

# BRIDGEWATER POLICE SERVICE

## 2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT







Learn about our K-9 Unit  
See Pages 12 & 13

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# FROM THE MEMBERS OF BPS

It gives the Bridgewater Police Service (BPS) and its members great pleasure to present to our community the 2015-16 Annual Report. Once again, the last fiscal year brought much in the way of change to the Bridgewater Police Service. It also marked the last year of our three-year strategic plan.

The members and staff have worked hard to improve the quality of our service while at the same time keeping in mind the need for fiscal responsibility. To this end, a new Collective Agreement was reached with our membership, which will bring stability into 2019. This report will highlight our members' contribution in maintaining a high level of service and dedication to our community. It also reflects what is new within our service – there is much to be proud of in that regard.

Citizens of Bridgewater likely will have noted many new faces within our ranks in the last year and a half. These new members are reflective of a community and police service that values multicultural diversity and experience. We hope you will give these members a big South Shore welcome.

The creation of the first full-time police K-9 team is a fantastic example of what can be accomplished when a common vision is shared on how to make our community healthier and safer for all.

Special thanks to our colleagues with the Truro and Halifax Regional Police Services who provided great advice and training for Police Service Dog (PSD) Davis and his partner, Cst. Morgan Gibson.

Finally, a big thank-you to our community, for the wonderful support many of you have provided to our service.





# FROM THE POLICE COMMISSION CHAIR

Once again, I join with all of the members of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners in congratulating the Bridgewater Police Service on the occasion of the publication of the 2015-16 Annual Report.

The 18-month period covered by this report has been busy for both the Board and the Police Service. Sustainability and the rising costs of policing has again been high on the list of challenges that face us. The Senior Management team of the Police Service have responded to this challenge by presenting the Board with a budget that we felt comfortable recommending to Town Council with only minor changes.

We have also faced challenges in the area of raising the profile of our Police Service in the public eye. In response to this challenge, Commissioners Champoux and McDonald, with the assistance of the Marketing Class from NSCC, were able to create a brochure that succinctly described the Commission and the Police Service.

The leadership traits and professionalism shown by the Senior Management of the Police Service is reflected in the performance of the membership during this period. As a Board, we are justifiably proud of both the uniformed and non-uniformed members of the Service and their performance over this period.

The period covered by this report saw no changes to the composition of the Board of Police Commissioners and that stability has helped us to maintain a certain flow in our understanding of the problems within police governance and how best to approach them.

I am grateful to every member of the Board for their dedication and work ethic over the past 18 months. I trust that we will finish 2016 strongly and that 2017 will be a great year for both the Police Board and the Police Service.



PATRICK D. CAPPELLO



# ROLL CALL OF BPS MEMBERS

The following is the Bridgewater Police Service staff roll call, serving in 2015-16, listed alphabetically by last name. Each individual's duration of service with BPS is noted as well.



