



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

October 2022

Detachment Commander:
Inspector Steve Thomas

From the Detachment Commander

October continued to be a busy month for the Wellington County OPP. We participated in Operation Impact which was a province-wide campaign focusing on what are commonly referred to as the “Big Four” offences – impaired drivers, inattentive drivers, speeding, and seatbelts. Sadly, despite these concerted efforts, there have been several fatal collisions on our roadways throughout the month. I would like to offer my condolences to all of those who have been impacted by these tragedies.

Police, community partners, drivers, cyclists, motorcyclists, and pedestrians all have a shared responsibility when it comes to road safety. We must all come together as a community in a concerted effort to make our roadways as safe as possible. The Wellington County OPP will continue to promote safe driving practices through education and proactive enforcement, and I encourage all who use our roadways to follow the rules of the road and engage in safe driving practices especially as the winter weather approaches.

Finally, as we approach November 11th, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize all of those who have served in our nation’s defence and in peacekeeping missions across the globe. We must never forget those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.



Inspector Steve Thomas
519-846-5930

Index	
Crime	3
Traffic	5
Community Response	6
Court	9
Personnel & Acknowledgements	10
Statistical Summary	11
Report Summary	13

Crime

Crime Unit

Supervisor: Acting Detective Sergeant Brad Olsen

During the month of October, the Wellington County Crime Unit laid charges in the 14-year SHORTREED investigation. On October 10, 2008, 18-year-old Lucas SHORTREED was walking on Wellington Road 17 near Alma, Ontario at approximately midnight, when he was struck and killed by a vehicle, that fled the scene. Further investigation determined that the suspect vehicle was a 1995-1997 white Dodge Neon. For the past 14 years, investigators with the Wellington County OPP have followed up on over 100 tips and investigated hundreds of similar vehicles as they worked to locate the involved vehicle and determine its driver.

On September 21, 2022, the Wellington County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) executed a search warrant at an address on Sideroad 21, Mapleton Township. Two people were taken into custody and a vehicle was recovered from the property. The investigation by the Wellington County OPP continues, under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch, with assistance from the Regional Support Team, Forensic Identification Services, Emergency Response Team and the OPP Victim-Centered Approach Team.

Crime members participated in continued education and advanced learning through course/seminar attendance for Crime Unit members – Major Case Management, Statement Admissibility, and Block Training.

Crime Unit members hosted three Fraud presentations for Wellington County Seniors. The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre and Crimestoppers participated.



Crime members continue to investigate previous incidents that were “*Hate Motivated*.” These incidents included simple mischiefs to property or serious threats to members of the public and in some instances, serious assaults with weapons. What identified these events as “Hate Motivated” was observable efforts by the perpetrators to marginalize (and in some cases injure) members of cultural or religious minorities. Wellington County OPP contacted several specialty units in the OPP that offer their services for case consultations and investigative help such as:

- The Office of Professionalism, Respect, Inclusion and Leadership (OPRIL) and Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau (POIB) and Hate Crime / Extremism Unit works as part of the Provincial Anti-Terrorism Section of the Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau and is mandated to conduct multi-jurisdictional intelligence operations to detect, deter, disrupt, and monitor persons or groups involved in extremist ideologies and/or hatred that can lead to criminality.

