

COMMUNITY FIRST



BRANDON POLICE SERVICE

2023 Annual Report

MEET *THE* BOARD



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As 2023 comes to a close, work continues on the new Detention Unit, with both the Board and the Brandon Police Service anxiously awaiting its completion in early 2024.

Brandon Police Service continues to provide exceptional service to the City of Brandon. The Community Cadet Program, initiated in 2023, has proven to be extremely successful and the hope is to expand the program in the coming years.

This year saw the retirement of Chief Wayne Balcaen. We thank him for his many years of service and wish him all the best as he takes on new challenges. The process of hiring a new Chief of Police is underway, with Deputy Chief Randy Lewis graciously stepping into the role of Acting Chief in the interim.

The Brandon Police Board appreciates the open dialogue between the Board and City Council, which allows for both groups to come together and discuss issues facing the Brandon Police Service and the City of Brandon as a whole.

As always, the Brandon Police Board will continue to do what is in the best interest of the Brandon Police Service and the citizens of Brandon.

Debra Arpin
Chair of the Brandon Police Board

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



I am pleased to present the 2023 annual report for the Brandon Police Service. With the retirement of Chief Balcaen in June, I was provided the honor of filling the role of Acting Chief of Police while the Brandon Police Board works toward hiring the next Chief of Police for the Brandon Police Service.

The past year has seen some exciting programs launched, as well as amazing results in regards to criminal investigations and special projects.

Efforts were made to increase our presence in the Brandon downtown with the opening of a satellite office in the Town Centre. The Community Policing Unit, along with members of the newly formed Community Cadet program were moved to this space, which allowed for our staff to connect with business owners, customers and citizens who call downtown home.

An additional police officer position was added to the Community Policing Unit in 2023, with a special focus on downtown safety and liaising with business owners.

The Brandon Community Cadet program was launched in 2023. The Police Service and Brandon Police Association both recognized the benefit of hiring civilian members to take on some of the tasks officers deal with that are better suited to be handled by highly trained civilian employees. Four Brandon Community Cadets hit the streets in July and immediately had a positive impact for the citizens of our downtown core, as well as for our officers. It gives me special pride to share that two of our Community Cadets have now been hired as Brandon Police Officers and will begin their police training in 2024. With plans to expand the Community Cadet program in 2024, we are excited to see how it continues to grow!

The addition of the permanent Detention Unit to our existing Police Service Headquarters was in full swing in 2023. Operating our existing cell facilities while accommodating the construction of the new build has not been without several logistical challenges. Fortunately, our BPS staff, Canadian Core of Commissionaires who provide guard services, City of Brandon Engineering staff and the contractor have worked together to overcome these obstacles and this project continues to forge ahead.

Our front line police officers and investigators handled an unprecedented number of serious incidents in 2023, including an unfortunate record high six homicides. While these demands stretched resources thin, our staff continued to step up to provide the professional response for which BPS is known for.

In this annual report, you will read about successful joint projects we ran with our partner police agencies in the province. As shown in Project Belittle, we continued to focus our efforts on high level drug traffickers rather than those plagued by addiction. With Project Block, an effort was made to combat sexual exploitation in our city by targeting those who procure sexual services.

While I am pleased with these initiatives and projects, I am most proud of the men and women who work with such dedication and compassion. With the rising numbers and increasing complexity of investigations, a higher demand is put upon our civilian staff who all play such an integral role in the successful operation of the Police Service.

Our uniformed men and women provide policing 24 hours a day, every day of the year, and in doing so, often put themselves in harm's way to protect the citizens of Brandon. The tireless dedication of each and every one of our employees is commendable and I thank them all very much for everything they do.

**A/Chief
Randy Lewis**



COMMUNITY CADETS

The Brandon Community Cadets officially hit the streets for the Brandon Police Service on July 4th, 2023.

A complement of four, two full-time and two part-time, they have been exceptionally well received by members of the police service, employees for the City of Brandon, the businesses in the downtown area and the community that make the core area of Brandon their home or refuge.

