



***OTTAWA POLICE
DEPARTMENT***

Annual Report

2008



From the Desk of Chief Brian L. Zeilmann

I am very pleased to present to the citizens of the City of Ottawa this annual report outlining the accomplishments and visions of the Ottawa Police Department.

At the completion of every year, the Chief of Police has traditionally presented the Mayor of the City of Ottawa with an annual report containing a list of accomplishments. This has always been a very generalized list, usually containing nothing more than basic departmental statistics in areas such as arrests, calls for service and prisoner numbers. These limited statistics are then presented to the citizens of this city at a regular meeting of the City Council.

As important as statistics are, they only tell part of a story. In the creation of this new report, it is my intent to expand on the statistics and provide an annual, comprehensive, public look into the Ottawa Police Department and the duties we perform.

With this report, I have provided valuable information about crime trends within the City of Ottawa as well as some performance based statistics and an in depth look at the Ottawa Police Department itself.

This is a long document, but it's also the first of its kind for the Ottawa Police Department. This first annual report's purpose is as much about familiarizing the public with the services that are available as it is about our duties and past accomplishments. That said, there may be a lot of information here that may not be included in the years to follow.

I understand very clearly that if the citizens of this community are not provided with factual information about their police department and the function it performs, they are then left to draw their own conclusions. It is my sincere hope that, through this annual open look into your police department and the duties we perform, you, the citizens of the City of Ottawa can be as proud as I am of the men and women that provide you with valuable and necessary law enforcement services.

