



Amherst Board of Police Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Agenda

Date: **Tuesday, May 26, 2026**  
Time: **3:00 pm**  
Location: **Council Chambers, Town Hall**

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	Pages
<b>1. Call To Order</b>	
<b>1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement</b>	
"I would like to acknowledge that our gathering today is taking place in Mi'kma'ki (MEEG-MA-GEE), the traditional, unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaw people. I would also like to acknowledge that Nova Scotia has another unique people, the people of African descent whose legacy and contributions date back over 400 years predating confederation of this land. We are all treaty people."	
<b>1.2 Approval of Agenda</b>	
<b>1.3 Acceptance of Minutes - February 24, 2026</b>	1 - 2
<b>2. New Board Member Introductions</b>	
<b>2.1 Oath - Alex Harrison</b>	3 - 3
<b>2.2 Oath - Chris Johanneson</b>	4 - 4
<b>3. Code of Conduct for Municipal Volunteers Policy</b>	5 - 9
<b>4. Board Member Orientation</b>	10 - 24
<b>5. Strategic Plan Verbal Update</b>	
<b>6. Chief's Report</b>	25 - 32
<b>7. Next Meeting Date</b>	
<b>8. Closed Session</b>	
<b>8.1 Approval of Agenda</b>	

8.2 Approval of Minutes - January 20, 2026

8.3 MGA 22(2)(h) - public safety

8.4 MGA 22(2)(h) - public safety

8.5 MGA 22(2)(c) - personnel matters

9. Adjournment

**Town of Amherst  
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners  
Minutes**

**Date:** February 24, 2026  
**Time:** 3:00 pm  
**Location:** Council Chambers, Town Hall

**Members Present** Commissioner Sandy Fairbanks, Chair  
Commissioner Hal Davidson, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Charlie Chambers  
Commissioner Nic Furlong  
Commissioner Angela Ryan Bourgeois  
Commissioner Caprice Barbour  
Commissioner George Baker

**Staff Present** Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police  
Tim Hunter, Deputy Chief of Police  
Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer  
Sarah Wilson, Director, Finance  
Denise Smith, Manager, Financial Services  
Sean Payne, Marketing & Communications Officer  
Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk / Board Secretary

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**1. Call To Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement**  
The Chair gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

**1.2 Approval of Agenda**  
Moved By Commissioner Baker  
Seconded By Commissioner Davidson  
That the agenda be approved as circulated.

**Motion Carried**

**1.3 Acceptance of Minutes - January 20, 2026**  
The Chair called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. There being none, the minutes of the January 20, 2026, meeting of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners were accepted as included in the agenda package.

**2. Strategic Plan Update**

Chief Pike reviewed his memo, included in the agenda package. Information item only.

**3. 2026/27 Operating Budget**

Moved By Commissioner Furlong  
Seconded By Commissioner Barbour  
That the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners recommend the Amherst Police Department 2026/27 Operating Budget be forwarded to Council for approval as presented.

**Motion Carried**

**4. CAPG Virtual Conference**

Board members were asked to advise the Secretary if they are interested in attending the CAPG virtual conference being held the afternoons of March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and she will get them registered.

**5. Chief's Report**

Chief Pike reviewed his report, included in the agenda package. Information item only.

**6. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

**7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

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Natalie LeBlanc  
Municipal Clerk / Board Secretary

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Sandy Fairbanks  
Chair



## Form 4

### Oath of Office for Member of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

Section 74 and 75 of the *Police Regulations*

I, Alex Harrison, of Amherst, in the County of Cumberland swear that I will faithfully, diligently and impartially execute and perform the duties required of me as a member of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, and while I continue to hold office I will, to the best of my judgement, skill, knowledge, and ability, carry out, discharge and perform all the duties of my office faithfully, impartially and according to the *Police Act* or any other Act and any regulation rule or by-law, and will not, except in the discharge of my duties, disclose to any person any matter or evidence brought before the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, so help me God.

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Alex Harrison

Sworn at Amherst  
in the County of Cumberland,  
Province of Nova Scotia,  
this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026  
before me,

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David Fairbanks, Chair  
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners



## Form 4

### Oath of Office for Member of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

Section 74 and 75 of the *Police Regulations*

I, Chris Johanneson, of Amherst, in the County of Cumberland swear that I will faithfully, diligently and impartially execute and perform the duties required of me as a member of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, and while I continue to hold office I will, to the best of my judgement, skill, knowledge, and ability, carry out, discharge and perform all the duties of my office faithfully, impartially and according to the *Police Act* or any other Act and any regulation rule or by-law, and will not, except in the discharge of my duties, disclose to any person any matter or evidence brought before the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, so help me God.

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Chris Johanneson

Sworn at Amherst  
in the County of Cumberland,  
Province of Nova Scotia,  
this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026  
before me,

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David Fairbanks, Chair  
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Amherst Board of Police Commissioners  
**From:** Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk / Board Secretary  
**Date:** May 26, 2026  
**Subject:** New Code of Conduct for Municipal Volunteers Policy

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At their regular meeting in February, Council adopted the attached new Code of Conduct for Municipal Volunteers Policy. Volunteers who serve our Town on various Boards and Committees and at events are an extension of our organization. In their role, they are representatives of the Town of Amherst. This new policy outlines the values of the Town of Amherst and clarifies the expectations of volunteers. It is important to establish these guidelines and expectations of municipal volunteers serving our community on behalf of the Town of Amherst.