Community Street Crime Unit

Supervisor: Acting Detective Sergeant Adam McGough

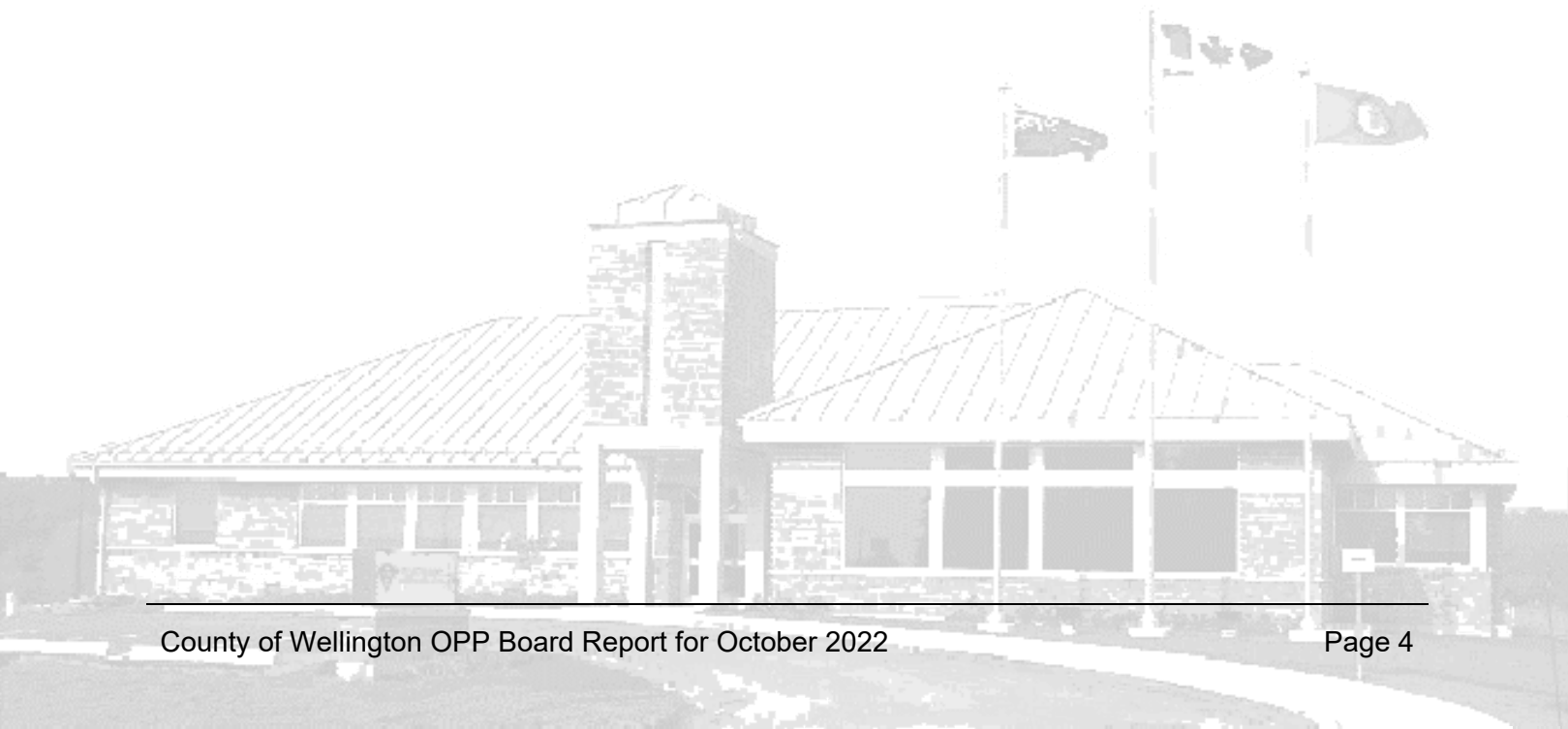
Acting Detective Sergeant Vicky McGough has completed her temporary position in the Wellington County CSCU. She has returned to her home detachment in Perth County. Vicky is thanked for her professionalism and hard work leading the CSCU for approximately one year. Beginning mid-October, Sergeant Adam McGough will assume the role of the Detective Sergeant in the CSCU on a temporary basis. Sergeant Adam McGough has worked in CSCU for approximately five years and has previously worked in the Organized Crime and Weapons Trafficking Units.

During the past month, CSCU members have completed training regarding a new intelligence management system that was launch province wide. The intelligence system will streamline intelligence gathering and retrieval for CSCU members.

October was a busy month as CSCU members were tasked with assisting neighbouring Street Crime Unit with warrant services and execution. Those warrants have a direct impact on the drug supply and distribution in Wellington County. A large cache of methamphetamine, fentanyl and firearms have been seized in those cases.

CSCU is actively engaged in local drug trafficking investigations that are linked to property crimes and overdoses. Further, CSCU members are actively monitoring those involved in drug and property crimes, known to reside or visit the county.

CSCU members continue to follow up on opioid drug overdose occurrences and have continued diligently in pursuit of those responsible for trafficking controlled substances leading to those deaths.