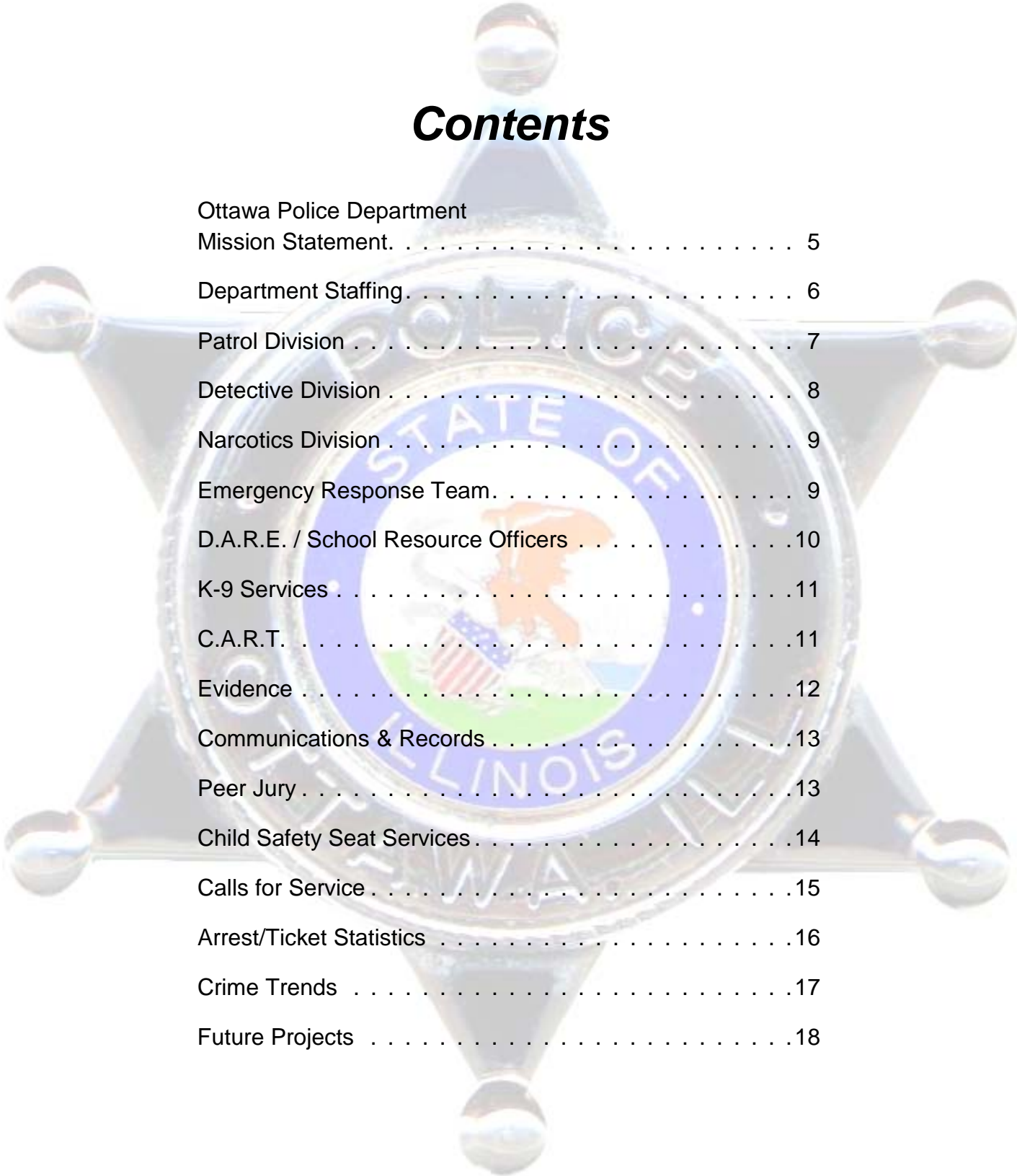


Chief Brian L. Zeilmann

**Brian L. Zeilmann
Chief of Police**



Contents



Ottawa Police Department Mission Statement.	5
Department Staffing.	6
Patrol Division	7
Detective Division	8
Narcotics Division	9
Emergency Response Team.	9
D.A.R.E. / School Resource Officers	10
K-9 Services	11
C.A.R.T.	11
Evidence	12
Communications & Records	13
Peer Jury	13
Child Safety Seat Services	14
Calls for Service	15
Arrest/Ticket Statistics	16
Crime Trends	17
Future Projects	18



Ottawa Police Department

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Ottawa Police Department:

To provide law enforcement services with integrity and dedication.

To preserve life, property, and the individual rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

To work in partnership with citizen groups and the community as a whole to enhance the quality of life in the City of Ottawa.

To prevent the commission of criminal acts when possible and to fully investigate crimes when they occur and apprehend the criminal offenders.

To earn the respect of the citizens of Ottawa and all individuals by maintaining a professional, knowledgeable and well-trained police force which is recognized for its fairness, tolerance and equality in the discharge of its law enforcement duties.

Department Staffing

Sworn Personnel	
Administration	
Chief of Police	1
Captains	2
Patrol	
Sergeants	5
Corporals	3
Patrol Officers	16
Investigations	
Sergeants	1
Corporals	1
Detectives	2
Narcotics Agents	2
School Resource Officers	3
Total Sworn Personnel	36

Civilian Personnel	
Administration	
Communications & Records Manager	1
Communications	
Telecommunicators	8
Records	
Records Clerk	1
Parking & Evidence	
Parking Enforcement/ Evidence Custodian	1
Total Civilian Personnel	11

Notable Personnel Changes	
New Hires	
Officer Marc Hoster	
Officer Wesley Pender	
Officer Matthew DeVries	
Officer Brandon Rick	
Retirements	
Captain Paul Pitstick	
K-9 Thor	

Administrative Personnel
Chief of Police – Brian L. Zeilmann
Operations Capt. - Brent Roalson
Supt Service Capt. – Mike Kessinger
Comm/Rec Manager – Diana Stiles

Promotions
Captain Brent Roalson
Corporal Jeff Bangert
Corporal Scott Cruz
Corporal Darrin Schmitz
Corporal Louis Riva

Patrol

The Ottawa Police Patrol Division is comprised of four shifts. With the exception of one, each shift has one Sergeant, one Corporal and four Patrol Officers. The fourth shift is comprised of two Sergeants and four Patrol Officers. This is a result of a recent change in the departmental rank structure and will eventually (through attrition) balance out to one Sergeant and one Corporal on the shift, like the others. The patrol shifts are twelve hours in length. This allows for two shifts to be scheduled to work each day while two shifts are on days off.



Unlike larger agencies with more resources, the Ottawa Police patrol shifts are not split into smaller units that address different tasks such as traffic control, burglar patrol or domestic violence response. All Ottawa Police Officers working the patrol shifts handle and address all types of calls for service except those which, due to the nature of the incident, would be referred by the patrol officer taking the initial report to the Detectives or the

Narcotics Division. This in mind, patrol officers do handle many investigations without having to forward them to other divisions within the department.