Included as part of the Policy is Appendix A which all volunteers are required to sign indicating they have read and understand the policy and will adhere to it. Staff will have printed copies of Appendix A at the meeting for you to sign as a volunteer on the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners.

**TITLE:** CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEERS  
**SECTION:** EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
**POLICY NO:** 10350-02

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**APPROVAL DATE:** February 24, 2026

**CAO Signature:** 

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear expectations for the conduct of volunteers serving the Municipality. Volunteers play an essential role in delivering programs, services, and events, and are expected to uphold the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and respect in representing the Municipality.

### 2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all individuals who volunteer their time, skills, and services to the Municipality, whether on a regular, seasonal, or one-time basis, including members of advisory committees, boards, community events, and recreational programs. Volunteer members of the Amherst Fire Department and Amherst Police Department are covered under their own specific policies or standing orders.

### 3. Principles

Volunteers are expected to:

- Act in the best interests of the Municipality and its residents.
- Conduct themselves in a professional, respectful, and inclusive manner.
- Comply with all applicable laws, municipal policies, and safety regulations.
- Refrain from any conflicts of interest or actions that could harm the Municipality's reputation.
- Maintain a high standard of integrity

### 4. Standards of Conduct

Volunteers must:

a) Respect and Inclusivity

- Treat all persons with courtesy, dignity, and fairness, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or other protected characteristics.
- Refrain from any form of harassment, discrimination, or bullying.

b) Integrity and Accountability

- Perform volunteer duties honestly, ethically, and to the best of their ability.
- Follow through on commitments and notify the appropriate supervisor if unable to attend or complete assigned tasks.
- Shall not use their volunteer position for personal gain.

c) Confidentiality

- Protect confidential and sensitive information obtained through volunteer activities.
- Refrain from disclosing personal or municipal information without proper authorization.

d) Safety and Conduct in the Workplace

- Comply with all municipal health and safety rules.
- Report hazards, unsafe conditions, or incidents immediately.
- Refrain from the use of alcohol, cannabis, or impairing substances while performing volunteer duties.

e) Use of Municipal Resources

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**TITLE: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEERS**  
**SECTION: EXECUTIVE OFFICE**  
**POLICY NO: 10350-02**

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- Use municipal property, equipment, and materials only for authorized purposes.
- Return any borrowed items promptly and in good condition.

#### **5. Conflict of Interest**

Volunteers must:

- Disclose any personal, financial, or professional interest that may conflict with their volunteer role.
- Refrain from participating in decisions or activities where such conflicts exist or could be perceived.

#### **6. Social Media and Public Representation**

- Volunteers shall not speak on behalf of the Municipality unless specifically authorized in advance by the Mayor, CAO or designate.
- When expressing personal opinions publicly, volunteers must make it clear they do not represent the Municipality's official position.
- Avoid posting or sharing content that could damage the Municipality's reputation.

#### **7. Non-Compliance**

Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in:

- Verbal or written warnings.
- Reassignment of duties.
- Dismissal from the volunteer position by the CAO. In the event the volunteer(s) had been formally appointed by Council, the CAO shall recommend dismissal to Council who shall make the final decision through a motion of direction.

#### **8. Acknowledgment**

All volunteers must review and sign the **Volunteer Code of Conduct Acknowledgment Form** before commencing their duties, confirming that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by the policy.

**TITLE:** CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEERS  
**SECTION:** EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
**POLICY NO:** 10350-02

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Title/Role	Responsibilities
CAO	Administer policy
Directors/Supervisors	Report any potential breaches of policy to the CAO

For Administrative Use Only:

**VERSION LOG**

Amendment Description	Policy Owner	Approved By	Approval Date
New Policy	Deputy CAO	Council	February 24, 2026

Minutes reference date: February 24, 2026

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**TITLE:** CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEERS  
**SECTION:** EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
**POLICY NO:** 10350-02

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APPENDIX



I, \_\_\_\_\_ declare that as a volunteer for the Town of Amherst, I acknowledge that I have read and support the Volunteer Code of Conduct Policy.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_.



# AMHERST POLICE DEPARTMENT



# History



- The Amherst Police Department was formed in 1890, just one year after the town of Amherst was incorporated and the population was 3,781\*
- Since this time, the Police Department has grown considerably and has occupied many different locations
- Currently the Amherst Police Department has 25 full-time members including several specialized sections and ranks
- Located at 21 Havelock Street, the department has remained an important part of the town of Amherst and its history

\* (Leonard Harkness (1989) **History of the Amherst Police Department**. Amherst NS., B.H. Publications Ltd.)

