

# ABBY PD



**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**  
ABBOTSFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



# VISION

Strength In Community

# CORE VALUES

Integrity • Honour • Courage • Service

# MISSION STATEMENT

To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.

# STRATEGIC GOALS

- Suppress Gang Violence
- Increase Road Safety
- Reduce Property Crime

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Chief Constable Mike Serr



Deputy  
Chief Constable  
Brett Crosby-Jones



Deputy  
Chief Constable  
Paulette Freill



Inspector  
Jason Burrows



Inspector  
Casey Vinet



Inspector  
Tom Chesley



Inspector  
Colin Thomson

Our mission remains to make Abbotsford the safest city in BC, and in 2019 the men and women of the Abbotsford Police Department made significant strides toward making this a reality. While many communities observed increased rates of property crime, Abbotsford recorded a 10% decrease. Residential break-ins were down 30%, and break-ins to businesses were down 9%. We did, however, observe an 11% increase of break-ins to outbuildings

like sheds, garages and parkades. Addressing the root cause of these offences will be a focus for 2020.

Suppressing gang violence remained a priority for AbbyPD in 2019, and the collective effort of our staff culminated in a significant reduction in gang-related offences. Gang interdiction will continue to be a focus, and through our four pillars approach of Suppression, Prevention, Intervention and Community Engagement, we will disrupt gangs and make our community safer.

Despite our efforts to change dangerous driving behaviour, sadly, in 2019, nine people were killed in Abbotsford as the result of a motor vehicle incident. We will continue to make road safety a priority, but we

cannot do it alone. We need to hold each other accountable and practice responsible driving. One life taken is one too many, but together we can make a difference.

In 2018, we changed our slogan to “Strength in Community”, because we know we can get so much more accomplished when we work together. As a department, we also know that during challenging times, having the support of an entire community gives strength and drives us to be better every day. You should be very proud of the men and women of the Abbotsford Police Department who are committed to serving this community. Thank you to everyone in Abbotsford who wants to be part of the solution and work with us to make Abbotsford a safer place to live, work and play.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As Chair of the Abbotsford Police Board, I am pleased to present the 2019 Annual Report to our community. This report highlights the initiatives and overall results of the past year.

Our Abbotsford Police Department is committed to building a strong and safe community. They know this community and are responding with innovative solutions that target our needs - from gang violence and drug overdoses to property crime and road safety.

With the vision of "Strength in Community", the AbbyPD also focuses on building strong partnerships throughout our community. They visit our schools and community groups, hold the Abbotsford Police City Basketball

Tournament, participate in Cops for Cancer and the Law Enforcement Run for Special Olympics - just to name a few of their activities.

Critical to the efforts of the AbbyPD is the role that each of us needs to play in fighting crime. This can mean knowing our neighbours, mentoring youth, living out important values for our children, and responding to key safety messages - whether it's remembering to always lock our car, driving safely, or reporting signs of gang involvement. We are all part of the solution in building a safe community.

We can be very proud to have our own local police operating in our community for 25 years.

On behalf of the Abbotsford Police Board, I want to express appreciation for the daily work of our dedicated police department - both sworn officers and civilian staff. Their commitment to integrity, honour, courage and service will move us forward as we strive to become the safest city in BC.



