



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

June, July, August, 2022

Detachment Commander: Inspector Steve
Thomas

From the Detachment Commander

It is hard to believe that the summer is coming to an end. This summer saw a return to many of the County’s large events such as Hillside, Riverfest, and the Highland games to name a few. From a policing and public safety lens, these events went very smoothly. It was a job well done by the event organizers and our officers to keep these events safe.

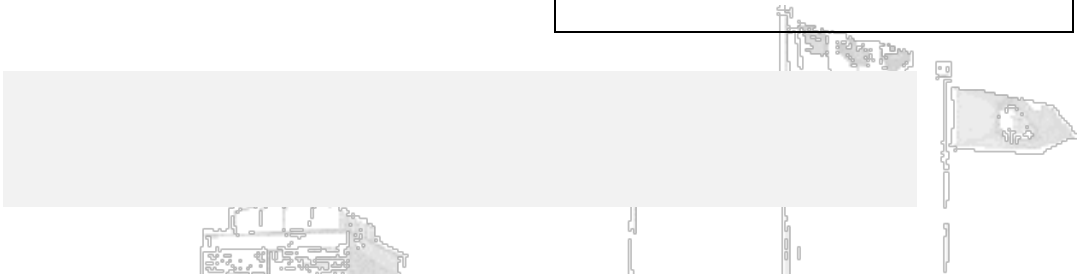
Sadly, however, there were some tragedies on our roadways and waterways over the summer. On behalf of the Wellington County OPP, our sympathies and condolences to those families and friends that lost a loved one.

As we move into the fall, children are back at school, and it is getting dark a little earlier. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to please drive safely, especially near schools, and always stop and do not pass a school bus with its stop arm actuated and its red overhead lights flashing.



Inspector Steve Thomas
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Crime

Crime Unit

Supervisor: Acting Detective Sergeant Jennifer Foley

Throughout the summer months the Wellington County Crime Unit was kept busy with several incidents of child luring, a robbery, and ongoing investigations.

On June 22nd, 2022, Wellington County OPP responded to an armed bank robbery in the Town of Harriston. Three suspects armed with handguns entered the business and stole a quantity of currency before fleeing south on Elora Street in a silver sedan. Members of the Crime Unit immediately attended the scene to assist uniformed officers patrolling for the suspect vehicle, as well as collecting video evidence and conducting interviews with victims and witnesses. The suspect vehicle was identified as a stolen vehicle from Halton Region which was also used in a robbery in Peel Region; the vehicle has since been recovered. Members of the Crime Unit are liaising with policing partners and investigators with the Canadian Banking Association to identify the responsible parties.

During the months of July and August, the Wellington County Crime Unit investigated several incidents of child luring. As a result, an 18-year-old male and a 29-year-old male were charged in two separate incidents. In both cases, the victims were known to the offender.

The offence of Luring a Child is committed when someone uses a means of telecommunication, such as a cell phone or computer, to communicate with a person who is under the age of 18 years for the purpose of facilitating the commission of certain sexual offences. In some cases, perpetrators also try to extort victims who have shared intimate images online.

The OPP also has a dedicated provincial team, the Child Sexual Exploitation Unit, mandated to investigate people who make, import, export, sell, distribute, access, or possess child pornography in the Province of Ontario. This unit also investigates cases of child luring over the Internet and other online offences to prevent the victimization and exploitation of children.

Parents and guardians can help protect their children by being involved in their child's online activities, remind children to protect passwords, use caution with webcams and unplug when not in use, be sure of whom children are talking to before allowing them to turn on a webcam, be sure children are cautious with what they post online, and know your children's online friends the same way you know their friends in real life.

In August 2022 the Wellington County OPP Crime Unit arrested and charged the person responsible for a shooting that occurred in February 2022 in the Town of Fergus. The Crime Unit began investigating the shooting on February 8, 2022, including the collection of video surveillance and recovery of a stolen vehicle involved in the incident. A forensic examination was completed on the vehicle and its contents.