The cadets have also proven to be helpful for sworn members and non-sworn employees and have received positive praise since their inception.

The Community Services Section was extensively involved in the initial training for the cadets and was fundamental in establishing rapport and communication between them and the community stakeholders.

Since working independently, the cadets have been able to help the Patrol Division in numerous ways, including but not limited to: relief at the hospital, relief and control at crime scenes (where there is no threat and the suspect is known), non-suspicious sudden deaths, traffic control at accident scenes, transporting subjects to the detention unit at the police service or to the Brandon Correctional Centre, training with the Tactical Response Unit, assisting with property/exhibit burns, shadowing the Forensic Identification Unit (for purposes of fingerprinting), and Weekend Remand and Bail Hearings.

Statistically, since their inception at the beginning of July to the end of October, cadets been asked to assist 50 times. This does not include time spent assisting weekend shifts to facilitate Bail Hearings for persons in custody.





The consensus regarding the cadet program is overwhelmingly positive, with both BPS members and the public alike indicating they wish there were 'more of them'. While there have been several accolades handed out to these newly appointed police service employees, one notable highlight stems from their cool and calm demeanor from an occurrence on August 14th, 2023. In this incident, the cadets successfully resuscitated a male found unconscious and non-responsive on the sidewalk along Rosser Avenue.

While hard to quantify success, the accolades received indicate how the cadet program is beneficial from both a financial and productivity standpoint. Many kudos have been received from the public about how grateful they are for the program's

inception, something possibly best exemplified by the cadets receiving their very own personal invitation to attend the "Take Back the Night" event. In addition to this, the cadets are specifically sought out and requested for action to downtown matters by the Downtown Operational Team for issues such as checking on established encampments, attending Tidy Up Tuesday and monitoring various properties.

Comments have also been received about cadet demeanor and how they conduct themselves in an extremely professional manner. Most importantly, perhaps, is how the marginalized community in downtown Brandon often go out of their way to greet them and have seemingly welcomed them into the downtown landscape without aggression or hostility.

DETENTION UNIT BUILD UPDATE



The Brandon Police Service Detention Unit Expansion Project has made remarkable progress, staying on budget, with an anticipated occupancy date by the second quarter of 2024.

As of January 1, 2024, the project has successfully completed all foundation work and the building is now nearing complete closure, with the structural masonry complete and the hollow core roof installed.

Internally, all Detention Unit cells have been constructed and are ready for installation of the detention doors. All plumbing has been roughed-in and a significant amount of electrical work has been completed.

Following the Christmas holiday shutdown, the project will shift toward the mechanical and electrical trades.

This transition is a pivotal step for the project, as we will begin to see the operations of the facility come to life. Simultaneously, our roofing contractor will be on site completing the roofing membrane. Additionally, contractors will be working internally, completing the glazing installation and office space finishing.

Exterior site works will likely be delayed until Spring 2024, as the work is weather dependent. This will not interfere with Brandon Police Service taking occupancy of the Detention Unit cells and beginning operations as planned.

Brandon Police Service staff and stakeholders continue to work collaboratively and adapt to operational changes impacted by the construction. As we enter the next phase of development, stakeholders eagerly anticipate the successful completion of the project and to begin operating in a large, modern, efficient and safe Detention Unit facility.

DID YOU KNOW?

While excavating, crews uncovered part of the foundation of the old Wheat City Arena that had been built in 1913 and was demolished in 1970 to make way for a grocery store.

500+

yards of concrete used
in construction

9,500+

concrete blocks used
in the build

162,000

pounds of rebar used for the foundation
of the Detention Unit. Placed end to end,
that would stretch 40 kms!

78,000

gallons of rain pumped out from the
torrential rain that filled the excavation
in October 2023.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Our Vision statement says “*Community First*” and our Mission Statement is “*Committed to Community Safety*”. These are important statements to our members and we put that message forward through our participation in these many community events, presentations and activities.



