



**County of Wellington O.P.P.
Police Services Board Report**

2023 Year End Report

Detachment Commander
Inspector Steve Thomas

From the Detachment Commander

As we move into 2024, this report looks back and reflects on both the challenges and successes of 2023. I would like to thank all the officers, auxiliaries, and civilian support staff in Wellington County for their dedication and hard work as we dealt with an increased number of calls for service, weather-related events and the tragic loss of too many colleagues across the policing world in Ontario and across Canada.

Wellington County OPP welcomed two new recruits and three Experienced Police Officers in 2023. We were also pleased to receive two new Staff Sergeants and two new Sergeants. Both Sergeants and one of the Staff Sergeants started their careers as Provincial Constables within Wellington County and worked diligently to earn their promotions.

The overall number of collisions in 2023 echoed the 2022 numbers, but unfortunately, there were 18 fatal collisions in Wellington County in 2023. Our thoughts go out to those affected by these tragic collisions.

Wellington County detachment members continued to do proactive traffic enforcement and RIDE programs throughout 2023. I am pleased to announce that there was an overall decrease in traffic offences in the “Big 4” categories. Our traffic management unit will continue to be strategically deployed across the county based on high complaint areas, black cat speed data, and collision information in hopes to further enforce and reduce the “Big 4”.

On behalf of the Wellington County OPP, we want to wish everyone a safe and healthy 2024. Wellington County OPP will continue to work with the community and our partners to ensure that the safety and well-being of our citizens remains paramount.



Inspector Steve Thomas
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Index	
Crime	3
Traffic	6
Community Response	10
Court	16
Acknowledgements	18
Statistical Summary	20

Crime

Crime Unit

Supervisor: Detective Sergeant (D/Sgt) Jennifer Foley

The Wellington County Crime Unit saw personnel changes in 2023, with the addition of two new members. In March, D/Sgt Jennifer Foley, returned to Wellington County as the Area Crime Supervisor. From 2008 to 2018, Foley worked as a Detective Constable in the Wellington Crime Unit. In 2018, she transferred to the West Region Criminal Operations - Regional Support Team where she worked on major cases with the OPP Criminal Investigation Bureau throughout West Region. Foley brings a strong background in criminal investigation and a familiarity with the communities in Wellington County. In October 2023, Detective Constable (D/C) Dan Farrugia, joined the Crime Unit and has demonstrated a tenacity for investigating criminal offences and solving crimes.

The Crime Unit dedicated significant time to death investigations, including 3 active homicide investigations, 3 historical homicides, 1 found human remains and a suspicious death. In the fall, three people were arrested and charged with kidnapping and first-degree murder in relation to the death of Jason Brown in 2020. In November, charges of manslaughter were laid in relation to a Wellington North altercation that occurred in January.

Members of the Crime Unit assisted the Crown Attorney in a Judge and Jury, Superior Court, murder trial that started in September. After the 24-day trial, Kyle Gemin, was found guilty of second-degree murder for killing of his grandfather, George Gemin, in July of 2020.

The Crime Unit was involved in 76-sexual-assault investigations. In May, a 29-year-old male was charged with sexually assaulting two females while posing as a rideshare driver. In September, the Crime Unit began investigating sexual assaults that occurred between 1961 and 1984. As a result, a male and a female were charged with several criminal code offences.

In July, the Crime Unit charged a 21-year-old resident with several arson offences in relation to seven fires in Wellington North.

In addition to investigating major criminal offences in Wellington County, members of the Crime Unit support community groups and participate in community events. A member of the Crime Unit sits on the board of directors for Guelph-Wellington Victim Services, Seniors at Risk Committee and Law Enforcement Agencies and Partners Protecting Seniors. D/C Heidi Pautsch has taken the initiative to organize several community presentations on Fraud Prevention, focusing on promoting education and awareness among seniors.

In June, a member of the Crime Unit organized Wellington County OPP's participation in the Sirens for Life, blood donation drive: A battle between the emergency services to give the most blood donations to Canadian Blood Services. In June, D/C Roman Walizad attended a community event hosted by Toronto Police Service and Afghan Nobel TV to celebrate the Islamic holiday of Eid. The event was an opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of the Afghan community of Ontario while promoting careers in policing. During the celebration, D/C Walizad received recognition for his role in collecting donations for refugees who arrived in Ontario following the Turkey/Syria earthquake in February.

The Crime Unit works closely with the Intimate Partner Violence/Human Trafficking/Hate Crime Liaison. That position was filled by Provincial Constable (PC) Jacob Unger in November. In this role, PC Unger reviews all occurrences of Intimate Partner Violence, Human Trafficking and Hate Crime and provides community education, referral to support agencies and offers investigative guidance to front line officers. PC Unger works in partnership with community groups and support agencies within Wellington and liaises with specialty units within the OPP, including the Hate Crime/Extremism Unit, Anti-Human Trafficking Unit and Victim Response Support Unit.

Community Street Crime Unit

Supervisor: Detective Sergeant Jeff Dudley

The Wellington County Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) continues to prioritize local crime trends, the opioid crisis and targeting local people identified in property thefts. CSCU members are committed to continuous learning and are attending training when time permits. CSCU has developed local training, mentoring initiatives for front line members to promote officer safety and enhance their local knowledge on the current drug and property crimes trends in the area.

Staffing updates

In June, Detective Sergeant Adam McGough left the CSCU and returned to the Wellington Traffic Management Unit (TMU). We'd like to say "Thank you" to Adam, for his hard work and dedication to the CSCU.

In July, we welcomed a new Detective Sergeant, Jeff Dudley, who previously worked in Community Street Crime Unit, Drug Enforcement Unit and West Region Intelligence Unit. He has a strong background in investigations and have spent the last 10 years combating illicit drugs and property crime throughout West Region. His enthusiasm will lend support to our members and lead to the continued success of the CSCU.

In September, they welcomed a full-time member and a temporary assigned member. These officers have come from the frontline and will bring unique skill sets to the team. The additional members will allow CSCU to continue to assist frontline with investigations, combat illicit drugs and fight property crime.

Notable occurrences

CSCU members had a very busy start to 2023. Members were deployed twice, once to Eastern Ontario and once to Central Ontario, to assist with multiple search warrants for Project "COYOTE". As a result, multiple firearms and a large quantity of drugs were seized.

In March, CSCU members culminated a drug investigation into illicit substances being trafficked in the Palmerston area. As a result, a search warrant was executed at a residence. Two adults were charged with Controlled Drugs & Substances Act offences and police seized a quantity of methamphetamine, Fentanyl, MDMA and Psilocybin.

In April, CSCU executed a Controlled Drugs and Substances Act warrant in Puslinch. Members located cocaine, psilocybin, and suspected heroin. This was the conclusion of a multiple month investigation into a prolific drug trafficker.

In July, CSCU with assistance from Waterloo Region, West Region ERT, Grey-Bruce CSCU and Huron Perth CSCU concluded an investigation that led to the seizure of a loaded handgun, Canadian currency,

and cocaine. As a result of the seized property, two people from Waterloo Region have been arrested and charged with several offences.

In August, CSCU assisted with an Impaired by Drug Driving event. The driver was found passed out behind the wheel of the motor vehicle while it was in gear. The weight of the unconscious driver's foot was all that was holding the vehicle's position. The driver was arrested, and a substantial amount of fentanyl and cocaine were seized from the vehicle. The driver was charged with several related offences.

CSCU and the Crime Unit began an investigation in September for a theft of a large spool of copper wire from a business in North Wellington. Suspects entered the business and stole over \$200,000.00 worth of copper wire. CSCU liaised with other policing partners and were able to identify one of the suspects responsible for the theft. The suspect was charged accordingly.