Traffic

Traffic Management Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant Mike Ashley

Traffic Management Unit

Sergeant Mike Ashley has taken over the supervisory role of the Wellington County Traffic Management Unit, while Sergeant Adam McGough will be moving into the Detective Sergeant position overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Community Street Crime Unit. Sergeant Ashley was previously in this position for several years, and he brings a wealth of knowledge to the 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)
Wellington Rd 19 Centre Wellington	Yes	-	-	Study underway Technical Issues	50	-	21
Elora St (Anne) Harriston	Yes	14 days	58314	No	50	30.3	0
Elora St (Cenotaph) Harriston	Yes	7 Days	25403	No	50	24.9	1
Main St. (Minto Rd) Palmerston	Yes	8 Days	42464	No	70	29.7	0
Main St Palmerston	No	11 Days	44531	No	50	49.8	0

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 Wellington County to curb excessive speeds and address concerns identified by community members, stakeholders, and police. The speed signs were deployed in each Detachment area at locations of concern. One of the old speed monitoring speed spy devices has been lent to Perth County.

Traffic Management Unit members will be actively conducting RIDE programs during their duties through to the end of the year.

Marine Patrol

Regular scheduled marine patrols have concluded for the season. The marine unit was very active this boating season engaging citizens in education.

Community Response

Community Response Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant Corrie Trewartha

Summer certainly didn't stick around very long, and we are well into Fall and Winter Planning. Over the last month the CRU unit has been engaged in some focused patrols in Elora in consideration of some community complaints about noise, as well as downtown Palmerston because of some recent mischiefs to vehicles.

The CRU unit has spent over 25 hours on the bikes, 64 hours on foot, as well as over 30 hours on the ATVs as we have seen an increase this fall of ATV use on our trail systems. CRU attended several Fall Fairs over the last few months including Erin and Fergus and have had some follow-up meetings to collaborate about future events and how we can be more engaged. On October 1st CRU helped in the OPP Provincial Recruiting Day, which provided a great turnout of interested applicants from Wellington County. They were able to see some of the equipment we use, and chat with officers about their experiences and careers. It was a fantastic event!

November and December are shaping up to be busy months with Parades and local festive events, as well as the launch of our festive RIDE campaign. Stay tuned!

IMPACT (Integrated Mobile Police and Crisis Team)

August 2022

Individuals Served	Requests for Service	Live Calls with Police	Calls Diverted from Hospital
41	40	16	81.3%

Safe Communities Wellington County

Safe Communities Day was held on October 6th, 2022, where 735 students from 14 elementary schools across Wellington County participated. The day was held virtually working with our partners Wellington County OPP, Guelph Wellington Paramedic Service, Wellington County Emergency Management, and Centre Wellington Fire to name a few.

National Teen Driver Safety Week ran from October 16th to 22nd. Safe Communities Wellington County partnered with Upper Grand District School Board to educate students in Wellington County High Schools about the dangers of distracted, impaired and aggressive driving. Safe Communities also had the opportunity to work with local driving centres to share positive tickets with their new drivers.

Auxiliary Unit

Unit Commander: Auxiliary Staff Sergeant J. SWAN

Liaison: Provincial Constable Kyle Draves

The Auxiliary Unit started the month by assisting the Centre Wellington Food Bank with their Thanksgiving “Stuff a Cruiser” event at Freshco in Fergus. The event was a great success bringing in two van loads of donations and almost \$600 in cash.

Training this month consisted of reviewing aspects of the Ontario Human Rights Code through the online program “Working Together: The Code and the AODA”. In addition, the unit received the new radio system portables along with the rest of the detachment and we spent time doing some review of how the radio system works.

Members of our unit attended the funeral for the two officers from the South Simcoe Police Service this month. As always, we are honoured to be invited to attend with other members of the OPP and we are fortunate to have members who can rearrange their personal schedules to attend.

The end of the month marks the retirement of one of our longest serving Auxiliary members. Auxiliary Sergeant Dave BUESCHLER retires from the Auxiliary Program on October 31st after exactly 19 years of service. Aux Sgt BUESCHLER has served in several roles over the course of his auxiliary career in both the Cambridge and Wellington County detachments, finishing as one of our platoon sergeants in the unit. His guidance, leadership and experience will be missed. In the interim, Aux Cst Steven MONIZ was promoted to Acting Sergeant until we can officially fill our vacant sergeant position.

Crime Stoppers

Sarah Bowers-Peter, Program Coordinator CSGW

October has been an exciting month for Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington (CSGW) with the announcement from the Ministry of the Solicitor General awarding funds to agencies who applied for support to target Hate Crime, Human Trafficking and Fraud.