As a result, a 33-year-old male has been arrested and charged for the following criminal offences:

- Occupant of Motor Vehicle knowing there was Firearm
- Knowledge of Unauthorized Possession of Firearm
- Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose

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- Theft Over \$5,000 of a Motor Vehicle
 - Theft of Electricity or Gas (Under \$5000)
 - Operation While Prohibited under the Criminal Code
 - Discharge a firearm into or at a place in a reckless manner
 - Discharge a restricted firearm or a prohibited firearm with intent
 - Failure to comply with release order X2
 - Possession of Firearm or Ammunition contrary to Prohibition Order

Fraudsters continue to target seniors and vulnerable adults in our community with 25% of the frauds reported to the Wellington County OPP this summer being from elderly victims. Cryptocurrency scams, anti-ransomware scams, grandparent scams, extortion letters and vacation rentals are just a few of the scams perpetrators are using. As someone who has investigated several cases of elder abuse, Detective Constable H. PAUTSCH recognized that education and awareness is a great way to prevent further victimization. Detective Constable PAUTSCH reached out to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) for assistance. On June 21, 2022, members of the Crime Unit and CAFC hosted a two-hour senior's fraud prevention seminar at the Wellington County Museum and Archives. A second event is being planned for September 9, 2022.

Community Street Crime Unit

Supervisor: Acting Detective Sergeant Vicky McGough

The Community Street Crime Unit is actively investigating a series of suspicious home entries between June 3rd to 12th, 2022 in the Village of Drayton. These investigations are ongoing.

On June 8th, CSCU assisted with a Central Region Project Takedown, where a total of 17 search warrants were executed relating to a drug and firearms trafficking investigation. The takedown was very successful, with large quantify controlled substances and firearms being seized.

On June 13th, 2022, a break and enter occurred at a residence in Guelph-Eramosa Township. The suspect stole firearms and other valuables from the residence. Investigators were able to identify the culprit. The suspect was on the run from police and identified as a high-risk offender who would continue to commit crimes. CSCU pursued the suspect through various leads and on June 28th the suspect was arrested and charged for the serious offences relating to the break in.

CSCU is actively engaged in drug trafficking investigations that are linked to property crimes and overdose related occurrences.

Throughout the summer, members have conducted follow up for overdose occurrences, ongoing property crime occurrences, as well as actively involved in linking multi-jurisdictional occurrences with neighbouring police services and detachments. Wellington CSCU will continue to investigate previous overdoses to obtain evidence to identify the drug trafficker and hold these individuals accountable. These investigations are very labour-intensive.

On August 26th, 2022, Wellington CSCU executed a search warrant at a residence in Centre Wellington and as a result of the investigation and execution, CSCU members arrested and charged a male and female for drug offences. Police seized cocaine, fentanyl, oxycodone as well as offence related property consisting of Canadian currency, digital scales, cellular telephones, and packaging materials.

Traffic

Traffic Management Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant Adam McGough

Traffic Management Unit

Black Cat Speed Monitoring Devices

Location	Community Initiated	Study Length	Number of Vehicles	Recommended Enhanced Enforcement	Posted Speed Limit	85 th Percentile	Collision History (5 years)
Victoria Rd S Guelph/Eramosa	No	10 days	23,747	Yes	60	> 75	129
Geddes St Centre Wellington	Yes	20 days	28,906	No	50	55	40
South River Rd Centre Wellington	No	8 days	18,384	No	60	68	8
Middleton Ave Centre Wellington	Yes	7 days	502	No	50	42	1
Sligo Rd W Wellington North	Yes	9 days	21,484	No	50	63	3
Wellington Rd 50 Erin	Yes	2 days	1679	Yes	80	>95	8
Wellington Rd 22 Erin	Yes	9 days	22,475	Yes	60	< 75	1
Sideroad 17 Erin	Yes	7 days	27,764	Yes	60	>75	9
Wellington Rd 124 Erin	Yes	9 days	83,157	No	40	54	54
Wellington Rd 19 Centre Wellington	Yes	-	-	Study underway	50	-	21

This data is being used to target specific complaint locations from members of the community or those identified internally.

Three portable overt speed signs have been deployed and are being moved throughout the roadways in Wellington County to curb excessive speeds and address concerns identified by community members, stakeholders, and police.

Notable Incidents

Wellington County OPP were actively engaged in the Canada Day Road Safety Week provincial campaign. The results included six impaired drivers, seven seatbelt charges and 96 speeding charges. In total 113 charges were laid in relation to traffic safety.

