



# Sarnia Police Service Board

Open Meeting  
Thursday, December 12, 2024  
11:00 a.m.

[Join Virtual Meeting](#)



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1. Welcome		Chair
2. Land Acknowledgement		Chair
3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest		Chair
4. Approval of Agenda	Approval	Chair
5. Minutes 5.1 November 7, 2024	Approval	Chair
6. Report from City Council (Verbal)	Information	Chair
7. Monthly Operation Update	Information	Chief
8. 2025 Meeting Schedule	Approval	Board Secretary
9. Board Member Recognition	Information	Chair
10. Open Forum		All
11. Closed Meeting Report (Verbal)	Information	Chair
12. Adjourn to Closed Session	Approval	Chair
13. Report from Closed Session (Verbal)	Information	Chair
14. Adjournment 14.1 Next Regular Public Meeting: Thursday, January 23, 2025	Approval	Chair



# SARNIA POLICE SERVICES BOARD

OPEN MINUTES  
9:00 a.m. - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024  
COMMUNITY ROOM, SARNIA POLICE SERVICES

**Board Members Present:** Paul Wiersma, Kelly Ash (Video Conference), Councillor George Vandenberg, Charlene Sebastian (Video Conference)

**Administration Present:** Chief of Police D. Davis, Deputy Chief M. Van Sickle, Inspector L. Murphy, C. Dam, Director of Financial Services and Joan Knight as Board Secretary.

**Absent:** Board Member C. McRoberts and Deputy Chief R. Hansen

## 1. Welcome

Chair Paul Wiersma opened the meeting.

## 2. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land on which the Sarnia Police Service operates is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.

Chair Wiersma acknowledged the loss earlier in the week of Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, National Indigenous Veterans Day on November 8, and Remembrance Day on November 11.

## Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

## 3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Vic-Chair K Ash, seconded by Board Member G. Vandenberg, and **carried:**

***That the Agenda as presented, be adopted.***

#### 4. Minutes

Moved by Vic-Chair K Ash, seconded by Board Member G. Vandenberg, and **carried:**

***That the Minutes of September 26, 2024, be adopted.***

#### 5. 2025 OAPSB Membership Fee

A report from Chair P. Wiersma, dated November 7, 2024, with regard to Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB) membership.

Chair Wiersma advised that the Sarnia Police Service Board is a member of the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB) and the benefits of the membership including education, expertise, and advocacy, he explained the increase of 31% and the need for greater contributions.

Moved by Board Member G. Vandenberg, seconded by Vice-Chair K. Ash, and **carried:**

***That the Sarnia Police Service Board renew its membership in the OAPSB for 2025.***

#### 6. 2025 Budget Update (Verbal)

Chair Wiersma advised that he and Chief Davis had met with the Mayor Bradley to discuss the Sarnia Police Service budget and that budget sessions were planned November 12 and 14, 2024 to discuss the budget with Council Members, he also provided the dates the SPS budget was being considered by Sarnia City Council.

#### 7. Monthly Operation Update

A report from Chief D. Davis, dated November 7, 2024, regarding the monthly operational update was provided.

Deputy Chief M. Van Sickle highlighted some of the events of the month giving updates on break-ins, continuing investigations, impaired driving, MCAT team substantial drug trafficking arrest and provided stats on money and drugs confiscated.

Deputy Chief M. Van Sickle recognized Rebounds 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary stating that members of SPS had participated in the Rebound event Run for Front Line.

Board Member G. Vandenberg recognized Barry Symington a retired SPS officer who started Rebound 40 years ago.

Deputy Chief M. Van Sickle gave a reminder of Cops for Cans to be held November 16, 2024, when cruisers will be filled with donated can goods with Board Members participating as well.

## **8. 2024 Q3 Financial Update**

A report from Chief D. Davis, dated November 7, 2024, regarding the 2024 Q3 Financial Update – Operating Budget was provided.

C. Dam, Director of Financial Services spoke to this report explaining the current budget to September 30, 2024, projecting net expenditures to show an overall shortfall of approximately \$160,000, although this could change at year end, she advised inflation with maintenance costs, licensing for software costs are contributing factors to the deficit.

Chief Davis spoke to the budget advising historically many areas of the budget have been underbudgeted and inflation has left the SPS behind in many areas, he advised there will be a continuation to raise budget amounts in years to come as to not impact the taxpayer.