CSCU assisted frontline with a methamphetamine trafficking case in South Wellington. CSCU investigators authored a search warrant to obtain further evidence from the suspect that will assist in the charges of trafficking. An individual was located with a quantity of methamphetamine and drug trafficking paraphernalia and charged with several offences including possession for the purpose of trafficking - methamphetamine.

In November, CSCU executed two warrants in relation to an ongoing cocaine trafficking investigation in Center Wellington. Police seized cocaine, MDMA, crack-cocaine, psilocybin (magic mushrooms), prescription pills, drug trafficking paraphernalia and a firearm, with ammunition. As a result, four people were charged with several trafficking and firearm related offences.

Also in November, CSCU assisted frontline with a cannabis trafficking investigation. An individual was arrested for Impaired Operation and had approximately 40 Kg of cannabis bud, cannabis oil, cannabis hash, cannabis vaping cartridges and over \$40,000.00 in currency. Further, investigation revealed that the accused was also operating a stolen vehicle which had a modified VIN. The accused was charged.

Traffic

Traffic Management Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant Adam McGough

Black Cat Speed Monitoring Devices – 2023 Deployments

Location	Study Length	Number of Vehicles	Recommended Enhanced Enforcement	Posted Speed Limit	85 th Percentile	Collision History (5 years)
Wellington Road 19 Centre Wellington Twp.	7 days	32,486	No	50	58	21
Wellington Road 7 Guelph/Eramosa Twp.	7 days	38,614	No	50	63	0
Beatty Ln Centre Wellington Twp.	12 days	24,675	No	50	65	7
Sligo Rd. Wellington North Twp.	8 days	11,768	Yes	50	67	0
Queen St. Town of Minto	10 days	2531	No	50	62	1
Wellington Road 124 Erin Twp.	7 days	4,371	Yes	60	75	7
Concession 4 Puslinch Twp	8 days,	4,244	Yes	50	83	5
Concession 7 Puslinch Twp	7 days	30,828	Yes	60	84	13
Wellington Road 49 Guelph/Eramosa	8 days	4,577	No	50	67	0
Blind Ln Town of Minto	8 days	5,276	No	80	97	8
Black St. Centre Wellington Twp.	8 days	21,023	No	50	50	5
Wellington Road 21 Centre Wellington Twp	7 days	27,343	No	80	87	28
Wellington Road 29 Guelph/Eramosa Twp	7 days	31,042	Yes	80	96	16

Wellington Road 34 Puslinch Twp	7 days	43,144	Yes	50	81	3
Wellington Road 35 Puslinch Twp	7 days	11,831	No	80	94	12
Wellington Road 36 Puslinch Twp	7 days	18,644	Yes	50	76	2
Wellington Rd 38, Guelph/Eramosa Twp	7 days	18,644	Yes	50	76	11
Wellington Rd 39 Guelph/Eramosa Twp	6 days	27,238	No	80	86	18
Wellington Rd 42 Erin Twp	7 days	22,501	Yes	50	74	3
Wellington Rd 49 Guelph/Eramosa Twp	7 days	3,191	Yes	50	73	0
Wellington Rd 50 Erin Twp	7 days	10,221	Yes	70	110	6
Wellington Rd 51 Guelph/Eramosa Twp	7 days	35,685	Yes	50	86	6
Pike Lake Rd Wellington North Township	7 days	4,870	No	60	86	6
Brock Rd Puslinch Twp	9 days	41,159	No	70	83	25
Concession 3 Mapleton Twp	14 days	13,962	No	60	81	4
Maltby Rd Puslinch Twp	8 days	7,042	No	60	75	6
Wellington Rd 23 Town of Erin	7 days	17,941	Yes	80	112	4
Wellington Rd 18 Centre Wellington Twp	7 days	44,488	No	60	71	4
Wellington Rd 22 Town of Erin	7 days	22,277	Yes	70	99	6

Wellington Rd 7 Mapleton Twp	7 days	48,182	Yes	50	78	3
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Enhanced Enforcement Program

Enhanced Enforcement is a focused traffic safety initiative which areas of concern are identified through various means and police conduct education and charge drivers who fail to follow the rules of the road. The goal is to reduce safety issues through visibility, presence, and enforcement.

Enhanced Enforcement protocols were rolled out on November 14.

Marine Patrol

Marine patrols for 2023, were a highly successful year; for overall deployments of the vessel and for statistics related to marine safety. There were no marine related fatalities within the County this year.

Notable Incidents

In January, a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Blitz was conducted in Arthur. 30 vehicles were inspected with 11 were taken out of service, 20 warnings given, and 22 charges laid.

The TMU hosted a joint OPP/Guelph Police Service three-day course for CMVs. A blitz on the border of Guelph and Wellington followed.

In May, a further CMV blitz was conducted in Erin. There were 11 CVSA inspectors (from Peel, Halton, York, Guelph, and OPP) and two Ministry of Finance (MOF) inspectors as well as officers helping from Auxiliary, West Region HSD, Wellington OPP - Traffic Management Unit, Wellington OPP - Community Resource Unit, and Wellington OPP Media. In total, there were 61 truck inspections with 16 vehicles taken Out of Service (26%) and 81 charges laid.

Another CMV campaign was completed in November. 26 total inspections were completed with 8 vehicles removed from the roadway, 19 Highway Traffic Act charges, 1 Criminal Code charge, a 45-day vehicle impoundment, and a licence plate seizure.

Festive R.I.D.E

Traffic Management Unit members participated extensively in our County Festive RIDE campaign to enforce impaired driving laws. Below are the statistics until December 31, 2023 for this year's campaign:

# OF VEHICLES CHECKED	3442
# OF ROADSIDE ASD TESTS	44
# OF FIRST OCCURRENCE 3 DAY WARN-RANGE SUSPENSIONS	7
SUM TOTAL OF PERSONS CHARGED AS A RESULT OF A ROADSIDE CHECK STOP	48

COLLISION REPORTING CENTRE (CRC)

Supervisor: Sergeant Ange Stiles

OPP Collision Reporting Centres (CRC) enhance safety on our county roads. They help with rapid clearance reducing the risk of secondary collisions, allows OPP to maximize resources, and allows drivers an alternate means to reporting a collision at a time that is convenient for the involved parties.

In 2023, the County of Wellington OPP were dispatched to over 1,900 motor vehicle collisions (MVCs). Of those, over 80% were “vehicle damage only” collisions.

Depending on the month, the County of Wellington CRC receives and processes over 50% of the motor vehicle collisions.

Of interest, November was the highest collision month. Many are a result of wild/domestic animal collisions. This is usually attributed to active deer breeding and seasonal movement of these animals throughout our County.

This year, the top reasons for MVCs in our County were a result of:

1. Wild/domestic animals
2. Following too closely
3. Failing to yield

We completed the hiring process to fully support the CRC at all our three Detachments. When a member of the public attends any of the County of Wellington OPP Detachments to report a minor collision, they are welcome to attend Rockwood, Fergus or Teviotdale. At their request, a member of the public is also allowed to request an officer attend the scene of their collision if they prefer not to attend our CRC.

Community Response

Community Response Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant James Mackenzie

It was a busy year for the Community Response Unit (CRU). Our team was privileged to receive many requests to join our community partners at meetings and engaging in conversation with the people that live within our County. Engagement and communication are fundamental in building relationships and allows us to demonstrate our core values in the OPP.

Our CRU team attended over 35 community events this year, from major festivals to local focused events and engaging youth at summer camps. CRU logged over 300 hours of foot patrol and over 50 hours of Bike/ATV/snowmobile patrol. Our unit assisted frontline platoons and our specialty units with approximately 780 calls for services, logged 88 marine hours and participated in 68 RIDE initiatives. Overall, our unit was versatile and connected with our community. We executed our response to interact with community members participating in many different activities.

