



**County of Wellington O.P.P.  
Detachment Board Report**

**May 2024**

Detachment Commander:  
Inspector Steve Thomas

# From the Detachment Commander

With summer on the horizon, Wellington County OPP wants to remind everyone about both boating and driving safety. Be proactive, prepare, and plan ahead. Your actions can unknowingly save a life or prevent a life altering injury. Please ensure there are life jackets for all boat occupants and never operate any vessel or motor vehicle while impaired. All Wellington officers continue to make RIDE and enforcement of impaired driving of any type of vehicle a priority to keep our community safe.

Our Traffic Management Unit and Community Response Unit have been out on the waterways with the marine vessel, and they continue to travel the trails on OPP bicycles and ATVS to keep the boating and cycling public safe and to assist anyone in need.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Wellington County OPP held a Progress Pride flag ceremony at North Wellington Operations Centre in Teviotdale. The raising of the Progress Pride flag outside the Wellington County detachments celebrates the diversity of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and symbolizes the continuing commitment of the OPP to support, promote, and protect equity and acceptance of all.

I want to wish everyone a safe and happy summer while you enjoy the sunshine with your families and participate in your seasonal activities of choice. But, please, remember to enjoy these summer activities safely and responsibly and plan for any possible emergencies.



Inspector Steve Thomas  
519-846-5930

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## Crime

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### Crime Unit

Supervisor: Acting Detective Sergeant, Christine Millson

This month members of the Wellington Crime Unit were recognized for their Investigative Excellence and commended for their professionalism and dedication to duty at the OPP West Region Awards Ceremony. There were two investigations that were recognized that involved members of the Wellington County OPP. specifically lead by the Crime Unit.

#### Lucas Shortreed Hit and Run Investigation

In 2008, a hit and run collision killed a young pedestrian in Wellington North Township. After striking the victim, the driver of a 1995 white Dodge Neon fled the scene and was not identified until 2022. Investigation recovered the suspect vehicle and led to criminal charges on two offenders. Both accused subsequently plead guilty in court.



#### Unknown Offender Sexual Assault

The incident occurred on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, during a rideshare from Guelph to Fergus. The two women approached a vehicle that they thought was their rideshare. The driver told them he was not their driver that they had ordered but was a driver for the app. On the drive to Fergus, the male sexually assaulted both women. Following a thorough investigation, the driver and vehicle were identified, and the male was charged with two counts of Sexual Assault.

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## **Community Street Crime Unit**

Supervisor: Detective Sergeant, Jeffrey Dudley

May has been a steady month for the Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU); we also continue to support the Crime Unit and frontline investigations where possible.

D/C Schneider joined CSCU on a Temporary Assignment and brings with him a wealth of frontline knowledge from working in both Perth and Wellington County. CSCU looks forward to working with D/C Schneider and developing his investigative skills.

As part of our commitment to continuous learning, CSCU Members attended various training courses and workshops within West Region. The officers bring back knowledge they can share with frontline, and it has provided them with additional tools to utilize during their investigations.

In May an officer with the Wellington Traffic Unit was patrolling in Center Wellington and located an impaired driver. A search was completed of the individual and a firearm, cocaine and a large quantity of currency was located. Officers completed a further search of the vehicle and found a significant amount of cocaine. The individual was charged with a number of offences and held for bail. Members of The Traffic Unit, D Platoon and CSCU worked together to bring this investigation to a successful conclusion. Great teamwork demonstrated in Wellington County.

Members of the CSCU conducted a presentation to one of our community partners. The goal of the presentation was to provide knowledge on some of the risks and hazards that can be present in the community. The presentation was well received and CSCU continues to maintain good working relationships with our community partners.

CSCU assisted neighboring CSCU units with search warrant executions and investigations as part of the ongoing commitment to public safety and reducing harm in our communities.

Wellington County CSCU continues to prioritize local crime trends, the opioid crises 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.

