



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

**April 2023**

Detachment Commander:  
Inspector Steve Thomas

# From the Detachment Commander

In last month's report I mentioned how we were all looking forward to spring. Well, April not only gave us some spring weather but also a taste of summer. Hopefully, everyone was able to get out and enjoy the sunshine and warmth that week before we went back to our regular Ontario spring weather. The warmer weather definitely serves as a reminder that summer is on its way and will be here before we know it.

As we look forward to the summer months, we are continuing to prepare for the many festivals, events, and other activities that are scheduled to take place throughout the County of Wellington. We will start to see more traffic on our roadways, more visitors to our beautiful towns and more people enjoying the waterways. Our officers will continue to use proactive patrols, enforcement, and education as we work to make our communities as safe as possible.

We are always looking for ways to engage with our community members to provide information about crime prevention and to promote safety initiatives. For example, as of the end of April our youth resiliency officer has been able to attend every parochial school in Wellington County. While we would be unable to reach this community through our typical social media channels, PC Hickey was able to speak to students and parents about bicycle safety, road safety, and many other important topics. Also, while on the topic of youth, I just wanted to provide an update on the Youth Advisory Council's initiative they presented last month. Since their presentation they have been able to meet with the mental health leads from both school boards to discuss their poster initiative. It is encouraging to see these youth moving forward with an amazing idea that could have a very positive impact on their community.

With summer on the horizon, we know there will be more traveling, more backyard campfires, and barbeques and all the fun activities that come along with summer. As always, I would like to remind everyone to please, never drive while impaired. Always make arrangements for a safe way to get home if you are planning on going out. If you are out enjoying a day on one of our lakes, make sure you are wearing a life jacket and again, never operate any type of watercraft while impaired. Let's all work together to make this summer a safe one here in the County of Wellington.



Inspector Steve Thomas  
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Index	
Crime	3
Traffic	4
Community Response	5
Court	8
Personnel & Acknowledgements	9
Statistical Summary	10
Report Summary	13



## **Crime**

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### **Crime Unit**

Supervisor: Detective Sergeant Jennifer Foley

In April 2023 members of the Wellington County Crime Unit assisted with two separate assault investigations where charges were laid. Detectives conducted interviews with victims and witnesses, canvassed residents to locate additional witnesses, and seized video surveillance.

A 31-year-old female was charged with Assault Causing Bodily Harm, Uttering Threats and Fail to Comply with Probation in relation to an incident in Mount Forest.

A 35-year-old male was charged with Aggravated Assault and Fail to Comply with Probation and a 23-year-old male was charged with Aggravated Assault, Assault and Fail to Comply with Probation in relation to an altercation in Guelph-Eramosa Township.

In April 2023, the Wellington County Crime Unit concluded several cybercrime investigations involving non-consensual distribution of intimate images, distribution of child pornography and uttering threats, and counselling to commit suicide. In two investigations, it was revealed that the young persons reporting the incidents, had created false social media accounts to fabricate the reported crimes. Public Mischief is a criminal offence committed when there is a deliberate intent to mislead the police, such as making a false statement to police accusing someone else of a crime or reporting a crime that has not been committed.

In April 2023, Detective Constable Heidi Pautsch and Auxiliary Officer A/Insp Brad Hull gave a presentation on fraud prevention to the Police Services Board. This is a part of the OPP's continued efforts to educate the public to prevent residents of Wellington County becoming victim to scams.

### **Community Street Crime Unit**

Supervisor: Acting Detective Sergeant Adam McGough

In April 2023, members of the Wellington County Community Street Crime Unit were busy in their efforts to disrupt and dismantle those who perpetrate drug and property crime in Wellington County.

On April 26, 2023, members executed a Criminal Code search warrant at the property in South Wellington and recovered stolen property, valued at \$3,300.

Members of CSCU also assisted Brant-Oxford CSCU with the execution of two search warrants on April 21, 2023. Stolen property including a large stolen trailer were located and seized as evidence.

On April 7, 2023, Wellington CSCU executed a Controlled Drugs and Substances Act warrant in Puslinch. Members located cocaine, psilocybin, and suspected heroin. This was the conclusion of a multiple month investigation into a prolific drug trafficker.

At the conclusion of April, DC G. KALCSICS completed his temporary secondment into the unit. KALCSICS gained valuable experience and participated fully in investigations. KALCSICS did a fantastic job, and we look forward to him competing for a CSCU position in the future.