Youth Resiliency Officer

2023 proved to be a busy year for the Wellington OPP Youth Resiliency Officer (YRO). The continued collaborations between the Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB), Wellington OPP, Guelph Police Service and Dufferin OPP led to the emergency video system being placed in Arthur and Orangeville. This system will help emergency services better respond to critical school incidents. Both the UGDSB and Wellington Catholic District School Board (WCDSB), their police partners and the John Howard Society also worked together on a weapons education presentation that was shown to 6,802 Grade 9 and Grade 10 students across 11 schools in Guelph and Wellington County. The presentation was not only informative but also allowed students to ask questions in a safe environment.

An important topic that the YRO covered this year was online safety. There was an increase in requests for police presentations focusing on Online Safety and Cyberbullying in both the UGDSB and the Wellington Catholic School Board schools. The YRO spoke to Grades 4-8 throughout the county about 'red flags' online and what to do to stay safe. Before summer holidays the WCDSB hosted an online webinar for parents called Exploring Boundaries and Online Safety in which the YRO was a panelist speaking to trends in online activity among youth and ways to keep youth safe in an ever-changing virtual world.

Further, following the success of the #HTinWC campaign, Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington partnered with the Wellington OPP YRO to present the 5/5/5 campaign, which focused on 5 tips, 5 ideas and 5 signs that your children are potentially being groomed for human trafficking. The YRO focused on the online safety and red flag aspect of the presentation, which was also the focus of another partnership with Safe Communities. The YRO presented to each of the Grove Hubs on online safety as part of the safety and prevention series.

The spring was busy with open houses at both Ponsonby and Minto-Clifford Public Schools. Center Wellington Operations Center hosted 60 Grade 3 students from Victoria Cross Public School where they toured the detachment, watched a demonstration from the canine officer and sat in the driver seat of a cruiser before heading over to the museum for their end of year school trip.

The YRO assisted with the Intro to First Responders class from John F Ross at the Rockwood Firehall. Grade 11 students watched demonstrations from Guelph-Wellington Fire, Paramedics and Wellington OPP and were able to speak with first responders about their roles and responsibilities. The YRO also teamed up again with the emergency management team and Wellington first responders for Emergency Preparedness Week to speak with Grade 6-8 students about what to do to prepare for an in the event of an emergency.

This past year, the Wellington Waterloo Perth Parochial Schools invited the YRO to their schools to speak about the OPP, who we are, what we do and what to do if you ever have and emergency.

This year was also the inaugural year for the Wellington OPP Youth Advisory Committee. The YAC consisted of six youth from throughout Wellington County and met once a month for two hours. The YAC recognized an issue with the communication of mental health supports in the community and developed a poster that was informative without being overwhelming. They designed the posters, reached out for funding, and have since distributed them to schools, community centres, and each of the Grove Hubs. Members of the YAC also attended the Youth Forum: Addressing the Impacts of the Pandemic on Children at The GrandWay in Elora. The YAC were able to connect with members of the community about actionable mental health initiatives as well as distributing their posters which were met with overwhelming praise.

In the warmer months, the Arthur, Fergus, and Puslinch Optimist Clubs partnered with Wellington OPP YRO to host bike rodeos throughout the county. Each of the bike rodeos had blue skies and were overwhelmingly successful with support from volunteers as well as helmets and concussion education from the Brain Injury Association of Waterloo-Wellington. The Optimist Clubs also extended their invitation to the annual UGDSB Empowerment Day held at the Sleeman Centre in Guelph.

IMPACT (Integrated Mobile Police and Crisis Team)

January 2023 to December 2023

Individuals Served	Requests for Service	Live Calls with Police	Calls Diverted from Hospital
330	683	226	91.6%

Auxiliary Unit

Unit Commander: Auxiliary Staff Sergeant J. SWAN

Liaison: Provincial Constable Kyle Draves

At the end of 2023, the Auxiliary unit currently has 18 active members. This year we had one member retire and added six new members through recruitment.

The unit had a very busy year. We attended approximately 40 different community events. The unit completed almost 1000 community hours at a variety of events throughout the County in addition to another 800 plus patrol hours (over 100 hours in Marine Patrols). In total, the unit completed almost 4000 hours of volunteer service. Please find highlights of some of these events below:

Food and Toy drives

The unit participated in three food drives in association with the Centre Wellington Food Bank. The food bank reported that several van loads of food was collected, along with around \$3500 in cash donations. In addition, we worked with the Mount Forest Canadian Tire for the second year on a Toy Drive supporting Big Brothers and Big Sisters North Wellington.

Parades

Members provided support to a variety of parades throughout the County. These included Santa Claus parades, Remembrance Day parades, the Fergus Fall Fair parade, The Fergus Scottish Festival parade, and the Elora Dominion Day parade.

New Events

The unit participated in several new events this year. We hosted the local Army Cadet Unit in Fergus for a detachment tour, assisted at the Meadows Music Festival in Fergus, the Touch a Truck event in Alma, the CBQC Family Fun Day in Elora, and the Multicultural Festival at the Wellington County Museum to name a few.

Crime Reduction/Community Safety Initiatives

The unit has an ongoing program to collect and update security camera information for the detachment in various parts of the county. As time allows, we have members go out and canvass businesses in various communities collecting information about security camera information and updating keyholder information. This is going to roll into the CamSafe Program which we will be assisting with starting in 2024.

The unit ran the Lock It or Lose It campaign in Fergus and Rockwood, in November. Approximately 128 houses were visited. In cases where homeowners were not available, information pamphlets were left behind.

One of our members, Auxiliary Natalie BUREK, was trained as a Child Car Seat Inspector. She has started organizing car seat inspection clinics. Results for this year are as follows:

Harriston: 0 inspections

Palmerston: 3 inspections

These clinics were run as a drop-in, free clinic, with the help of Jill Campbell, a volunteer technician from CPSAC. We are hoping to schedule further in advance to be able to increase our number of inspections.

In addition, Aux BUREK has advised that she has been getting requests from both Minto and Wellington North Fire Departments for any requests they receive for car seat inspections. She has arranged to do some inspections outside of the clinics run so far. We are planning to bring a training session to Wellington County in the Spring to train more of our members to become inspectors. From there, we hope to offer more clinics throughout the County. Aux BUREK has been invaluable in trying to get this initiative going again for our detachment.

In the Spring, the unit was asked to assist with distributing boat throw ropes at Conestogo Lake that were donated by a local business. We spent several hours visiting cottages on the lake and handing out the safety devices to residents.

Auxiliary Inspector, Brad HULL, performed nine fraud presentations in Wellington County last year, including a short presentation to the Police Services Board. Aux. Insp. HULL reports he already has another presentation booked in Elora in January as he continues to be available throughout 2024.

The Auxiliary unit ended 2023 with very active membership. In addition to the work mentioned above, numerous members spent countless hours coaching our new members and interviewing prospective candidates. Thankfully, we have a great core of Auxiliary Sergeants and a number of equally capable Auxiliary Constables who have worked in leadership roles over the course of the year. We are hoping to run more Lock it or Lose it campaigns, we remain ready for any Safeguard audit requests, and we are exploring some partnerships with food banks in South Wellington to expand our community presence in that part of the county. We are in the early stages of bringing back child car seat inspections which have not run in the county in several years.

We had several members who were recognized with long service awards over the past year; three recognized for 10 years of service and another three recognized for 15 years of service. This dedication is a credit to both the organization and the program.

Crime Stoppers

Sarah Bowers-Peter, Program Coordinator CSGW

Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington (CSGW) released their annual statistics, and 2023 was an outstanding year for anonymous and confidential crime reporting.

The total number of tips received by the program increased more than 39% from the previous year to 658. These tips assisted in investigations where \$247,403 in personal property and cash was recovered and \$1,130,869 in drugs recovered for a total recovery of \$1,378,272. This is an overall increase in recovered drugs, personal property and cash of 1,170%.

In 2023, 14 cases cleared, which resulted in 17 arrests and 101 charges being laid. It also resulted in the CSGW Board of Directors approving \$4,945 in rewards to Tipsters.