ACOMB, Chris – Senior Safety Coordinator, Fall 2016	GIBSON, Morgan – Constable, February 2007	ROBAR, Lacey – Auxiliary, June 2014
BARTLETT, Shannon – Constable, November 2010	HASANI, Viktor – Constable, April 2016	RICHARD, Jerome – Support NCO, March 1979
BENNETT, Matthew – Acting Sergeant, November 2007	JENSEN, Paul – Auxiliary, January 2013	ROGERS, Paul – Constable, April 2000
BREKKER, Terry – Sergeant, September 1998	KENNEDY, Deven – Constable, September 2013	SEAMAN, Dannie – Dispatcher, September 2004
CAINES, Andrew – Auxiliary, June 2014	KHAN, Asif – Constable, November 2014	SEAMONE, Kerry – Auxiliary, June 2014
CARDINELL, Paula – Dispatcher, July 2001	LANGILLE, Kayla – Dispatcher, June 2015	SHIPLEY, Stephen – Constable, July 2008
CARON, Laurie – Dispatcher, November 2013	LEBLANC, Susan – Dispatcher, June 2006	SLEEP, Patty – Executive, Assistant February 1993
CHILDS, Derek – Detective Constable, September 2012	MACDONNELL, Kathie – Departmental Clerk, November 1993	SMITH, Allison – Dispatcher, September 2016
COLLYER, John – Chief of Police, May 1990	MACPHEE, Danny – Sergeant, August 2000	SPARROW, Sandy – Constable, May 2010
CREAMER, William – Constable, September 2007	MASON, Jennifer – Constable, March 2012	SWIM, Toni – Operational Secretary, December 1994
CREASER, James – Constable, July 2016	MITCHELL, Trevor – Detective Sergeant, August 2001	THOROGOOD, Neil – Constable, August 2015
DEARING, Jamie – Constable, July 2008	MOUNT, Pat – Auxiliary, June 2012	VANDERLINDEN, Troy – Constable, May 2010
DUDHATRA, Kshitij – Constable, September 2016	NEWTON, Evan – IT Specialist	VEINOT, Creig – Auxiliary, April 1994
FEENER, Scott – Deputy Chief, February 1993	NORWOOD, Scott – Auxiliary, June 2014	VEINOT, Sherry – Auxiliary, January 1995
FOLEY, Katie – Dispatcher, August 2016	RAMEY, David – Sergeant, November 2000	WAREHAM, Angela – Constable, May 2006

# ABOUT THE BOARD

The Board of Police Commissioners, operating under the terms of the Police Commission By-Law, is composed of six members.

Under the Police Act, the Commission oversees the Bridgewater Police Service, including the following responsibilities:

Provides civilian governance on behalf of Town Council in relation to the enforcement of law, the maintenance of law and the order and prevention of crime in the municipality

Provides the administrative direction, organization and policy required to maintain an adequate, effective and efficient police department

Determines, in consultation with the chief officer, priorities, objectives and goals respecting police services in the community

Ensures the chief officer establishes programs and strategies to implement the priorities, objectives and goals respecting police services

Ensures that the community needs and values are reflected in policing priorities, objectives, goals, programs and strategies

Ensures that police services are delivered in a manner consistent with community values, needs and expectations

Acts as a conduit between the community and the police service providers

## Police Commission Membership (as of December 31, 2016)

Patrick D. Cappello, Chair (Citizen)

David Mitchell (Mayor/Ex Officio)

David Carey (Department of Justice Appointee)

Palma Champoux (Citizen)

Jennifer McDonald (Councillor)

Virginia Oickle (Citizen)

Ken Smith (Chief Administrative Officer and Board Secretary)

Wayne Thorburne (Councillor)



# A HISTORY OF POLICE SERVICE

The Bridgewater Police Department was formally organized under a standing Committee for Police and Licenses, upon the town's incorporation in 1899, relatively late when compared with other towns in Nova Scotia.

The first Chief of Police, Henry T. Mitchel, also served as Sanitary Inspector and Truant Officer and worked with a budget of less than \$600. For some 20 years, his successors worked with similarly constrained budgets to cover wages, uniforms (\$62) and equipment costs of \$13.

Typical activities during those early days included hiring a horse and wagon to convey prisoners to the Lunenburg jail, a prosecution for giving tobacco to a minor, enforcing Nova Scotia's Temperance Act and enforcing quarantine for families and individuals stricken with diphtheria, scarlet fever, small pox and the like.

The first "lockup," owned and shared with the Municipality (County) of Lunenburg, was said to be "not a fit place to put a man" and was described as "very unsatisfactory[,] as well as dangerous to prisoners and property." The lockup contained no heat, was damp all the time and had no toilet.

In 1918, this longstanding issue was dealt with when the two local governments split the costs, equal to 118% of that year's operating budget, to place four new steel cages in the basement of the Courthouse.

