



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

**November 2021**

Detachment Commander:  
Inspector Paul Richardson



# From the Detachment Commander

As the seasons change we anticipate winter like conditions in the County. I encourage all residents of Wellington County to be prepared for winter driving conditions. These preparations include, but are not limited to, ensuring the mechanical fitness of your vehicle and ensuring that your vehicle can sustain the challenges of winter. The installation of winter tires is a key component to safe winter driving as most winter tires are specifically designed to help drivers navigate the tough winter driving conditions. Most importantly, adopt your driving habits to reflect road and weather conditions, if you see snow, go slow.

As we approach the festive holiday season and the restrictions from COVID-19 loosen, the Wellington County OPP will be kicking off our festive RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) campaign. It is anticipated that many will return to celebrations not experienced since the advent of COVID in 2019. In an effort to ensure the safety of all road users Wellington County OPP will conduct RIDE programs throughout the County to foster a safe and sober holiday driving season. With some sense of normal returning, so to may shopping at retail locations. I encourage everyone to lock their vehicles and make every attempt not to display high value items in unattended vehicles. You may see our Auxiliary Officers conducting patrols in retail settings and offering safety tips.

On behalf of West Region Command and the Wellington County Command team I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts and dedication of Acting Staff Sergeant Ron Smith. A/S/Sgt. Smith stepped into a new role facing the challenges of COVID and the everyday busy operations of the Wellington County OPP. Wellington County OPP will continue to benefit from his diligence, expertise and dedication as he returns to his home position as the Administrative Sergeant. Ron, thank you for your significant contribution to the success of the detachment during your time as Staff Sergeant.



Inspector Paul Richardson  
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Ice and Snow Means Take It Slow

## Executive Summary

## Crime

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### Crime Unit

Supervisor: Acting Detective Sergeant Jennifer Foley

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the Wellington County Crime Unit initiated a criminal investigation involving a \$300,000 load theft from a local trucking company. The suspect used a stolen tractor trailer and fraudulent documents to obtain a load of 11 Skyjack lifts and other products. An OPP Twitter post helped to identify a suspect and GPS tracking software lead police to an area to search.

A coordinated effort between insurance investigators, the Halton Regional Police Service, the Sûreté du Québec, Chambly Police Service and Saint Jerome Police Service, resulted in the recovery of 8 of the stolen Skyjacks in Quebec. The suspect has been linked to other thefts in Ontario and charges are anticipated.



The Crime Unit is investigating 9 sexual assault incidents reported in the month of October. Some of these are historical in nature and involve multiple victims. In the most of these cases the offender was known to the victim.

In October 2021 a Preliminary Hearing began for the GEMIN Homicide. Investigators play an important role in the court process and are adapting to the new process of “virtual court”, which allows police and civilian witnesses to testify remotely through video teleconferencing.

### Community Street Crime Unit

Supervisor: Acting Detective Sergeant Vicky McGough

In October of 2021, the Community Street Crime Unit has welcomed two new members to the Team. The new Unit Supervisor, A/D/Sgt. McGough comes from Perth County. She has been an employee with the OPP for 13 years, with 6 years of experience in a Detective role. South Wellington also has a



uniform member on a temporary assignment with the Unit. The Unit is focused, and committed to combating the drug, and property crime issues, and concerns in Wellington County.

In the month of October two unit members completed Warrant Service Entry Training giving them the skills and abilities to assist the team with warrant executions. This month another member will be attending the Physical Surveillance Techniques Course. Over the next couple months there will be further training opportunities for the new members of the team to give them further skills and abilities to assist them with their investigations and their new role as a Detective Constable.

Throughout the past month, Wellington CSCU assisted Dufferin County CSCU with a drug trafficking investigation which identified a second male suspect who was residing in South Wellington. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, this investigation concluded with two search warrants being executed and three persons being arrested, and charged with multiple drug trafficking charges. One of the search warrants was executed in South Wellington. As a result of this investigation police have seized 482 grams of cocaine, 1254 OxyContin Pills, \$16,995 in Canadian currency, two high-end vehicles and other property related to drug trafficking.

Overnight on October 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> a suspect targeted the Downtown core of Mount Forest, and slashed the tires on over 30 different motor vehicles. CSCU has taken over the lead investigative role for this investigation. CSCU partnered with Uniform patrol, the Community Response Unit, Media Relations, and Forensic Identification Services to investigate all leads to identify the suspect, and pursue criminal charges.