"It is exciting to see how successful the program has been in 2023," said CSGW Board Chair Dave Elloway. "The Board of Directors is aware of the volume of tips each month, but to see the accumulative impact is truly remarkable. Crime Stoppers is making a difference in the City of Guelph and County of Wellington by anonymously providing information to make our community safer. Guelph and Wellington County residents can safely Say It Here."

"These statistics would not be possible without the assistance of our investigative partners, including Wellington County OPP and Guelph Police Service," said Sarah Bowers-Peter, Program Coordinator of CSGW, "and most importantly, without the assistance of the brave Tipsters who come forward anonymously and confidentially. Without them, we know that 14 cases would be unsolved, 17 individuals would not have been arrested and no charges would be laid."

She continued, saying that all tips to CSGW are forwarded to investigators and that no tip is too small.

"If you've been considering contacting Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington, there is no better time," said Bowers-Peter.

Safe Communities Wellington County

In 2023, Safe Communities Wellington County held our Priority Setting Exercise and determined our priorities for the next three years. Based on statistics, the Top three injury Emergency Department visits are Falls (62%), Sports/Recreation (14%), and Motor Vehicle accidents (9%), and our top three injury hospitalizations are Falls (74%), Motor Vehicle accidents (9%), and Intentional Self-harm (7%).

2023 also brought us our fourth virtual Safe Communities Day for exclusively Grade 5 students. This year we reached 650 students across Wellington County from both Upper Grand District School Board and Wellington Catholic District School Board. We created new videos in collaboration with Wightman Telecom to include the Grand River Conservation Authority, Centre Wellington Aquatics, and an updated video for Guelph Wellington Paramedic Services.

2023 also brought back more events where we could reach more people and focus on specific areas. At the Centre Wellington Active Living Show & Lights & Sirens, we focused on accidental poisonings; making sure medications and cannabis are kept high and locked; and our kitchen cabinets are locked to prevent toddlers from opening them. Drayton Farm Show we moved into focusing on safe driving behaviors, including wearing your helmet while riding your bike and on your ATV. The Fergus Lions Home Show we created a Safety Scavenger Hunt where participants were directed to our partners to learn a little bit more about preventing injuries. We also celebrated Safe Communities Wellington County's 10th anniversary.

National Teen Driver Safety Week is always a hit. We visited three of the four Wellington County High Schools. We focused primarily on Impaired driving, showing the students the blood alcohol content goggles to show them what it would feel like if they have a blood alcohol content just below .08. We also brought back positive ticketing and partnering with Wellington County OPP to make it happen during that week as well. To round out the year we participated in Safety with Santa in Rockwood focusing on speaking to parents about Self Care and having the kids make a self-care tool kit. Looking forward to an amazing 2024!

Media

Provincial Constable Josh Cunningham

The Wellington County Media Unit issued over 300 media releases in addition to social media posts, media interviews, and community talks/presentations.

The unit also attended numerous community events including Riverfest, Meadows Fest, Hillside Festival, the Highland Games, car shows and many more.



Court

Supervisor: A/Sergeant Mike DeBoer

In 2023 the Court Bureau underwent several operation changes to improve on efficiency and the implementation / coordination of several programs designed to enhance public safety and offender monitoring.

Video bail hearings continue to take place from detachment operational centres. This has been enhanced with the assistance of the Special Constables to facilitate bail hearings from all three operations centres reducing the need to transport offenders between operations centres post apprehension.

The court unit continues to notify frontline officers of any new wanted persons and assigns officers to make further attempts to locate wanted persons where possible.

The eIntake and enhanced eHub information swearing process has proven to be a success, virtually eliminating the need for officers to attend before a Justice of the Peace to swear to a criminal charge information.

Electronic disclosure of case evidence to the Provincial and Federal Crowns has improved with introduction of Digital Evidence Management. Court staff and selected administrative personnel underwent digital evidence management training for evidence handling and disclosure. Although not fully implemented yet, efficiencies in Bureau operations are already being realized.

The Court Bureau and Detachment Command have re-evaluated some case management workload issues and reassigning some court duties to administrative staff to assist, creating operational efficiencies within the unit.

The Special Constables have undertaken court monitoring with the County Prosecutor in an effort to monitor Provincial Offences Courts and coordinate officer appearances on traffic court days. This initiative has eliminated the need for officers to unnecessarily attend court in Guelph and remain mostly operational on court days. This has greatly benefitted the prosecutor and the officers during traffic court, allowing them to concentrate on their court appearances and related tasks and not on the coordination of officers appearing in person or virtually for trials.

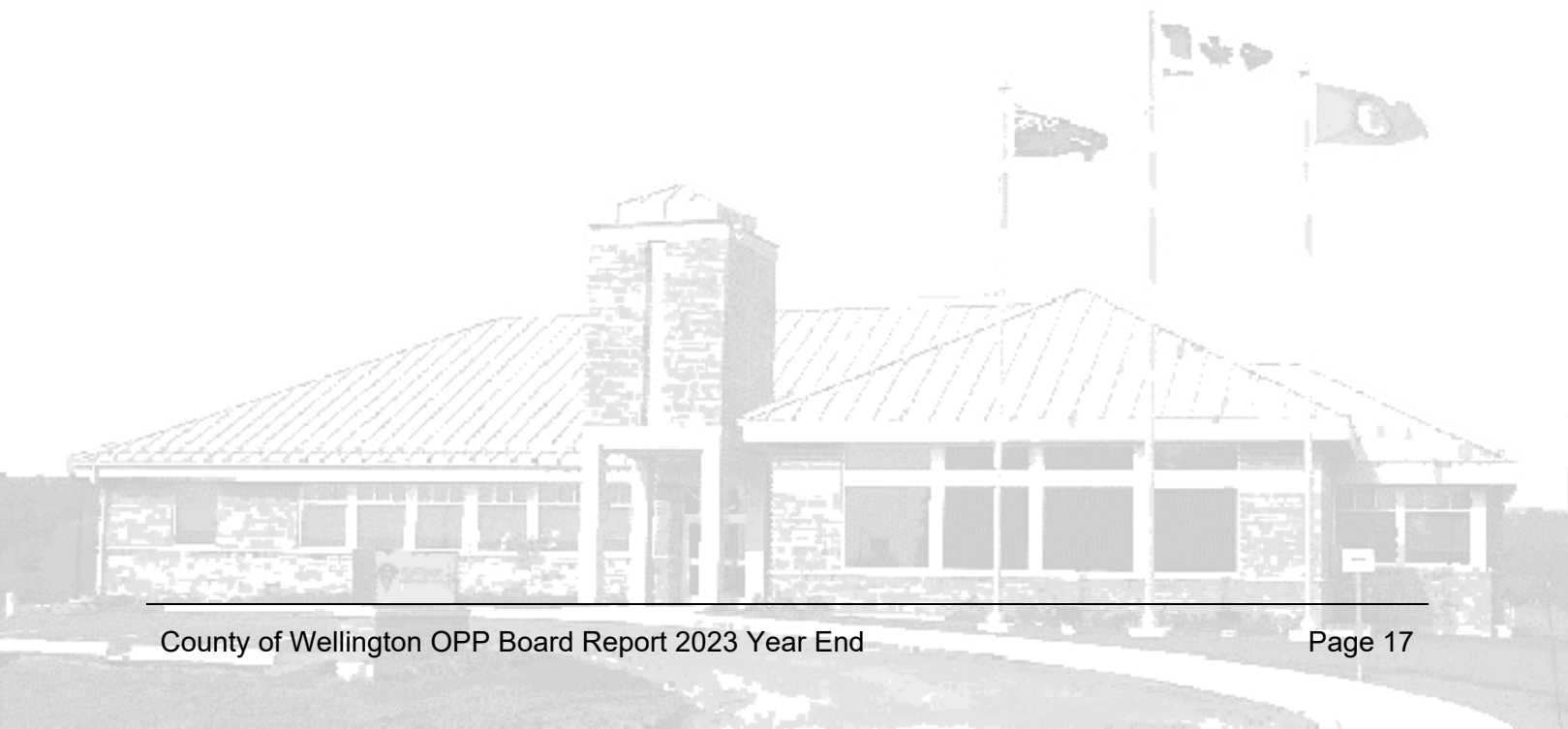
The Court Bureau is actively participating in the Firearms Bail Compliance Project which allows for the monitoring of persons on a Judicial Release that have been involved in firearms related offences. The program allows officers an opportunity to closely monitor the offender compliance with any release conditions imposed as part of their Judicial Release. Court Bureau staff monitor cases for inclusion in the program and conduct the necessary reporting to ensure offenders are monitored and, where necessary, enforcement action is taken.