## CHIEFS OF POLICE

1899-1900 • Henry T. Mitchel  
1901 • George A. Connors  
1902 • Frank E. Christopher  
1903 • W. N. Crouse  
1904-1905 • Robert Golightly  
1906-1910 • W. H. Ford  
1911 • George Pryde  
1912-1918 • George A. Connors  
1919-1921 • J. S. Coffill  
1922-1923 • W. F. Adams  
1924-1928 • Lewis C. Rice  
1928-1934 • Peter A. MacGillivray  
1934-1942 • J. T. O'Leary  
1943-1945 • R. M. Fancy  
1945-1948 • Donald Oickle  
1949 • R. E. Kaulback  
1950-1961 • H. L. Hopkins  
1962-1968 • D. Cantelope  
1969-1979 • B. E. Webber  
1980-1999 • David B. McGinnis  
1999-2002 • Shirlen Seamone  
2002-2011 • Brent Crowhurst  
2011- • John Collyer



# SENIOR SAFETY PROGRAM

The Senior Safety Program is a program with South Shore Safe Communities and works in close partnership with Bridgewater Police Service and the RCMP.

The program is guided by an advisory committee that is represented by BPS, the RCMP, the chair of South Shore Safe Communities and various councillors from municipal units.

There are two streams to the program: direct intervention and preventative action.

When it comes to direct intervention, the program is set up to address senior safety issues in the broad sense, but it also includes home visits, where referrals can be received from police or the community, family, friends or senior themselves who have a safety issue to cope with.

The program connects individuals at risk to the resources that they need and provides support to resolve the issue. The home visit component is a significant part of the work.

Regarding preventative action, the Senior Safety Program includes education and awareness initiatives centred on senior safety issues.

There are a number of programs, including Seniors Safety Academy, which runs for six weeks, two sessions a week. In the academy, professionals are brought in to give direct talks about various topics that are pertinent to seniors.



# SENIOR SAFETY PROGRAM

Topics have ranged from safe banking to medications, legal issues, brain health and resources such as 211 (Efficiency Nova Scotia). The Vial of Life and Senior Friendly training is also offered, as well as the Living Alone series, a four-week program that is targeted toward seniors living on their own. Living Alone explores issues seniors may face, such as selling and downsizing their home, how to get connected, grief and loss, and assertiveness.

One of the great things about the various programming initiatives is that they are taken out into the community to seniors who are not able to come into some of the major townships.

Policing partners are able to engage seniors largely through connecting with other groups who also work with seniors.

Those community partners include Chester Recreation, the Aspotogan Heritage Trust, the VON Continuing Care, the RCMP and many more.

Our members often hear that the information is valuable and that participants have taken something away that helps them plan for the future and to be more aware of some of the issues that might come up.

The program also breaks down the isolation seniors often experience and provides an opportunity to get out and meet other seniors, and to know what agencies they can access and how to access the help when they actually need it.

The goal is to reach the underserved areas — rural and isolated seniors — and programs often attract as many as 25 to 40 participants.

The demand for home visits increases every year and there have been significant increases since the program has been offered fulltime.

The strong partnerships we have between local police and our community partners allows the work of the Senior Safety Program to really happen. What's taking place in Lunenburg County is a great reflection of how collaboration can work to the advantage of the clients we serve, including those who are vulnerable.





# K-9 UNIT



In the spring of 2016, the Bridgewater Police Service was proud to welcome its newest member and its first on four legs.

After a major community-driven fundraising initiative and ample training, Police Service Dog (PSD) Davis began active service, alongside his handler, Cst. Morgan Gibson.

“The K-9 Unit has been an area of need for a number of years in the Town and not a resource that we’ve had access to,” explained Cst. Gibson. “Members now have access to a full-time dog unit for tracking, to help with arrests, article searching and to help search buildings.”

“We’re not a standalone unit,” Cst. Gibson noted. “We’re on a Community Response Unit (CRU). It’s a supplement to the patrol: me having the dog doesn’t take away from the day-to-day work that gets done. I continue to work those shifts, a week of days, a week of evenings, and then on call whenever there’s a need.”

PSD Davis did not have a short journey to Bridgewater. He arrived from Slovakia in March of 2016 and was just 10 months old at the time of the trek.

After several months of initial training, he was validated in late August and became an operational K-9 for the Bridgewater Police Service.