# Services



- Policing and Public Safety
- Enforcement of Criminal Code, Federal and Provincial Statutes, municipal by-laws
- Proactive policing initiatives and Crime prevention programs
- Work with all community partners on community safety and wellness initiatives
- MOU's with 5 other municipal police departments for specialty services such as IDENT, Kg and major crime/critical incidents



# Staffing



Our staffing includes:

- Chief, Deputy Chief and Inspector
- 16 Uniform Patrol members who are assigned to 4 platoons
- 3 members in our Major Crime Unit
- 2 members in our Integrated Street Crime Unit who are partnered with members in the Cumberland RCMP
- 1 Additional Uniform Flex position for special events and long-term shortages
- 1 School Resource Officer
- Ability to hire part-time members to cover shortages
- 1 Civilian Crime Prevention Coordinator
- 24-hour dispatch for Police and Amherst Fire Department
- Civilian admin
- By-Law Officers
- 3 Auxiliary Police Officers
- = 37 Full time + numerous other part-time employees



# Staffing

## •MANAGEMENT

The management team of the department consists of the Chief, D/Chief & Inspector. Their responsibilities include:

- Ensure the safety and security of the citizens of the Town of Amherst
- Service provided meets or exceeds the provincial standards for policing
- Ensure the Department meets the overall policies and plans of the Town
- Ensure the principles of community policing are applied throughout the operation of the department
- Professional development of staff
- Establish high moral and collegiality amongst the staff of the department
- Report regularly and openly to the Board of Police Commissioners of the Council of the Town of Amherst where necessary and required
- Fiscal responsibility and accountability



Chief Dwayne Pike  
D/Chief Tim Hunter  
Insp Tom Wood



# Staffing – Patrol Section

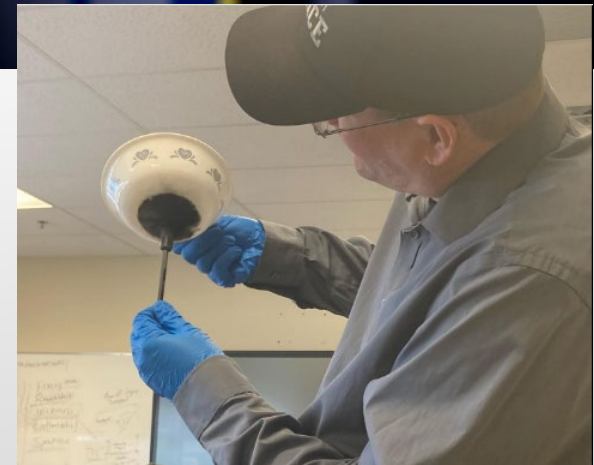
- The General Patrol Section consists of four platoons which are comprised of a Sergeant, a Corporal and two Constables
- Work 12-hour shifts, and provide 24/7 policing
- Are most visible to the public and are the primary first responders
- Respond to a broad range of calls, from the most minor to the most serious
- Their duties include but are not limited to:
  - response to emergency calls
  - investigations of criminal offences
  - drug enforcement
  - providing assistance to persons dealing with non criminal issues, i.e. mental health, landlord tenancy, child custody, homelessness
  - foot and proactive patrols



# Staffing – Major Crime Unit



- One Corporal and 2 Constables
- Investigates incidents of a serious, complex and/or sensitive nature that includes:
  - sexual assaults
  - complex frauds
  - internal thefts
  - internet crimes
  - serious violent crimes i.e. robbery, assault with a weapon, homicide
- Often works closely with our Integrated Street Crime Unit
- Drug Trafficking
- Surveillance
- Exhibit Custodian
- Police Act Investigations
- Policy Development



Cpl Tom Wood

# Staffing –Cumberland Integrated Street Crime Unit

- The Cumberland Street Crime Enforcement Unit is an integrated unit comprised of two members of the Amherst Police Department and 3 members of the Cumberland RCMP
- The goal of the unit is to reduce crime in Cumberland County by the targeting of street level crime. The Unit investigates drug activity, contraband tobacco, multiple/serial break and enters, armed robberies, serial frauds, and major thefts
- Also provides assistance to APD and RCMP during significant events/investigations
- \$100,000 in funding is provided by to the Town of Amherst from the Province (Additional Officer Program) for each of our 2 positions. This covers the majority of the costs



# Staffing – Crime Prevention



One Constable (AOP) and one Civilian Member

School Resource:

- Assist schools in providing a safe learning environment
- Develop a positive and trusting relationships with students, staff and parents
- Deliver police related programs
- Work with school staff to provide other support i.e. emotional health, safe grad, school events
- Provide required police related operational support (i.e. investigations, safety planning, enforcement of school zone speed limits)

Crime Prevention Coordinator

- The goal of the Crime Prevention Coordinator is to work in partnership with the community to prevent the occurrence of crime. This is achieved through the development of programs which increase public awareness and involvement, provide strategies which reduce the opportunities of crime and support high risk groups such as seniors and youth
- Involved in many programs, special events and community groups. (Cram a Cruiser, Cops4Kids, Crime Stoppers, Seniors Police Academy)



Melanie Siddall  
&  
Cst Michelle Harrison

# Infrastructure/Equipment

- Police station with 24-hour dispatch and lock-up facilities
- 5 marked Patrol Vehicles
- Community/School Resource Vehicle
- 2 unmarked vehicles (Major Crime and Street Crime)
- 1 Bylaw truck
- 1 Armoured Vehicle (SARV – Safe, Approach and Rescue Vehicle)

Various use of force tools and protective equipment including

- 9mm pistols equipped with lights
- Carbines equipped with red dot sights, magnifiers and lights
- Conducted Energy Weapons (TASERS)
- 40mm Launcher
- Hard Body armour and ballistic helmets (made for increased ballistic threats)
- Regular body armour
- Prisoner Restraint Chair
- And more...