## Traffic

### Traffic Management Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant Kevin Driscoll

### Black Cat Speed Monitoring Devices

	Study Length	Number of Vehicles	Recommended Enhanced Enforcement	Posted Speed Limit	85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Collision History (5 years)
<b>Location</b>						
Concession 11 Arthur Township	10 days	3976	Yes	50	73	
<b>Location</b>						
Side Road 19 - Fergus	9 days	1902	No	40	54	
<b>Location</b>						
Side Road 20 – Mapleton	8 days	1012	No	50	46	
<b>County Deployed</b>						
<b>Location</b>						
County 7 Between Hwy 6 and County 51	7 days	33983	No	80	106	
<b>Location</b>						
County 32 between Concession 11 and 33	7 days	48305	Yes	70	115	

### 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, 2023. The following locations and charges are from May 2024.

Location	Charges
Concession 11 – Wellington North - Farewell	0
Indian Trail between Spirit Valley Path and the River – Guelph-Eramosa	33 (22 warnings)

### Traffic Management Unit - Administration

Marine patrols have commenced with great success. Members have been on all bodies of water within the County with the assistance from West Region Traffic Management Unit as well as the Wellington County OPP Auxiliary.

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Wellington County members participated in the Provincial Motorcycle Safety Awareness Week campaign (May 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>). This campaign involved both enforcement efforts and public awareness to address dangerous activities that threaten the safety of our two-wheeled motorists.

Traffic Unit members and the Wellington OPP Auxiliary assisted with a bicycle safety rodeo in Puslinch on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Members of Wellington Detachment also participated in the Canada Safe Boating Week as well as the Canada Road Safety Week. Many hours were patrolled on the various waterways resulting in several warnings issued for minor infractions. One operator, however, was educated with an offence notice for open alcohol on a vessel.

On the highways, Wellington County members worked extremely hard keeping the motoring public safe and the results are self-explanatory. There were 445 traffic incidents generated resulting in 416 provincial offences being issued with a further 315 warnings issued.

It is anticipated that further Black Cat deployments will be completed in the coming summer months which will result in further enhanced enforcement locations. The County currently has limited enhanced enforcement locations due to the great work that is being done by the traffic unit and detachment members.

### **Collision Reporting Centre (CRC)**

Supervisor: Sergeant Ange Stiles

OPP Collision Reporting Centres (CRCs) enhance safety on our county roads. They help with rapid clearance, reduce 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.

By October 2023, our CRCs surpassed year two of operations in the County of Wellington.

In May 2024, the County of Wellington OPP were dispatched to over 170 vehicle collisions (MVCs).

Our County CRCs processed close to 90 MVCs for the month of May.

The top three contributing factors for MVCs in our County are: Wild/domestic animal; Follow too close; and Speed – Too fast for conditions.

Depending on the month, County of Wellington CRCs usually receive and process 50% of the dispatched MVCs.

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 one of our CRCs.

## Community Response

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### Community Response Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant Adam McGough

### Community Response Unit / Offender Management & Apprehension Program:

The members of the Community Response Unit (CRU) continue to be very active in the Offender Management & Apprehension Program. This program has been tremendously successful since its creation last year with the assistance of a government grant.

From January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 – May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 134 warrants have been executed by Wellington County OPP. There have also been 40 bail condition compliance checks on those in the community.

During this month, CRU members drafted and were authorized to use sophisticated technical means to locate three members believed to be violating bail conditions in our community. Two were arrested, the other has fled to another province.

The new OPP Provincial Bail Support Team (BST) has come online this month and Wellington OPP CRU are working closely with BST to track down wanted parties and arrest them.

CRU members were also active in Marine Duties to kickoff the 2024 boating season.

### Community Engagement:

PC Cunningham, joined by PC McClinchey, has been facilitating our first Citizens Police Academy in Wellington County. This program showcases the OPP, its services, equipment, history and more to those who applied.

Community Services Officer PC McClinchey completed the OPP Media training course. PC Cunningham and PC McClinchey have both been trained in Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) training facilitated by our social agency partners to provide risk assessments within our schools.

Planning meetings and liaison activities have continued for major events taking place in the coming months in Wellington County, including but not limited to Riverfest, Meadows Fest, Highland Games and Pride events.



During May, Wellington OPP was proud to attend Guelph Emergency Preparedness Day. Members of Wellington OPP also were involved in Tim Horton's "Smile Cookie" events which proceeds were used for donations to local schools. May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 was McDonald's McHappy Day, which Wellington County members attended to raise funds for the



Ronald McDonald House. Both CSOs gave a community presentation in Erin in the prevention of auto theft. CSO, CRU, CSS, Auxiliary and frontline members were also busy with Bicycle Rodeos throughout the County.