# K-9 UNIT

“He had some health issues we had to deal with, just some growing pains, which is pretty standard in a large breed dog, and since he was so young,” Cst. Gibson recalled.

“A big part of my job going forward with PSD Davis is daily training because we have to re-validate every year in order for the dog to be recognized to do his job. It’s not a one-time skill it’s a perishable skill.”

Cst. Gibson likened PSD Davis and his training to that of an athlete.

“If you don’t practice it, you lose it. So, if people see us around the community, it’s good to know that what we do would often be training; it won’t always be active police work.”

Cst. Gibson said that the community response to PSD Davis’ arrival has been nothing short of amazing.

“People love having the dog and seeing the dog. It’s been a hard message to get out that he’s not a family pet — everyone wants to pet him and run up to him — so there’s a big education piece to let people know that he’s a working dog, that you can’t feed him treats or call him over to you,” Cst. Gibson explained.

“It’s not that the dog isn’t friendly, it just takes away from his effectiveness as a working dog,” he said. “But the community response has been fantastic. He’s the most popular guy around.”





# MOTORCYCLE UNIT





# MOTORCYCLE UNIT

In June of 2016, the Bridgewater Police Service acquired a motorcycle to supplement the patrol section of its operations.

The motorcycle itself is not a standalone unit, explained Cst. Steve Shipley.

“It’s not a full-time motorcycle enforcement unit; it’s just another tool for doing traffic enforcement. It raises the public awareness of the police department: they hear the motorcycle coming and they see the bike and they like it,” he explained.

While BPS only acquired the motorcycle in the spring of 2016, it was used to great acclaim in the annual South Shore Exhibition parade in July, as well as the Canada 911 Ride Fundraiser, which is a police-escorted ride in its second year in Atlantic Canada. “There’s an Ontario ride, which has been going on for years, and there’s also one out west,” Cst. Shipley noted. “The Atlantic ride last year was the first year, and this year it was out of Halifax, so that was a two-day police-escorted ride fundraiser for families who have had first responder family members die on duty.”

Cst. Shipley was the only member to operate the motorcycle in 2016, but going forward other members will be given the training to operate it as well.

The constable did his training with Halifax Regional Police motorcycle unit members for a week in Shearwater in late June.

“The motorcycle is attached to the CRU unit, so I moved off of the patrol team over onto the CRU unit so that I wouldn’t be taking away from the team by going out on the bike,” he explained.

“If you only have two, three or four guys working, you don’t want one guy out on the motorcycle and therefore not available with a police car.”



# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Cst. Paul Rogers has been involved in policing for more than 17 years, and much of his career has been dedicated to service as a positive role model for youth in the community. In his 15 years of patrol, he has served as a coach for cadets, and he's also done instructional firearms coaching, but the past three years that he has spent serving as the School Resource Officer have been among the most rewarding.

"When an opportunity came up to do this school resource position, I made a suggestion," he recalled. "Historically, it was more of a liaison position, so I said, 'I'd like to do it, but I don't want to be a liaison officer. There's about 1,500 students in the three schools — [let's] put a dedicated member in to serve the student body.'"

The role is partly about providing quick and seamless response to potentially troubling situations, but it's also about building bridges with the student body at each school and being involved with as many functions as possible.

"For example, I went to the alumni hockey game with the radar to record the speed of the shots, and I helped them organize a car show one year. I am on a few committees — the student advisory council, the youth advisory council — and I recently joined the skateboard park committee," he said. "So, in a lot of cases, I'm a police reference on these committees."

One of the things Cst. Rogers focuses on within the schools is identifying issues. At Park View Education Centre, for instance, with 650 senior students, at least 200 students drive their cars to school.



"My first day, I saw three cars running the stop sign, which is a real issue. I need to be consistent with offering my presence there, and write a few tickets. They need to see that every day, so that even when I'm not there they have to think, 'Where is he?' as they're exiting," he said.

The same went for drug enforcement on school property as well. "I'm there, in their face, doing drug enforcement, not only for the student I'm arresting but for the others watching."