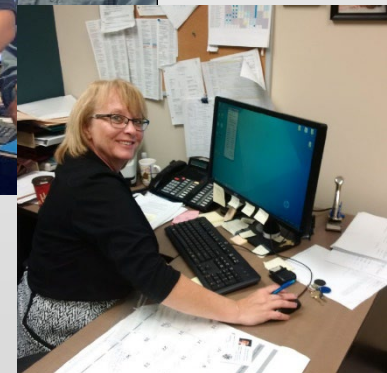
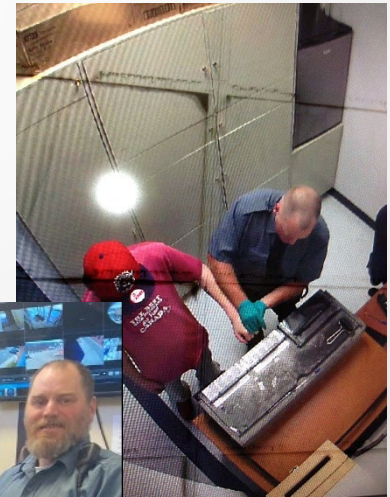


# Support Staff



APD support staff includes:

- Executive Assistance
- Admin Assistants/Reception/Disclosure
- By-Law Officer
- 24/7 Dispatch Service
- Crossing Guards
- Jail Guard
- Criminal Records Check



# Budget

- Total Operational Budget for 2026/2027 – \$6,154,083
- Wages and Benefits – \$5,317,664
- Admin Costs - \$203,390
- Building and Facility Costs - \$95,707
- Vehicle and Equipment Costs - \$164,873
- Materials and Supplies - \$5,200
- Grants to Organizations - \$1,000
- Other municipal costs - \$213,140
- Fiscal Services - \$172,109
- Cost Recovery - \$19,000



# Major Projects/Issues

- Citizens on Patrol partnership
- Regional Tactical Support Team, MOU with other municipal Police Departments to develop specialty units to be able to respond to critical incidents
- Continued partnership with GardaWorld – Teddy Bear Patrol Program
- Coffee with a Cop program
- APA Sponsorship Program
- Building Bridges – Hate Crime



# Police Commission



- **Board Members**
  - 3 members of Town council
  - 4 citizen appointees. 3 municipal , 1 provincial
- **Role of Board (Not all listed)**
  - Determine priorities objectives and goals in consultation with Chief Officer
  - Recommend policies, administrative and organizational direction for the effective management of the police service
  - Ensure community needs and values are reflected in goals and objectives
  - Ensure policing services are delivered in a manner consistent with community values, needs and expectations
  - Act as a conduit between the community and the police
  - Cause the Chief Officer to prepare a budget for the police department – the budget shall be submitted to council by the board for approval
- **NOT the Role of the Board**
  - The actual day to day direction of the police department



# Questions



**Chief's Report**  
**Amherst Board of Police Commissioners**  
**May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**This report covers the months of February, March and April 2026**



**TRAINING:**

**CPIC Maintenance – Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>:** Josh Fletcher, (Dispatch) completed the week long CPIC Maintenance Course from February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. CPIC maintenance courses are required to add, remove, edit and audit orders that our department adds to the national system CPIC (Canadian Police Information Centre).

**A-CARS Training – March 23/24,2026:** Cst Michelle Harrison attended this 2-day training session in Dartmouth in relation to *Advanced Child Abuse Response Strategies*. This training is a part of the IWK's [SeaStar Child and Youth Advocacy Centre](#) program and is multidisciplinary training designed for child welfare, law enforcement and prosecution services. Building upon basic/advanced child interviews, this provides advanced skills in child forensic interviewing and staying up to date with information on best practices in child-focused and trauma-informed approaches. There was no cost for this training aside from travel and meals.

**OMG/Biker 101 Presentation – March 24<sup>th</sup>:** APD hosted a 2-hour session of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gang presentation provided by CISNS, and specifically one of their Tier III OMG investigators. This is a presentation for law enforcement, in which they present about active groups, relations, and current trends, as well as give an opportunity for discussion. This coincides with an increase noted in Outlaw Motorcycle Gang activity within this region. Several APD members, including MCU, Street Crime and patrol attended along with RCMP members and RCMP Northeast Nova Traffic Services.

**Advanced Firearms Training – March 24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>:** Our Firearms Instructor, Corporal Jeff Walsh, attended this training session in Truro which was a 5-day dynamic positional shooting instructor course - *Vehicle Close Quarter Battle Instructor* offered by Centrifuge Training Canada. The course provides officers with tactical firearms skills and training in scenario-based positional shooting. Course costs were covered by the Dept of Justice, while APD covered travel and meals,

**Hate Crime Training – March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** APD members and staff received training provided by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation's (CRRF) - *Combatting Hate for Safer Communities*. This hands-on training pilot program was made available at no-cost to APD and was designed for both sworn and civilian members. The immersive training, provided by Craig Upshaw equips agencies with the tools and knowledge needed to understand, investigate, navigate and address hate crimes and incidents, from a victim-centred, trauma-informed perspective. It also improves cultural awareness and community engagement. The program includes assistance in engaging with local communities. The program is comprised of three (3) phases and can last up to seven (7) months, with the goal of building partnerships and a Hate Crime Coordinator within the Amherst Police Department.