## **9. Crime Stoppers Presentation Board Chair - Sean Robbins**

Chief D. Davis introduced Jeff Stoke, Vice President and Sean Robbins, President of Crime Stoppers.

Sean Robbins gave a Power Point presentation advising that they strive to educate the Public, secondly, they encourage people to bring anonymous tips.

An overview of Crime Stoppers was provided, they advised they are a Volunteer Board with two (2) paid part time coordinators, stating that the coordinators have a police background, generally retired officers. Crime Stoppers works with Sarnia Police Service, OPP, and Border Service.

They spoke to programs for seniors in fraud prevention, information brochures, attendance at events for fund raising, the use of community partners for funding and the encouragement of the public to bring forward tips, he stated the highest level of tips come with regard to drugs.

Chief Davis thanked them for their support, advising they are an independent agency and very much supported by law enforcement.

Chair Wiersma thanked them for their presentation.

**10. Open Forum**

No matters were brought forward.

**11. Closed Meeting Report (Verbal)**

Chair Wiersma advised that the Sarnia Police Service Board will retire to their Closed Meeting to discuss Human Resources Update, SPA Negotiations, Leave of Absence Request, Budget Consultations, Board Member Remuneration Update, Contract Policing and Chief Appraisal Process

**12. Adjourn to Closed Meeting**

Moved by Board Member G. Vandenberg, seconded by Vice-Chair K. Ash, and **carried:**

***That the Sarnia Police Service Board adjourn to their Closed Meeting.***

**13. Report of the Closed Meeting**

***That the Sarnia Police Service Board conduct a performance appraisal for the Chief of Police for the period January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024 using the process outlined in the November 7, 2024, report.***

**14. Adjournment**

Moved by Board Member C. Sebastian, seconded by Board Member G. Vandenberg, and **carried:**

***That the Sarnia Police Service Board adjourn to their next Open meeting to be held December 12, 2024.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair



# SARNIA POLICE SERVICE

## Open Agenda Information Report

**To:** Chair and Police Service Board Members

**From:** Chief Derek Davis

**Subject:** Monthly Operational Update

**Date:** December 12, 2024

**Report #:** 24-12-007-0

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### SUMMARY:

The Sarnia Police Service is committed to continuously improving the level of service and safety we provide to our communities. While the police are traditionally responsible for incident response, by working with community partners in each of the prevention, risk intervention and social development pillars, a coordinated response can be implemented.

This report is a snapshot of operational and member accomplishments and is not an exhaustive account of the achievements of the Sarnia Police Service.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derek Davis".

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Derek Davis  
Chief of Police

:RH/MV/LM

## **OPERATIONS DIVISION**

### **1. Arrest Made in Robbery and Vehicle Theft Investigations– SA24028546**

Sarnia Police have made significant progress in two related investigations, resulting in the apprehension of a suspect involved in serious criminal activities.

#### **Incident 1: Robbery on Lansdowne Avenue:**

On October 25, 2024, at approximately 10:35 PM, two victims were inside a detached garage on Lansdowne Avenue in Sarnia when two males forced their way in. Both suspects were wearing disguises—one armed with a "Glock-style" handgun and the other with a machete.

The suspects stole personal belongings, including phones, clothing, computers and tools, before fleeing the scene on bicycles.

One suspect, identified as **Daniel Plain**, became "Wanted" for numerous charges.

#### **Incident 2: Vehicle Theft and Arrest in Corunna:**

On November 16, 2024, Constable Johnson responded to a report of a stolen 2023 Grey Ford Ranger – Tremor Edition. Using surveillance footage, a distinct description of the suspect was obtained. Constable Johnson then used the Ford Pass App and located the vehicle in Corunna and conducted surveillance.

Later that morning, officers observed a male matching the suspect's description exiting a nearby residence. The male was arrested and identified as Daniel Plain, linking him to both incidents.

These investigations showcase the collective determination and resourcefulness of our officers. The efforts of Constable Johnson and all involved led to the apprehension of a dangerous individual and the recovery of stolen property.

### **2. Sarnia Police Investigating Industrial Break and Enter**

The Sarnia Police Service is currently investigating a high-value industrial break and enter that occurred on October 29, 2024, at approximately 3:50 AM, on Scott Road.