Brandon Pride Parade



Brandon Wheat Kings Puck Drop (feat. PSD Blink)



Bad Dogs for a Good Cause

Our Community Support Section has been very busy throughout the year with a variety of events and activities within the community.

- Children's Fair (Westman Dreams for Kids)
- Touch a Truck
- Downtown Cruise Night
- Downtown Community BBQ at Stanley Park - supplying BBQ'd hot dogs, drinks and pop to the community
- Set up a booth and presented (Fraud Presentation) at Healthy Living Centre (BU) for the Elders Abuse Coalition Event
- Bike patrols and foot patrols
- Judges at the Science Fair (Healthy Living Centre)
- Walk through at the Summer Fair
- Participated in the Moose-hide Walk: To End Domestic Violence
- National Indigenous Peoples' Day (BBQ'd, setting up and dismantling of tipis)
- Walk through at the Winter Fair
- Copper Shopper
- Cram the Cruiser
- Truth and Reconciliation Week
- Took part in "Tidy up Tuesday" with our encampments (working with other resources to provide garbage pickup and assistance to our transient population/encampments)
- Worked with BFES/Fire Inspectors and other agencies dealing with unsafe buildings/housing issues
- Biked to Shilo with Wounded Warriors
- Participated in a game with the Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club
- Multiple business safety presentations/meetings with many downtown businesses and the Brandon Shoppers Mall/Paladin Security
- Numerous presentations throughout our community:
 - Fraud presentations for our Senior citizens and persons with intellectual disabilities
 - Welcome to Brandon/Safety presentations to Westman Immigrant Services



Multiple deliveries of food/water to the downtown transient population



United Way Christmas Tree Auction (donated gifts for a family in need)



Music in the Park

STAFF ALLOCATION



PROMOTIONS	PROMOTED TO	EFFECTIVE DATE
Tara Stupak	CFDA Supervisor	January 30
Dave Andrew	Staff Sergeant	November 18
Dustin Russill	Sergeant	November 18

NEW HIRES	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Chantal Worsley	CFDA	April 27
Allison Shepley	CFDA	April 27
Carson Bourgeois	BPS Recruit	May 8
Chris Clark	By-Law Officer	June 5
Sohit Maini	Experienced Police Officer	June 12
Nolan Twerdoclib	Experienced Police Officer	June 12
Brooklyn Chartrand	BPS Cadet	June 19
Abhi Patel	BPS Cadet	June 19
Alyssa Mendoza	BPS Cadet	June 19
Gabriel Yanes	BPS Cadet	June 19
Camille Anderson	CFDA	June 26
Jess Paterson	CFDA	June 26
Brittany Smitzniuk	Victim Services	October 3

RETIREMENTS	POSITION	YEARS OF SERVICE
Darren Creighton	Constable	32 years
Corinne Downey	CFDA Supervisor	19 years
Wayne Balcaen	Chief of Police	32 years
Bill Brown	Staff Sergeant	25 years

AWARDS

Cst. Klassen received the Manitoba Excellence in Law Enforcement Award from Attorney General Matthew Wiebe. As the Computer Forensic Investigator, Cst. Klassen was contacted by the FBI in Los Angeles. They were investigating a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack and had identified a suspect in Brandon.

Cst. Klassen obtained orders for information stored on servers in Montreal. Between BPS and the FBI, enough information was obtained to show that the suspect was involved with the DDoS and making money off of a subscription-based DDoS service. Targets of the attacks included schools, as well as web-based businesses and other service providers.

A search warrant was drafted and Cst. Klassen worked closely with the FBI to ensure a coordinated execution of the warrant was done in Brandon, with other locations in the USA. At the time the search warrant was executed, the suspect was actively 3D printing parts of a handgun which led to charges under the Firearms Act. This was also the first case in Manitoba where cryptocurrency was seized.