Traffic Management Unit members, along with frontline members have been actively involved in provincial traffic campaigns that have corresponded with holiday long weekends.

On June 27th, 2022, the OPP Aviation Unit partnered with TMU to conduct speed enforcement on the Hanlon Parkway. 18 vehicle stops were completed on personal and commercial vehicles. 15 speeding charges were laid, three race motor vehicle charges laid and one other Highway Traffic Act offence. A vehicle was stopped after it was observed going 153 km/h in the posted 80 km/h zone.

Seventeen OPP officers attended the South Wellington OPP Detachment for a three-day Commercial Vehicle Enforcement course at the beginning of June. All TMU members are now trained at this skill level or higher. During the practical component of this training, 43 trucks were inspected, five were placed out-of-service, 55 charges were laid, 28 warnings and one plate seized.

PC BORGMANN, a trained CVSA truck inspector and member of Wellington TMU has continued to grow our partnerships with MTO and surrounding police agencies. Through these partnerships, further Commercial Vehicle Inspections blitzes have taken place. During a blitz on June 14, 10 vehicles were taken out-of-service for defects/safety violation and 31 charges laid.

On July 13th, 2022, Wellington TMU with the assistance of frontline members and members from the Community Response Unit engaged in a Commercial Vehicle inspection blitz in Arthur. A very successful initiative took place due to our ongoing partnerships with Halton Regional Police, Waterloo Regional Police, and the Ministry of Transportation. A staggering 43% of vehicles inspected during this event were taken out of service for a variety of safety and regulatory violations. During one inspection, 300 illegal cannabis plants were located and seized in the cargo area of one truck. The driver was charged accordingly.

Further Commercial Vehicle blitzes are scheduled to take place within the county in 2022