Over the past month the Team has been working on a number of drug related investigations in multiple towns and areas throughout the County to combat our ongoing drug issues. As well as continuing to investigate drug overdoses and other property crime occurrences.



## Traffic

### Traffic Management Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant Darryl Porterfield

### Traffic Management Unit

#### Automated Licence Plate Reader (A.L.P.R)

The A.L.P.R. cruiser is currently being utilized daily in Wellington County. Recently the Ministry of Transportation rectified the issues with the data being uploaded to the ALPR system that was causing inaccurate positive hits. These data issues pertained to the extension of Driver's Licence and Permit Validation for vehicles due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With these changes the ALPR system is now fully operational and officers have once again begun using it for enforcement.

#### Black Cat Speed Monitoring Devices

The Black Cat devices were deployed to the following locations this month:

Location:	Community Complaint	Length of Study	Number of Vehicles	Recommend Enhanced Enforcement	85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed	MVC's Previous 5 years
Irvine St, Centre Wellington	Yes	12 Days	12,512	No	< 45 km/h in the 50 km/h zone	0
Queen St S, Palmerston	Yes	15 Days	5,190	No	< 65 km/h in the 50 km/h zone	0
Sophia St, Centre Wellington	Yes	25 Days	6,910	No	< 50 km/h in the 50 km/h zone	2
Hume Rd, Puslinch	Yes	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	0
Garafraxa St E (Gowrie St), Centre Wellington	Yes	Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending	1

The Black Cats have now been deployed to 55 different locations in 2021. This data is also being used to target specific complaint locations from members of the community.

#### ATV Patrol

ATV patrols for the season have now ended, however the ATV's are fully operational and available for use during calls for service.

#### Marine Patrol

Proactive Marine Patrols in the county have ended for the 2021 Season. During the course of the season Wellington OPP Marine Operators conducted approximately 191 hours of marine patrols on Puslinch Lake, Guelph Lake, Belwood Lake and Conestoga Lake.

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## Community Events

The Wellington County Traffic Management Unit in conjunction with the various uniform platoons participated in the “Operation Impact/Thanksgiving Long Weekend” Traffic Safety Initiative from Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> to Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Officers from TMU, CSS and Uniform Platoons engaged in high visibility patrols on Wellington County roadways. Officers targeted the “Big 4” Offences of Aggressive Driving/Speeding, Impaired Driving, Seatbelt Usage, and Distracted Driving. During the course of the initial two weeks officers laid the following charges:

- 81 - Speeding
- 3 - Fail to Wear Seatbelt
- 3 - Distracted Driving
- 21 - Hazardous Moving Violation
- 2 - Impaired Operation of a Conveyance



# Community Response

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## Community response Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant Kevin Driscoll

The Wellington County Community Response Unit (CRU) responded to a total of 53 calls for service during the month of October. The CRU was again actively clearing outstanding warrants for the County resulting in six arrests being made. The CRU also assisted the Community Street Crime Unit in the Town of Mount Forest conducting proactive patrols after multiple motor vehicle tires were slashed.

The CRU also completed proactive patrols in Mount Forest resulting in eight criminal charges being laid for various Criminal Code violations including Flight from Police and Weapons related offences. An arrest warrant is being obtained and further active patrols are being made to apprehend the suspect.

CRU members continue to conduct foot patrol as well as RIDE spot checks throughout the County.

## IMPACT (Integrated Mobile Police and Crisis Team)

### September 2021

Individuals Served	Requests for Service	Live Calls With Police	Calls Diverted From Hospital
95	55	24	87.5%

## Auxiliary Unit

Unit Commander: Acting Auxiliary Staff Sergeant J. SWAN

Liaison: Provincial Constable Kyle Draves

PC Kyle Draves assumed his role as Liaison officer for our monthly training. He led the unit through traffic control procedures which was complemented by our online training this month through OPP Learn on Traffic Direction. We were able to discuss as a unit some specific examples from parades and events we have covered in the past. We also went through cruiser lights, pylons and flares in anticipation of upcoming events and winter weather conditions.

A continuing concern in the unit is the lack of Auxiliary radios in all detachments. Both Sergeant Polan and PC Draves have been working to try to track down spare radios and parts for Auxiliary radios.





