



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2007 Annual Report Court Section

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Author: Sgt. D. E. Webber

A. Mandate of the Unit

The Court Section is comprised of two distinct divisions: court security and case management. A Sergeant is assigned to supervise both. As mandated by Section 137 of the *Police Services Act*, three full-time and ten part-time Special Constables deal with court security, prisoner escorts and the service of summons and subpoenas.

Case management personnel are responsible for facilitating the efficient prosecution of court cases by assisting the Crown Attorney and coordinating the management of Crown Briefs and attendance of witnesses at court. One sworn officer, one full time Special Constable, one part time Court Coordinator, one part time Youth Court Coordinator, and one clerk staff this area.

B. Executive Summary

In 2006 a number of changes were instituted in the operation of various entities within the judicial system that had necessitated changes in operational procedures and requirements. For the most part these changes are complete. The need for additional bail courts, staffing issues within the section and a large number of custody matters concerning individuals charged in relation to major crime investigations has had an impact on this section.

Effective December 13, 2005 trial courts from West Nipissing were transferred to the North Bay Court House due to security issues. First appearance dates remained the same. It is anticipated that on February 1, 2008 trial courts will resume in West Nipissing.

These factors have contributed in part to a staffing hours increase of 14.62%, with a 25.26% increase for part-time hours and a .84% increase for full-time staff.

C. Activities

Court security and prisoner transportation comprise the bulk of the workload within the Court Section. A total of 3473 prisoners were escorted within the City of North Bay in 2007. This is increased 29.3% from the previous year. The number of out-of-town escorts also increased by 25% to 160 from 128 in 2006 for a total of 3533 prisoners.

The total number of charges processed decreased by 7% to 2,695 over the previous year.

Video remand allows persons in custody to appear before a Justice of the Peace by video link from correctional institutions. This alleviates the physical transfer of persons in custody to the Court House. In 2007 there were 761 individuals who made a video court appearance in contrast to 493 individuals in 2006, an increase of 54%. This increase is

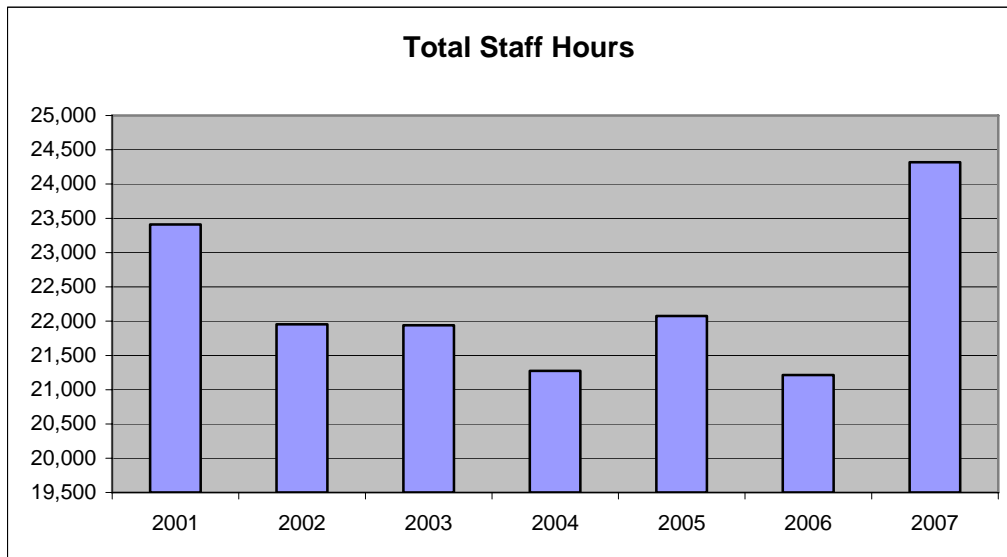
consistent with the increased number of prisoners escorted. We can surmise from this that there were more people held in custody subsequent to their bail hearing.

Document service of summonses and subpoenas increased in 2007 from 2006 by 11%, figures are located in the table below.

Performance Indicators

The table below lists a series of performance indicators that are used to review the activities of the Courts Section.

	WASH COURT	VIDEO COURT	PRISONERS ESCORTED WITHIN THE CITY	MEALS	PRISONERS ECORTED OUT OF CITY	DOCUMENTS SERVED	ADULT	YOUTH	TOTAL CHARGES
2002	184	N/A	3062	1764	179	998	2872	756	3628
2003	171	279	2935	1701	129	1017	2373	499	2822
2004	179	632	1948	1415	85	1051	2536	467	3003
2005	152	655	3340	1984	184	1141	2288	527	2815
2006	160	493	2686	2089	128	908	2507	388	2895
2007	187	761	3473	2534	160	1008	2308	387	2695



D. Anticipated Issues for the Future

Although not reflected in the data, demands on resources have increased over the past twelve months. The day-to-day requirements for personnel in relation to court security needs have increased with the number of courts operating at any given time. This is particularly true on Tuesdays and Wednesdays where the number of courtrooms in session at any given time create a demand that can exceed the number of personnel assigned to the court security area. The following table provides an example of the potential number of Special Constables required in a given court situation:

COURT ROOM	ACTIVITY	PERSONNEL REQUIRED
101	First Appearance – Adult & Youth	1-security 2-per person in custody
201	Youth Court Trials	2-per person in custody
301	Bail Court	2-per person in custody
302	Superior Court Trials	2-per person in custody
303	Superior Court Trials	2-per person in custody
305	Provincial Court Trials	2-per person in custody
306	Provincial Court Trials	2-per person in custody
Cell Block	Monitor, Prisoner security, fingerprinting, DNA sampling, facilitating visits from lawyers, etc.	2
	Document Service	1
TOTAL		12

In situations where a witness(es) is in custody a requirement of 2 additional Special Constables are necessary. This does not take into consideration annual leave, sickness or other reasons where a staff member would not be available. This has necessitated the use of supervisory and case management personnel and, at times, patrol personnel to assist in transport and court security duties.

The total authorized strength of this section at this time is 2 sworn officers, 1 clerk, 4 full-time and 12 part-time Special Constables. This section has experienced human resource challenges this past year within the full-time Special Constable position, which has had a substantial impact on this section.

In the latter part of 2007, during a Health and Safety meeting, the topic of issued body armour surfaced. A report directed at the implementation or mandatory use of body armour was explored. As a result every Special Constable will be issued this protective equipment in early 2008.

E. Conclusion

The successful operation of the Court Section is attributed to the professionalism and dedication of those persons assigned to that section. It is an extremely “fluid” work environment that forces members to be flexible to the swift changes. As noted earlier in this report in 2007 members of the Court Section handled the safety and security of over 3500 prisoners as well as ensured the safety of courthouse employees, members of the judiciary and attending public. To this end in 2007 not one single complaint was raised in relation to their abilities to fulfil their mandate.

Over \$600,000 has been allocated in the 2008 Police Service budget for costs attributed to the Court Section. The North Bay Police Services Board, along with the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards, has been advocating on behalf of the municipality to the Provincial Government, in attempts to negotiate a shift in funding from the current situation.