A Police Department Patrol Division is regarded as the backbone of the department. They are the first on the scene and the ones usually running towards the trouble as it is occurring. On the front lines, the patrol officers also develop leads on crimes that later provides assistance to Detectives or Narcotics Agents in getting their jobs done.

Much of a Patrol Officer's duties are reactive in nature, which is to say they are responding to calls for help, likely involving crimes that have already occurred. Some of these include the responses in 2008 to 556 reported domestic disturbances, the 577 calls regarding suspicious persons, and responses to 816 reported traffic accidents.

Many of the duties performed by patrol officers are also proactive, which is to say the officers are out actively looking for crimes to be committed in their presence such as traffic offenses or larger crimes such as burglaries committed by suspects "caught in the act" by officers on burglar patrol.



All things considered, there is no way to assess the number of crimes that have been thwarted by the mere presence of Ottawa Police Patrol Officers on the streets, or the number of lives saved through the successful enforcement of traffic laws.

What is clear is the fact that the Ottawa Police Patrol Division stays very busy, as is evident by the nearly 20,000 calls for service handled and over 6,000 arrests or tickets issued in 2008.

Detective Division

The Ottawa Police Department Detective Division handles general criminal investigations that are usually too complex or lengthy to be handled by officers in the Patrol Division. It is one of the most respected Police Detective divisions in LaSalle County. This is primarily due to the success rate of the division in solving the crimes forwarded to the division.

Numerous changes in personnel were made to the Detective Division at the beginning of 2008. These changes, primarily in positions of rank within the unit, were not possible until a change was made in the department's rank structure that allowed for officers holding rank to be part of the unit.

Following the necessary changes, the division is once again lead by seasoned detectives who are able to provide proper training and leadership to newer, younger detectives.

Once the "upgrades" to the Detective Division were complete, the Detectives in the Division hit the ground running. This was evident in the rate of successful closures of cases being handled.

These successful closures included numerous cases of residential and commercial burglaries, robberies, sex crimes and other various reported criminal acts.



Justin Sparlin

One of the most notable of these cases spanned not only municipal lines, as cases often do, but went international.

When Ottawa Police Detectives first started the investigation into the reported sexual assault of a minor, the suspect, Justin Sparlin fled. Before it was all over, the investigation had spanned from Ottawa to Germany, where Sparlin was eventually captured, and back to Austin Texas. Numerous agencies outside of Ottawa became involved in the investigation including the Chicago Police Department, the FBI, the US Secret Service, the US Army and the Dallas (Texas) Police Department. This investigation resulted in such a manhunt that even the popular television program "America's Most Wanted" highlighted the Sparlin investigation.

Another case worth noting involved several rather brazen residential burglaries committed during the late night hours while the victims slept in their homes. These burglaries took place during the latter half of 2007.

In early 2008, through efforts combined with those of the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office, a suspect, Craig Whitney, was identified and arrested. Whitney was tried in reference to several of the burglaries that he was accused of and eventually sentenced to 12 years in prison.

All totaled for 2008, the Ottawa Police Detective Division handled 30% more cases than in the previous year and had a successful case closure rate of approximately 85%, with 66% of all cases investigated ending in arrests. These do not include the arrests resulting from the solving of other jurisdiction's cases which came about as a byproduct of investigating our own.

Narcotics Division

During 2008, the two Ottawa Police Narcotics Agents were divided with one working out of the Ottawa Police Department Detectives Division and the other working with the District 17 LaSalle Drug Task Force. Although they worked several cases on their own, the two officers did work in cooperation on many drug related cases, focusing their attention solely on Ottawa.

The most notable of these cases involved a number of undercover drug purchases from employees and patrons of a local west side tavern and a lengthy undercover investigation into the activities of an organized group of accused drug dealers called "Da Hittaz". Both of these cases started as intense undercover operations in 2007, spearheaded by Ottawa's assignee to the Drug Task Force, and culminated in 2008 with numerous arrests and prison sentences.