CSGW has been awarded \$110,000 over two years to increase awareness on Hate Crime and Fraud. As Hate Crime has been a priority for CSGW for a number of years and campaigns are already established, it was decided to focus on Hate Crime and Fraud in the County of Wellington. The application was sound enough to warrant the maximum funding available regardless of this modification.

This announcement nicely coincides with the wrap of the Wellington County OPP/CSGW partnership to present Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre for three Seniors presentations: two in Centre Wellington and one in North Wellington. CSGW will build on these inroads with the Sol Gen funding.

Additionally, the support from 100 Women Who Care Rural Wellington for the 5 Tips, 5 Ideas and 5 Signs campaign is slated to launch at the end of October. The \$9,700 donation from this amazing group will go toward the education and awareness campaign aimed at parents and guardians to understand Human Trafficking and the connection to Cyber Safety. This is being delivered in the County in partnership with PC Beth Hickey. Funding from 100 Men Who Give a Damn – Guelph (\$9,300) means

that the same messaging will be available in the City of Guelph. Please look out for social media, print, digital and radio promotion at the beginning of November.

Communications Training, developed and implemented by CSGW, continues to be a valuable asset to programs across Ontario through the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers. The Canadian Association of Crime Stoppers, which has also endorsed this training, is encouraging programs across the country to take advantage of this training, which is delivered by the CSGW Program Coordinator. Response to this training has been overwhelmingly positive.

Media

Provincial Constable Josh Cunningham

Provincial Constable Jacob Unger

The Wellington County Media Unit participated in the fraud presentations held in Clifford with Detective Constable Heidi Pautsch. The Unit was also busy with preparations for the winter weather video being created in conjunction with The County of Wellington. And both officers have been quite busy as of late planning for the upcoming Take Your Kids to Work day on November 2nd, 2022.



Court

Supervisor: Acting Sergeant Shaugn ROGERS

Provincial Constable Shaugn Rogers has taken on the role of interim supervisor of Court Services Bureau while Sergeant Scott Vallier assumes the role of Acting Staff Sergeant for Wellington County.

The Court Services supervisor attended the Office of the Senior Regional Justice Case Management Forum on the 24th of October to address issues (what is working well, what needs improvement) within the Judicial Intensive Case Management Court, Assignment Court and Backlog concerns over the past couple of years within West Region.

Ongoing training of staff with continuing changes in the eIntake and enhanced eHub information swearing process which now includes changes in way Subpoenas are prepared and submitted to the Justices of the Peace.



Personnel & Acknowledgements

Provincial Constable Tyler Beukema received the VALUES challenge coin for his community work with youth and his overall efforts while on deployment in Northwest Region - KI (Big Trout).

Chief Superintendent Bryan MacKillop (NWR), Inspector Karl Duewel (NWR), A/Superintendent. Shawn Johnson (WR) attended via Teams to witness Inspector Steve Thomas make the presentation.

“While on deployment Tyler had a huge presence and made an extraordinary impact on the lives of this community” Chief Superintendent Bryan MacKillop

“Tyler, your efforts, and those of all Wellington members that volunteer for deployments in the remote Indigenous communities is greatly appreciated. Please know that you and the work you do has an impact beyond anything one could imagine and for that we are thankful and incredibly proud of each of you!” Staff Sergeant Jennifer Neamtz



Statistics Summary

Calls for Service

Year to date calls for service have increased 8% over the same period last year with September 2022 showing a 4% increase over September 2021 and October 2022 currently showing a 9% decrease over October 2021.

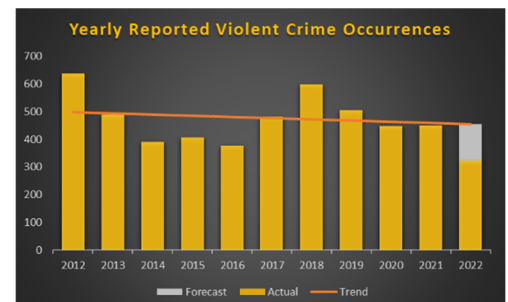
Calls for service appear to be following the previously projected values and are returning to pre-pandemic levels.



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 11% over the same period last year with September 2022 showing a 5% increase over September 2021 and October 2022 currently showing a 44% decrease over October 2021.