The Court Bureau is also actively reporting on the Offender Management and Apprehension Program (OMAP). This program is a crime suppression program designed to deter the criminal activities of repeat offenders. The program focuses on offenders that are deemed to be a high-risk to the safety of communities and individuals who are often involved in repeat criminal behaviour. The program is based on the principle that the offender is accountable to both the community and the justice system, while on

any form of a judicial interim release, probation/parole or on any other form of pre-trial release. The program is based on strict enforcement if an offender fails to comply with any release provision. Court Bureau staff monitor cases for inclusion in the program and conduct the necessary reporting to ensure offenders are monitored and, where necessary, enforcement action is taken.

As part of a provincial initiative, the Court Bureau has coordinated with the local Crown Attorney to implement the Intensive Serious Violent Crime Bail Teams program. This program is part of an investment to strengthen the province's bail system to ensure that high-risk and repeat violent offenders comply with their bail conditions, specifically if they re-offend or breach release conditions. The Court Bureau in coordination with the local Crown Attorney's closely monitor any bail proceedings involving repeat violent offenders to oppose bail release and advocate for strict conditions/monitoring for these individuals. The Court Bureau is responsible for monitoring and selecting cases for this initiative and making notifications to the Crown Attorney in these matters, enhancing our responsibility to victim and public safety.

Also, over the past year, Court Bureau staff and officers have made considerable efforts to participate and coordinate many community-related events throughout the county including Cops for Cancer, Sirens for Life, Tim Horton's Camp Day, Golf Tournaments, and other charitable events that benefit individuals and the communities we serve.



Personnel & Acknowledgements

Excellent Work on D Platoon

Members conducting patrols through Arthur observed a known individual riding an E bike. This person was a known wanted party and was known to be breaching judicial conditions. A second unit attended and assisted with the arrest.

PC Shody and PC Wardell demonstrated bravery in the midst of a volatile situation. We would like to thank PC Shody and PC Wardell, for all that they do on a regular basis to help keep our community safe.

D Platoon

Wellington County OPP received information from a neighboring police service about a party in crisis that was mobile. The two services converged on the area and located the individual. Officers took custody of the subject and transported them to an area hospital for a crisis assessment.

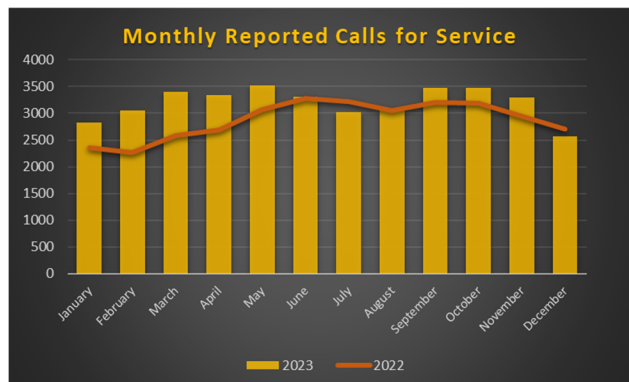
All attending officers displayed outstanding communication, leadership, and teamwork throughout the entire incident. Each member's contributions to the incident had a direct impact on the positive outcome.

Statistics Summary

2023 Frontline Calls for Service Statistics

Calls for service in 2023 increased by 11% over 2022.

Traffic Complaints increased 9% in 2023 while Police Assistance and Motor Vehicle Collisions decreased by an average of 15%. Other lower number occurrence categories such as Robbery, Pursuits, Weapons and Unwanted Persons show an average increase of 56%.



2023 Top Calls for Service

Traffic Complaint	2532
Police Assistance	2063
Motor Vehicle Collision	1973
Police Information	1330
Suspicious Person / Vehicle	1023
Domestic Dispute	880
Mental Health Occurrences	706
R.I.D.E.	674
Traffic Hazard	628
Theft	590

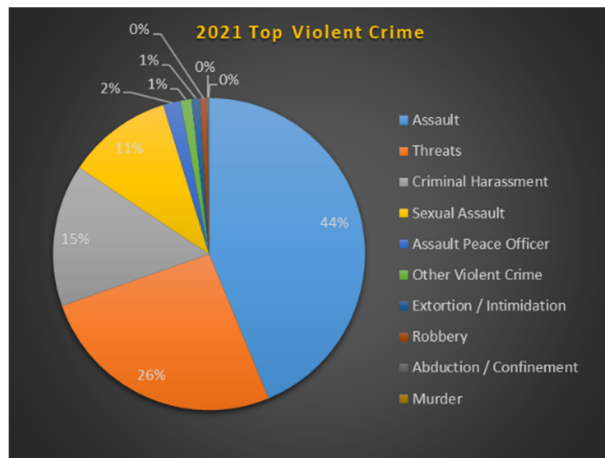
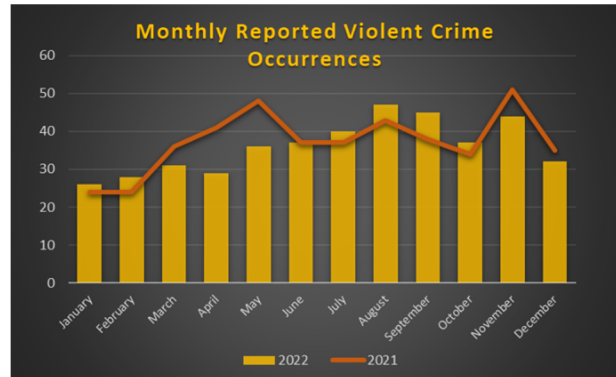
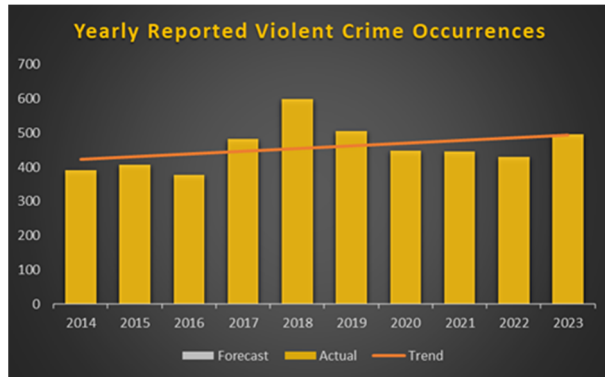
All data is based on the "Top Level" Uniform Crime Reporting category

Although many call categories experienced decreases 2023, the overall calls for service finished higher than expected trend levels. It is anticipated that calls for service and overall investigations will be similar in the coming year.