**Phased Interview Training – April 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>:** APD hosted the Phased Interview course that included Cst Chapman, Cst Millard and Cst Stewart completing the course. The instructors are from the RCMP Truth Verification Section who provided candidates with knowledge and skills to gather more accurate, voluntary and reliable information from witnesses, victims and suspects while at all times being respectful of Canadian law and the interview subject's human rights. Proper interviewing techniques is one of the most important tools in the Police Officer toolbox.

**Future Training:** Over the next 2 months, APD members will be busy with numerous training initiatives that include:

- Annual Firearms and Carbine Qualifications and training
- CEW (Taser) recerts and training
- Restorative Justice refresher training
- ICS 300 (Incident Command 300)
- Regional Tactical Support Team Training

## **PERSONNEL**

Cadet Cameron MacLeod graduated from the Atlantic Police Academy on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, and started work with the Amherst Police Department a few days later with D Platoon. Constable MacLeod is from Amherst and was the first cadet sponsored by the Amherst Police Department to attend the Police Academy and completed his On-The-Job Training with APD. Prior to his selection to attend the APA, Cst MacLeod was enrolled in the APD Auxiliary Police Officer Program.



## **OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS:**

**Break & Enter, theft – February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026:** A 24-year-old female is facing several charges following an incident on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. Patrols attended a call of an abandoned vehicle in the Industrial Park and noted footprints in the snow heading into a wooded area. Police followed the tracks and followed them to a building in the industrial park that was not secured and located the female inside. They also learned that the female had outstanding warrants. She was arrested and held in custody for court and is facing charges that include break and enter, theft, possession of stolen property, possession of break-in tool and charges under the Cannabis Act.

**Breach/Warrant/impaired driving – February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at approximately 5:30pm Amherst PD were alerted to a robbery that had allegedly occurred in another jurisdiction. Shortly afterwards, members of the Cumberland Street Crime Enforcement Unit located the suspect vehicle coming towards Amherst and followed it to the South Albion Street area. The Amherst Police Patrol Section was notified and attended. The vehicle attempted to flee, but patrol units were able to block the vehicle in and safely arrest the suspect, who was also wanted on a Canada-wide warrant. The 42-year-old suspect is facing numerous charges that include fleeing police, driving while prohibited, impaired driving, refusal, resisting police, breach of conditions and a slew of charges under the Motor Vehicle Act. The file is being carried by the Cumberland Street Crime Enforcement Unit.

**Ammunition and Ordinance – March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026:** On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Police received a request to attend a local residence to pick up some ammunition. Upon arrival, the ammunition was determined to be unexploded ordinance. Because of the danger of handling such materials, the Department of Defence was contacted and they attended to properly remove the materials, which had been in the basement of the house for decades. The ordinance was properly disposed of by DND in a controlled detonation at a quarry outside of town.

**Sudden Death – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** On Sunday, March 8, 2026, Amherst Police were alerted to what appeared to be a deceased male who had been found outside a local business on Robert Angus Drive. Upon arrival, Amherst Police located an adult male who appeared to have been deceased for several hours. The 26

Amherst Fire Department was called to assist in the matter. While foul play is not suspected, the matter has been referred to the Nova Scotia Medical Examiners Office for investigation. Police are currently awaiting the result of the ME investigation which includes the cause of death.

**Robbery – March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026** – Two adult males were arrested and charged following a complaint of robbery with violence being received by the Amherst Police Department. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 shortly before 1:00am Police received a call advising that a vehicle had stopped on Spring Street and suspects had exited and allegedly assaulted a male and took his backpack. Another male was also allegedly assaulted during the incident. Police were able to locate two suspects, the vehicle that allegedly had been used as well as the alleged stolen items. The vehicle was towed to APD and the two suspects were arrested and held overnight for court. Brandon Collins, aged 22 of Amherst, NS has been charged with Robbery and Assault. Cody Smith, aged 24 of Amherst, NS has been charged with Robbery, Assault and Operation of a Motor Vehicle over 80Mg% - Section 320.14(1)(b) Criminal Code of Canada. Both individuals made an appearance in court and were released on conditions and are scheduled to appear again in court at a later date to answer to the charges.

**Uttering Threats, Possession of a Weapon - March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, shortly after 4:00pm, Amherst Police were called to a local business located in the area of Robert Angus Drive. A male was reported to be causing a disturbance and making numerous threats to harm both staff and customers of the business. The male was located and fled from police, but was arrested and held in custody. Riley Fillmore, aged 26 of Amherst, NS has been charged with Causing a Disturbance, Resisting Arrest, Damage to Property, Possession of a Prohibited Weapon and Uttering Threats (x2). Fillmore was remanded into custody for the weekend and later released by the courts on conditions.

**Arrest and Charges Laid - Fleeing Police – March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026:** A 39-year-old Amherst man has been arrested and is facing numerous charges relating to driving-related incidents that occurred in Amherst in January 2026. The accused allegedly has a revoked driver's license. Several tickets have also been used under the Motor Vehicle Act for driving related offenses during these incidents. The charges are related to driving incidents in Amherst from January 6<sup>th</sup> and January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. In both cases, the accused allegedly fled from police when they attempted to pull him over. In both cases, Police discontinued because of the risk associated with pursuing. Albert O'Blenis, aged 39 of Amherst, NS has been charged with Flight from Police (January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026), Flight from Police (January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026), Dangerous Driving (January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026) and Endangering a Child (January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026). A warrant of arrest had been issued for O'Blenis on March 18<sup>th</sup> in relation to the January 6<sup>th</sup> incident and on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 at approximately 6:30pm, Police received information concerning his whereabouts and were able to safely arrest him without further incidents. He was held in custody overnight, issued multiple Summary Offense Tickets under the Motor Vehicle Act, and made a brief court appearance on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 in relation to the criminal charges. He was remanded into custody and was later released by the courts on conditions with a court date in May 2026.

