



South Simcoe Police operations are now housed in the new South Division Police Station, at 81 Melbourne Drive in Bradford. Station is open 24 hours a day.

New home for the South Simcoe Police...

For nearly a decade, the old South Division police station in Bradford was described as "inadequate".

Housed in a century-old building on Holland St. East, the basement had dirt floors, mold in the walls, and ceilings so low that officers had to duck – or hit their heads on the floor joists. The building measured only 8,000 sq. ft. or so, and space was at such a premium that even closets and the area under the stairs were being used as offices.

Washrooms, holding cells, lunchroom facilities – all were substandard, and the target of work orders, under the Ministry of Labour, that totalled more than \$1 million.

Even the rental of space for Police Administration, at 100 Dissette St., while it eased the over-crowding, didn't address the basic problem: the old building wasn't suitable for modern policing.

In 2006, work began on a new South Division

Police Station. Located on Melbourne Drive, beside the Bradford Fire & Emergency Services headquarters, the new station was completed earlier this month, and all policing activities

Communications – and dispatch, Ident, Criminal Investigations, Community-Oriented Response, Administration, Records, Uniformed Patrol, and prisoner processing – have now moved over to the new building. South Simcoe

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State-of-the-art Communications Room at the South Division combines call-taking, dispatch and monitoring, in what Chief Davis calls the "bridge of the Enterprise."

New home for South Simcoe Police in Bradford

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Police Chief Bruce Davis heaves a sigh of relief.

"We needed to be in here," he says. "Finally, we have a professional, fully-operational police station." The Station measures 24,000 sq. ft., "including the basement and garages," and every square foot is allocated to policing operations.

It starts at the "Sally Port", a secure entry where police cruisers can bring prisoners into the station. Only one of the garage doors can open at a time, and the other doors, leading to different areas of the building, are secure. Near the Sally Port entry are areas for fingerprinting and processing of prisoners, including proper lawyer-client interview rooms.

The old station's holding cells included a "bullpen", and two single cells – plus two interview rooms that could be converted into holding cells for women or Young Offenders, if necessary, but which lacked washroom facilities. The new station has a bullpen, 3 cells for male offenders, 2 for females, one for Young Offenders, all of them larger, cleaner and more secure – and there are "panic bars" along the walls in the secure areas, in case of emergencies.

The Intoxilyzer – the device that tests for blood alcohol level in suspected

impaired drivers – is here, along with a secure garage, where evidence can be brought in for the IDENT unit to carry out forensic investigation. There is new equipment, and space for secured evidence storage.

Interview rooms, proper facilities for the Court Office, room for the Community Service officers, the new Finance Department, Staff Sergeants' office, proper locker rooms and change facilities for male and female employees, radio rooms, IT – "Every inch is used. There are no empty rooms," notes Sgt. Lisa Hunt.

Up on the 2nd floor, though, is the real "nerve centre" of South Division. This is where Communications and radio dispatch are housed, and where the Emergency Operations Centre is being set up – a room, "separate from everything else", where key staff and Town administration will come to direct operations in the case of a major Town-wide emergency, such as a flood, another "Hurricane Hazel", a major chemical spill.

It is the "state-of-the-art" Communications Centre, however, that Chief Davis calls "the bridge of the Enterprise." Staffed by two call-takers, a dispatcher and a supervisor at any one time, it features touch-screen radio and phone systems, computer banks that can

be raised or lowered to accommodate the employee, and automatic back-up and records management, linked to a satellite clock that ensures that records are synchronized. A new Toshiba phone system doesn't rely on microwave, but on fibre optics – making the system more secure, faster, and better quality.

Chief Davis admits that he had some concerns about switching communications from one building to another – the first phase of the move into the new facility. Of special concern was continuity of the 911 dispatch service, but, says Chief Davis, "it turned over without a hitch." He credits radio supplier, Telequip with the successful transfer, and has nothing but praise for the new \$5.6 million police station.

"It's designed to be space-efficient and function – the primary focus being on police use, not converting an old house or a bank."

The old South Division Station on Holland St. East is slated for demolition, to provide more parking for the Bradford Courthouse, which is undergoing renovation. Demolition won't be taking place for a few months: until new holding cells, lawyer-client interview rooms and a secure "Sally Port" entry are completed at the Courthouse, the old cells and interview rooms will continue to be used on Court days.

But all other policing activities have now moved to the new South Division Station on Melbourne Drive, which is handicapped accessible, has plenty of parking at the rear, and is open 24 hours a day.