

Niagara Regional Police Service

K9 Unit

Police Service Board Meeting

October 2024

2024 K9 Unit

- Established 1988
- Comprised of 1 Sergeant and 6 Constables
 - Each member is assigned a Police Service Dog (PSD), cross trained in General Patrol and Detection
- As of October 2024:
 - 3 PSDs trained in Narcotics Detection, 2 PSDs trained in Explosives Detection
 - 2 Firearms Detection Dogs
 - 7 Total General Duty PSD's (including Sgt Vanderspek)
- 1 In Service Trainer

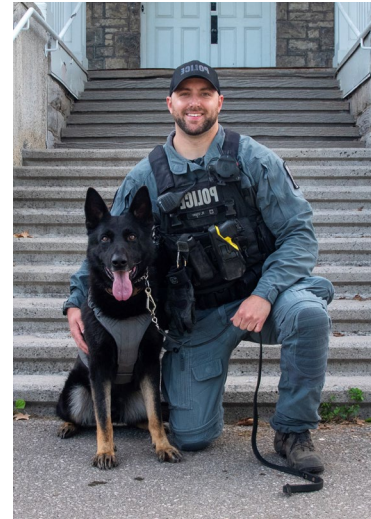
Narcotics Detection Dogs



PSD ATLAS / PC CAMPBELL
14 Years Police Experience
Handler since 2020

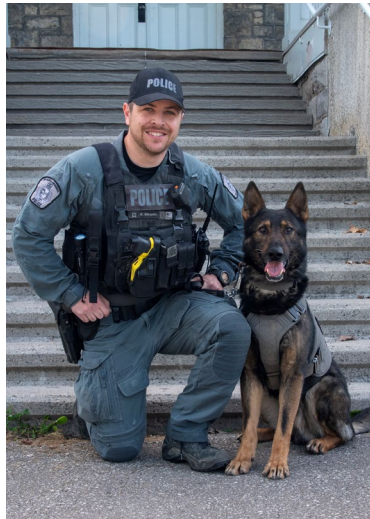


PSD RUDY / PC WILEY
12 years police experience
Handler since 2020



PSD RANGER / PC VIGER
10 years police experience
Handler since 2020

Explosives Detection Dogs



PSD MAVERICK / PC WEGELIN
15 Years Police experience
Handler since 2019



PSD JAX / PC VAN RIEL
15 years Police experience
Handler since 2019

Firearms Detection Dogs



PSD CAIN / SGT VANDERSPEK
24 Years Police Experience
Handler since 2005
Appointed 2024



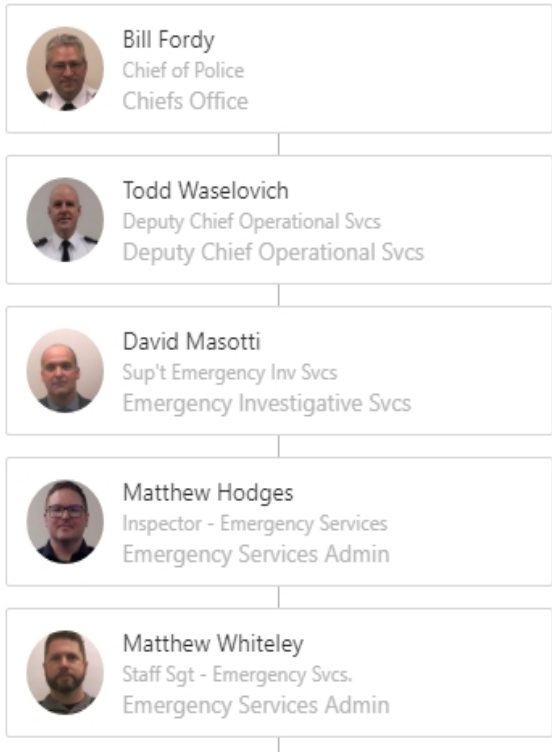
PSD DUKE / PC VIZZA
8 years Police experience
Handler since 2021

Joining the Unit

- PSDs are selected by the Sergeant after being extensively tested for suitability
- Handler Selection:
 - First Class Constable – resume and cover letter
 - Fitness test
 - Interview
 - Psychological examination
 - 18 Week Basic Canine Handlers Course
 - Certification test
- Each new team undergoes a strenuous 18-week training course held in-house in close consultation with other Services
- Throughout the course both the handler and dog are taught the basics of canine handling
- Every team completes a mandated certification test twice annually to ensure that the team is performing to the highest standard