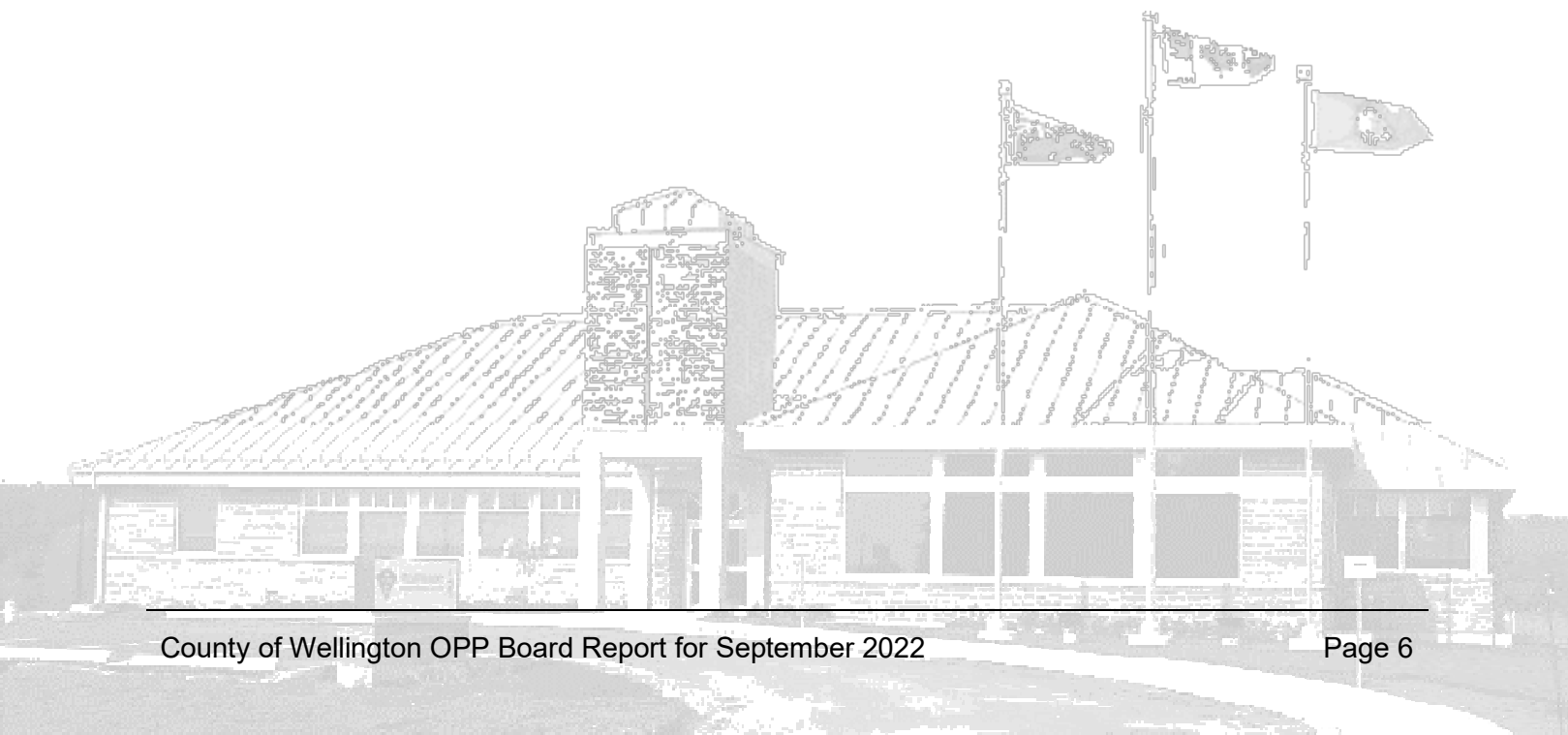
Marine Patrol

Marine trained officers are actively engaged in education and awareness providing boaters safety tips and interdictions in unsafe behaviour.

Officers have conducted extensive marine patrols and duties this summer in Wellington County.

Collision Reporting Centre

The Wellington County Collision Reporting Centre investigated 124 property damage collisions throughout the summer of 2022. This was an average of 40% of the property damage collisions reported to Wellington County OPP this summer.



Community Response

Community Response Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant Corrie Trewartha

Wow, what a summer! Festivals and events in Wellington came back with incredible attendance. CRU created and implemented several operational plans for some of the biggest festivals including Hillside Music Festival at Guelph Lake, which saw gorgeous weather and a sell out on the Saturday schedule. The Mount Forest Firework Festival celebrated its 20th anniversary with two nights of fireworks. Highland Games in Fergus saw record crowds of 30,000 people on a warm and sunny August weekend. And finally, Riverfest in Elora was nearly sold out. CRU members as well as some of our frontline officers attended all these events, doing traffic control, foot patrol, and bike patrol, ensuring patrons were following the alcohol related rules and assisting with some medical related incidents. No major incidents occurred and the presence of the OPP at these events we believe contributes to the overall “safe” feeling patrons have expressed and to the success of these events.



CRU also saw attendance at the Medieval Fair, Hillsburgh Family Day, Elora Farmer’s market, Highland Games Parade, and several smaller events throughout the county. With the addition of 2 “Fat Tire Bikes” the CRU unit put over 500km on these bikes in and around the county including some of the trail system. CRU also did over 300 additional km on the regular bikes which included two officers arresting an individual for Impaired Driving in Harriston. The officers were doing bike patrol around 10:30 pm when they observed a vehicle been driven erratically into the parking lot, the driver was also not wearing a seatbelt. When questioned by the officers that were on their bikes, it was evident he was driving impaired, and an arrest was made. Great police work done by all.



Over the summer our Youth Resiliency Officer worked alongside CRU, as did our Media Team. These members assisted with events as their schedules freed up with students no longer in schools, often you will see them biking or attending events as well. As fall becomes busier with school in session and media campaigns those members will return to their portfolios and their excellent work will continue.

The great weather and lack of COVID restrictions have contributed to simply a busier season than we have seen in years. The smaller towns and communities have certainly seen an increase in tourism. Our members have done many kilometers of foot patrol in addition to bike patrol, and it’s always fun to interact with all the kids on summer vacation and folks that are out and about enjoying the areas. As fall approaches, the unit looks forward to the Fall Fairs, Truck Pulls, and events that we will attend – should make some of the bike patrol a little less “warm”.