By the time this annual report was completed, most citizens of this city will have already heard that the Ottawa Police Department has removed itself from the District 17 LaSalle Drug Task Force (at the beginning of 2009). The officer removed from the Task Force was brought back to Ottawa and a full Narcotics Division was started, focusing all of the time of both officers on the City of Ottawa. When looking at the statistical information for 2008 drug crime arrests, hopefully, most people will understand why.

In 2008, drug crime arrests made by the Ottawa Police Department increased by 22.8%. Since these arrests do not include arrests made in relation to Drug Task Force cases, they can be largely attributed to the Narcotics Agent working directly out of the Ottawa Police Department, focusing all of his time on Ottawa cases. With this kind of increased productivity from one officer, the Ottawa Police Department holds high expectations for 2009 and the productivity of its two-officer Narcotics Division.



Emergency Response Team (ERT)



Early in 2008, the decision was made to create a special tactics team that would first be used to do the high risk building entries often associated with drug related search warrants. As the planning progressed, ten officers (nine are shown) were carefully chosen based largely on physical fitness levels, weapons proficiency and other specialized tactical training.

By the summer of 2008, the ERT had already received specialized training in "Tactical Warrant Service" and by the fall had attended forty hours of training in "Basic SWAT" (Special Weapons and Tactics). The team has continued its

training since the Basic SWAT class and continues to maintain a required level of physical fitness of its members.

In addition to the tactical training of the ERT as a whole, several individual members of the team have secured specialized certifications. The team currently has three officers certified in Ballistic Shield Deployment, one officer certified as a Diversionary Device Instructor and one who is a black-belt in the martial arts and also certified as a Pressure Point Control Tactics Instructor.

The ERT continues to train for “worse case scenarios” such as hostage or armed, barricaded suspect situations but is used on a regular basis for narcotic and criminal based search warrant entries.



Although a relatively new team, by the end of 2008, the ERT had already been called into action four times for the purpose of entering and securing residences while executing search warrants.

DARE, School Resource Officers

The Ottawa Police Department currently has three School Resource Officers (SRO's). One of these officers also instructs in the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) programs. Two of the SRO's are assigned to the Ottawa Township High School while the third is assigned primarily to the Shepherd Middle School, but provides DARE and GREAT training to students at other schools throughout the city.

SRO's are full time law enforcement officers whose primary purpose is to keep the peace in their schools so students can learn. They also act as advisors who provide guidance to students about law enforcement questions, as resource links to support services both inside and outside of the school environment, and, in limited cases, as teachers who provide schools with an additional resource in the law related education classroom. Most importantly, SRO's are positive role models, offering a positive link between law enforcement officers and young people that might otherwise have limited existence.

As stated earlier, one of the duties of the SRO is to provide instruction in the DARE and GREAT programs. In 2008 over 750 students in 5th, 6th and 7th grades received instruction in these programs. These programs are offered to students in both public and parochial elementary schools in Ottawa.

Although SRO's provide a number of advisory and instructional services to the schools they are assigned to, they are sworn law enforcement officers and arrests are periodically made (or tickets issued) in the schools. These are usually for minor



offenses such as truancy or possession of smoking materials but sometimes include more serious offenses such as battery, or even some felony charges.

Cases such as these bring to light another benefit of having SRO's in the schools, the reduction of calls for service requiring response by patrol officers. Issues that might normally require a patrol officer to respond to the school are now handled from within by the SRO's. This allows patrol officers to focus on other calls for service or self initiated activities.

K-9 Services

For a number of years now, the Ottawa Police Department has maintained two K-9s to provide law enforcement K-9 services to the City of Ottawa. These services are two very different operations with one being drug detection and the other being tracking.



By the end of 2008 the K-9 drug detection services have been temporarily halted due to the promotion of the K-9 handler, Brent Roalson, to an administrative position within the department. Captain Roalson's partner, K-9 Thor, has had several successful drug finds over his career but a determination has recently been made, due to his age, that it would not be cost effective to retrain Thor and a new handler.

The K-9 used specifically for tracking is a 4-year-old bloodhound (Nugget) handled by Officer Dave Hollowell. Nugget has been with the department for approximately three years and has had several successful finds of missing persons as well as fleeing suspects. Since tracking bloodhounds are not as prominent in law enforcement as narcotics detection dogs, Officer Hollowell and Nugget are commonly called outside of Ottawa to assist other agencies with tracking needs.