All Wellington CSCU members attended a two-day requalification in April for Warrant Execution. All members remain qualified in this highly technical skillset.

## Traffic

### Traffic Management Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant Mike Ashley

#### Black Cat Speed Monitoring Devices

Location	Community Initiated	Study Length	Number of Vehicles	Recommended Enhanced Enforcement	Posted Speed Limit	85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Collision History (5 years)
Wellington 124 Erin Township	No	1 week	4,371	Yes	60	75	7
Beaty Line Fergus	No	1 week	14,413	No	50	39	7
Sligo Road Mount Forest	No	1 week	11,768	Yes	50	67	0
Queen Street Mount Forest	No	1 week	2,631	No	50	62	0

The Black Cats were deployed to four different locations throughout the County for week-long traffic studies.

#### A.L.P.R. Cruiser

The A.L.P.R. cruiser is currently being utilized daily in Wellington County. All OPP cruisers are being outfitted with In Car Cameras (ICCs). These ICCs are for improved transparency but also function as front mounted ALPRs.

#### Traffic Complaints

The previous Traffic Complaint list has been streamlined and now includes data from the above-mentioned Black Cats. TMU is conducting Traffic Blitz' in complaint areas to target specific complaints.

#### Community Events

The TMU is hosting a joint Wellington OPP/Guelph Police Service three-day course for Commercial Motor Vehicles from May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be followed by a CMV blitz on the border of Guelph and Wellington.

A CMV blitz was planned for May 25<sup>th</sup> in Erin Township but will have to be moved to a different location due to construction plans. MTO, MFO, OPP, as well as Halton, Guelph, and York police are planning to attend in a Wellington County location, TBD.

## Community Response

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### Community Response Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant James MacKenzie

April was a busy month and CSS was engaged in several community events. Drayton Farm Show, Indigenous Gathering Circle and the 50th Anniversary of the Alma Women's Institute amongst others, it was nice to be involved with our community partners again.

CSS is always all hands-on deck assisting frontline and the traffic unit. Making progress on the outstanding Warrants and conducting compliance checks.

With the weather finally turning into spring, CSS have been on ATV and bicycle patrols. There have been lots of question especially regarding ATV's and CSS was happy to educate many people.

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

#### March 2023

Individuals Served	Requests for Service	Live Calls with Police	Calls Diverted from Hospital
64	76	36	90.2%

### Auxiliary Unit

Unit Commander: Auxiliary Staff Sergeant J. SWAN

Liaison: Provincial Constable Kyle Draves

The unit had several training sessions throughout the month of April. The unit has all completed their annual defensive tactics and firearms training. Auxiliary Sergeant Heather UNWIN arranged for PC Tracey LACARTE to come talk to the unit about her role with the West Region Provincial Liaison Team. She shared with us how the unit works and its ongoing role both within the province as well as with incidents within Wellington County. Our April training also included reviews of driving marked police vehicles and legal coverage for Auxiliary members.

The unit participated in a food drive supporting the Centre Wellington Food Bank at Freshco in Fergus. We had a number of positive interactions with the public as well as with food bank volunteers. Two van loads of food were collected along with approximately \$1,100 in cash donations. In addition, we had an auxiliary member assist at the Drayton Farm Show with the OPP display.

Auxiliary Acting Inspector Brad HULL has been busy throughout March and April doing presentations about Fraud Prevention throughout the county. In addition to the presentation with the Police Services Board, Brad has also completed (or has scheduled) presentations in Mount Forest, Erin, Guelph-Eramosa, Alma, and the Village by the Arboretum in Guelph (with permission from the City of Guelph).

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In personnel news, a long time Auxiliary member announced his retirement this month. Auxiliary Constable George PRESTAYA served 19 years with the Auxiliary Program in Wellington County. He is well known both among Regular members as well as community members through his contribution both to patrol and community events. His contributions to the unit will be missed. I am pleased to welcome Auxiliary Constable Brooke DROST to the unit. She finished her training in mid-April.

### **Safe Communities Wellington County**

The Drop the Labels Presentation Series was launched with four sessions happening across Wellington County at the Wellington County Grove Hubs and at the Puslinch Library. Twenty-two youth participated in the Healthy Boundaries and Power of Language presentation. Safe Communities Wellington County partnered with Wellington County OPP to participate in the Drayton Farm Show in the middle of April, focusing on poison prevention and other injury prevention initiatives. Over three hundred people visited the booth throughout the two days.