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**IMPACT** (Integrated Mobile Police and Crisis Team)

**March 2024**

Individuals Served	Requests for Service	Live Calls with Police	Calls Diverted from Hospital
41	44	11	100%

**Safe Communities Wellington County**

Our primary focus within our media outlets was Car Seat Safety and Consumer Product Safety to prepare for Safe Kids Week in June. We also partnered with Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving and Hennessey Veit for SAID Day and attended three high schools to speak to students about impaired driving and the rules surrounding graduated licensing. Hennessey Veit received a \$500 Road Safety Grant from Parachute Canada to raise awareness about impaired driving, and graduated licensing rules. To close off the month, we partnered with Wellington County OPP at the Fergus Lions Home Show to speak to attendees about injury prevention. The Safety Scavenger Hunt was a hit, once again!

**Auxiliary Unit**

Unit Commander: Auxiliary Staff Sergeant J. SWAN

Liaison: Provincial Constable Kyle Draves

As noted in last month’s report, we hosted a child car seat technician clinic in Rockwood at the start of May. We had three members become certified car seat technicians as a result of this clinic. We hosted a car seat clinic on May 5<sup>th</sup> in Rockwood for our members to do their final certification. We then had members conduct a second child car seat clinic as a part of the open house at the Rockwood Fire Hall on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Auxiliary members attended bicycle rodeos in Fergus in association with the Fergus Optimist Club, and at the Puslinch Fire Hall in association with the Optimist Club of Puslinch. We also had members assist with the OPP display at the Fergus Leisure Show. Two members attended Minto Safe Kids Day in Palmerston to assist with bike safety instruction. The coordinator for the Special Olympics Track and Field Day reached out to us this year and asked if the Auxiliary Unit would be interested in assisting with the event, three members were able to volunteer and attend. Our Auxiliary Liaison Officer PC Kyle Draves and Auxiliary Staff Sergeant Swan attended the final session of the Citizen’s Academy to share information and answer questions about the Auxiliary program.

The Wellington County OPP Auxiliary Unit had three members resign this month as they were successful in other employment opportunities. Two members were successful with uniform recruitment and entered the OPP class that started at the end of May. And a third member secured a cadet position with Halton Regional Police and has started their new role with that service. We thank all three for their work with the Auxiliary Program and wish them well in their future careers.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the Auxiliary Unit was awarded the Friends of the Food Bank Crystal Award at a recent appreciation reception held by the food bank. The award is currently in the

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display case at the Centre Wellington Operations Centre. Thank-you to Auxiliary Sergeant Danielle Ellis who coordinates our work with the Food Bank.

### **Crime Stoppers**

Sarah Bowers-Peter, Program Coordinator CSGW

May is Mulch Season for Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington. This key fundraising event is crucial to the success of the program. Fundraising is used to pay Tipster rewards and to help operate the program.

While overhead is extremely low, there are costs to increase awareness of the program, specifically the various promotional materials. Pens, posters, notepads, racks etc. are used to create awareness when handed out at presentations and community events. Fundraising is the main responsibility of the CSGW Board of Directors.

The Mount Forest Sale was held at Young's Home Hardware on May 11<sup>th</sup>, while the Guelph Sale was both a one-day event (May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Wellington Street location of JL's Home Hardware) as well as month-long. CSGW volunteers loaded the mulch on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. In Guelph \$2 per bag was donated while we were on site. For the rest of the month, \$1 per bag is being donated. In Mount Forest, all proceeds were turned over to CSGW. Totals will be announced in June.

Presentations continue to be high demand with Fraud Talk and 5 Tips, 5 Ideas and 5 Signs being the current favorites. CSGW has had ongoing requests for Cyber Safety information for youth. Following the announcement this month regarding Project Aquatic, CSGW will develop this content for delivery in schools. We are working with UGDSB to get this information approved for delivery. Review of all CSGW presentations will take place over the summer to offer the most current and engaging content.

The Program Coordinator was invited to attend West Region Headquarters to present the Crime Stoppers message and tie it into youth engagement. The presentation was well received, and a number of follow-ups have taken place.