The reception to his presence has been overwhelmingly positive, from both school administrations and the student community.

"Policing in the schools has become easier ... and for the students, it's not necessarily about punishment, it's all about building the bridge and effecting change."

# FREE PARKING PILOT PROJECT

In the summer of 2015, the Bridgewater Police Service and the Police Commission were approached for feedback on the temporary introduction of free parking (a parking meter moratorium) in Bridgewater.

The initiative, pitched by the Town's Downtown Planning Advisory Committee, was conceived as a trial project — in part to weigh how an elimination of parking meters would impact parking use in the downtown, and also as a means of giving back to the merchants located in and around the two-block area where Take Back The Riverbank, a major infrastructure and revitalization initiative, would be taking place in 2016.

The Bridgewater Police Commission ultimately endorsed a plan that would see pay-per-use parking temporarily repealed in the downtown.

Members of the Bridgewater Police Service were also consulted on the introduction of angled parking in the Take Back The Riverbank block of King Street and recommended that the Town implement a “back-in angled” parking proposal.

While the back-in angled spaces are among the first used in a downtown area in Nova Scotia, the safety benefits of slowing the flow of traffic and allowing users to have full field of vision when departing the parking area made the concept the preferred choice.



Since the new parking area opened, BPS has been a key player in enforcing the parking regulations in the area, and public education has been a key component of ensuring motorists understand that it is illegal, when driving northbound, to cross the centreline and pull in nose first into the angled spaces.



# SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

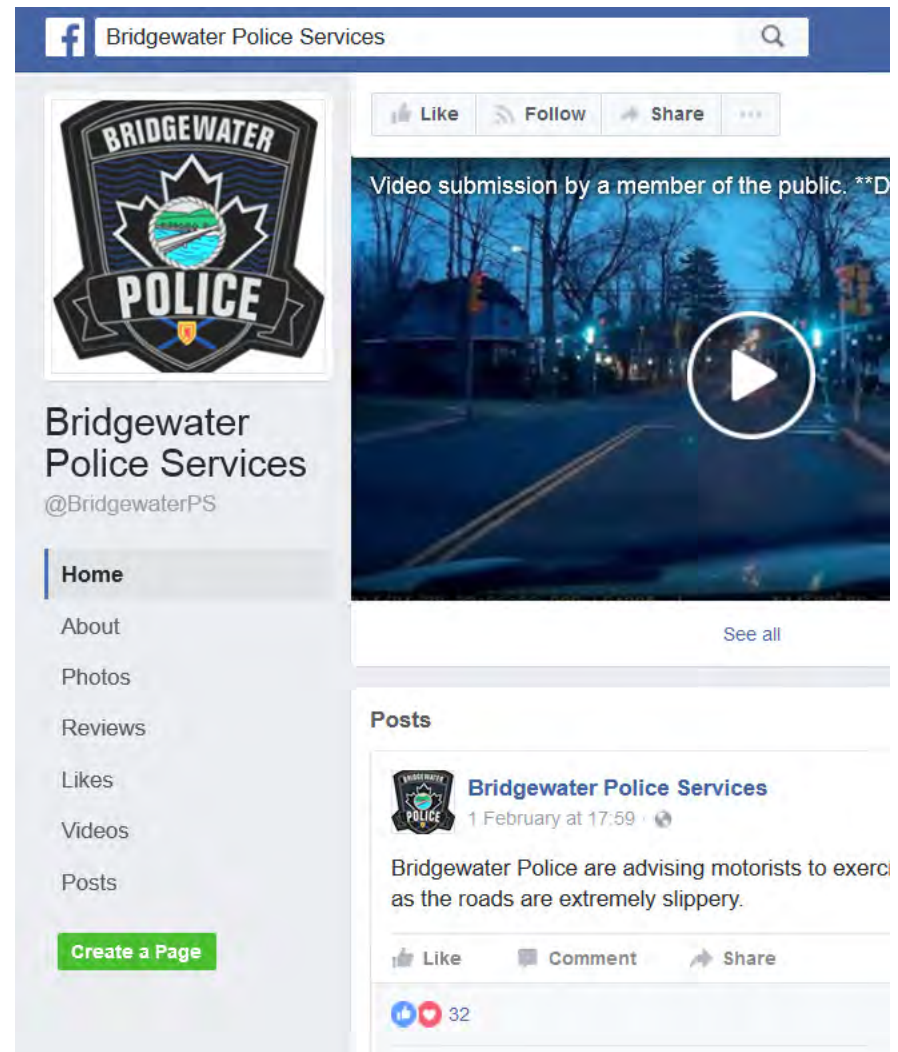
The Bridgewater Police Service has long been among the leading police forces in Nova Scotia to rely upon social media to ensure constant engagement with the broader general public.