### **Crime Stoppers**

Sarah Bowers-Peter, Program Coordinator CSGW

Starting this month's report with a call for volunteers. The program has lost three members in recent months due to employment shifts therefore the Board sits at 10 members. Anyone with a link to an individual who has interest in joining Crime Stoppers is encouraged to direct them to the website: [www.csgw.tips](http://www.csgw.tips)

April has been a month of connection with meetings and engagement. Not only has Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington (CSGW) resumed the annual Mulch Sales (May 6 – Guelph, May 13 – Mount Forest) but there has been ongoing support for Fraud Talk and interest in booking 5 Tips, 5 Ideas, 5 Signs for Cyber Safety and Human Trafficking awareness.

CSGW is hosting the annual Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers annual conference on June 2, 2023. This is the first in person conference since 2019. An exceptionally large endeavor that takes up considerable time and effort for staff and Board members. This coincides with the 35th anniversary of CSGW.

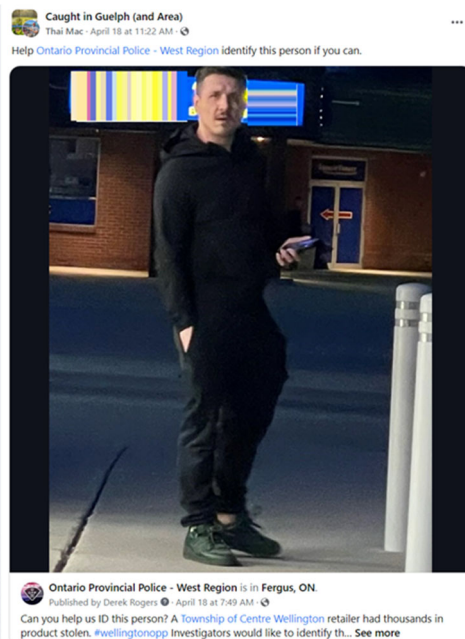
CSGW is also preparing to announce a relaunch of the highly visible road sign campaign. With signs throughout the city and county in varying stages of repair, the decision was made to swap out tired signs with a new, bold brand. This will be announced for a May delivery.

## Media

Provincial Constable Josh Cunningham

Provincial Constable Jacob Unger

April was a busy month for the media office. We continued to deliver many fraud presentations. We were also able to speak to the Mapleton Chamber of Commerce and the Centre Wellington Chamber of Commerce about frauds affecting businesses and to provide some information about robbery prevention and property security measures. We were also able to use social media posts to identify three different suspects that engaged in separate incidents that had happened over the last month. The Drayton Farm Show was a wonderful way to start what will be a busy next few months. We are busy getting ready for the Fergus Home Show and Emergency Preparedness Week and many other upcoming events and we look forward to seeing everyone there.



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## Court

Supervisor: A/Sergeant Mike DeBoer

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

Court staff and selected administrative personnel are currently conducting digital evidence management training for evidence handling and disclosure.





# Personnel & Acknowledgements

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Inspector Steve Thomas received his Kings Commission from the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. Pictured with Her Honour and Inspector Thomas is OPP Commissioner Carrique.



# Statistics Summary

## Calls for Service

Year to date calls for service have increased 23% over the same period last year with March 2023 showing a 29% increase over March 2022 and April 2023 currently showing a 11% increase over April 2022.

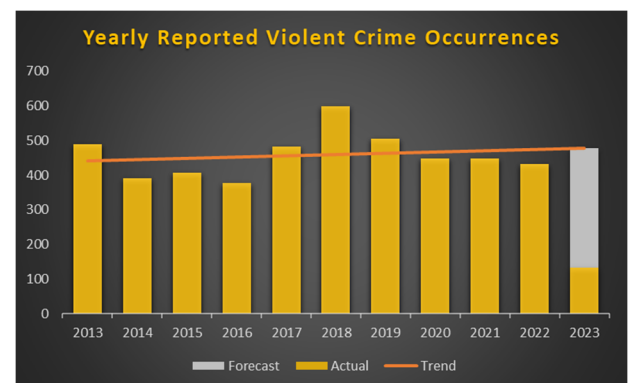
At this time, it is still projected that annual calls for service may decrease over 2022.



## Violent Crime

Violent Crime appears that it may again trend lower since 2018, however a projected increase in violent crime for over last year is anticipated.