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Tipi Challenge Winners



Cst. Denis Dufault, Cst. Selena Samagalski, Cst. Moshe Linov

CRIME STATISTICS

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS	1,122
Homicide	6
Attempted Murder	1
Sexual Offences	143
Assaults and Violent Offences	732
Robbery	41
Other Violent Crimes	199
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY	3,507
Arson	22
Break & Enter	366
Theft Over \$5,000	9
Theft of Motor Vehicle	124
Theft Under \$5,000	1,386
Possession Stolen Property	117
Fraud	509
Mischief	974
TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS	83
Dangerous Operation Vehicle	22
Impaired Driving/Drive Over .08	63
CONTROLLED DRUGS	92
Possession of Drugs	46
Trafficking of Drugs	46
OTHER CRIMINAL CODES	2,124
Moral Offences (Pornography, etc.)	12
Offensive Weapons	300
Youth Criminal Justice Act	51
Other Criminal Code Offences	1,761

* Please note that the Brandon Police Service statistical totals may be subject to change to more accurately reflect our Records Management System. Enquiries regarding these changes can be directed to the Brandon Police Service.

COMPLIMENT AN OFFICER

Thank you for the kind, caring and compassionate work you did while working with a vulnerable patient that was presented to the Emergency Room. Presenting to emergency can be an overwhelming experience without the added stressors of being a vulnerable patient. As we are aware, these are difficult situations to openly discuss and when the team members are approachable it makes these situations easier for the individual and more likely to report these events.

Often in these times of shortages, within our professions, it is easy to rush patients to tell their stories but your patience with this individual was exemplary. Unfortunately, many times police officers receive negative feedback and I feel it is important to commend people for their work as well.

Thank you once again for presenting so respectfully.

In my position I work with Animal Control Officers and Police Officers all over the province and it's rare to come across an individual putting in the effort that this By-Law Officer did throughout the investigation. Throughout the investigation he conducted himself in an exemplary/professional manner BPS is fortunate to have him on the job.



Our daughter had a traffic accident, a BPS Constable was amazing with our daughter and her friends. She was very upset and in shock and he was very kind, calm and explained everything to her, on a level she could understand. **My daughter was so grateful that such a nice police man attended to her accident.** He was so great and we really appreciate his comfortable manner in a very stressful and upsetting matter with our daughter. Thank you for your kindness.

Hi, just wanted to give a shout out to two officers that came to my moms rescue. They **made a very stressful situation very calming!** Thanks for all you do to keep us all safe!

I would like to personally thank an officer. **She made me feel heard and seen.** She talked to me in a manner that a mother would speak to a child. She sat with me for the entirety of my emergency room stay, up to the time where I was triaged. I would like her to be recognized for her responsibility in helping me feel comforted during a really difficult time I was going through.

This Constable is a **very friendly, kind and cool officer.** I met him at the summer fair and not only was he incredibly nice, but also very helpful in learning the process of possibly becoming an officer!

2023 BUDGET

REVENUES	BUDGETED	ACTUAL
City of Brandon Operating Grant	\$ 11,446,000	\$ 11,446,000
Provincial Funding	\$ 14,205,000	\$ 16,599,000
Federal Funding	\$ 400,000	\$ 443,000
Tickets & Fines	\$ 474,000	\$ 406,000
User Fees	\$ 361,000	\$ 389,000
Other	\$ 11,000	\$ 50,000
Total Revenues	\$ 2,689,700	\$ 2,934,000

EXPENSES	BUDGETED	ACTUAL
Regular Salaries	\$ 15,923,000	\$15,958,000
Capital Project	\$ 7,181,000	\$ 7,181,000
Overtime	\$ 807,000	\$ 1,022,000
Reserve Appropriations: Equipment & Vehicles	\$ 844,000	\$ 2,744,000
Fleet Maintenance, Fuel, Insurance & Leases	\$ 711,000	\$ 600,000
Contract Services	\$ 778,000	\$ 766,000
Parts & Materials	\$ 268,000	\$ 260,000
Professional Development, Travel & Police Board	\$ 237,000	\$ 271,000
Benefits	\$ 131,000	\$ 131,000
Transfers from Reserve - Cadet Funding	\$ (100,000)	\$ -
Utilities	\$ 71,000	\$ 62,000
Grants & Public Relations	\$ 28,000	\$ 29,000
Equipment Purchases	\$ 20,000	\$ 149,000
Total Expenditures	\$ 26,897,000	\$ 29,173,000