IMPACT (Integrated Mobile Police and Crisis Team)

May 2022

Individuals Served	Requests for Service	Live Calls with Police	Calls Diverted from Hospital
58	59	26	92.3%

June 2022

Individuals Served	Requests for Service	Live Calls with Police	Calls Diverted from Hospital
54	61	29	89.7%

July 2022

Individuals Served	Requests for Service	Live Calls with Police	Calls Diverted from Hospital
67	75	48	93.8%

Safe Communities Wellington County

Safe Kids Week had Safe Communities focusing on safe and active transportation being highlighted by a social media campaign and a visit to the Highland Rugby Club to talk about Safe Communities and how to keep our communities safe. During the summer months we partnered with the Guelph Wellington Drug Strategy to help with the upcoming Overdose Awareness Day held in August in Mount Forest. Further, Safe Communities Wellington County continued to work on the script and social media campaign surrounding the changes of ATV rules on Wellington County Roads.

Auxiliary Unit

Unit Commander: Auxiliary Staff Sergeant J. SWAN

Liaison: Provincial Constable Kyle Draves

Wellington County is pleased to announce that Auxiliary Steve JAMIESON has been promoted to the role of Auxiliary Sergeant. Auxiliary Sergeant JAMIESON has served well over 10 years with the Wellington County Auxiliary unit, and he has extensive experience in the many roles the unit fills within the county.

The Auxiliary Unit started participating in Marine Patrols during the month of June and members attend two OPP recruiting sessions that were held at the Aboyne Hall in the Wellington County Museum. Members were invited to share their experiences with the Auxiliary Program and answer questions from several interested candidates.

The Auxiliary Unit participated in several Marine Patrols throughout the month of July. Members of the unit also provided support at the Dominion Day Soap Box Derby in Elora, the Mount Forest Fireworks

Festival, and at the Hillside Festival in Guelph. One member from the unit also assisted with the OPP display at the Honda Indy Toronto this month in conjunction with the Highway Safety Division.

One highlight of the month was having two members detail one of the cruisers and display it at the car show during the Mount Forest Fireworks Festival. Our attendance was well received by members of the public. This initiative was started by some of our members a few years ago and we have been fortunate to have volunteers come in each year to clean up one of the cruisers to “enter” it in the car show. It has always been popular with the public with several positive interactions with attendees of all ages. Thanks to Auxiliaries Stephen MONIZ and Natalie BUREK for taking on this role this year.

The Auxiliary Unit provided support at several events over the month of August. Members attended the Fergus Scottish Festival, Riverfest Elora and the Palmerston Fall Fair Parade. In addition, Auxiliary members went on Marine patrol during the month and one member assisted the Mississauga Auxiliary Unit with a child seat clinic in Orangeville.

Training this month was focused on learning about the new radio system being implemented by the OPP, regular training to resume in September.

Crime Stoppers

Sarah Bowers-Peter, Program Coordinator CSGW

Summer always flies by at Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington (CSGW). This year we had the Wellington County OPP and County of Wellington property auction in June. This year it was an online sale with no barbecue. Hopefully the event was successful. We always appreciate the support of the County of Wellington with this fundraiser.

At the June 20th meeting of 100 Women Who Care Rural Wellington, membership voted to support CSGW who pitched a parent training module to understand how to talk to kids about Human Trafficking and Cyber Safety. This bookends the support offered in February by 100 Men Who Give a Damn and it means the same messaging can be shared in the City of Guelph and County of Wellington.

The CSGW Board of Directors had their first in person meeting since March 2020 in August 2022. While the group enjoyed seeing each other, some for the first time in person, the consensus is that Zoom allows for time savings and is a greener option. We don't have 14 people on the road to meet in one location each month. It was agreed to have in person meetings a couple of times a year. In addition to the summer meeting, they will plan to be in person for the AGM in December.

The Volunteer Board of Directors has had some turnover, with two members leaving the program for personal reasons. Two more individuals have joined, with another in the application process. The Board is looking for representation from East Wellington and encourages anyone interested in volunteering to complete the application at www.csgw.tips.

Media

Provincial Constable Josh Cunningham

Provincial Constable Jacob Unger

The Media unit had quite the busy summer participating in many community events and liaising with media outlets regarding incidents that occurred with the County.

Some of the many events attended included:

- Pride Event Wellington County Museum
- LGBT support Fergus Business
- Pride Minto
- Veterans Day
- Guelph Torch Run
- Highland Games and Scottish Festival
- Emergency Preparedness Day
- Hillsburgh Family Day

The Media unit also released the following tweet on Twitter and an individual came forward who had bought the dirt bike, seen the release, and realized they had purchased the stolen item. The dirt bike has now been returned to the owner and charges are pending for the person it was purchased from.