Mayor Henry Braun



Yvon Dandurand



Mark Warkentin



Barb Schimnowsky



Amaninder (Aman) Gill



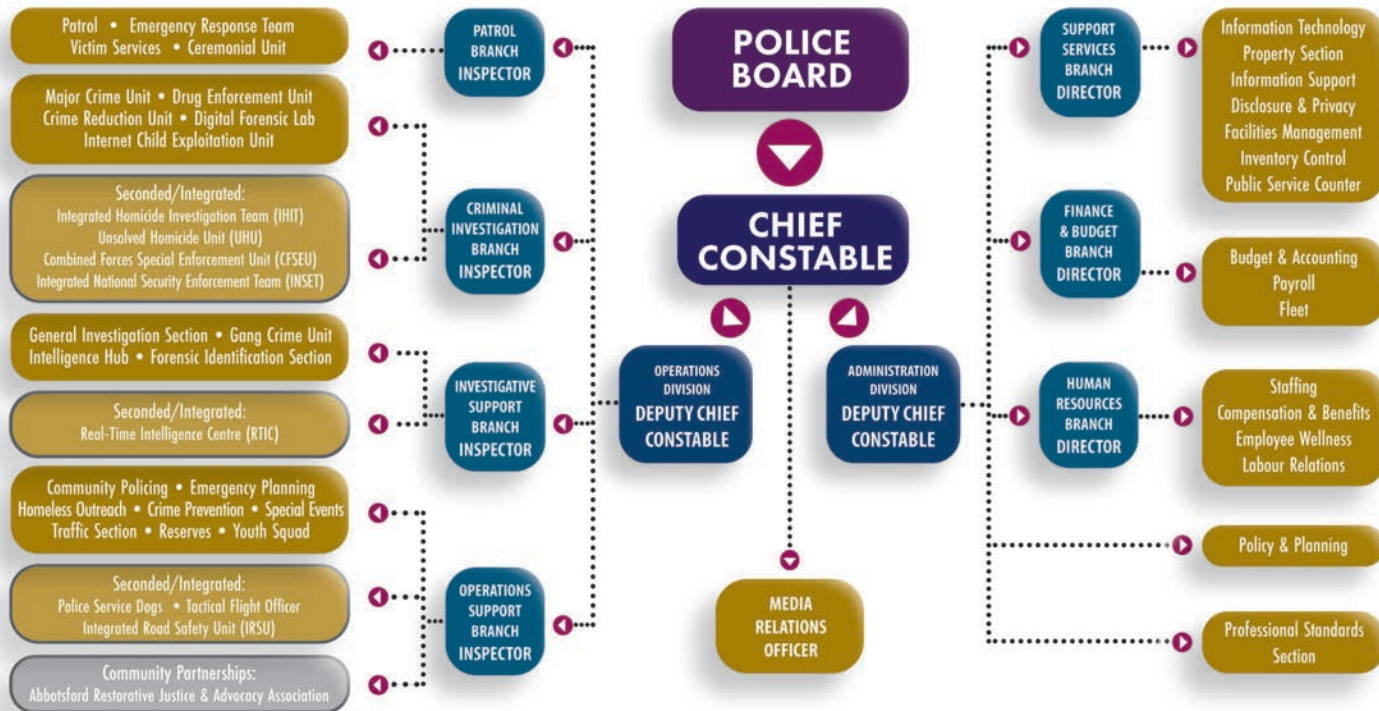
Chris Dominato



Mike Welle


# STRUCTURE

# ORGANIZATIONAL



# 2019 STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

## PROPERTY CRIME

**10%**  
DECREASE  
IN PROPERTY  
CRIME

TOP 9 PROLIFIC PROPERTY  
OFFENDERS ARRESTED  
**35 TIMES**  
AND CHARGED WITH  
113 OFFENCES



## ROAD SAFETY

INCREASED  
VIOLATION  
STOPS  
BY 3,400



MORE OFFICERS  
TRAINED IN RADAR AND LASER USE



INCREASED  
TRAFFIC  
ENFORCEMENT  
UNIT BY ONE  
OFFICER

MORE OFFICERS  
TRAINED TO  
RECOGNIZE  
IMPAIRED DRIVING



## SUPPRESSING GANG VIOLENCE

INCREASED ENGAGEMENT  
WITH AT-RISK YOUTH



**ZERO** GANG-RELATED  
HOMICIDES

INCREASED GANG CRIME UNIT BY ONE OFFICER

## VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

IMPLEMENTATION OF  
**HOMELESS  
OUTREACH  
COORDINATOR**





# OPERATIONS DIVISION



The Operations Division is responsible for meeting the yearly strategic enforcement goals of our department. Each branch has a different mandate with varied levels of resourcing, expertise and equipment. What each branch has though, is a common goal - making Abbotsford the safest city in BC. In 2019 the Operations Division focused once again on combating gang crime, increasing road safety and reducing property crime. We are very proud to report that in 2019 those goals were exceeded. Highlights from 2019 include





# OPERATIONS DIVISION

no gang-related homicides (down from five in 2018) and intelligence-led traffic enforcement efforts resulting in nearly double the traffic-related stops over the prior year. Residential break and

enters decreased by 30%, and Abbotsford is the only Fraser Valley community to see an overall decrease in property crime (10% over 2018).