Chain of Command



- The Unit is located in Emergency Services and works in close consultation with ETU and Marine
- Members of the unit abide by General Order – 077 – Canine Unit and report to the Staff Sergeant of Emergency Services

Day to Day Operations

- Handlers work a rotating 6-week schedule that ensures nightly coverage from 7 pm to 5 am
- Normally one team working at a time
- Handlers drive specially designed vehicles to ensure the dog is safe and comfortable
- The teams regularly attend warrants with ETU or Detectives
- Attend 1800+ calls per year
- Daily maintenance training in addition to weekly designated training days



Day to Day Operations Continued

- All PSDs live with their K9 handlers
- PSDs are provided a temperature-controlled house and a confined area to exercise
- Handlers are responsible for ensuring that the dog remains in good health including daily exercise and regular vet visits



K9 as a Resource

- Tracking
 - Missing or lost persons, wanted persons
- Building searches
- Open area searches
- Tactical assistance
- Evidence searches
- Detection services
 - Explosive sweeps, bomb threats
 - Drug searches, search Warrants
- Handler protection



Tracking

- How do they do it?
 - Every human has a unique odour signature (always present)
 - Crushed vegetation (present only on natural surface)
 - Ground disturbance (present only on natural surface)
- Handler's responsibility
 - Lead the K9 to the odour to be followed
- K9's responsibility
 - Follow the odour to source



2023 Statistics

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	1873
Deployments	461
Successful Deployments	88
Arrests (Criminal)	87

In 2023, the NRPS K9 Unit deployed the Police Service Dogs 461 times, including 135 times to assist the Emergency Task Unit. Of those, 88 deployments were successful in locating people, narcotics or evidence.

In 2023, the Unit was integral in locating people on 68 occasions, detecting over \$55 000 in illegal narcotics, and assisted in, or facilitated the arrest, of 87 people.

In the majority of instances, the people and evidence located by members of our Unit would have otherwise gone undetected

K9 in the News

ADVERTISEMENT

TORONTO | News

Police dog finds Ontario senior missing for hours in ravine



Niagara Police dog leads officers to driver who fled crash scene

chch.com/niagara-police-dog-leads-officers-to-driver-who-fled-crash-scene/



Niagara Regional Police Service
Police Service Dog Jax

Pol

Local

Modified date: August 28, 2020, 12:25 pm

First Published:

August 28, 2020, 12:25 pm

By Andrea Lawson

Niagara's police service dog Jax led officers to a man police say fled the scene of a c

Police K9 successfully tracks robber suspect in Niagara Falls

Police dog Ranger led officers to the suspect in a Thorold Stone Road in the City of Niagara Falls

Niagara police

Welland man and woman face

Single-vehicle collision leads to arrest in Welland

chch.com/single-vehicle-collision-leads-to-arrest-in-welland/

July 29, 2023



Niagara police have arrested a Welland man following a single-vehicle collision with possible injuries Friday

A police dog helped to conduct a track. Police say the driver was found shortly after 9 a.m. hiding in a backyard on South Pelham Road.

READ MORE: 2 Stoney Creek men charged in fatal 2021 shooting in Mississauga

Mohamud Mohamud Hassan, 32, of Welland has been arrested and charged with:

- Impaired operation of a conveyance – drug;
- Failure or refusal to comply with demand – drug;
- Fail to stop at the scene of the accident.

Hassan was later released with a future court date.

Canine cops live with their officer-handlers when they aren't making the streets safer or finding missing persons

Updated June 7, 2024 at 9:36 a.m. | June 7, 2024 | 2 min read



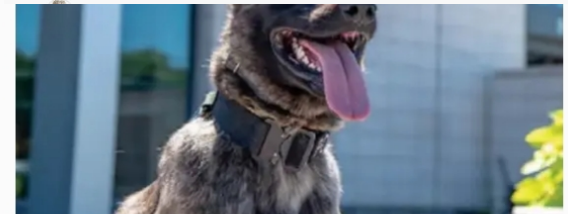
Const. Dan Campbell works with police dog Atlas at a training centre in Allanburg.

Julie Jocsak St. Catharines Standard

nal Police service
eing credited for
suspects and
e in a Pelham corn

e incident began
of a stolen 2017
n in Niagara-
fficers responded
Thursday at 1 p.m.
York and Four Mile

s later, the van
in a collision at the
if York and Coon
said the driver did
the scene. There
ies.



Niagara Regional Police service dog Onyx successfully tracked two suspects in a corn field and helped locate a firearm.

Questions?

