

# OVERVIEW OF THE KINGSTON POLICE K9 AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT 2023





**CANINE UNIT**



# K9 Unit

- ▶ **Began here in 1998 just prior to Kingston Police taking over both Pittsburgh Township and Kingston Township. OPP had one handler position in Kingston at this time.**
- ▶ **We have had many success stories over the years and some setbacks including the loss of PSD 'Scout' unexpectedly in late 2006 at age 5 and Zeus while still in service in 2020.**
- ▶ **Expansion of unit in 2010 to two dog teams with Cst Jeff Dickson and PSD 'Indy'.**
- ▶ **At present Jeff Dickson with PSD 'Dak' and Paul Doak with PSD 'Bask' – both dogs are approximately 4 years old. General Service Dogs which complete a number of tasks for our police service.**
- ▶ **Last month as part of succession planning we had an officer successfully complete the OPP K9 Assessment course and is slated to attend the general service course in Orillia in August for 18 weeks**





**PSD 'DAK' AND 'BASK'**





# **K9 Unit Overview**

- ▶ **Tracking wanted or missing persons**
- ▶ **Open area searches for wanted or missing persons**
- ▶ **Article searches**
- ▶ **Building searches**
- ▶ **Assist ERU with high-risk arrests – use of force option**
- ▶ **Controlled Drugs and Substances detection**
- ▶ **Public Demonstrations – displays**
- ▶ **Assist outside agencies**

# Tracking





## Man charged in gas bar holdup

A police tracking dog led investigators to a suspect after a gas bar on John Counter Boulevard was robbed by a balaclava-clad man with a silver-coloured handgun.

It was the second holdup at the station in just over a week.

Just before 6 a.m. yesterday, a man carrying a handgun walked into the Olco gas bar on John Counter Boulevard and took cash from the clerk.

The bandit ripped the phone off the wall and fled. The clerk wasn't hurt.

Police brought in a tracking dog that followed a trail for one kilometre to a residential yard in the 300 block of Old Quarry Road.

A man was arrested and police recovered \$460 and a toy handgun.

At 5:30 a.m. on Dec. 29, a man estimated to be five-foot-six and weighing about 150 pounds robbed the same gas station. He was wearing a balaclava and carrying a silver handgun. The bandit made off with several hundred dollars.

In that case, a tracking dog lost the scent.

Shawn Blair Godfrey is charged with robbery, use of a firearm in an offence, disguise with intent and possession of a weapon for dangerous purposes in connection with yesterday's holdup. Police are investigating Godfrey's possible con-



# Missing person searches

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2007

## Elderly woman wanders, found by K-9 unit

LYNN REES LAMBERT  
STAFF WRITER

### POLICE REPORTS

An elderly woman, suffering from Alzheimer's disease, was found by the Kingston K-9 unit huddled in a backyard in Reddendale late Wednesday night.

Kingston Police were called at about 8 p.m., Jan. 10, after a 78-year-old woman left her home in Reddendale. The family was concerned for her well-being and the temperature — for the first time in weeks — had plunged to normal January levels.

Barney, a police dog on loan from the Ottawa Police Force, tracked the woman to a backyard. Police say the woman did not suffer any serious injuries but was extremely cold.

RECEIVED  
copy to PA per  
JAN 16 2007  
KINGSTON POLICE

THANK YOU ALL  
[Signature]

January 15, 2007

Dear Officers Scott Schultz, Paul Doak & Barney,  
On behalf of my parents & family I would like to thank you and the third officer, whose name I did not obtain, for finding my mother, Betty Elliott, last Wednesday evening. The quick response to our call and the caring & professionalism shown by all members of the police force who we spoke with that evening was most appreciated. Scott's calm approach when asking questions & providing us with information was very reassuring. We especially want to thank Barney for being "older & wiser," as Paul said & finding Mom. Although my mother was confused and cold, she commented a few times about the nice young men who brought her home. Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
[Signature]



Editorial page 4

Forum page 5

History: As we saw it page 8

# Rookie police dog becomes hero in tracking down distraught man

By Tamsin McMahon  
Whig-Standard Staff Writer

**K**INGSTON POLICE ARE CREDITING THEIR FOUR-LEGGED officer with rescuing a potentially suicidal man.

Police got a call at about 9:30 a.m. Sunday from a friend of the 29-year-old man, worried he was planning on harming himself on the CN train tracks in the city's north end.