Calls for Service	2022	2023	% Change
Traffic Complaint	2313	2532	9%
Police Assistance	2300	2063	-10%
Motor Vehicle Collision	2478	1973	-20%
Police Information	1075	1330	24%
Suspicious Person / Vehicle	884	1023	16%
Domestic Dispute	787	880	12%
Mental Health Occurrences	640	706	10%
R.I.D.E.	287	674	135%
Traffic Hazard	693	628	-9%
Theft	664	590	-11%

2023 Violent Crime Statistics

All data is based on the "Top Level" Uniform Crime Reporting category



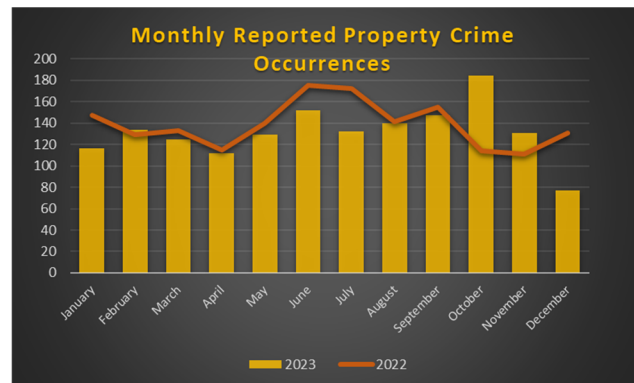
2023 Top Violent Crime Occurrences

Assault	209
Threats	110
Sexual Assault	74
Criminal Harassment	69
Other Violent Crime	12
Abduction / Confinement	6
Firearms Offence	6
Assault Peace Officer	6
Robbery	4
Extortion / Intimidation	3

Violent Crime Occurrences	2022	2023	% Change
Assault	164	209	27%
Threats	115	110	-4%
Sexual Assault	64	74	16%
Criminal Harassment	52	69	33%
Other Violent Crime	16	12	-25%
Abduction / Confinement	2	6	200%
Firearms Offence	6	6	0%
Assault Peace Officer	5	6	20%
Robbery	2	4	100%
Extortion / Intimidation	7	3	-57%

2023 Property Crime Statistics

All data is based on the "Top Level" Uniform Crime Reporting category



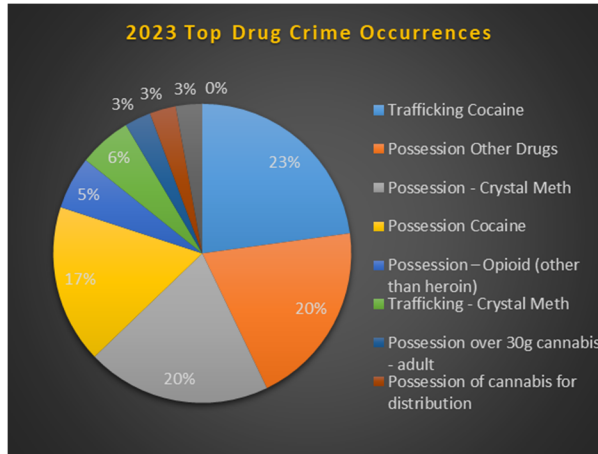
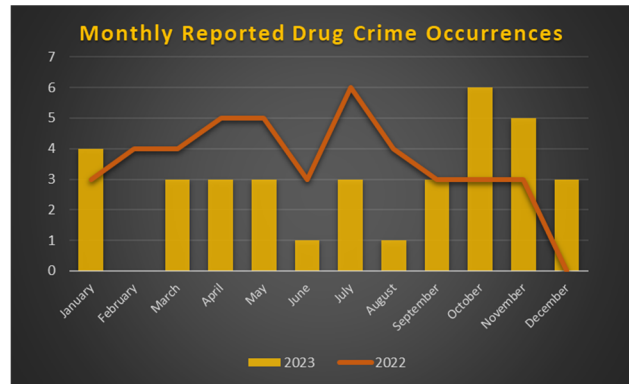
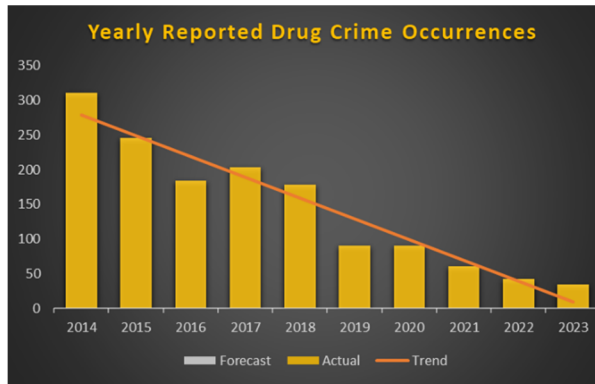
2023 Top Property Crime Occurrences

Fraud	449
Theft Under	442
Mischief	267
Stolen Vehicle	121
Break & Enter	119
Theft from Vehicle	107
Theft Over	67
Shoplifting	65
Possess Stolen Property	23
Arson	12

Property Crime Occurrences	2022	2023	% Change
Fraud	349	449	29%
Theft Under	567	442	-22%
Mischief	308	267	-13%
Stolen Vehicle	123	121	-2%
Break & Enter	164	119	-27%
Theft from Vehicle	174	107	-39%
Theft Over	61	67	10%
Shoplifting	47	65	38%
Possess Stolen Property	21	23	10%
Arson	5	12	140%

2023 Drug Crime Statistics

All data is based on the "Top Level" Uniform Crime Reporting category



2023 Top Drug Crime Occurrences

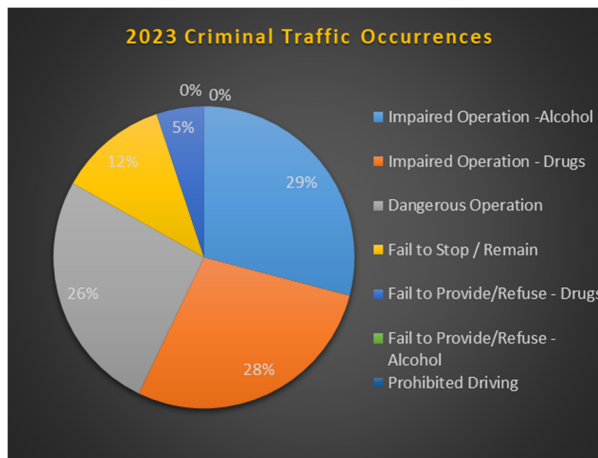
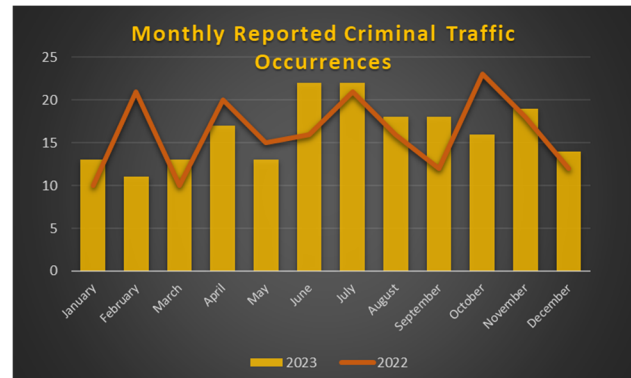
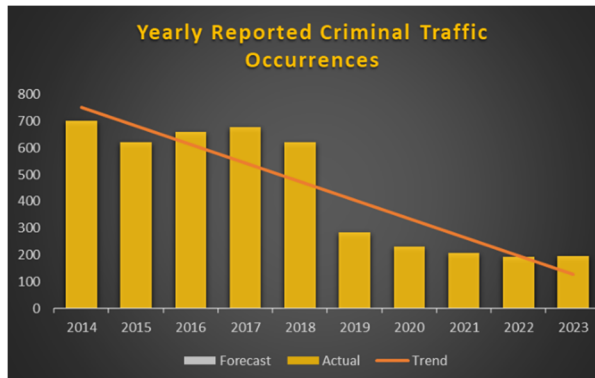
Trafficking Cocaine	8
Possession - Crystal Meth	7
Possession Other Drugs	7
Possession Cocaine	6
Trafficking - Crystal Meth	2
Possession - Opioid (other than heroin)	2
Cultivate, propagate or harvest	1
Possession of cannabis for distribution	1
Possession over 30g cannabis - adult	1
Other Cannabis Act	