There are three social media accounts directly linked to BPS that provide information and service updates to the community, as well as providing a platform for public feedback.

The Bridgewater Police Service Facebook (@BridgewaterPS) account has just over 5,000 followers. The Bridgewater Police Service Twitter (@policenews) feed has more than 2,800 followers, while a newly created Twitter account for Police Service Dog Davis (@BPS\_K9) has already garnered 250 followers.

BPS uses its social media platforms to provide a wide range of information, from weather- and incident-related traffic advice, to requests for information on criminal activities and warrant notices, to notes acknowledging local sponsors and community partners who work to make our town a safer place.

Over the past seven years, the BPS social media presence has included plenty of public notices and has even occasionally helped some lost canines find their way back home.



f Bridgewater Police Services

Like Follow Share

Video submission by a member of the public. \*\*D

**Bridgewater Police Services**  
@BridgewaterPS

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Create a Page

**Bridgewater Police Services**  
1 February at 17:59 · 🌐

Bridgewater Police are advising motorists to exerc as the roads are extremely slippery.

Like Comment Share

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# GIVING BACK

Once again this year, the Bridgewater Police Service members teamed up with the local RCMP detachment, EHS and Atlantic Superstore in Bridgewater to host the annual Great Haul-A-Day Foodbank Challenge.

This year, through the incredibly generous donations of the public, the event was able to raise approximately \$10,000 in food and \$1,500 in cash donations.

Santa himself even stopped by to thank our local emergency responders for their continued annual efforts to support those in need through the Great Haul-A-Day Food Bank Challenge.





# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

As much as BPS members are glad to have the opportunity to give back to the community, it's also important to note that many locally driven initiatives also assist BPS in achieving its goals.

A prime example is the generous community response and the multiple donations received in support of the purchase of the BPS K-9 Unit.

The local business community and service organizations were remarkably supportive as the BPS worked to raise \$20,000 in funds to bring in and train PSD Davis.



Among the donors were Bridgewater Pet Valu, Bridgewater & Area Lions Club, Scott Norwood Auto Repair, Michelin, MacDonald Chisholm & Trask Insurance and many others.

