the Bridgewater Police.



- Community Events

- Each year we participate in community events such as the Annual Food Drive, Michelin Senior's Expo, the Michelin Health and Safety Fair and the Bicycle Rodeo. Our involvement includes assisting in the actual event and giving safety presentations to interested groups.
- Other presentations are given throughout the year to:
 - School groups and classes
 - Parent Groups
 - Local businesses
 - Service Clubs



Annual Food Drive for Bridgewater Inter-Church Foodbank.

The Crime Prevention Programs we have initiated or become involved in enable the officers to communicate directly with the general public in a relaxed setting that is non-confrontational and is of benefit to all. As part of each General patrol members' duties, daily foot patrol, augmented by bicycle patrol during the summer months, allows officers to be more approachable. Past public surveys conducted by the CR Coordinator, indicate this is the type of policing desired by the citizens of Bridgewater.

Senior Safety Program

The Bridgewater Police Service believes that seniors are an integral part of our community, entitled to live in dignity and security, free of exploitation and abuse. To ensure the safety and well-being of seniors, the Bridgewater Police Service operates the Seniors Safety program in partnership with South Shore Safe Communities.

The government of Nova Scotia's departments of Seniors and Justice provide the funding to operate the Bridgewater and Area Seniors Safety Program through a Seniors Safety Grant. Beginning in January 2011, the program is funded through a grant made to the non-profit group South Shore Safe Communities. The Seniors Safety Program address the safety concerns of seniors by promoting education and awareness about crime prevention, senior abuse, senior safety and health issues, and by enhancing communication between seniors and police. Beth George is the Seniors Safety Coordinator.



In the second year of operation, the Seniors Safety Program offered a variety of services to seniors in Bridgewater and area. These included:

1. **VIAL of Life** – The Vial of Life program helps emergency personnel quickly learn important medical facts in times of crisis. From April 2010 – March 2011 approximately 120 vials were distributed through home visits and information fairs.
2. **Home Visits** – An integral part of the Seniors Safety program is visiting with seniors in their homes to talk to them about their personal safety concerns. In the past year, the coordinator made over 50 home visits to address concerns about safety and elder abuse.
3. **Educational Presentations** – The Seniors Safety Coordinator offers free presentations to seniors groups on various topics including personal safety, fraud and scam awareness, internet safety, elder abuse, and home safety. Over the year, the coordinator made seven public presentations to over 250 seniors.
4. **Safe Driving Programs** – Over the past year, we have hosted two safe driving programs for seniors. The first was the Older Persons Safe Driving program held in Bridgewater in April for 53 participants. Then in November, we partnered with Mahone Bay Seniors Project and the RCMP to offer 55-Alive driving program at the Mahone Bay Centre with 39 participants.
5. **Seniors Police Academy** – The Senior Citizens Police Academy is designed to give seniors an opportunity to learn hands-on about crime prevention and safety in their homes and communities. Cadets learn in a fun, workshop style environment, and take new skills back to their homes and communities. Two police academies were offered this past year – one in Bridgewater in the spring and another in Dayspring in the fall.

6. **Safety Check-in program** – This is a free program designed to provide daily telephone contact for housebound individuals who live alone. Volunteers recruited through the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON), telephone participants every day between 9:00 a.m. and noon.

7. **Operation S.O.S. (Shoveling Out Seniors)** – After a successful pilot last year, we offered this snow removal program again in partnership with Scouts Canada, to assist seniors remove snow if they are unable. For the second year we had eight seniors participating in the program this winter (November 2010 – March 2011).

Several other opportunities for partnership and/or participation arose in this second year of the program. These included:

- Assisting in the start-up of Bridgewater’s first community garden
- Coordinating a launch event for the Legal Information Society’s publication “It’s in Your Hands”, a book about seniors and the law
- Becoming a member of the Lunenburg Preventing Falls Together coalition
- Participating in Bridgewater’s Growing Green: Sustainability Festival
- Joining South Shore Safe Communities’ Leadership Table
- Joining the South Shore Housing Action Group



- Becoming an active member of the Lunenburg county Seniors Advisory Council

A significant initiative of the Seniors Safety Program is a program called the Senior Friendly™ program, a business recognition program that helps organizations become more age-friendly. The program consists of two parts: a facility Check-Up and a training seminar. The program helps communities, businesses, and organizations provide services that

meet the needs of seniors. The program is coordinated by a group of seniors and allied professionals called the Coalition for an Age-friendly Community.

The Coalition officially launched the Senior Friendly Program in April 2010 and in the months following has completed Check-Ups at 18 businesses and trained 70 individuals in the Senior Friendly training program. There are seven organizations that have been officially designated Senior Friendly, with the first being Lighthouse Publishing. Other designations have been made to Dave’s Vacuum, Lighthouse Motel, Bridgewater Public Library, Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 24, NSCC Lunenburg Campus, and DesBrisay Museum. The police service completed a Check Up in October 2010 and as of March 2011, has completed the training requirements for designation.

With the support of the Town of Bridgewater and the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, the Coalition hopes our community will become the first Senior Friendly area in the Maritimes.