Drug Crime Occurrences	2022	2023	% Change
Trafficking Cocaine	4	8	100%
Possession - Crystal Meth	9	7	-22%
Possession Other Drugs	6	7	17%
Possession Cocaine	5	6	20%
Trafficking - Crystal Meth	2	2	0%
Possession - Opioid (other than heroin)	3	2	-33%
Cultivate, propagate or harvest	1	1	0%
Possession of cannabis for distribution	3	1	-67%
Possession over 30g cannabis - adult	2	1	-50%
Other Cannabis Act			N/A

Traffic

2023 Criminal Traffic Statistics

All data is based on the "Top Level" Uniform Crime Reporting category



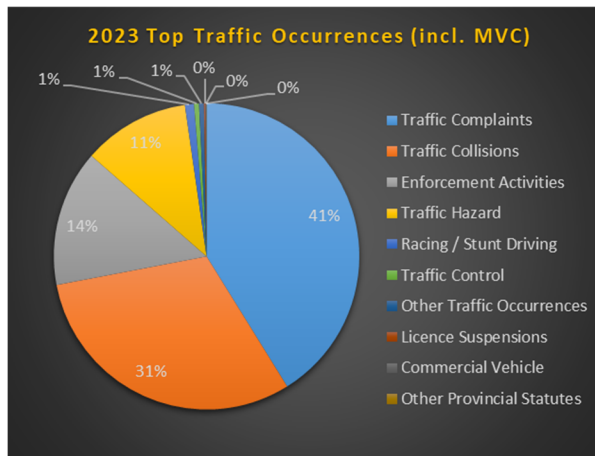
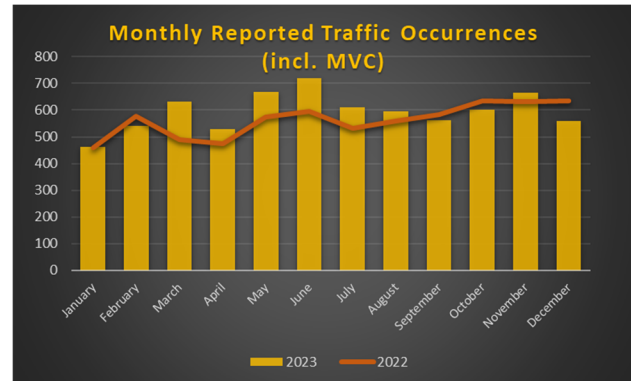
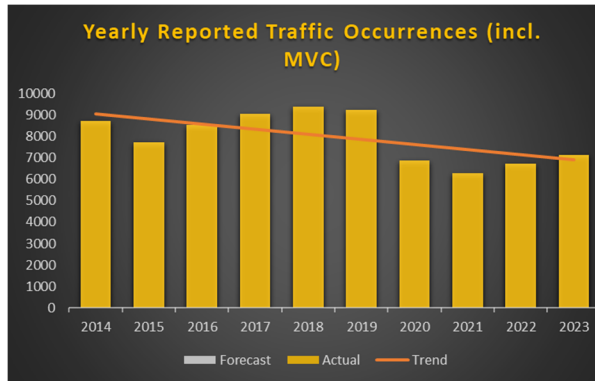
2023 Top Criminal Traffic Occurrences

Impaired Operation -Alcohol	57
Impaired Operation - Drugs	55
Dangerous Operation	51
Fail to Stop / Remain	23
Fail to Provide/Refuse - Drugs	10
Prohibited Driving	
Fail to Provide/Refuse - Alcoho	

Criminal Traffic Occurrences	2022	2023	% Change
Impaired Operation -Alcohol	54	57	6%
Impaired Operation - Drugs	56	55	-2%
Dangerous Operation	41	51	24%
Fail to Stop / Remain	35	23	-34%
Fail to Provide/Refuse - Drugs	8	10	25%
Prohibited Driving			N/A
Fail to Provide/Refuse - Alcoho			N/A

2023 Traffic Statistics (incl. MVC)

All data is based on the "Top Level" Uniform Crime Reporting category



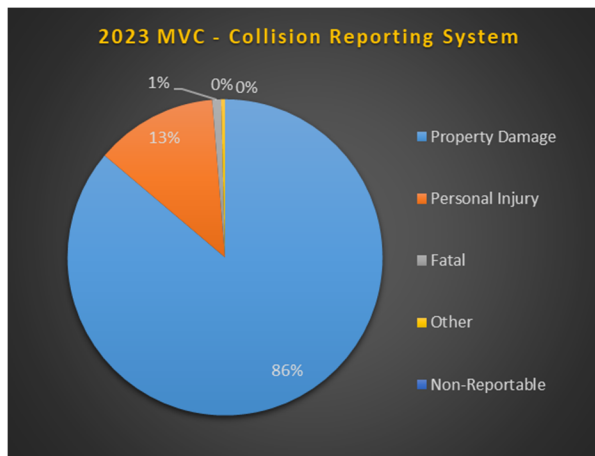
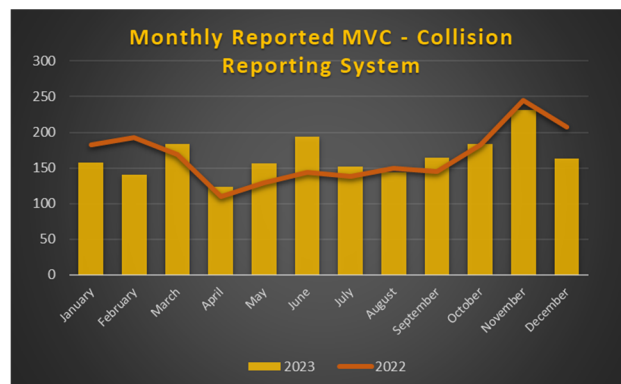
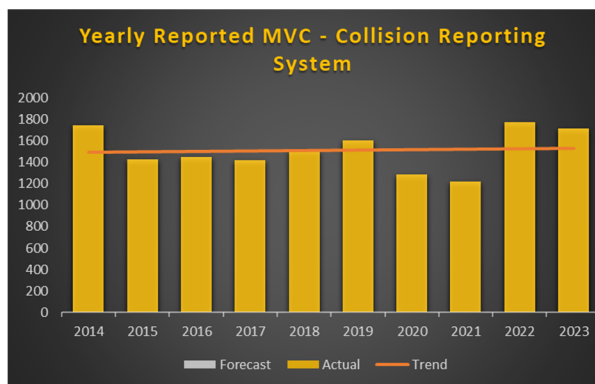
2023 Top Traffic Occurrences (incl. MVC)

Traffic Complaints	2386
Traffic Collisions	1789
Enforcement Activities	835
Traffic Hazard	656
Racing / Stunt Driving	56
Other Traffic Occurrences	30
Traffic Control	30
Licence Suspensions	10
Commercial Vehicle	4
Road Rage	2

Traffic Occurrences (incl. MVC)	2022	2023	% Change
Traffic Complaints	2081	2386	15%
Traffic Collisions	1995	1993	0%
Enforcement Activities	283	835	195%
Traffic Hazard	737	656	-11%
Racing / Stunt Driving	44	56	27%
Other Traffic Occurrences	46	30	-35%
Traffic Control	46	30	-35%
Licence Suspensions	11	10	-9%
Commercial Vehicle	5	4	-20%
Road Rage	3	2	-33%