The man was last seen walking along Kingscourt Avenue.

Fearing the man might throw himself in front of a train, Police asked CN to have its trains slow down along that stretch of track.

Seven officers scoured the area east of Montreal Street at Sutherland Drive, including canine officer Const. Paul Doak and police dog Scout, who quickly picked up the man's scent.

The man was found in a swampy area behind the railway tracks about 600 metres east of Montreal Street.

He hadn't injured himself, said Sgt. Dan Mastin, but had possibly consumed the man's



# High-risk arrests

8 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2005

## Canine unit takes bite out of escaper

**Police dog Scout tackles fleeing man in school playground**

By Frank Armstrong  
Whig-Standard Staff Writer

**T**HE KINGSTON POLICE CANINE UNIT played a key role in the arrest of a man wanted on warrants for several criminal charges.

A man escaped custody just before 5 p.m. Tuesday near Pine and Cherry streets, forcing police to chase him.

Officers called for help from the canine unit, which consists of Const. Paul Doak and Scout, the service dog.

The man fled when he saw Doak and Scout in their cruiser.

He headed north on Cowdy Street, but was confronted by the canine unit again, and ran through an alley toward St. Patrick Public School, police said.

Doak shouted at the man to stop and the officer threatened to release the dog, but the man kept running.

Scout tackled the man as he ran across the school playground.

After a brief struggle, the man gave himself up and was arrested.

Benjamin Riddle, 30, of Kingston was arrested on an outstanding warrant for a Jan. 26 break-in.

He's also charged with escaping lawful custody.



# Drug searches





# Public demonstrations





# Call volume

- ▶ **Average between 75 and 100 calls for service per year. Fluctuates depending on availability (courses), and other factors.**
- ▶ **Assist Patrol Division, ERU and Drug Enforcement majority of calls.**
- ▶ **Approximately half of calls for service are searching for wanted persons or missing and despondent individuals.**
- ▶ **Assist other agencies: OPP, Belleville, CBSA.**
- ▶ **On-call 24/7 with take home vehicle and kennel at residence. Officers work a normal shift schedule assigned to an ERU team and assist patrol with regular calls for service when not conducting k9 calls. Another officer available on the road.**
- ▶ **In 2009 prior to unit expansion I was called out off-duty some 45 times, usually between midnight and 4am.**
- ▶ **Expansion allowed local training, mentoring, a back-up in case of an injury to the dog or handler, and small break from the pager.**
- ▶ **Success really depends on a team approach: Good dog and handler, supervisors, patrol officer's actions at scene, buy-in from senior administration and community to support the unit.**



# Related Issues

- ▶ **Expense of dog itself, vet, food, vehicle, equipment. Price of dogs has risen exponentially over the years.**
- ▶ **A lot of time to initially train (longest course in policing), constant ongoing (weekly) training required. Provincial standards are required to be maintained.**
- ▶ **Potential for injury or loss of a dog through injury or disease early in their career.**
- ▶ **Handlers typically only get better with experience....more of an art than a science. Mentoring with other handlers does help.**
- ▶ **Liability/Legal issues. Handlers are required to be expert witnesses in court and responsible for any use of force applications of the dog. Oversight in the Province by OIPRD and SIU**
- ▶ **Officer burn out due to the lifestyle of being a doghandler. On-call, responsible for the dog at all times, even on days off.**
- ▶ **Recruitment: many officers are now looking for a lifestyle balance between work and time-off. Only 3 officers applied for this latest position and only 1 was actually eligible. Also sometimes difficult to justify a 'specialty' position if numbers are lean elsewhere.**