Personnel & Acknowledgements



Congratulations to Provincial Constable Slessor in achieving 30 years of service with the Ontario Provincial Police!



Congratulations also goes out to Sergeant Ashley, 40 years of service, Provincial Constable Edwards, 30 years of service and Provincial Constable Clements 30 years of service!

And congratulations to Staff Sergeant Korn on achieving 35 years of service!

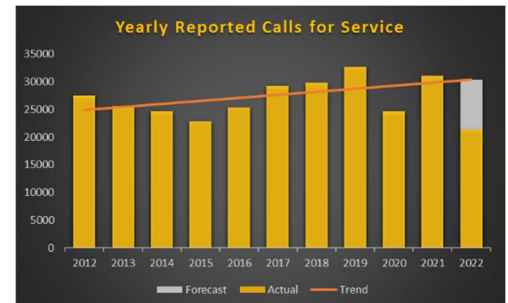


Statistics Summary

Calls for Service

Year to date calls for service have increased 7% over the same period last year with July 2022 showing a 2% increase over July 2021 and August currently showing a 22% decrease over August 2021.

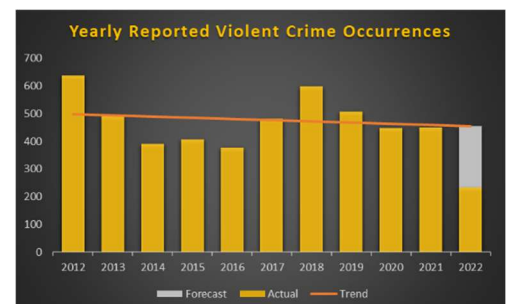
Calls for service are returning to pre pandemic levels.



Violent Crime

Violent Crime continues trending lower since 2018. There continues to be a projected decrease in violent crime for 2022.

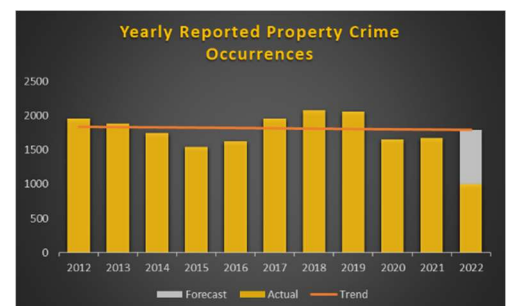
Year to date violent crime has decreased 20% over the same period last year with July 2022 showing a 24% decrease over July 2021 and August 2022 currently showing a 44% decrease over August 2021.



Property Crime

Property Crime had an observable decrease in occurrences in 2021. Current trends continue to project an increase over 2021.

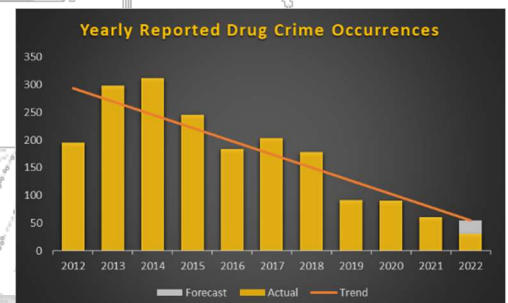
Year to date property crime has decreased 7% over the same period last year with July 2022 showing a 16% decrease over July 2021 and August 2022 currently showing a 65% decrease over August 2021.



Drug Crime *

Drug Crime has continued to trend downward. Current trends continue to follow the 2021 results a slight decrease in 2022 over 2021 is now anticipated.

Year to date drug crime has decreased 28% over the same period last year with July 2022 showing a 25% increase in over July 2021 and August 2022 currently showing a 71% decrease over the August 2021 incidents.

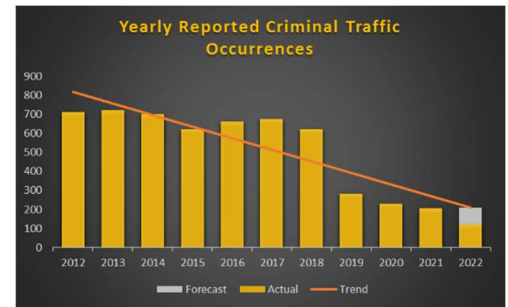


* Note: Recreational use of cannabis was decriminalized on October 17th, 2018

Criminal Traffic Offences

Criminal Traffic occurrences continued to trend lower. The current trend continues to follow the 2021 results however a projected increase over 2022 is still anticipated.