## Media

Provincial Constable Josh Cunningham

Provincial Constable Cheri Rockefeller

The Wellington County Media Unit issued 35 media releases this month. Media officers had a busy month helping to organize a possible Darren's Day event currently scheduled for February 2022.

The Media Unit was also busy highlighting the opening of the Collision Reporting Centre located at the Centre Wellington Operations Centre.





## Courts

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### **Wellington County Court Case Management**

Supervisor: Sergeant Scott Vallier

The court bureau recently had a Special Constable hiring competition. There were 12 very qualified candidates short listed. The candidates completed an assignment, oral presentations and interview. The competition is complete and the successful candidate will be identified soon.

One notable change we are seeing at the courthouse recently, is that more Bench Warrants are being issued than Bench summons. There are different reasons this could be occurring but it appears accused person(s) are getting better at attending Zoom appearances and after a couple of warnings with a Bench Summons they are now being issued warrants.



# Acknowledgements

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## Recruits

Provincial Constable Kirsten Shody joined the OPP on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, after working as Transit Security in Kitchener-Waterloo. She also spent seven years volunteering with Guelph Wellington Victim Services unit. The goal of becoming a police officer came to her in high school, knowing she wanted to do what she could to help people. A Criminal Justice & Public Policy degree from the University of Guelph with a two year certification in American Sign Language (A.L.S.). Upon the conclusion of her coaching time with PC J. Stefanik she will be reporting to the Teviotdale office to serve on B platoon.

## Community Service Award

Wellington County OPP Provincial Constable Cheri Rockefeller received the Community Service Award for her passion and commitment to the Law Enforcement Torch run program, working tirelessly behind the scenes to organize fundraising events for her community.

## Civilian Service Award

Detachment Administration Clerk, Joanne England, received an award for 20 years of service with the Ontario Provincial Police. Congratulations, and thank you for your commitment and service to the residents of the Province of Ontario.



# Report Summary

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Our story for this month: COVID-19, personnel changes, winter is coming and new Collision Reporting Centre.

Wellington County OPP is still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as noted in this report by Sergeant Vallier. The court process is still being conducted via ZOOM as the courts are slowly reopening. On top of that, Detachment members must complete mandatory screening when they arrive for duty and anyone entering the building must complete a COVID-19 screening form before being allowed entry. Life does seem to be returning to normal, but there is a lot of change and additional safety protocols in place that have added to the Detachment workload.

Personnel changes are abound as is normal within Wellington County. Many of our officers are given the opportunity for temporary promotional assignments within and outside Wellington County. This results in many personnel changes. This month alone we had A/D/Sgt. McGough join us from Perth County, PC Draves took over as the Auxiliary liaison officer and we had expected the return of A/S/Sgt. Caren Ashmore to her role as the A/D/Sgt. for the Crime Unit, but her assignment was extended and A/D/Sgt. Jennifer Foley stayed on as the Crime Unit supervisor. Although all this movement creates quite the workload for our administrative staff, we take it as a compliment and a testament to the fine job our officers do here in Wellington County. Their efforts and their professionalism are noticed and rewarded with promotional opportunities.

As noted by Inspector Richardson, winter is coming and it is time to prepare. Safety is always our number one priority and it is worth noting again, get your vehicles prepared for winter driving. That means making sure your vehicle is up to operational standards, placing winter tires on your vehicle and adjusting your driving and driving habits to match the road conditions. Set that alarm a few minutes earlier and give yourself time to arrive at your destination safely.

This month also saw the implementation of a Collision Reporting Centre here in Wellington County. Wellington County residents can now attend the Centre Wellington Operations Centre to report motor vehicle collisions. This will allow frontline officers to remain on proactive patrol and attend emergency calls for service in a more timely fashion. Minor vehicle collisions can now be cleared off the roadway quickly allowing for better traffic flow and reducing the chances of secondary collisions. Although it does add to the administrative workload, it is well worth it, as frontline officers are no longer tied up investigating minor motor vehicle collisions and they are readily available for emergency situations.



# Contacts

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## **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

-  [www.opp.ca](http://www.opp.ca)
-  [Report a Crime Online](#)
-  [News releases](#)
-  [Upcoming events](#)
-  [Social media](#)