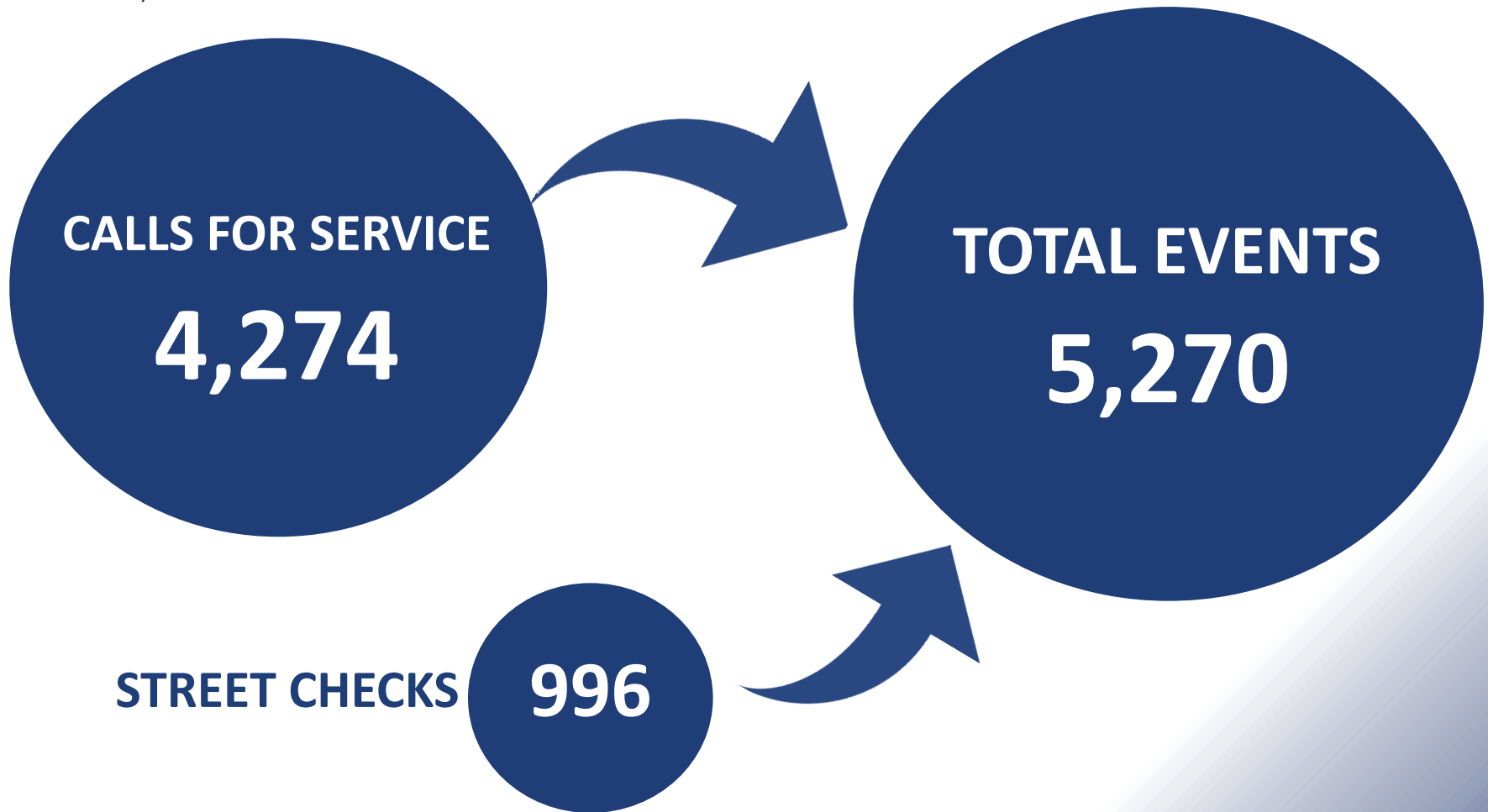
Elsewhere in the community, Bridgewater Police Service is particularly proud of its longstanding relationship with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Lunenburg County through the Kids & Kops Program.

BPS also continues its strong ties with the Community Dispute Resolution Centre, the Municipal Alcohol Project, Be The Peace ... Make A Change, Safe Communities South Shore and numerous other organizations, including:

- South Shore Safe Communities
- Mosaic Network
- Bridgewater and Area Senior Friendly Committee
- South Shore Opioid Committee
- Police Health Committee
- Bridgewater and Area Chamber of Commerce
- Schools Plus Lunenburg County School Leadership Program
- South Shore Community Justice Society

# CALLS FOR SERVICE

The graphic below represents the Bridgewater Police Service's number of calls for service, the number of street checks (self-initiated engagement) and the total number of events that took place during the 2015 calendar year. The total events figure represents only a marginal increase over the 2014 total of 5,243 events.





# BUDGET

The rising costs associated with community policing services across Nova Scotia and, indeed, all of Canada continue to be a challenge for municipalities of all sizes. Bridgewater is no exception to that trend, and careful planning must be undertaken in order to ensure that operational imperatives and service-level needs of the community are met within a fiscally responsible framework.