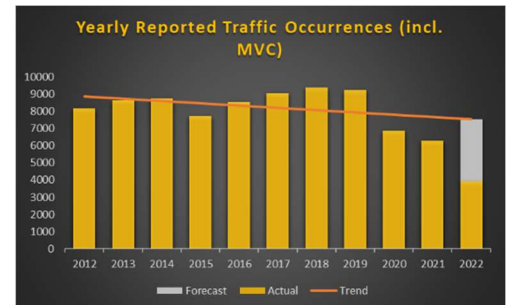
Year to date criminal traffic occurrences have decreased 6% over the same period last year with July 2022 showing an 111% increase over July 2021 and August 2022 currently showing a 63% decrease over August 2021.



Traffic Related Occurrences

Reductions were observed in traffic occurrences during 2020 and 2021 however annual trends appear to project an increase over 2021.

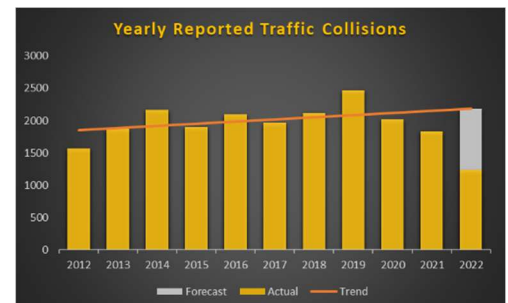
Year to date traffic occurrences have decreased 2% over the same period last year with July 2022 showing a 19% decrease in occurrences over July 2021 and August 2022 currently showing a 30% reduction over August 2021.



Motor Vehicle Collisions

Like all other traffic occurrences, reductions in vehicle collisions were enjoyed during 2020 and 2021 however an increase over 2021 is anticipated.

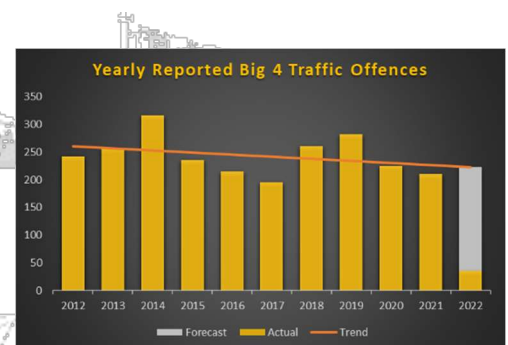
Year to date collisions have increased 19% over the same period last year with July 2022 showing a 22% decrease in collisions over July 2021 and August 2022 currently showing a 27% decrease over August 2021.



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

Statistically an increase in Big 4 Traffic Offences is anticipated.

Year to date Big 4 offences have decreased 21% over the same period last year with June 2022 showing a 21% decrease in offences over June 2021 and July 2022 currently showing a 54% reduction over July 2021. Some data is unavailable for this category due to delays in data propagation.



