



HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Hamilton Police Service Board
BOARD MEETING DATE:	June 25, 2026
SUBJECT:	2025 Year End Report – Crimes Against Seniors Unit
REPORT NUMBER:	26-058
PRESENTATION:	No
OUTSTANDING BUSINESS ITEM:	No
SUBMITTED BY:	Frank Bergen, Chief of Police
SIGNATURE:	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Crimes Against Seniors Unit (CASU) was created in 2004 to investigate criminal victimization of seniors (60+) and vulnerable adults (18+) across Hamilton. CASU consists of one Detective, one Detective-Constable, and one Senior Support Officer and operates within the Financial Crimes branch of the Investigative Services Division.
- CASU investigates neglect, physical/financial abuse, exploitation, power of attorney fraud, and sexual assault cases in conjunction with the sex assault unit.
- Hamilton's 65+ population grew by 38% between 2006 and 2021, outstripping general population growth (13%). Seniors now make up 18.3% of the total local population, escalating the need for dedicated policing resources (last updated Census data).
- CASU maintains active partnerships with six major regional bodies, including the Hamilton Council on Aging and Catholic Family Services.
- Joined as a founding member of the Hamilton Elder Abuse Prevention Network to centralize local safety resources.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

Appendix A – 2025 Crimes Against Seniors Unit Year End Report

FB/M.Schulenberg

c: Ryan Diodati, Deputy Chief – Operations

2025

Crimes Against Seniors Unit Year End Report

Staff Sgt Corrigan #838



Investigative Services Division

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Appendix "A"

Education and Awareness

CASU realizes that with the continued growth of an aging population, there is a need to educate and inform the community in regards to crimes affecting seniors. In 2025, CASU performed 66 community presentations. Some of the groups that participated in CASU presentations are as follows:

- PROBUS Club
- Dundas Community Services
- Welcome Inn Community Centre
- Head Injury Rehabilitation Ontario
- Hamilton City Housing
- Good Shepherd Women's Services
- Grandview Retirement Home
- Philpott Church
- Hamilton Age Friendly City Project
- Villa Italia Retirement Home
- Enbridge Retirees
- Shalom Village

CASU members placed an emphasis on educating and increasing awareness of issues affecting seniors, training is provided to HPS members and law enforcement partners. CASU provided training to every HPS recruit class in 2025, members from the Communications Branch, Community Paramedics and the Victorian Order of Nurses. CASU members also presented to police officers on the Elder Abuse Course at the Ontario Police College.

Appendix “B”

Caseload

In 2025, CASU investigated 425 cases. In 2023, the number was 409, and in 2024, the number was 569. This continues the upward trend from 2022 when the number of cases investigated was 203.

CASU investigations are generated by:

- Follow up reports taken by frontline officers
- Referral forms sent by outside agencies (Long Term Care Homes, Residential Homes, Care Facilities)
- Communication Branch Generated Incidents (E-mailed CAD reports)

Investigations referred by Uniform Patrol

Initially, a call for service is generated by the Communications Branch prompting a uniform patrol response to the concerning issue. When these calls involve seniors or vulnerable adults, further follow up is often required. The responding uniform patrol officer will then complete a police report. The uniform patrol officer’s supervisor will review the report and task it to the Detective Staff Sergeant of Financial Crimes for case re-assignment. This is the primary source of calls created for Detectives and SSO to investigate.

Referral Forms

Changes to the Long-Term Care Homes Act (LTCHA) in 2010 made reporting to police mandatory (Long-Term Care Homes Act, O.Reg. 79/10, s.98) for any alleged, suspected or witnessed incident of abuse or neglect of a resident. In response to these legislative changes, CASU developed a standardized referral form for all Long-Term Care Home Facilities within the City of Hamilton. When an incident of abuse, assault or neglect occurs within a Long-Term Care facility, the administration staff of that facility must complete the referral form as mandated, and email it to the HPS CASU mailbox for further investigation.

In late 2022, an online reporting portal was developed and an online form was created. This enabled a more efficient and streamlined reporting process for LTC homes. An HPS occurrence number is auto-generated. In 2025, 250 reports were received from LTC homes, up from 145 in 2024.

Emailed CAD (Computer Automated Dispatch) Reports

Any police call involving a senior or vulnerable person is automatically flagged and sent to the CASU inbox for review. Officers in CASU (including the Senior Support Officer) review all the flagged incidents daily, to ensure that no victim or investigative lead has been neglected. In 2025, a total of 751 calls were reviewed. Some calls are successfully dealt with by dispatchers, while others require a uniform patrol response and further follow up by CASU or the SSO office.

Notable Incidents

In January 2025, Community Living Hamilton, which supports 1,400 people with developmental disabilities in the community, notified HPS that multiple clients had suffered significant financial losses in their bank accounts. There were 10 victims who ranged in age from 25 to 71 years old. Hamilton Community Living believed an employee was involved. CASU members commenced an extensive investigation that revealed the combined financial loss for the victims was in excess of \$270,000 and confirmed the employee's involvement. The employee was subsequently charged with 10 counts of Fraud Over \$5000.

In July 2025 Hamilton Police were notified of a case of potential elder abuse involving an 87 year old victim. The victim was admitted to hospital with serious, untreated health issues. CASU detectives initiated an investigation. As the CASU investigation progressed, it became necessary to involve the Homicide Unit. The victim's son was charged with Manslaughter and Failure to Provide the Necessaries of Life.

Conclusion

The Hamilton Police Service's Crimes Against Seniors Unit will continue to be a leader in the Province for its advocacy and investigative expertise dealing with persons 60+ and vulnerable adults. Investigators will continue to strive to adapt and work on innovative methods to educate both the public and police, and investigate to the fullest extent the crimes affecting Seniors and Vulnerable Adults living within our community.