2023 SURPLUS	\$161,000
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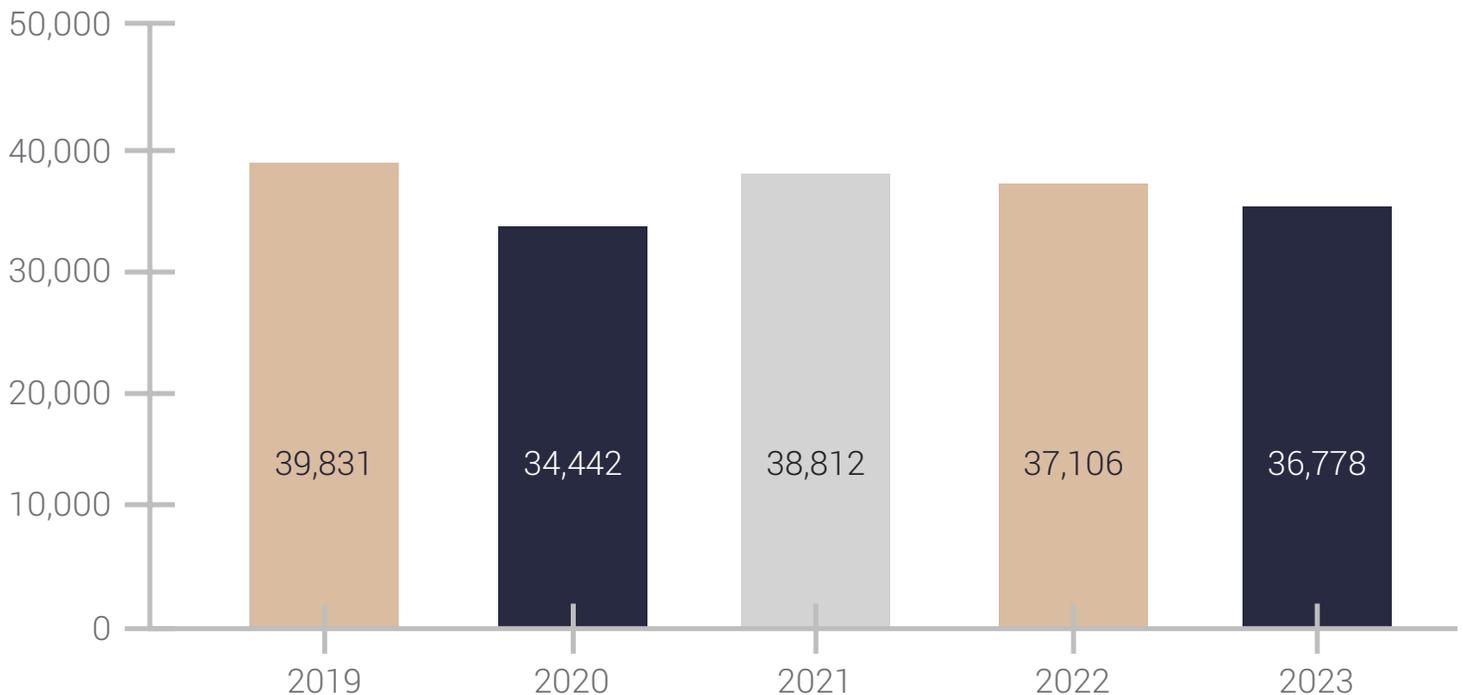
AUTHORIZED COMPLEMENT

97
Sworn

46
Civilian

The average number of calls per Sworn Officer in 2023 was **379**.