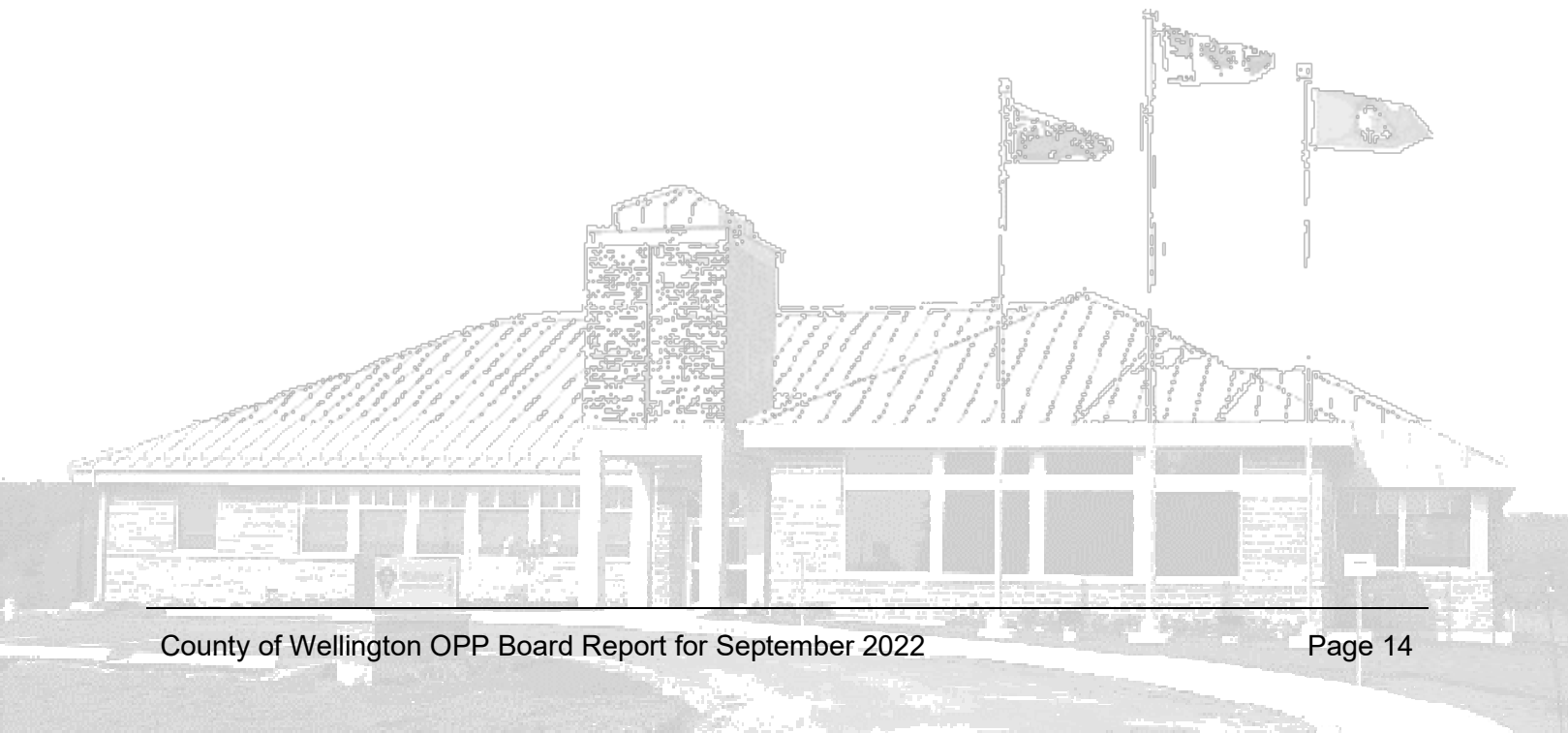
All statistics, graphs and maps are based upon preliminary information supplied by reporting parties and may not have been verified. Preliminary crime classifications may be changed at a later date based upon additional investigation and the possibility of mechanical or human error. There is no warranty, representation or guarantee as to the content, sequence, accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of any of the data provided herein. The data provided is unreliable for comparison purposes over time, or for any other reason. The Ontario Provincial Police explicitly disclaim any representation or warranty, including, without limitation, any merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Further, the Ontario Provincial Police shall assume no liability for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in the information provided, regardless of how caused. The Ontario Provincial Police will not be responsible for the use of, or the results obtained from the use of this information. The Ontario Provincial Police shall assume no liability for any decision, action, or deferral by anyone made in reliance of any information or data provided. All data visualizations on maps are considered approximate and attempts to derive specific addresses are prohibited.

Report Summary

As we reflect on this past summer, Wellington County OPP has seen a return to normal life post pandemic. With community events returning in full force and occurrences/calls for police assistance on the rise Wellington County OPP had its' hands full, and everyone was up to the task!

Despite the rise in workload, Wellington County OPP was able to provide security to the many community events held throughout the County this summer while at the same time providing the necessary assistance to the public when a call for service was placed. Wellington County OPP would like to thank our community partners for their diligent planning to provide safe and secure events for the public. And we would also like to thank members of the community who attended the many events and adhered to the safety guidelines.

With the summer of 2022 almost behind us and the new school year upon us Wellington County OPP would like to wish everyone a safe and happy return to the classroom. And remind drivers to be on the lookout for children returning to the sidewalks and crosswalks across the County.



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

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



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