During 2008, Officer Hollowell and Nugget were called to track suspects from 9 commercial burglaries, 2 residential burglaries, 3 motor vehicle burglaries, 1 robbery and 1 armed robbery. They were also called to assist in locating 3 missing adults and 4 missing juveniles. Many of these calls for help came from four agencies other than the Ottawa Police Department.

Child Abduction Response Team

When a child is abducted, time is the most valuable commodity a police department has. Grim statistics reveal that abducted children are often murdered within the first few hours following the abduction. Good investigative techniques can reduce the possibility of this worst-case outcome but establishing the foundation for such an investigation can use valuable time. The establishment of a Child Abduction Response Team (CART) pre-assembles this investigative foundation.

In 2008, the Ottawa Police Department established the first CART in the county. This team was developed after officers attended specialized training that addressed abducted and missing children.

The CART team is comprised of members from several separate divisions within the Ottawa Police Department such as patrol, investigations and communications, as well as several members of the community representing local schools and the LaSalle County States Attorney's Office. Each team member has a specific function that is meant to quickly gather as much information as possible and to put critical processes into effect without the possibility of creating confusion or overlapping duties. Pre-established lists of volunteers have been developed to allow for the quick call for assistance in completing particular team functions such as searches.

A command center equipped with computers and telephones has been established in the basement of the Ottawa Police Department. This will allow for a fast collection and processing of important information during an investigation.

Hopefully the CART team will remain the most unused service the Ottawa Police Department has to offer. But should the need arise, the Ottawa Police Department, assisted by numerous citizen volunteers, will be prepared to address this most important, time sensitive task.

Ottawa Police Property Division

Twenty years ago, evidence seized and maintained by the Ottawa Police Department for the purpose of the successful prosecution of criminal cases was all kept in one room approximately 10'x14' in size. Since laws affecting the retention of evidence have changed over the years, there are now four separate locations within the Ottawa Police Department where evidence is secured. One of these evidence rooms is maintained solely by the Detective Division of the department while the other three are general purpose evidence rooms.

In years past, several officers would be assigned to the position of evidence officer at any one time as these officers would perform the duties of an evidence custodian only as their other duties and call volume would allow. As years passed and evidence handling became more of a science, this multi-officer approach to evidence handling clearly became a process that needed to be changed.

Late in 2007, a specially trained civilian with a pre-established record of trustworthiness with the Ottawa Police Department, former telecommunicator Melinda Christensen, was assigned to the position of Ottawa Police Department Evidence Custodian. Early in 2008, upon the completion of her evidence training, evidence custodian duties were removed from all other personnel and the evidence room locks were changed, assuring Melinda had sole access.



Melinda now has more training dedicated specifically to evidence handling than any one officer. Her sole control and access to the general evidence storage locations assists in maintaining the highest level of integrity of evidence held by the Ottawa Police Department. Furthermore, she has advanced the professionalism of the evidence retention process by developing an evidence packaging manual, a property and evidence procedure manual and by establishing annual evidence room inventories.

Communications & Records

Many improvements were made to the Ottawa Police Department Communications and Records Divisions during 2008 that build on the professionalism of the department as a whole.



The Communications Division of the department consists of eight Telecommunicators (TC's) who have received special training in police, fire, and EMS dispatching as well as 911 and other emergency call response including the ability to provide pre-arrival instructions to aid callers in providing critical assistance to victims prior to EMS arrival.

Some of the notable changes made within the Communications Division include; the mandating of all TC's to receive the PSTC certification in order to better serve the community; new written policies and procedures have been adopted where none existed before; and finally, to improve the visual appearance of professionalism, new uniform standards have been established for all TC's.

Changes made to the Records Division of the department were aimed at streamlining the accessibility of reports to the public. This was partially accomplished by making the Freedom of Information Request for Records form available online at the Ottawa Police Department's website. The Ottawa Police Department has also partnered with TracView Report Delivery Solutions to make accident reports available online.