Thieves gained access to the industrial property by ramming the locked main gates with the rear of a flatbed truck, causing significant damage to the business. Once inside, the suspects attached a Lincoln Welder, valued at \$50,000, to the truck and towed it away from the scene.

On October 30, 2024, police located the suspected vehicle used in the theft—a 2004 Ford commercial flatbed truck—in a remote area of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation community. The vehicle had been stolen from a business on London Line prior to the break-in and was found burned and abandoned, indicating deliberate attempts to destroy evidence.

This break and enter is one of several recent thefts targeting industrial properties in the area that have been highlighted in past months' Operational Updates where high-value equipment

has been stolen. Sarnia Police are actively investigating potential links between these incidents and working to identify the individuals responsible.

### **3. Community Crime Unit Solves Multiple Shoplifting Cases – Accused “Wanted” by Multiple Police Services**

The Sarnia Police Service is pleased to announce the resolution of multiple shoplifting investigations, thanks to the diligent efforts of the Community Crime Unit (CCU). The accused, David Drake, has been charged in connection with seven separate shoplifting incidents, resulting in seven charges of Theft Under \$5,000 and three charges of Disguise with Intent.

Drake was also “Wanted” by London Police, Lambton OPP, Essex OPP, Windsor Police, and Chatham-Kent Police in connection with similar offenses in their jurisdictions.

Drake targeted retail establishments across Sarnia, using disguises to conceal his identity while committing thefts. The CCU, with the assistance of the loss prevention officers, conducted a thorough investigation, linking Drake to all seven incidents through video analysis.

The Community Crime Unit is a unique and innovative team within the Sarnia Police Service, consisting of one experienced police officer partnered with a group of college students. These students provide valuable support to investigations while gaining hands-on experience. The CCU focuses on property crimes, thefts, and community-related offenses, utilizing a proactive approach that involves building relationships with local businesses and identifying repeat offenders. Their work is instrumental in addressing crimes that directly impact the safety and well-being of the community.

These investigations highlight the exceptional dedication and resourcefulness of our Community Crime Unit. This case demonstrates the value of collaboration—not only within the unit but also with other police services across the region.

DRAKE has been released from custody with a very interesting bail condition: he is prohibited from entering any LCBO or Home Depot store anywhere in the country.

### **4. Sarnia Police Investigate Assault on Bylaw Officer**

On October 30, 2024, at approximately 9:00 AM, City Bylaw officers, accompanied by WINMAR personnel, were at Rainbow Park in Sarnia. The team was repairing fence holes along the rail line at the rear of the park.

As part of the work, items needed to be moved to allow for repairs. During this process, an individual became disruptive, repeatedly moving property back into the area being cleared. The situation escalated when the individual, unprovoked, physically shoved one of the Bylaw officers.

The incident was witnessed by multiple bystanders, confirming the unprovoked assault. Fortunately, the Bylaw officer was not injured.



The accused, identified as Crystal Heimbecker, 39 years old, of Sarnia, was arrested and charged with Assault. She was released on an Undertaking with conditions, including a prohibition from attending Rainbow Park.

## **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION:**

### **1. Investigation Results in Firearms and Ammunition Seizure**

On Wednesday October 30th 2024, the Major Case Action Team (MCAT) concluded an investigation that resulted in the arrest of a Sarnia resident and the seizure of two firearms, ammunition and a ballistic vest that had an old Sarnia Police Crest sewn on the front of it.

At about 6:00 PM, the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and MCAT conducted a high-risk traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of Russell Street and Durand Street in the city of Sarnia where the male driver was arrested for unauthorized possession of a weapon.

A search warrant was subsequently executed at a home on Devonshire Road where the following items were seized a loaded .380 calibre Taurus handgun, holster, black tactical vest with an old Sarnia Police Service Crest sewn on it, a 22 calibre Cooney rifle and 34 rounds of various ammunition.

A 46-year-old man from of Sarnia was charged with 15 firearms related offences.



## 2. Sarnia Man Arrested for Breaching Bail Conditions and an Arrest Warrant Issued for his Surety

On October 17th 2024, a 38-years-old man from Sarnia was released from custody at the Ontario Court of Justice on a Judicial Release Order stemming from previous property crimes and failing to comply with a release order. This man was released to a surety and was bound by conditions to reside with the surety and remain in the residence with the surety between 11pm and 6am.