CALLS FOR SERVICE



FUNDING RECEIVED

YEAR	CPF	FPOC
2016/2017	\$ 166,503	\$ -
2017/2018	\$ 135,924	\$ 47,905
2018/2019	\$ 109,017	\$ 65,200
2019/2020	\$ 133,100	\$ 377,190
2020/2021	\$ 162,259	\$ -
2021/2022	\$ 215,862	\$ -
2022/2023	\$ 210,882	\$ -
2023/2024	\$ 184,225	\$ -

Criminal Property Forfeiture (CPF) is a process through which property and proceeds from illegal activity are seized. The proceeds from the sale of forfeited property are then distributed to victims of crime as well as law enforcement for specialized equipment and community initiatives. In addition, a separate fund is maintained for proceeds from federal offences known as Federal Proceeds of Crime (FPOC). For more information, visit gov.mb.ca/justice/commsafe/cpf



12TH ST. ARSON

Photo by Tim Smith/The Brandon Sun

On November 20th just after 3:00 A.M., BPS Patrol members responded to a business in the 100 Block of 12th St. after receiving a report that someone had broken in and the caller inside could smell smoke. The glass front door was smashed and members observed smoke inside the business.

Upon entering the smoke filled office area, members located and arrested a male suspect from within who had started several small fires in the building. Members on scene cleared the remainder of the business to ensure no civilians were inside and attempted to extinguish the fires. Other officers attended to apartments that were located above and adjacent to the building and evacuated the tenants. In total, fourteen individuals were evacuated and transported to BPS.

Within minutes of clearing the business and conducting the evacuations, the building became fully engulfed in flames. The members then conducted road closures while Brandon Fire and Emergency Services battled the blaze.

The adult male arrested on scene was charged with Break and Enter and Arson with Disregard for Human Life.

PROJECT BLOCK

Incidents of Sexual Exploitation have risen dramatically in the City of Brandon, which involves sexual services being offered at both the street level, as well as in hotels.

Because of this, the Brandon Police Service (BPS) Organized Crime Section's (OCS) organized Project BLOCK, with the primary goal of making the community safer by disrupting the sex industry.

On June 23rd and 24th 2023, BPS OCS conducted a two-day joint operation 'John Sweep' with the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) Counter Exploitation Unit (CEU) and the RCMP. Approximately 20 police officers were positioned in Brandon's known sex trade locations downtown and in hotels, assisting police with identifying sex trade workers and suspects involved.

This project was a huge success and concluded with the arrest of 21 individuals who were subsequently charged with Obtaining Sexual Services for Consideration under Section 286.1 of the Criminal Code of Canada. The suspects' vehicles were also seized under the provisions of the Highway Traffic Act, as being utilized as an instrument of crime.

If the suspect met certain criteria, they were referred to the 'Prostitution Offender Diversion Program', educating them regarding sexual exploitation. Furthermore, if police deemed the sex trade workers at risk, they were referred to social services or other community resources.

GRANDPARENT SCAM

Emergency Scams or Grandparent Scams prey on the fear of a loved one being hurt or in trouble. Scammers claim to be someone the victim knows and tells them they need money immediately.

Scenarios they may use include:

- Having drugs or firearms being located in a vehicle they were travelling in, resulting in their arrest and need for bail money
- Being in a car accident with the other party sent to the hospital, then needing bail money because they've been arrested

The scammer pretends to be their grandchild, friend or family member and requests the victim not tell others. In some cases, someone pretending to be their lawyer/ law enforcement officer directs the victims not to tell anyone and states there is a "Gag order" in place.

As a result, the victim does not find out about the scam until after money has been provided. When they finally contact their relatives, they realize that they never were in jail or had an emergency situation.

In February 2023, eight citizens of Brandon fell victim to this, "The Grandparent Scam". Over \$60,000 was taken from these unwitting victims.

In response, members of the Major Crime Section entered into a lengthy investigation and provided assistance to The Winnipeg Police Service Financial Crime Section and the RCMP. Several Production Orders and video review led to the identification of a courier working for the fraudsters. As of January 30, 2024, 12 Warrants of Arrest have been issued for this suspect, however, no funds have been recovered.