Each year, the Bridgewater Police Commission relays a budget to Bridgewater Town Council for inclusion in the Town's budget planning process.

The full elements of the budget proposed by the Police Commission include projected revenues and expenditures for the coming fiscal year.

The following data table, prepared by the Town of Bridgewater and included in its 2016-17 budget document, includes actual figures from 2014-15, projected for 2015-16, and budgeted numbers for 2016-17, based on level of service, as well as associated variances.



	2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017 Proposed Budget	Budget Variance POS/(NEG)	Budget % increase POS/(NEG)
	Annual Budget	Actuals	Annual Budget	Projected			
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Police Grants	311,394	293,611	295,952	301,000	299,031	3,079	1.0%
Police Fees for Services	7,000	6,790	6,500	6,000	6,500	0	0.0%
Own Sources - Policing	10,000	7,456	12,000	10,247	10,500	-1,500	-12.5%
Fines	110,000	85,541	89,000	67,745	43,000	-46,000	-51.7%
Community Fundraising	1,000	1,655	1,500	1,500	16,500	15,000	1000.0%
Other Police Revenue	3,000	7,773	3,000	3,444	6,500	3,500	116.7%
	442,394	402,826	407,952	389,936	382,031	-25,921	-6.4%

# BUDGET

	2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017 Proposed Budget	Budget Variance POS/(NEG)	Budget % increase POS/(NEG)
	Annual Budget	Actuals	Annual Budget	Projected			
<b>EXPENSES:</b>							
Police Commission	42,500	33,350	37,500	29,000	19,000	18,500	49.3%
Administration	387,947	397,644	391,665	403,865	424,777	-33,112	-8.5%
Crime Investigation	2,659,002	2,565,457	2,643,713	2,744,843	2,766,006	-122,293	-4.6%
Training	41,200	38,058	41,200	34,400	41,200	0	0.0%
Police Station	328,063	337,444	312,149	326,163	322,863	-10,714	-3.4%
Police Automotive Services	124,500	107,499	120,300	108,132	116,258	4,042	3.4%
Detention & Custody	80,000	68,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	0	0.0%
Other							
Private Duty	8,000	5,525	6,000	8,000	6,000	0	0.0%
Clothing & Kit	40,000	35,747	30,000	30,000	35,000	-5,000	-16.7%
Senior Safety Contribution	0	3,647	4,000	4,500	6,000	-2,000	-50.0%
Telephone Services	13,000	16,014	13,000	16,000	16,000	-3,000	-23.1%
Cellular Telephone costs	11,000	9,819	11,000	11,000	11,000	0	0.0%
Internet/Network Access	2,520	2,597	2,520	2,500	2,500	20	0.8%
Computer Hardware/IT Peripherals	0	0	0	0	15,000	-15,000	
Small Equipment - Police	18,000	17,424	18,000	20,000	18,000	0	0.0%
PANS Pension Funding	15,700	15,700	0	0	0	0	
Police Operating Reserve	103,000	103,000	125,000	0	0	125,000	100.0%
Debenture Interest - Police	861	861	729	729	332	397	54.5%
Crossing Guards	25,146	24,919	25,695	27,281	22,700	2,995	11.7%
Law Enforcement	125,894	127,440	135,452	134,578	137,390	-1,938	-1.4%
	4,026,333	3,910,145	3,987,923	3,970,990	4,030,026	-42,103	-1.1%
<b>EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER REVENUE:</b>	<b>-3,583,939</b>	<b>-3,507,319</b>	<b>-3,579,971</b>	<b>-3,581,054</b>	<b>-3,647,995</b>	<b>-68,024</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>





**FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 911**

**Bridgewater Police Service**

**45 Exhibition Drive, Bridgewater, NS B4V 0A6**

**Contact Number: (902) 543-2464**

**Fax Number: (902) 543-7478**

**E-mail: [info@bridgewaterpolice.ca](mailto:info@bridgewaterpolice.ca)**



**@BridgewaterPS**



**@policenews**