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## Court

Supervisor: Sergeant Shaugn Rogers

Wellington County Court Bureau highlights from May 2024,

- Addressing a more streamlined approach to officer attendance at all POA trial dates. Consideration is being given to have officers scheduled for trial be notified only if the trial is moving forward which can alleviate pressure on these frontline officers who are being dispatched to priority calls for service at the same time.
- Reassigning workloads and assigned duties amongst court bureau staff to address staffing vacancies. One of the DACS was temporarily assigned to a regional analyst role which required reassigning workload amongst other staff members. At the same time, the court bureau saw the addition of a new part-time officer who has been assigned to assist with prisoner care, process service and fingerprinting.
- Reviewed current practices and provided updated direction for members on implementing “plug in” tool for mandatory redaction of digital evidence.



# Personnel & Acknowledgements

## Citizens Police Academy

The inaugural Wellington County OPP Citizen's Police Academy concluded on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Twenty members from the community were selected to attend the ten week academy and received an in-depth look into the policing world, how we operate and why we do the things we do.

Thank you to everyone that applied and thank you to everyone selected for being on time, attentive and full of questions. We hope you were able to get a better understanding of policing and the challenges that come with the profession.

For anyone interested, the plan is to run the Citizen's Police Academy again in the Spring of 2025. Please look for media announcements come Winter of 2024 if you plan to apply for next year's class.



Thank you to PC Cunningham, PC McClinchey for organizing and facilitating the first Wellington County OPP Citizen's Police Academy. Special thank you to Detachment Administration Clerk Carly McKeown for providing administrative support for the academy on her own time after completing her daily work duties.

# Statistics Summary

## Calls for Service

It is projected that annual calls for service should remain relatively stable in 2024 as compared to the previous year.

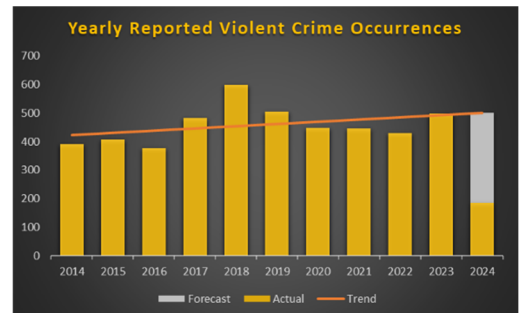
2024 year to date calls for service (Jan-May) have increased 5% from the same period last year.



## Violent Crime

Violent Crime appears to be trending up, however there is no significant increase in violent crime projected over last year.

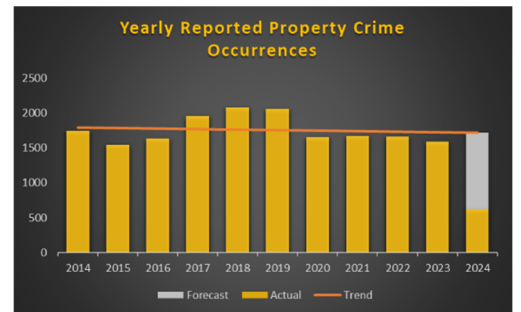
2024 year to date violent crime (Jan-May) has decreased 3% from the same period last year.



## Property Crime

Property Crime has continued to trend lower since 2018, however an increase in property crime is predicted for 2024.

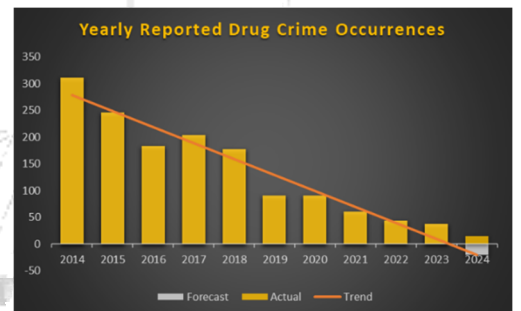
2024 year to date property crime (Jan-May) has remained stable over the same period last year.



## Drug Crime \*

Drug Crime continues to trend lower than previous years. It is anticipated that drug crime will begin to level off and remain stable at a low level in comparison to recent years.

2024 year to date drug crime (Jan-May) has increased 67% from the same period last year. The increase is considered insignificant at this time due to the low number of cases reported.