**Mischief/Uttering Threats - March 24<sup>th</sup> 2026:** Shortly before 3:00am on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Amherst Police were summonsed to a residential building in the downtown area concerning a male that had allegedly been making threats and had damaged a door. The male was also currently on court release conditions. When Police arrived, the male was located and allegedly resisted arrest and spit in the face of the one of the officers. He was arrested and lodged in police cells overnight. Avery Grassing, aged 27, of Amherst, NS has been charged with Mischief under \$5000, Uttering threats to cause death, Failing to comply with undertaking (x2), Assault on Police Officer and Resisting Arrest. Grassing was held in custody overnight and brought to court the following day where another incident occurred which led to him being charged with damage to Courthouse property.

**Counterfeit/Prop \$50 bills – April 2026:** Amherst Police have received multiple reports of prop \$50 bills being circulated and used around town. These bills are very similar to legitimate bills, but are marked “prop” and do not have the hologram of Prime Minister MacKenzie King in the transparent area. These can be purchased online, some of which do have the hologram. Information on these have been shared several times on our social media.

Similar bills, albeit \$100 bills, with the hologram of Sir Robert Bordon have also been noted to be floating around the Fredericton, NB area as reported by the Fredericton Police



**Arrest and Multiple Charges – Arrest April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** A 42-year-old Truro man has been arrested and charged in relation to an incident that occurred on the evening of March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 in Amherst.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, shortly before 10:00pm, police received a report of a shoplifting incident at a local business on Robert Angus Drive. The suspects had left the scene in a vehicle, the description of which was provided to police. As Police responded, the vehicle was observed on South Albion Street, headed towards the downtown area. A traffic stop was attempted, but the suspect vehicle fled at a high rate of speed and as a result of risk, police discontinued pursuit. The suspect vehicle continued towards the downtown and struck another vehicle on Prince Arthur Street and then fled the scene. The suspect vehicle was later located abandoned on the highway and was seized by Police. As a result of the continuing investigation, the subjects in the suspect vehicle were identified. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at approximately 7:20pm, Police learned that one of the suspects from the March 10<sup>th</sup> incident was in a vehicle and was headed towards Amherst. An APD Patrol unit pulled the vehicle over near the intersection of Robert Angus Drive and Church Street. The passenger of the vehicle, who was the suspect in the March 10<sup>th</sup> incident, fled the scene on foot and after a short foot chase, the TASER was deployed and he was safely arrested. Craig PIKE, aged 42 of Truro, Nova Scotia has been charged with Flight from Police, (March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026), Breach of Release Order (March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026), Dangerous Driving (March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026), Leaving the scene of an Accident (March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026), - Resisting Arrest (April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026) and Assaulting a Police Officer (April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026). Pike was held in custody overnight and is scheduled to appear in court on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2026 and released on conditions. He was later arrested in a stabbing incident on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**Damage to Property – April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** A 35-year-old Amherst male is facing numerous charges as a result of an incident that occurred during the early morning hours of April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026. At approximately 5:00am on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Amherst Police were alerted to damage which occurred to a building on Victoria Street in downtown Amherst. A suspect was identified and a Search Warrant was executed on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at a local residence where the male was arrested and several exhibits seized. Marco Allen, aged 35 of Amherst, Nova Scotia has been charged with Mischief over \$5000, Intimidation and Criminal Harassment. Allen made appearance in court on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 and again on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. He has since been released on conditions and set to appear again on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**Suspicious Vehicle leads to Charges – April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** Two people are facing charges after police checks of a report of a suspicious vehicle in the area of Anson Avenue. On April 13<sup>th</sup> in the early morning hours, police checked the vehicle of which there were two occupants that appeared to be sleeping. Police noted what appeared to be a handgun and both were removed, arrested and the vehicle was searched and various items/substances were located. Vincent Mallory, aged 40 of Amherst has been charged with Possession of a Weapon, Possession of Weapon/Ammunition in Vehicle, Possession of Methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking, Possession of Controlled Substance x 3, Fail to Comply with Release Order x 5 and Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. Barbara VanSnick, aged 43 of Amherst is facing charges that