PROJECT BELITTLE

Members of the Brandon Police Service Organized Crime Section entered into an investigation dubbed Project Belittle which ran from March of 2023 to October of 2023.



Project Belittle led to the identification and collection of evidence against a drug trafficking organization involved in the distribution of kilogram levels of Cocaine in the City of Brandon and surrounding communities. The leader of the drug trafficking organization imported kilograms of Cocaine into the City of Brandon and then trafficked the Cocaine, primarily in multi-ounce quantities, to sub-dealers within his drug network.

Throughout the course of Project Belittle, Police utilized a variety of investigational techniques with assistance from the Winnipeg Police Service that helped to identify individuals involved in this drug trafficking network, as well as several residences that were utilized to store drugs, cash and cryptocurrencies.

This investigation culminated on October 16th 2023, when the leader of the drug trafficking organization was arrested during a traffic stop outside of one of his “stash” locations. A kilogram of cocaine was located and seized from within the vehicle.

Continued investigation led to the execution of five search warrants in Brandon and three seized vehicles, which led to the seizure of 1153.19 grams of Cocaine, 0.62 grams of Methamphetamine, 325.19 grams of Psilocybin, 2648.19 grams of illicit Cannabis, 45 Oxycodone pills, \$23,188 Canadian currency, a .308 Rifle and a .22 caliber Rifle with a loaded 100 round drum magazine. Other seized items include drug trafficking related paraphernalia, throwing knives, bear mace and a cryptocurrency account.

The leader of this drug trafficking organization and four of his associates were arrested and charged with numerous offences under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and Criminal Code, including: Trafficking Cocaine, Possession for the Purpose Trafficking Cocaine, Possession of Proceeds of Crime, Unauthorized Possession of Firearms and Possession of Weapons for a Dangerous Purpose.

HOMICIDES

In 2023, the Brandon Police Service Major Crime Unit investigated six Homicides. The first occurred on June 10th at approximately 4:40 A.M. on the street in the 700 Block of Louise Ave. Two adult males were engaged in a dispute that turned physical when one of the males stabbed the other. The victim was transported to hospital where he succumbed to the injuries. Police investigation identified the suspect who was arrested on June 14th and charged with Manslaughter.

On the morning of September 2nd, members of BPS Patrol responded to a residence after receiving a 911 call of a deceased person in the home. The deceased victim and suspect were located inside the residence with the suspect arrested. The Major Crime Unit and Forensic Identification Unit took over the investigation and determined the suspect who was known to the deceased used weapons causing severe trauma to female victim. The suspect was charged with Second Degree Murder.

On November 3rd, BPS members responded to a 911 call reporting a deceased person inside an apartment on McDiarmid Drive. An adult male was located inside and taken into police custody. An adult deceased female was located with a bloody weapon beside her. The investigation revealed the suspect, who is a relative of the deceased, used the weapon to inflict the injuries causing the death. The suspect was arrested and charged with Second Degree Murder.

On August 27th outside of a downtown business, an adult male was located with a stab wound to his upper torso. He was transported to hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The subsequent Police investigation identified an adult male suspect who was located and arrested on August 31st. The suspect was charged with Second Degree Murder.

In the afternoon of November 12th Police responded to a report of a male suspect attacking people with a hammer in the 800 Block of 15th St. The adult male suspect was located in the area and during this same time, a house fire was reported at a residence in the same block. An adult male victim was evacuated from the burning residence by Brandon Fire and Emergency Services with severe trauma to his head from multiple hammer strikes. The victim was transported to a Winnipeg Hospital by STARS Air Ambulance and on November 15th, he succumbed to his injuries. On November 16th, the adult male suspect was arrested for Second Degree Murder.

In the early morning hours of August 9th when BPS and BFES responded to an unconscious male in an alley in the 400 Block between 12th and 13th St. CPR was initiated, however, the adult male was determined to be deceased. Further examination discovered the victim sustained severe injuries to his upper body. The homicide remained unsolved in 2023, though was solved in early 2024.



brandon.ca/police