Peer Jury

The Ottawa Police Department Peer Jury program is a program intended to deal with mostly non-violent juvenile offenders who are new to the justice system. Rather than referring these offenders into an already overcrowded juvenile court system and giving them a lifetime record within that system, they are referred to the Peer Jury where they will appear before a jury of their peers, sometimes their own classmates, and take responsibility for their actions.

Once in front of the jury of their peers, these offenders, who as a condition of their participation in this program have already admitted their guilt, are given a variety of sentences. Some of these sentences may include any one or combination of the following:

- Payment of restitution to the victim(s) of the crime committed
- Community service work
- Written apologies to parents and/or the victim(s)

- The imposing of curfews
- The ordering of written essays about the impact of their crime

After sentences are imposed, follow-ups verify that they are successfully completed. If not completed, the juvenile risks having his/her case forwarded into the juvenile court system.

In 2008 the Ottawa Peer Jury held 23 court dates during which they heard 85 total cases. The cases referred to the peer jury included the following charges:

26	Disorderly Conduct
20	Curfew
13	Criminal Damage to Property
10	Unlawful Possession/Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor
7	Retail Theft
5	Unlawful Possession of Smoking Materials by a Minor
4	Battery
3	Traffic Offenses
2	Minor Drug Offenses

(Some juveniles were charged with multiple offenses)

These cases involved 58 males and 27 females of which the average age was 14 years. A total of 1738 hours of community service were ordered, averaging to 20.4 hours per case. Restitution amounts totaling \$662.42 were also ordered in relation to these cases.

The Ottawa Police Department Peer Jury Program has been in place since October, 2000.

Child Safety Seat Services

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, approximately 73% of Child Safety Seats are inappropriately installed in vehicles.

Since 2005 the Ottawa Police Department has offered two specially trained officers, Officer Brenden Donahue and Corporal Louis Riva, who can provide valuable advice on the appropriateness of child safety seat installations. These officers received more than forty hours each of specialized training in child safety seat installation and inspection with mandatory yearly updates

The services offered by the Ottawa Police Department and these officers are free and available on an appointment basis. The Ottawa Police Department has also partnered with local businesses to offer annual child safety seat inspection days during which these officers are available all day long to provide their services to the public.

The services offered include inspection of the child's safety seat, providing demonstration and advice on the seat installation, and the provision of other valuable information about child safety seats. These services were provided during 2008 with more than 100 child safety seats having been inspected or installed during the year.

Calls for Service

Calls for service are dispatched and/or logged by the Ottawa Police Department Telecommunicators. They are a means by which everything that Ottawa Police Officers do in their official capacity is recorded for future reference.

Currently, the Ottawa Police Department keeps record of 138 different classifications of police related calls for service. These classifications can include calls for help received by Telecommunicators and dispatched to officers, or self initiated activities of the officers. They can include everything from a log of the number of barking dog calls dispatched to the number of traffic stops called in by officers.

In 2008, the Ottawa Police Department logged 19,692 police related calls for service. Listed below are a few of the 138 calls for service classifications that accounted for just over half of the total number of calls for service in 2008. Also included is a five-year comparison of these same thirteen classifications.

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Accident-Traffic	816	858	760	770	743
Alarm-Burglary	436	422	466	372	380
Animal Call	573	572	533	534	513
Check Well Being	417	481	359	337	278
Disturbance	384	482	444	393	346
Domestic Disturbance	542	597	521	521	505
Follow Up Investigation	617	787	704	676	412
Motorist Assist	386	380	437	352	325
Other Detail	678	792	754	779	723
Out with Subject	381	366	386	255	
Suspicious Person	577	615	556	709	610
Theft	572	727	665	656	541
Traffic Stop	3617	3788	3619	3033	2013
TOTALS	9996	10867	10204	9387	7389
Other Calls For Service	9696	10350	9965	10443	10051
TOTAL ANNUAL CFS	19692	21217	20169	19830	17440

The "Other Detail" classification is a generic call for service classification used to record any calls for service that do not fit into one of the other 137 classifications. The "Out with Subject" classification is used to log an instance of an officer getting out with a subject on the street to conduct a field or street interview. This classification is partially highlighted as it was not added until March of 2005.