Property Crime

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

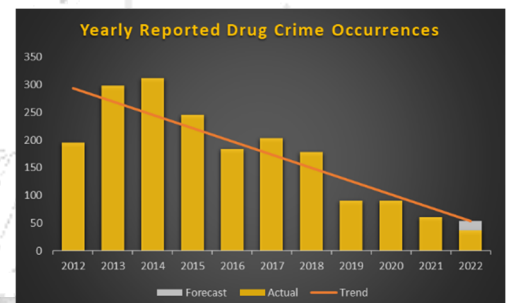
Year to date property crime has decreased 6% over the same period last year with September 2022 showing a 14% decrease over September 2021 and October 2022 currently showing a 64% decrease over October 2021.



Drug Crime *

Drug Crime has continued to trend lower than previous years. The current trend continues to follow 2021 with a slight decrease in 2022 over 2021 is now anticipated.

Year to date drug crime has decreased 30% over the same period last year with September 2022 showing a 33% decrease in over September 2021 and October 2022 currently showing a 86% decrease over the October 2021 incidents.

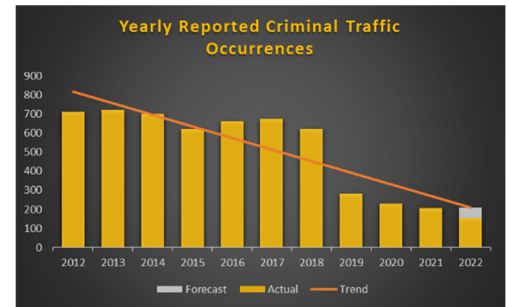


* Note: Recreational use of cannabis was decriminalized on October 17th, 2018

Criminal Traffic Offences

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

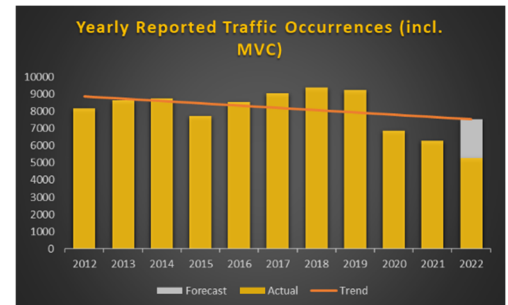
Year to date criminal traffic occurrences have decreased 11% over the same period last year with September 2022 showing an 52% decrease over September 2021 and October 2022 currently showing a 45% decrease over October 2021.



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 September 2022 showing a 2% decrease in occurrences over September 2021 and October 2022 currently showing a 17% reduction over October 2021.



Motor Vehicle Collisions

Reductions in vehicle collisions were enjoyed during 2020 and 2021 however an increase over the previous two years continues to be anticipated.

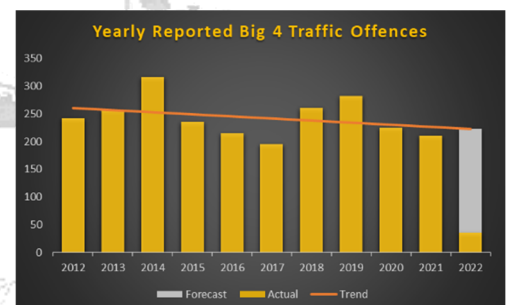
Year to date collisions have increased 14% over the same period last year with September 2022 showing a 7% decrease in collisions over September 2021 and October 2022 currently showing a 31% decrease over October 2021.



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 19% over the same period last year with August 2022 showing a 22% decrease in offences over August 2021 and September 2022 currently showing a 39% reduction over September 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

Wellington County OPP was kept busy again in October 2022 with calls for service seemingly returning to pre-pandemic levels and Fall community events returning in full swing.

Along with this, Wellington County OPP participated in Operation Impact the province-wide campaign focusing on the “Big Four” offences – impaired drivers, inattentive drivers, speeding, and seatbelts. We were sadly reminded once again about the dangers of traversing our roadways as there were several fatal motor vehicle collisions within the County this month.

Please remember to slow down, wear your seatbelt, be aware of your surroundings and do not drink & drive. Winter is around the corner, roads will be getting slick, and snow covered. Get winter tires if you have not done so already. If we do these things and work together, we can decrease the chances of someone being seriously hurt, or worse, this winter on our roadways throughout the County of Wellington.



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

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