## ROAD SAFETY

Fatal Collisions:

2019	9	0%
2018	9	

Roadside Drug/Alcohol Prohibitions Issued and Criminal Impaired Charges:

2019	569	+30%
2018	437	

Speeding Violations:

2019	2,967	+151%
2018	1,184	

Distracted Driving Violations:

2019	232	+81%
2018	128	

Other Traffic Violations:

2019	4,401	+51%
2018	2,906	



# ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

Personnel assigned to the Administrative Division work tirelessly in the background to ensure AbbyPD runs efficiently and smoothly. Our administrative staff consistently demonstrate a high level of professionalism and care.

In 2019, our Records Section adapted their workflow and schedule to accommodate the new 365-day-per year bail hearing program. The Information Technology Section was kept busy with a domain change and migration to Windows 10, and the Property Section launched an online recovered property program for our public website and social media platforms. Finance kept the numbers balanced, and Human Resources hired 14 new staff (and introduced us to our new therapy dog Jake!).

The Training Section taught our officers new defensive techniques, fair and impartial policing, and arranged for our staff to attend nearly 600 courses, conferences and workshops over the year. Our media relations team continues to find new and innovative ways to engage the public and keep them apprised of AbbyPD activities.

## PERSONNEL at a glance

December 31, 2019



Sworn Positions: **221**

Civilian Positions: **80**  
*includes full time and part time*

Volunteers: **169**

Reserve Constables: **16**

New Hires - Recruit Constables: **5**

New Hires - Experienced Constables: **4**



# COMMUNITY



# SWORN SPOTLIGHT: PATROL

The Patrol Branch is made up of more than 100 police officers who responded to over 37,000 calls for service in 2019. Patrol officers are closely supported by Operational Support Officers, members of the

Emergency Response Team, and AbbyPD's Victim Services Unit. Victim Services supports people in need of assistance while navigating difficult life experiences related to criminal events.

In addition to providing the initial response and investigation to in-progress or recent events, Patrol Officers engage in proactive projects through foot patrols and the targeted enforcement of property, gang, and drug offences. In 2019, Patrol made significant strides in improving road safety by significantly increasing their number of interactions with traffic offenders.

Patrol regularly deploys plainclothes members who are responsible for actively pursuing wanted suspects. They regularly focus their attention on known offenders and high-crime areas identified by the AbbyPD Intelligence Unit. One especially effective plainclothes unit was responsible for making 154 warrant arrests, writing 54 reports to Crown Counsel and seizing countless weapons (including firearms).

Patrol is committed to fostering positive relationships with many of our community's vulnerable and marginalized populations, working in conjunction with community supports and services as needed.



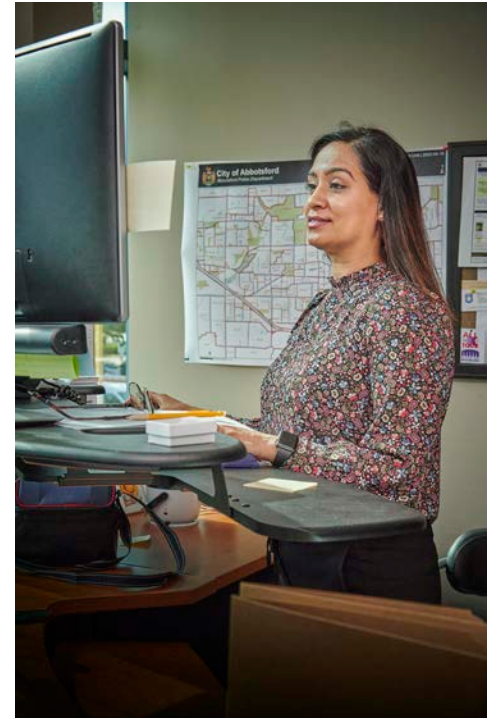
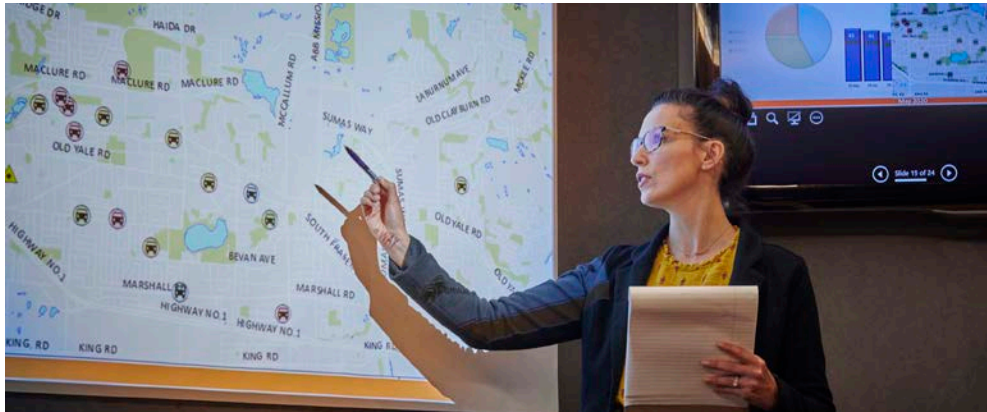


