

Monthly Report

Police Services

March 2023

OPERATIONAL

Arrest – Multiple charges: On February 27th, 2023 a 28-year-old Amherst man was arrested and held in custody on more than 30 charges which include multiple counts of possession of property obtained by crime, theft, break and enter, breach of an undertaking, identity fraud, fraud, theft of a credit card, mischief and other related charges. The incidents involve a ‘crime spree’ characterized by a string of thefts from vehicles and other incidents that occurred between Feb. 8 and Feb. 26, 2023. As part of the investigation, investigators executed a search warrant at a Croft Street residence. The accused, 28-year-old Bradley Hicks was remanded overnight and made an appearance in Amherst provincial court on Feb. 28, 2023. He was released on numerous conditions and is scheduled to return to court on March 20, 2023, to answer to the charges.

Fraud/Stolen Property Charges: A 24-year-old female is facing charges in relation to the possession and use of a stolen bank card. The bank card was stolen locally from a vehicle and the accused allegedly used the stolen cards in several places within town. The matter is still under investigation.

Youth Centre – Strategic Planning: On February 24th, Chief Pike, Cpl Tom Wood, Cst Michelle Harrison and Crime Prevention Coordinator Melanie Siddall attended a Strategic Planning session for the Youth Centre. The session was hosted by Lisa Gower and explored and rated the priorities for the youth centre moving forward. The session was well-attended with people representing the Cumberland Partners as well as Town Council and other town representatives.

Major Crime Unit: The Major Crime Unit continues to be busy with an assortment of responsibilities and tasks assigned to complete. As noted, MCU files are more complex in nature and require significant resources and time for investigation, but are often subject to case law and time constraints which add to the issues faced by MCU investigators. As the budget conversation approaches, part of the discussion will be some suggestions for allocating appropriate resources to ensure success.

Complaints of Thefts – Increase in Complaints: February 2023 continued with an increase in thefts, which has been the trend throughout the past year. Reports of Shoplifting in January and February 2023 were up (19 and 11 as compared to 9 and 9 in 2022). Many of these complaints have resulted in charges or action under the Protection of Property Act, as many suspects have been barred from local businesses. In February, Police opened 21 files regarding thefts from vehicles which included over 26 vehicles that were targeted. In February 2022 Police responded to 1 complaint of a theft from a vehicle. As a result of these kinds of complaints, our members have focused on patrols in residential areas during nightshifts and in some cases tracked down the use of stolen bank and credit cards to identify culprits.

Law Enforcement Torch Run/Special Olympics: On February 22nd, 2023, Chief Pike and D/Chief Hunter attended the Special Olympics Inspired Gala at the Marriot Waterfront Hotel in Halifax. Other members of the Nova Scotia Chief's of Police Association also attended to show support and celebrate Special Olympic Athletes and Volunteers with awards being presented for 2022/2021 and 2020.

OPERATIONAL STATS – FEBRUARY 2023

Occurrences:	481	Criminal Code Charges:	115
Impaired by Alcohol:	2	CDSA:	1
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	1
Traffic Tickets:	50	PPA:	0
Traffic Written Warnings:	9	Vehicle Checks:	127
Liquor Control Act:	3	Foot Patrol Hours:	43 hrs, 28 min
Bike Patrol Hours:	0	Parking Tickets:	3
Parking Warnings:	1		

TASK UPDATES

Task: Marsh Trail ATV Issues: That staff be directed to install signs, barriers and cameras along the centennial walking trail, and further that Council approves funding for such.

Update: Cameras have been installed by Public works/IT. Will have to prepare ATV Safety messaging

Status: In Progress

Task: Noise By-law changes

Update. To discuss with CAO on how we will proceed.

Status: In Progress

Task: Taxi By-law - Suggested changes to current bylaw

Update: 2023-03-13
Amendments made and sent to CAO for review. Likely will go to March 2023 COW. DDPike.

Status: In Progress