include Possession of a Weapon, Possession of Methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking, Possession of Controlled Substance x 3. Several tickets were also issued under the Motor Vehicle Act. Both persons were held in custody overnight and made an appearance in court on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026. VanSnick was released on conditions and is scheduled to appear again on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Mallory has been remanded into custody and is scheduled to appear again on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**Shooting/Murder – April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** Three people are in custody in relation to the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 shooting incident on Prince Arthur Street in Amherst. Micheal Ryan, aged 34 of Springhill, NS, Sean Patriquin and Natasha Austin are all charged with the 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder of Chris Leggett. At approximately 6:51pm on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Amherst Police received a call concerning a loud bang heard on Prince Arthur Street and that a male was on the ground and appeared to be injured at that location. Police attended and located an adult male who appeared to be seriously wounded from a single gunshot wound to the lower back. Police in attendance attempted life-saving measures and the male was transported to the hospital and shortly thereafter, was pronounced deceased. The victim, Chris Leggett, was 41 years old. Those responsible fled the scene in a vehicle described as a dark-coloured Subaru SUV after the incident. Warrants for the three individuals were issued 3 days later and Patriquin and Austin were arrested in the suspect vehicle in Moncton, NB. On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ryan was arrested in Moncton, NB and was also transported back to Amherst for court. During this incident, the Amherst Police Department activated their Combined Municipal Police Major Crime Unit Agreement and have been working with members of the Truro Police Service Criminal Investigation Division, as well as The Cumberland Integrated Street Crime Unit, the RCMP Forensic Identification Unit, Cumberland RCMP, J Division RCMP and the Nova Scotia Medical Examiners Office. Codiak RCMP, J Div RCMP Major Crime and the J Div Emergency Response Team also assisted with the investigation and arrest of the three subjects. All three are scheduled to appear in Amherst Provincial Court again on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**Stabbing – April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** Two people have been arrested, charged and are in custody in relation to a stabbing that occurred during the afternoon of Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 in Amherst, NS. At approximately 4:00pm, on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Amherst Police received a call concerning an individual who arrived at a downtown establishment suffering from stab wounds. Police attended a location on West Victoria Street in Amherst before locating the suspects at a nearby third location. Both subjects were quickly and safely arrested and taken into custody. A male victim, aged 39 years, was transported to Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre. Matthew Hunsley, aged 41 years of East Leicester Nova Scotia & Craig Pike, aged 42 years of Moncton New Brunswick have been charged with Attempted Murder, Aggravated Assault, Conspiracy and Assault. Both were held overnight and made a brief appearance in Amherst Provincial Court on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, 2026. They have been remanded into custody and are scheduled to appear again on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2026 for a Show Cause Hearing. The victim is expected to recover from his injuries.

#### **GENERAL OPERATIONAL UPDATES:**

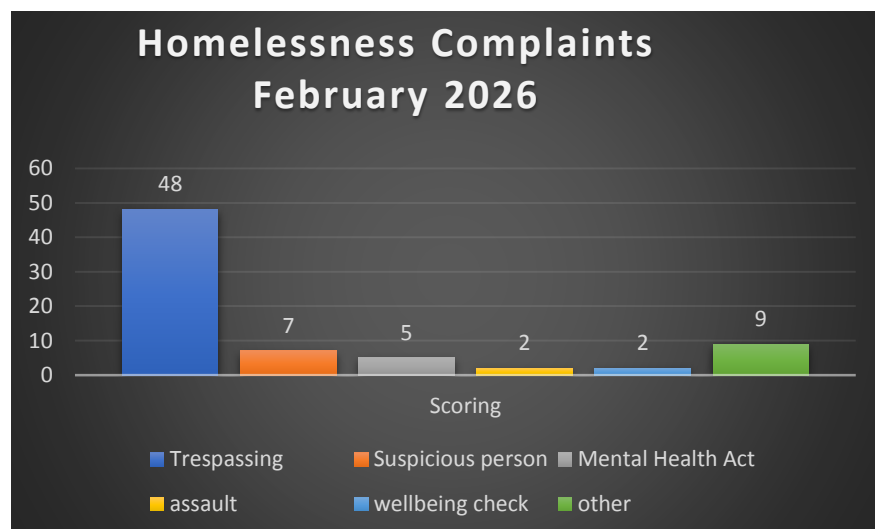
**Shoplifting/Theft Complaints:** We received 11 complaints of shoplifting in April, the same number as in March, which was a slight increase from February and January 2026 (7 each month). With shoplifting complaints, Police often get the information after the incident and the suspects have departed, and as a result, the biggest challenge is to identify the subject as incidents are captured on video. For the month, the majority of suspects were local to Amherst, but it is common to have people from other areas as suspects in thefts.