# CIVILIAN SPOTLIGHT: CRIME ANALYSIS

The Crime Analysis Unit is a four-person team operating within the AbbyPD Intelligence Unit. The primary function of a Crime Analyst is to monitor and report on crime trends, ensure that intelligence is disseminated in a timely manner, and to assist officers with ongoing complex investigations.

In the fall of 2019, one of AbbyPD's Analysts became aware of a stolen guitar amplifier valued

at \$2,200 at a local pawn shop. Using police databases, the Analyst was able to determine the amplifier was stolen during a recent residential break and enter. This information was shared with investigators which led them to identifying a suspect. It was determined that the suspect was also involved in numerous other break and enters; a parallel investigation resulted in the arrest of this person. The amplifier was returned to its grateful owner.









# VOLUNTEERS

The volunteers in the Victim Services Unit help to lessen the distress felt by the victims of crime or trauma, and work to prevent re-victimization. In 2019, Victim Service advocates opened 1,473 files and attended 85 crisis calls.

The unit's new initiative, The Forensic Support Team (in conjunction with the Abbotsford Regional Hospital), has completed its second full year; the team assisted 17 times during forensic sexual assault examinations, offering comfort and conversation to victims.

Overall, our volunteers provided 26,400 hours of their time to the community. We had an excellent turnout to our first "Need to Talk" event held at Sevenoaks Mall and enjoyed surprising an entire school bus of children attending summer camp with stuffed animals donated to us by PetSmart. We extend our thanks to the Fraser Valley Modern Quilt Guild, which donates stuffed animals and quilts for us to provide to victims of trauma and violence.







We are also very fortunate to have over 130 active and dedicated volunteers based out of the AbbyPD Community Policing Office (CPO). Over 19,000 hours were donated to programs such as Citizen's Patrol, Road Safety Speed Watch, Lock Out Auto Crime, Block Watch and the Reserve Constable Program. You will also see our friendly volunteer faces at our CPO front counter and a variety of community events.

Citizen's Patrol volunteers patrol the community seven days a week, observing and reporting suspicious activity. The Road Safety Team educates both drivers and pedestrians on speeding, distracted driving and pedestrian awareness. Our volunteers are deployed in neighbourhoods and high-crash locations to monitor and record drivers' speeds and distracted driving habits. We're especially proud to announce that the AbbyPD Road Safety Team won ICBC's 2019 'Speed Watch Challenge', beating out all other community teams in the province.



# STATISTICS

2019

VIOLENT CRIME COMPARISON

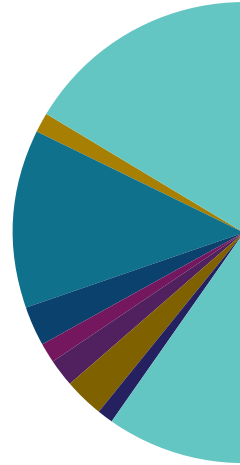
Violent Crimes • Population

Langley	2,163	• 158,642
Mission	872	• 43,202
Chilliwack	3,098	• 94,534
Abbotsford	1,756	• 158,457



## FINANCIAL

\$41,149,110	Salaries
\$772,033	Training/Conferences/Memberships
\$6,622,048	Supplies/Contract Services
\$1,434,413	Administrative Costs
\$565,899	Uniforms and Equipment
\$942,546	E-Comm Equipment Lease
\$1,058,437	Vehicle Operating Costs
\$298,973	Police Buildings
<b>\$52,843,459</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>