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT





## **Brief history.....**

- ▶ **Kingston Police Emergency Response Unit formed in 1981 due to a number of factors: call with a suspect and a high-powered rifle on outer Montreal St. Most police agencies starting specialized response teams in the 70s early 80s. OPP TRU, Toronto ETF, RCMP ERT etc. Specialized training and equipment to deal with high-risk calls more safely for the public, police and suspect themselves.**
- ▶ **Original team was comprised of only a handful of members, part-time position while completing other police duties. Some basic equipment such as long-rifles, gas masks, pole mirrors, flashlights etc. When I joined in 1999 the team was at 12 officers and a unit Sergeant but still made up of officers from other units within the department.**
- ▶ **Partially as a result of the Provincial Adequacy Standards in Ontario – O Reg 3/99 under the Police Service Act section 21, Kingston was eventually moved to a “full-time” unit in 2005.**
- ▶ **These standards were implemented for the Province and municipalities to have a standardized, professional and consistent response to various types of police calls including: barricaded individual, hostage takings etc. This ensured that if a police department was going to provide these services to their population, than it would be equipped and trained to a high-level.**
- ▶ **In operational terms these standards specifically dictate: initial training courses required, in-service training hours, equipment utilized, specialties within the teams.**
- ▶ **The Province has identified three levels of tactical response for police agencies within Ontario. 1. Preliminary Perimeter Control and Containment 2. Tactical Unit 3. Hostage Rescue Team. Each one has it's own level of training and equipment required to maintain.**
- ▶ **Kingston ERU is considered a Tactical Unit at the present time.**







## **Present day**

- ▶ **ERU is comprised of 12 “full-time” members and a team Sergeant who are on their own shift schedule. Officers train weekly and are then on frontline duties assisting the patrol division with every type of call imaginable. There are presently two alternate members who are fully trained and are assigned to a patrol shift. In-service training hours equate to roughly 600 hours per year outside of any basic tactical or specialty courses.**
- ▶ **We complete our own selection process in-house and are looking for motivated, physically fit individuals who are dependable, calm under stress, problem-solvers, who are willing to take on the extra responsibilities required with their jobs.**
- ▶ **Initial training consists of a Basic Tactical Officer’s course which is anywhere from 6 to 10 weeks in duration. Members then can take on additional specialties within the unit which requires further courses, equipment and monthly training. All members also complete the Hostage Rescue Course subsequent to their BTOC.**
- ▶ **These range from: Rappel, Breaching, Less-lethal, Use of Force, Crisis Negotiations, Various weapons armorers, Marksmanship/Observer/Leadership, RPAS (drone), Shield, Search, Search Manager etc.**
- ▶ **Equipment has improved over the years which allows us to do our jobs more safely and effectively. Body armor, helmets, weapons, electronics, and the recent acquisition of our Armored Rescue Vehicle in 2021.**



# TRAINING.....









# Work

- ▶ **At present the ERU conducts approximately 50 to 100 specific tactical calls per year. 2022 the team responded to 68 of these types of calls and so far this year it is at 35 calls. This is in addition to the training required and the officers assisting patrol division with hundreds of 'routine' calls for service each year. Types of calls:**
- ▶ **High-risk weapons calls. Calls in progress, arrests, investigations from patrol, CID.**
- ▶ **Barricaded individuals (such as the stabbing incident on Fraser St two weeks ago)**
- ▶ **Executing high-risk search warrants for drugs or firearms – assisting our Drug Enforcement Section and Street Crime Unit.**
- ▶ **High-risk court or prisoner security. Ie Michael Wentworth trial or prisoner security for shooting victim from Collins Bay this year.**
- ▶ **High-risk K9 back-up for armed individuals**
- ▶ **Missing person searches – we have two trained search managers that are able to organize and conduct large scale ground searches of lost/overdue individuals or physical evidence searches. We have completed 3 evidence searches this year in regards to homicide investigations.**
- ▶ **Assisting outside agencies with tactical assistance. Kingston has helped our partner agencies over the years including: Toronto, Durham, Belleville, Brockville, OPP and Cornwall. Search warrant last week in Cornwall to assist the Biker Enforcement Unit with their project involving a shooting with outlaw motorcycle gang members recently.**