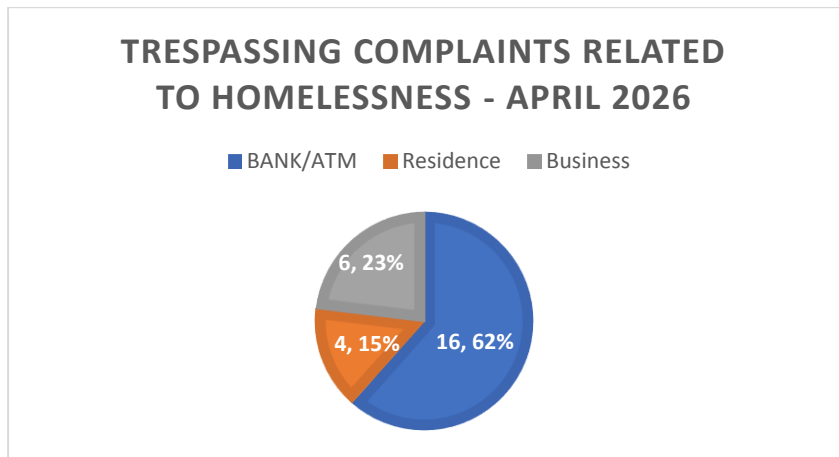
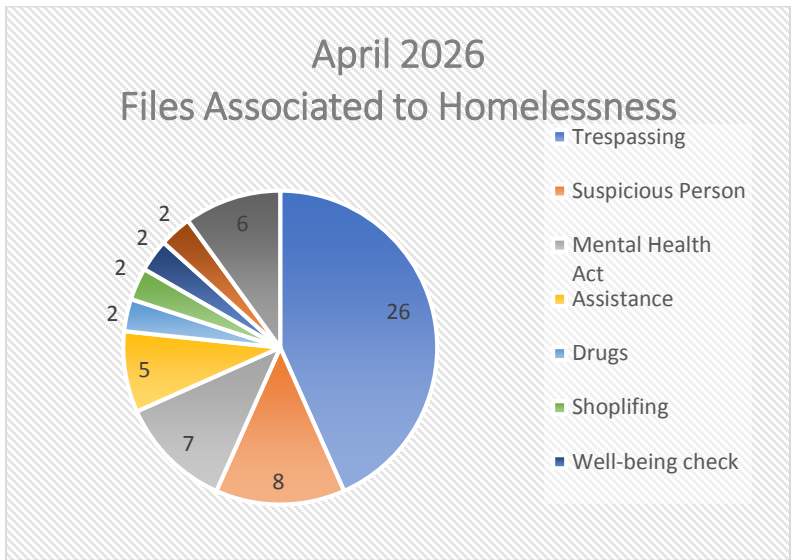
**Trespassing:** There were 44 trespassing complaints received in April, down from 54 in March and 73 in February. Of the complaints in April, 26 were related to homelessness, again down from 36 in March 2026. The drop can likely be attributed to 2 reasons - people that have temporarily been away from this area and the warmer weather. For April 2026, a single individual was also responsible for 18 of the trespassing complaints, 16 of which were ATM/Banks.

**Homelessness Files:** April saw a drop in occurrences related to homelessness, dropping to 62 complaints, down from 82 in March, 73 in February and 64 in January. The drop is likely related to 1 or 2 people who were not in the area for the month of April. As noted in previous reports, the vast majority of complaints are surrounding 2-3 people.

**Homelessness Files:** April saw a drop in occurrences related to homelessness, dropping to 62 complaints, down from 82 in March, 73 in February and 64 in January. The drop is likely related to 1 or 2 people who were not in the area for the month of April. Of the 62 complaints we did have in April, 27 of them were still around a single individual who was also responsible for 18 of the trespassing complaints at banks/ATM's/businesses. Of the April 2026 homelessness files, 26 were regarding trespassing issues (16 at Banks/ATMS), 4 at local residences/private property and 6 at other businesses. Seven homelessness files were scored as 'Mental Health Act', 8 were for 'suspicious person' and 4 were 'assist general public'. As noted in previous reports, the vast majority of complaints are surrounding 2-3 people.

One individual was responsible for 18 of the 26 calls. Of the calls to the banks/ATM's this same person was responsible for 15 of the 16 complaints at these locations. This same person is responsible for 27 of the 62 calls for the month that are related to homelessness.





**Shoplifting/Theft Complaints:** We received 11 complaints of shoplifting in April, the same number as in March, which was a slight increase from February and January 2026 (7 each month). Five of these complaints were cleared, 2 were unfounded and 3 are still under investigation with the expectation that these also will be cleared. With shoplifting complaints, Police often get the information after the incident and the suspects have departed, and as a result, the biggest challenge is to identify the subject as incidents are captured on video. For the month, the majority of suspects were local to Amherst, but it is common to have people from other areas as suspects in thefts.

**Trespassing:** There were 44 trespassing complaints received in April, down from 54 in March and 73 in February. Of the complaints in April, 26 were related to homelessness, again down from 36 in March 2026. Sixteen of these complaints were regarding homelessness and banks/ATMs. The drop can likely be attributed to 2 reasons - people that have temporarily been away from this area and the warmer weather. A single individual was also responsible for 18 of the trespassing complaints, 16 of which were ATM/Banks.

**OPERATIONAL STATS – February 2026**

Occurrences:	411	Criminal Code Charges:	46
Impaired by Alcohol:	1	CDSA:	1
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	0

Traffic Tickets:	38	Traffic Written Warnings:	5
Vehicle Checks:	122	LCA:	1
Foot Patrol Hours:	43, hrs, 15 min	PPA:	2
Parking Tickets(police):	0 (members)	Parking Tickets(bylaw):	0
Parking Warnings:	0 (members)	Parking Warnings (bylaw)	6

**OPERATIONAL STATS – March 2026**

Occurrences:	514	Criminal Code Charges:	88
Impaired by Alcohol:	2	CDSA:	0
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	64	Traffic Written Warnings:	9
Vehicle Checks:	146	LCA:	2
Foot Patrol Hours:	42hrs, 34 min	PPA:	2
Parking Tickets(police):	12 (members)	Parking Tickets(bylaw):	0
Parking Warnings:	0 (members)	Parking Warnings (bylaw)	0

**OPERATIONAL STATS – April 2026**

Occurrences:	511	Criminal Code Charges:	46
Impaired by Alcohol:	1	CDSA:	8
Impaired by Drug:	2	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	46	Traffic Written Warnings:	20
Vehicle Checks:	122	LCA:	0
Foot Patrol Hours:	40hrs, 27 min	PPA:	0
Parking Tickets(police):	0 (members)	Parking Tickets(bylaw):	1
Parking Warnings:	0 (members)	Parking Warnings (bylaw)	0