## FILES FORWARDED TO CROWN FOR CHARGE APPROVAL

Files	2019	1,561
	2018	1,655

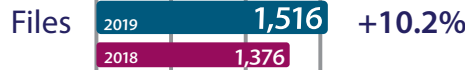
-5.7%



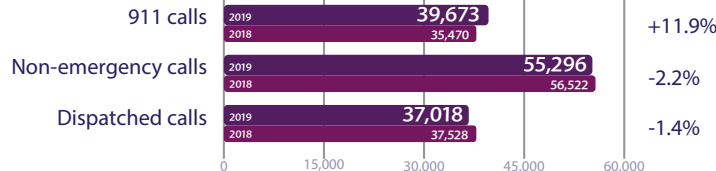
## NUMBER OF PERSONS LOGGED IN CELLS



## MENTAL HEALTH FILES



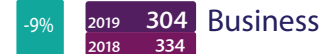
## CALL VOLUME



## PROPERTY CRIME



## BREAK & ENTER



# RECOGNITION

Each year, the Abbotsford Police Department recognizes those employees who go above and beyond the call in the execution of their duties – by either putting themselves at great risk for the sake of others, exhibiting the highest standards of conduct or humanitarianism, or otherwise demonstrating exemplary work performance. The following individuals have been recognized for their achievements in 2019.

## Police Honours Night

### Meritorious Service

While off duty, Detective (now Sergeant) Alex Wood traversed 76 metres (250 feet) down a steep embankment to render first aid to an injured motorcyclist.

Detective Constable Jodie Christie was recognized for her exemplary work and outstanding contribution to the Unsolved Homicide Unit.

## Commendations

### Chief Constable's Commendation

Constable Phil Sawastsky

### Inspector's Commendation

Constable Kevin Small  
Constable Mary Boonstra  
Constable Daryl Young  
Constable Jason Baskin  
Constable Deanna Dixon  
Constable Josh Parihar  
Constable Nathan Perrey  
Constable Matt Hagen  
Operational Support Officer Natalie Verdicchio



## Police Exemplary Service Award

### 30 Years

Inspector Tom Chesley  
Staff Sergeant Mike Novakowski  
Constable Tom Wheatley

### 20 Years

Inspector Jason Burrows  
Sergeant Don Coghill



## Police Officer of the Year: Constable Daryl Young

Constable Daryl Young joined AbbyPD in 2006. He is recognized by his peers for his exceptional commitment to the mental health and wellbeing of our extended AbbyPD family – both employees and the families of those who work at the department. Among his many achievements, he helped launch the AbbyPD Peer Support Team, and has organized numerous activities and campaigns to assist those in need. He spends countless hours of his own time developing initiatives to keep AbbyPD connected and healthy. Constable Young's devotion to his work and the compassionate care he extends to his colleagues cannot be understated.



AbbyPD 2019  
Police Officer of the Year

## Civilian Employee of the Year: Mrs. Sarah Waterhouse

Since joining AbbyPD in 2004, Mrs. Sarah Waterhouse has worked in a variety of positions, and is currently our Manager, Records Information. Mrs. Waterhouse has always displayed the utmost concern for the well-being of AbbyPD employees. She is a dedicated member of our Peer Support Team, and continually goes above and beyond to encourage, reassure and lift up her co-workers. She has courageously shared her personal experiences and journey to wellness with her colleagues, and publicly in support of Bell "Let's Talk". Mrs. Waterhouse is a true leader, and an embodiment of AbbyPD's core values of integrity, honour, courage and service.



AbbyPD 2019  
Civilian Employee of the Year



*Strength in Community*



# ABBOTSFORD POLICE FOUNDATION

The Abbotsford Police Foundation (APF) is a registered charity that supports the Abbotsford Police Department by funding initiatives and specialized equipment not covered by their annual budget. The Foundation's board of directors are community leaders who volunteer their time in support of this worthwhile cause.

2020 marks the APF's 15th anniversary and in acknowledgement of this milestone, it created a commemorative calendar showcasing the many AbbyPD initiatives and projects it is proud to fund. Guided by the motto 'Together for a Safer Abbotsford' - Building Positive Relationships &

Connecting Police with Community are at the core of what the APF does. In 2019 the Foundation connected at the following:

- 5th Annual Crime is Toast – Breakfast with the Chief
- Abbotsford Agrifair
- AbbyPD City Basketball Tournament
- Pet Lover's Show
- Sevenoaks Santa Parade where PSD 1093 Karma drew a crowd posing for photos

The APF only funds AbbyPD programs and initiatives, with ideas coming directly from AbbyPD members.

THANK YOU! Donations from local businesses and individuals are what make the APF's work possible. Without your generosity, the APF would not have the capacity to support AbbyPD initiatives.

To find out more about the APF and how you can help, or to donate, visit us online at [www.abbypf.ca](http://www.abbypf.ca).