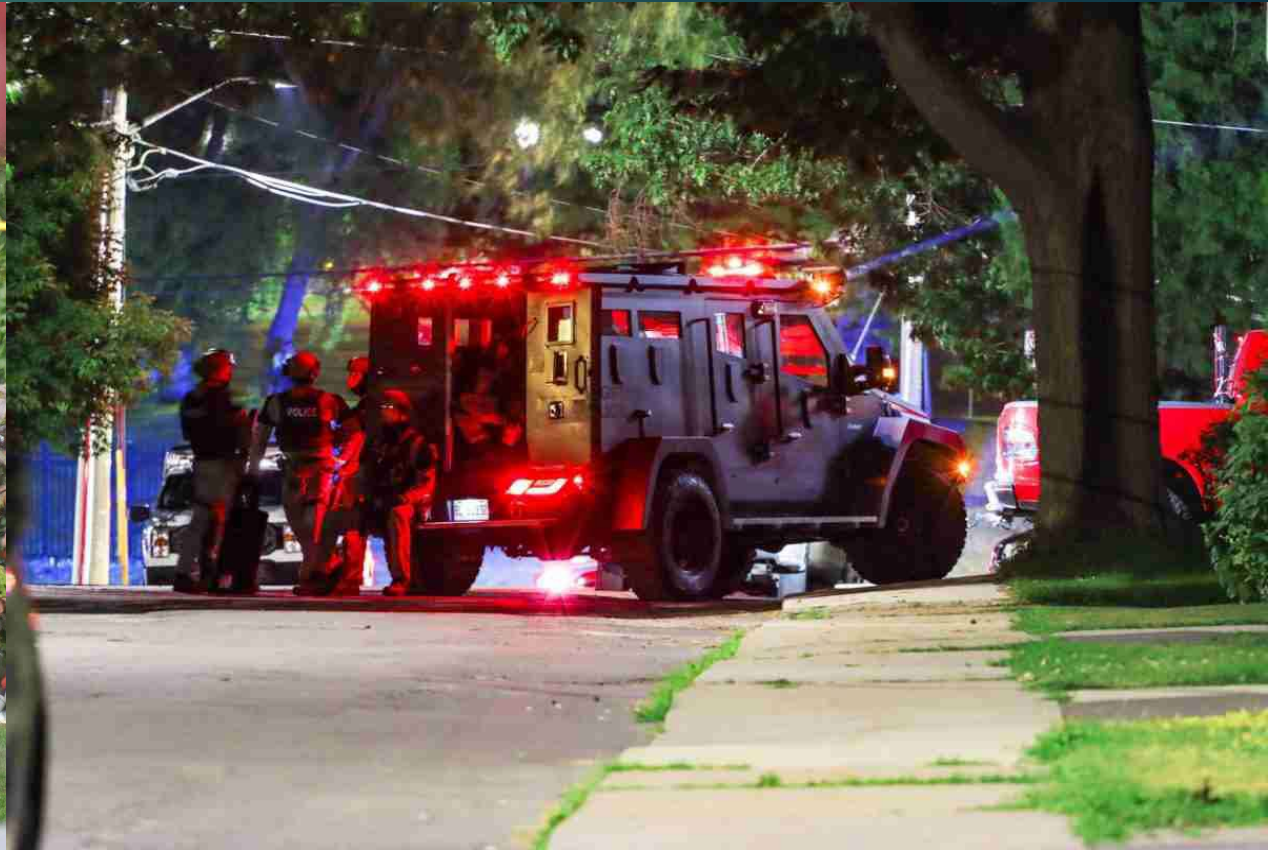






- ▶ **The ERU works hand in hand with our command triangle which also includes incident commanders, and crisis negotiation teams. Contrary to what many may think, our mission is to complete every call utilizing the least amount of force necessary. Much of our training is dedicated to keeping everyone involved safe and being able to resolve it peacefully. The training, equipment and selecting the right individuals to do this job is key to us being able to do this on a daily basis.**
- ▶ **It is certainly busier than when I started in 1999 when we responded to approximately 15 calls per year. I do see an emerging trend of handguns being seized during the execution of drug warrants. We have had a number of these seized this year.**
- ▶ **A notable call would be last September when we responded to a barricaded individual on Princess St who had randomly stabbed a person on city Transit. During the ensuing standoff one of our ERU members was shot at with a high-powered rifle and stuck with a bullet fragment in the arm. Despite the inherent danger and prolonged incident, the suspect was ultimately negotiated out and safely taken into custody. That is the main goal of our unit and I am proud to say that the officers do a great job every day for the citizens of Kingston**







# Questions.....?