Arrest/Ticket Statistics

Arrest and Ticket Statistics are broken into eleven categories. A few of these categories are not true arrests and may be administrative rather than criminal or traffic related in nature. Since these categories do generate much of the same paper required of the officer to complete, they are traditionally classified within the Arrest and Ticket statistics.

Here is a simple description of each category;

Writ Arrest – Usually a warrant-type arrest arising from a civil court process, rather than from a criminal court.

Zero Tolerance – A civil process used to address a minor who drives with any level of blood alcohol.

Warrant Arrest – Arrest on warrants can include both original arrest warrants and “failure to appear” warrants.

Juvenile Peer Jury Referrals –Referrals of juveniles to a process by which a juvenile who admits to a non-violent minor crime can be dealt with formally, yet outside of the juvenile court system.

Juvenile Felony Referral – An official referral of a juvenile to the juvenile court system regarding a felony infraction (Juveniles are not “arrested” and “charged” in the same manner as an adult).

Juvenile Misdemeanor Referral - An official referral of a juvenile to the juvenile court system regarding a misdemeanor infraction.

Warning Tickets – Unlike a standard traffic citation that includes a court and/or financial requirement, these are meant as recordable, corrective reminders to the driver.

Traffic Citations - Issued for traffic infractions, they usually require a court attendance and/or fine payment.

City Ordinance Tickets - Tickets issued for violations of city ordinances rather than state or federal law.

Felony Complaints - Arrests on felony charges.

Misdemeanor Complaints – Arrests on misdemeanor charges.

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Writ Arrests	10	0	0	0	0
Zero Tolerance	12	9	4	3	5
Warrant Arrests	453	459	521	475	402
Juvenile Peer Jury Referrals	110	84	87	96	102
Juvenile Felony Referrals	14	47	58	57	39
Juvenile Misdemeanor Ref.	102	141	141	152	125
Warning Tickets	1121	1092	1525	1599	326
Traffic Citations	2623	3428	3070	2477	1809
City Ordinance Tickets	946	838	721	686	450
Felony Complaints	121	188	180	139	76
Misdemeanor Complaints	596	705	637	574	562
TOTALS	6108	6991	6944	6258	3896

Crime Trends

If crime was predictable, we would never have any. Law enforcement officers rely on strategies and tactics to prevent that which we can, and to arrest those responsible for the crime that is committed. As hard as we may work to keep crime at bay, outside influences such as hard economic times can sometimes push beyond the influences of law enforcement. This was evident in 2004 when a large increase in crime was tied directly, through investigative interviews, to the sudden influx of heroin use that hit our city that year.

This in mind, I am pleased to say, that in comparing all of the Illinois and Federal Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Data available to me (dating back to 1996), 2008 had the lowest crime rate of all of those years, down 20.5% from the previous year. I say this cautiously however, due to bleak economic future and forecast of increasing jobless rates.

Included in the table below are the Crime Index Offenses/Crime Rates data from available UCRs.

	Rate per 100,000 Population		Total Crime Index	Murder	Criminal Sexual Assault	Robbery	Agrvt. Assault/Battery	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
2008	2685.2	-20.5%	514	0	11	5	25	107	350	9	7
2007	3379.2	1.2%	644	0	5	6	38	107	472	13	3
2006	3330.9	-9.3%	627	0	10	6	25	124	441	15	6
2005	3671.6	-5.0%	686	0	7	7	20	125	500	20	7
2004	3863.7	39.3%	720	1	8	16	25	121	525	16	8
2003	2773.1	-12.6%	513	1	6	2	22	96	363	12	11
2002	3180	6.4%	584	0	2	4	29	49	467	20	13
2001	2998.9	-13.4%	549	0	1	3	20	57	450	15	3
2000	3463.2	-9.2%	634	0	8	9	16	56	527	10	8
1999	3816.7	-22.4%	688	2	3	5	10	109	539	13	7
1998	4920.7	-1.6%	887	2	18	8	19	233	571	22	14
1997	5012.8	-7.6%	901	0	27	3	113	160	548	35	15
1996	5424.5		975	0	22	5	87	208	621	28	4
AVG	3732.3		686.3	0.5	9.8	6.1	34.5	119.4	490.3	17.5	8.2

Another impressive statistic contained on the 2008 UCR report is the drug crime arrest rate. This statistic shows that drug crime arrests increased in 2008 by 22.8% over the previous year. This statistic, combined with others kept by groups such as the Illinois Valley Anti-Drug Coalition imply that the drug scene is not getting worse but that the enforcement of drug laws by the Ottawa Police Department has improved, a clear sign of the benefit of maintaining an internal narcotics unit.