2023 Traffic Collisions (MVC)

This data is based on the OPP Collision Reporting System



2023 Top MVC - Collision Reporting System

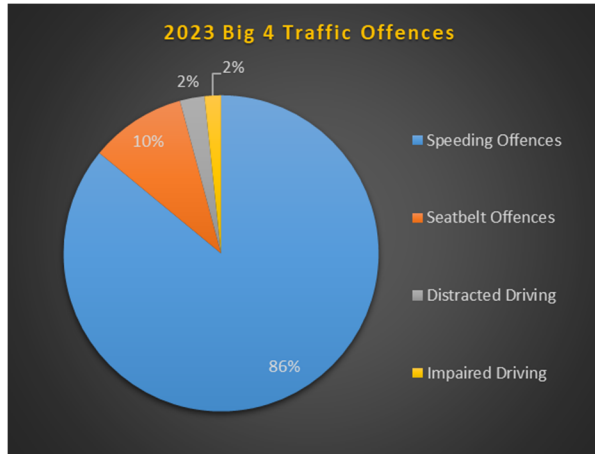
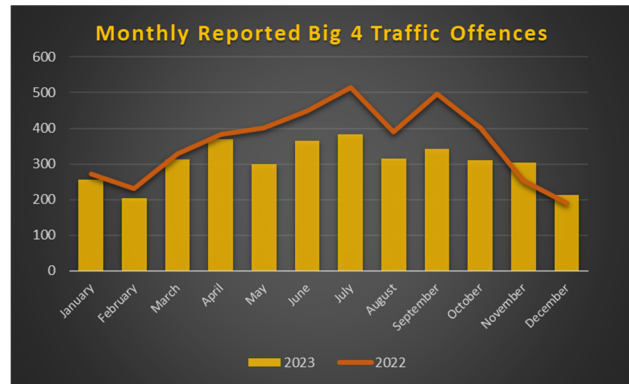
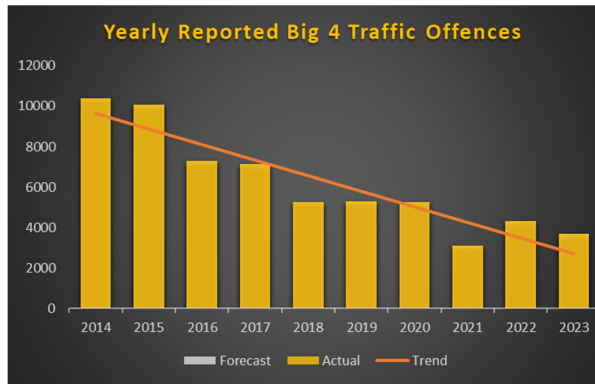
Property Damage	1717
Personal Injury	250
Fatal	18
Other	8
Non-Reportable	

MVC - Collision Reporting System	2022	2023	% Change
Property Damage	1772	1717	-3%
Personal Injury	206	250	21%
Fatal	11	18	64%
Other	6	8	33%
Non-Reportable			N/A

2023 Top 10 MVC Causes	2023	+ / -
Animal	335	-11%
Follow Too Closely	290	-15%
Fail to Yield	244	-10%
Other	239	-10%
Speed	183	-1%
Disobey Traffic Control	152	3%
Lost Control	144	-18%
Inattentive Driver	124	-3%
Improper Turn	88	-4%
Unknown Cause	58	-6%

2023 Big 4 Traffic Offences

This data is based on the ICON charge data from the OPP Business Intelligence System



2023 Top Big 4 Traffic Offences

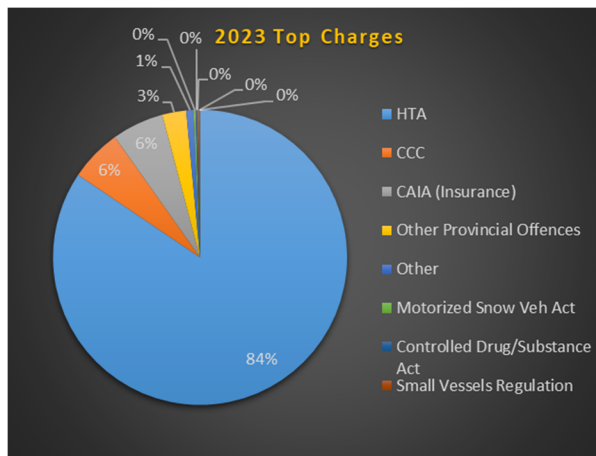
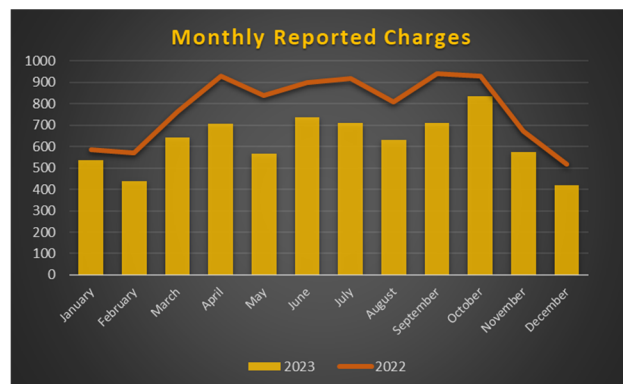
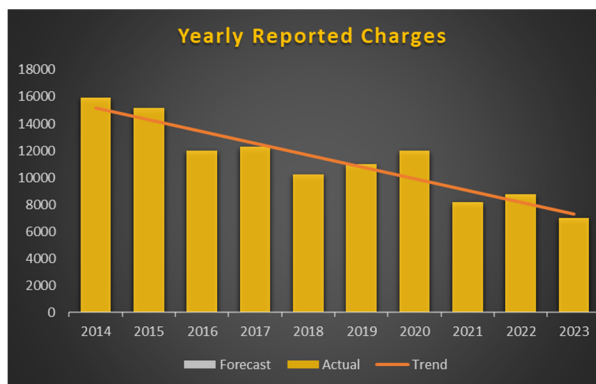
Speeding Offences	3162
Seatbelt Offences	362
Distracted Driving	93
Impaired Driving	62

Big 4 Traffic Offences

	2022	2023	% Change
Speeding Offences	3642	3162	-13%
Seatbelt Offences	360	362	1%
Distracted Driving	92	93	1%
Impaired Driving	216	62	-71%

Charges

This data is based on the ICON charge data from the OPP Business Intelligence System



2023 Top Charges	
HTA	6324
CCC	429
CAIA (Insurance)	427
Other Provincial Offences	197
Other	59
Motorized Snow Veh Act	17
Small Vessels Regulation	12
Controlled Drug/Substance Act	12
Off Road Vehicle Act	11
Other Federal Offences	2

Charges	2022	2023	% Change
HTA	6811	6324	-7%
CCC	1468	429	-71%
CAIA (Insurance)	428	427	0%
Other Provincial Offences	240	197	-18%
Other	101	59	-42%
Motorized Snow Veh Act	48	17	-65%
Small Vessels Regulation	31	12	-61%
Controlled Drug/Substance Act	31	12	-61%
Off Road Vehicle Act	11	11	0%
Other Federal Offences	3	2	-33%

Contacts

In an emergency DIAL 911

You can also call
1 888 310 1122
1 888 310 1133 (TTY)
Anywhere in Ontario, 24-hour toll free

Non-emergency calls

Please call
1 888 310 1122
1 888 310 1133 (TTY)
Anywhere in Ontario, 24-hour toll free

County of Wellington OPP Detachments

Centre Wellington Operations Centre

371 Charles Allan Way,
Fergus, ON N1M 2W3
Non-Emergency 519-846-5930
Fax 519-846-5460

South Wellington Operations Centre

5145 Wellington Road 27,
Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0
Non-Emergency 519-856-1506
Fax 519-846-2327

North Wellington Operations Centre

6725 Wellington Road 109,
Palmerston, ON N0G 2P0
Non-Emergency 519-343-5770
Fax 519-343-5780

OPP General Headquarters

Ontario Provincial Police
General Headquarters
Lincoln M. Alexander Building
777 Memorial Avenue
Orillia, ON
L3V 7V3

General inquiries: 705 329-6111
8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday



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