\* Note: Recreational use of cannabis was decriminalized on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## Criminal Traffic Occurrences

Criminal Traffic occurrences are projected to decrease over 2023 levels.

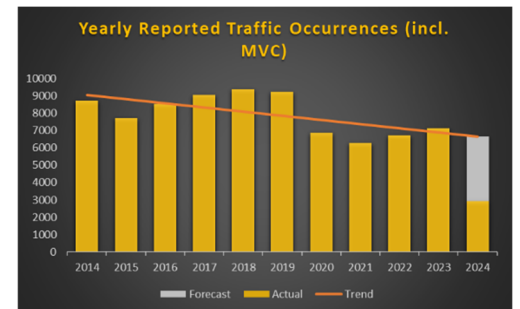
2024 year to date criminal traffic occurrences (Jan-May) have increased by 16% over the same period last year.



## Traffic Related Occurrences

Although reductions were observed in traffic occurrences since 2019, an increase in 2023 was realized. A decrease is forecast in 2024.

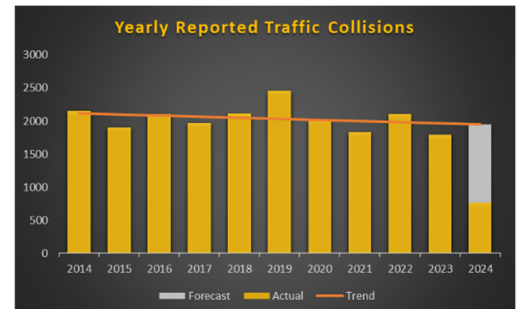
Year to date traffic occurrences (Jan-May) have decreased 3% over the same period last.



## Motor Vehicle Collisions

Motor vehicle collision occurrences appear to be trending slightly upward. Reductions were enjoyed during 2021 and 2022 however an increase in 2023 was observed. It is forecasted that collisions will remain near 2023 levels in 2024.

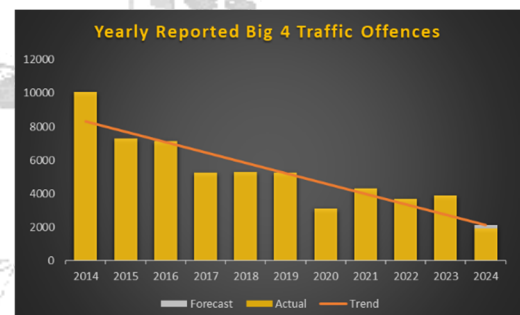
2024 year to date collisions (Jan-May) have increased 7% over the same period last year.



## Big 4 Traffic (Impaired Operation – Distracted Driving – Seatbelts – Speeding)

Using the previous 10 years of data, Big 4 Traffic offences were projected to decline over last year. Currently, Big 4 Traffic Offences are expected to exceed the projection.

2024 year to date Big 4 Traffic Offences (Jan-Apr) have increased 38% over the same period last year.



All statistics, graphs and maps are based upon preliminary information supplied by reporting parties and may not have been verified. Preliminary crime classifications may be changed at a later date based upon additional investigation and the possibility of mechanical or human error.  
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 All data visualizations on maps are considered approximate and attempts to derive specific addresses are prohibited.

# Report Summary

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As we enter the time of year that brings about long days filled with sunshine and fun outside, Wellington County OPP wants to remind everyone that summer is also a time where we need to be vigilant and use caution while enjoying the outdoor activities that coincide with warm weather. Please remember to wear life jackets, plan ahead, and never operate a boat or motor vehicle while impaired.

Being prepared for unexpected emergencies can be the difference, bring a first aid kit, pack extra water and nonperishable food supplies. When going out to enjoy summer events, festivals, and activities many of us never think we could fall victim to a tragedy or help to prevent one, but your actions and planning could save a life and prevent a disaster.

Wellington County OPP officers will continue to be visible throughout our community for the remainder of spring and throughout the summer months. We will proactively patrol our roadways and waterways to ensure they are safe for your enjoyment and use. Please do not hesitate to strike up a conversation, ask your questions, and help to build a community minded relationship/trust with your local police officers. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the community events and festivals across Wellington County in the coming months.

Please be safe and have a wonderful summer, enjoy the weather and sunshine.



# 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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