Future Projects

Ottawa Police Department Narcotics Division

By the time this document is released most people will already be aware of the fact that the Ottawa Police Department has stepped away from being part of the Illinois State Police Drug Task Force. This was done for the purpose of establishing a full Narcotics Division within the Ottawa Police Department.

In 2006, the Ottawa Police Department and Illinois Valley Anti Drug Coalition received a grant of which part of the award was designated specifically for the establishment of an internal Narcotics Enforcement Officer within the Ottawa Police Department. The benefits of having this officer focusing all of his time on drug crimes in Ottawa were clear but since he was working alone, his abilities were limited.

By removing the officer assigned to the task force and reassigning him to a newly developed Ottawa Police Narcotics Division, the Ottawa Police Department not only more than doubled the abilities of the internal unit, but the limitations of a single officer unit were lifted and the focus of the second officer was changed from a three county area to the City of Ottawa.

Ottawa Police Drug K-9

With the promotion of K-9 handler Brent Roalson to the rank of Captain in October, a determination was made that due to K-9 Thor's age, it would not be cost effective to train a new handler for Thor. Furthermore a reclamation period needed for Thor to work successfully with a new trainer would place Thor near the end of the normal police K-9 use expectancy.



Because of this, the Ottawa Police Department is now researching the purchase of a new drug K-9. Unlike previous K-9s purchased by the Ottawa Police Department, the new K-9 will be what is referred to as a passive indicator. This is to say that when the dog indicates that there is a presence of illegal drugs, he will give a passive indication to the handler of his find, causing no damage or threat to the person, package, vehicle, etc. containing the drugs.

Previous K-9s purchased by the Ottawa Police Department have all been aggressive indicators. Aggressive indicating dogs will often bark, scratch and/or chew on the object that contained the illegal drugs.

Electronic Disabling Devices

Electronic disabling devices, often referred to as "stun guns", have clear benefits, both to the officer deploying the device and to the offender on the receiving end (although he may not see it that way at the time). With their place clearly established on what is referred to as the Use of Force Continuum, their sole purpose as a less-than-lethal device is to bring about a quick end to an escalating danger, with reduced risk of injury to the officer and the offender.

With all of the bad press associated with electronic disabling devices, often referred to by the general public as TASERs™ (TASER™ is the brand name of a device manufactured and offered to law enforcement by TASER International, Inc.), the Ottawa Police Department has done much research into this controversial tool.

Although numerous wrongful death suits have been filed relating to the use of these devices, there are no court findings indicating that these devices, when used properly, were the cause of these deaths. This information, although useful, is not good enough for the Ottawa Police Department to make the decision to purchase these devices.

Because of this, the Ottawa Police Department has researched a number of electronic disabling devices and is currently looking at one that has a clean record, in that the manufacturer has never been sued for, or accused of any wrongful deaths. The key features of the device are a lower voltage use and a built in medical circuit that monitors the heart rate of the suspect for any irregularities, with the ability to lower the voltage or shut itself down if any are detected. The device is available to law enforcement agencies only.



If a decision is made to purchase these devices, they will be deployed under strict policy and training guidelines. Part of the individual officer training usually includes the requirement that the officer be subject to being placed on the receiving end of one of these devices.

Outbound Telephone Crisis Notification System

In late 2008, while attending a police equipment expo, information was gathered on available systems often referred to as reverse 911 systems. The main purpose of these systems is to provide a mass notification to Ottawa residents of a threat of or pending crisis. Using one of these systems, messages containing valuable information can be transmitted to thousands of residents in a matter of minutes via land-line telephone, cellular telephone, email and text messages, and/or faxes.

The Ottawa Police Department has researched these systems and has decided to move forward with a system provided by Global Connect Strategic Voice Messaging. With some financial assistance provided by the Ottawa 911 Emergency Telephone System Board, the Police Department hopes to have this system up and operational by the end of March, 2009.