Several hours after his release, a compliance check was conducted by the SPS Offender Management Task Force at the address provided by the surety. Police discovered that the male accused was not living at this address and that the surety had moved out in November 2023. An arrest warrant was obtained for the accused male for two counts of failing to comply with a release order.

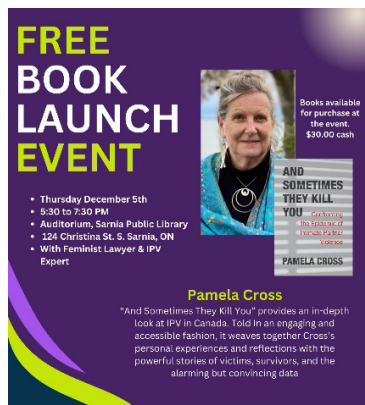
On October 25th 2024, police observed the accused and arrested him on the outstanding warrant. During the arrest, the accused attempted to flee on a bicycle and kicked a police vehicle door, which struck one of the arresting officers. The accused was additionally charged with assaulting a peace officer and resisting arrest. He was held for a bail hearing and remains in-custody.

Police have also obtained an arrest warrant for the surety for the offence of obstructing justice.

## 3. Intimate Partner Violence Awareness Month

Through the month of November, the Sarnia Police Service worked collaboratively with the Women's Interval Home and The Centre to share information to the public to educate the community on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) and its impact on the community. This included participating in a video recorded interview for The Centre's "Talk About it Tuesday" as well as supporting related events.

<https://www.thesarniajournal.ca/talk-about-it-tuesday/talk-about-it-tuesday-s04e07-ipv-awareness-month-with-sps-9757972>



 Sarnia Lambton Co-ordinating Committee on Violence Against Women  
for more information:  
ccvawsarnialambton@gmail.com



Presented in collaboration with the following agencies:  
       

#### **4. Former Sarnia basketball Coach Arrested on Additional Historical Sexual Offences Against Children**

In the fall of this year, the Sarnia Police Service entered into two separate historical sexual assault investigations with offences dating back to the late 1980's and early 1990's. During this time, the offender was in a position of authority as a youth basketball coach within the community.

As a result of additional victims being identified, the 59-year-old offender was arrested on November 8, 2024, with the assistance of the RCMP, and now faces the following additional charges:

- Sexual Interference (7 counts)
- Invitation to Sexual Touching (3 counts)
- Sexual Assault (1 count)

Following the arrest, the offender was brought before a Sarnia court, via virtual proceedings, and subsequently released with conditions in BC. This investigation is ongoing and it's believed there are more victims yet to come forward.

#### **5. Sarnia Police Service Executes High-Risk Search Warrant, Makes Arrests in Abduction and Firearms Case**

On November 8, 2024, the Sarnia Police Service received a report of an abduction that occurred in the area of Kathleen Avenue and Walnut Avenue. Officers from the Operations Division responded quickly, locating the victim and beginning a coordinated investigation.

Through investigation, members of the Criminal Investigation Division determined that the victim had been taken by force to a nearby apartment complex, where they were restrained, assaulted, and threatened with a handgun. Acting on this information, the Criminal Investigations Division prepared and obtained a search warrant.

On November 9, 2024, members of the Emergency Response Team, Operations Division, and Criminal Investigations Division executed a high-risk search warrant at the apartment complex. During the search, Police Service Dog Vader discovered a quantity of illegal drugs, leading to additional charges.

As a result of this investigation, three people from Sarnia were arrested and charged with a multitude of offences including kidnapping, robbery and assault with a weapon.

#### **6. Arrests made at Sarnia Remembrance Day Ceremony**

On November 11, 2024 the Royal Canadian Legion hosted the annual Remembrance Day ceremony at Veteran's Park in the City of Sarnia. During this ceremony, registered organizations and individuals were invited to lay wreaths at the cenotaph in remembrance of those who served. These purchased green wreaths are part of the fundraising done by the Legion to host these events. This also ensures all wreaths are respectful and uniform in their appearance.

As part of the ceremony, wreath bearers marched to the cenotaph along the parade route. Once at Veteran's Park, they formed a line to have their names called and lay their wreaths. Several individuals, who were not part of the procession, inserted themselves into the wreath laying line. They were wearing clothing affiliated with an outlaw motorcycle gang (OMG) and carrying a black wreath in their club colors.

Legion representatives spoke to these individuals, who had not registered to participate. The Legion asked them to leave but they refused. Police were then asked to intervene. These individuals subsequently refused police requests to leave, through the loud use of foul and abusive language, disrupting the solemnity of the Remembrance Day ceremony. Police quickly moved them to the roadway where their disruptive behavior continued. As a result, it was necessary for the officers to arrest a 64-year old male and a 46-year-old female for causing a disturbance.

## **7. Continuing MCAT Drug Investigation Results in Large Cash Seizure**

As part of an ongoing investigation into a 63-year-old Sarnia woman, members of the Major Case Action Team (MCAT) identified a storage locker on Devine Street that was associated with her.

On October 31, 2024 MCAT executed a search warrant on this storage locker where they located and seized \$132,039 in Canadian currency and \$143.00 in US currency which is believed to be proceeds of drug trafficking. On November 21, 2024, CAMPBELL was charged with an additional count of possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000.00.



## **8. Arrest made in Kathleen Avenue Sexual Assault**

On November 26, 2024 at 8:37 am, the Sarnia Police were called to the 300 block of Kathleen Avenue for a Break and Enter call that had occurred several hours earlier that morning.

At approximately 3:00 am, a male had made entry into a residence where the female occupant was asleep. She woke to a naked male standing beside her bed, holding a knife. A struggle ensued where the victim caused the male to drop the knife and flee the residence. The victim was sexually assaulted but did not require medical attention.

Given the high-risk circumstances of this incident, the Sarnia police Service issued a Public Safety Advisory along with video of a person of interest to be identified.

Through investigation, the person responsible was identified as a 26 year-old-male from Sarnia. At the time of this offence, the male was subject to a Recognizance of Bail (with an outstanding arrest warrant) in London Ontario. On November 28, 2024, the male was arrested and held for bail, being charged with: Sexual Assault with a Weapon, Break Enter and Commit Indictable Offence, Possession of a Weapon for a Dangerous Purpose and two counts of Breach of Recognizance.

## **9. Early Morning Stabbing Leaves One Man Dead and a Suspect in Custody**

On Sunday December 1, 2024 at 4:59 AM, police responded to a 911 call at residence on Queen Street south of Talfourd Street in Sarnia for a report of a stabbing. Upon arrival, police located a deceased adult male and took a second individual into custody.

Members of the Criminal Investigations Division continued to investigate this stabbing and have determined that during the early morning hours, two residents of a rooming house at 194 Queen Street in Sarnia were involved in a physical altercation while in the kitchen. During the altercation, one resident accessed a knife and stabbed the other multiple times, killing him. A 36-year-old male from Sarnia has been charged with second degree murder.

## **10. Cops for Cans 2024**

On November 16, 2024, the Sarnia Police Service hosted the thirteenth annual Cops for Cans fundraiser for the Inn of the Good Shepherd. This event is organized each year by Staff Sgt. McCabe and supported by volunteers from the Sarnia Police Service.

This year, sworn officers, special constables, auxiliary unit volunteers, civilian staff, and many of their children earning school volunteer hours were present to accept non-perishable food donations and interact with the community.

Teams were set up at four locations throughout Sarnia: The Real Canadian Superstore, Kyle's No Frills, Walmart Supercentre, and Brights Grove Foodland. Volunteers and staff from the Inn of the Good Shepherd were also present with vehicles for collections.

Media releases and social media promotions were shared ahead of the event encouraging community members to donate. Posts were also shared to social media throughout the day of event.

This year's Cops for Cans total was 13,678 pounds of food, an increase of approximately 2,000 pounds from our 2023 totals.







# Sarnia Police Services Board

555 Christina Street North, Sarnia, ON N7T 7X6

Chair: Paul Wiersma, pwiersma@bell.net

Secretary: Joan Knight, spsbsecretary@gmail.com

Date: December 12, 2024  
To: Sarnia Police Service Board  
From: Joan Knight, Secretary  
Sarnia Police Service Board  
Subject: 2025 Police Service Board Meeting Dates

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Suggested 2025 meeting dates for the Sarnia Police Service Board are set forth below for your consideration:

- January 23
- February 27
- March 27
- April 24
- May 22
- June 26
- July - at the call of the Chair
- August - at the call of the Chair
- September 25
- October 23
- November – at the call of the Chair
- December 11

*Joan Knight*