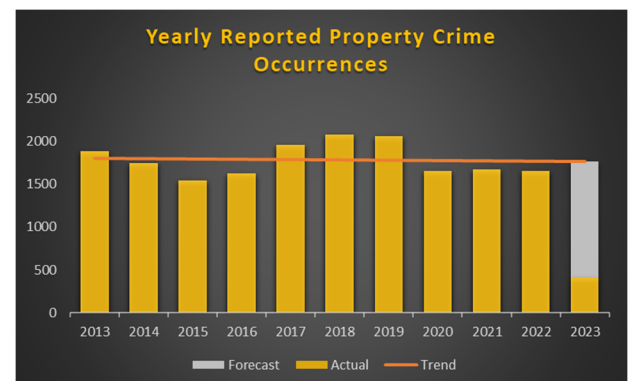
Year to date violent crime has increased 17% over the same period last year with March 2023 showing a 39% increase over March 2022 and April 2023 currently showing a 10% increase over April 2022.



## Property Crime

Property Crime appears that it may again trend lower since 2018, however a projected increase is anticipated over last year.

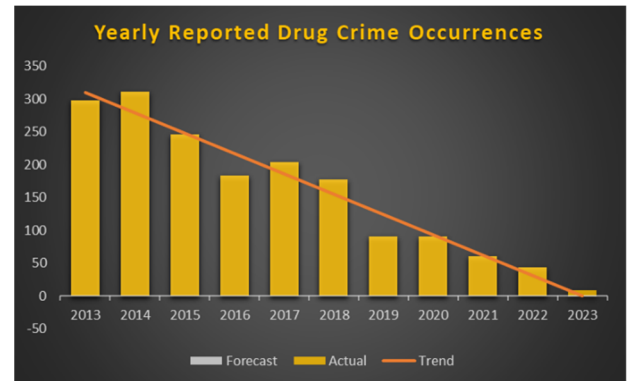
Year to date property crime has decreased 22% over the same period last year with March 2023 showing a 21% decrease over March 2022 and April 2023 currently showing a 34% decrease over April 2022.



### Drug Crime \*

Drug Crime continues to trend lower than previous years. The current trend continues to follow 2022 with a decrease in 2023 over 2022 anticipated.

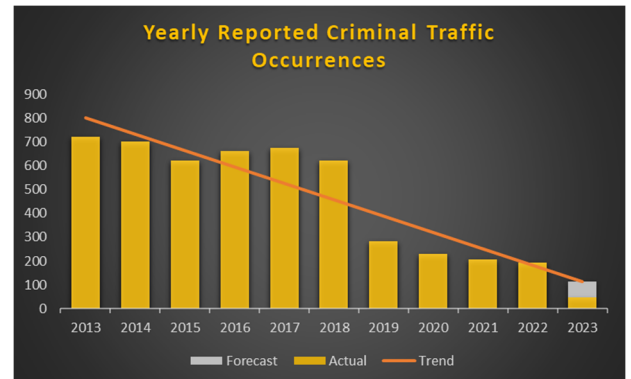
Year to date drug occurrences have decreased by 69% over the same period last year with March 2023 showing a 25% decrease over March 2022 and April 2023 currently showing a 60% decrease over April 2022.



### Criminal Traffic Offences

Criminal Traffic occurrences continue to trend lower. The current trend appears to follow the 2022 results and a decrease over 2022 is anticipated.

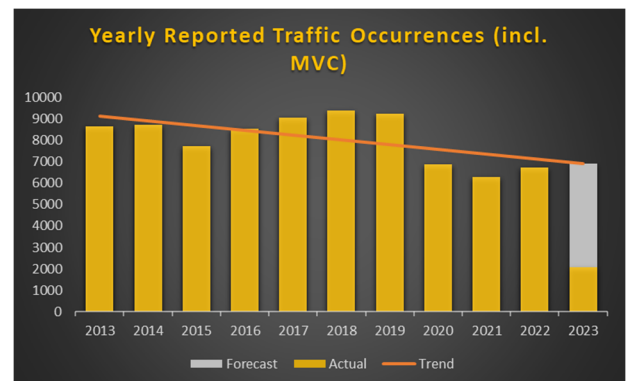
Year to date criminal traffic occurrences have decreased by 21% over the same period last year with March 2023 showing a 10% increase over March 2022 and April 2023 currently showing a 30% decrease over April 2022.



### Traffic Related Occurrences

Although reductions were observed in traffic occurrences in previous years an increase in 2022 was realized. An increase is again forecast in 2023.

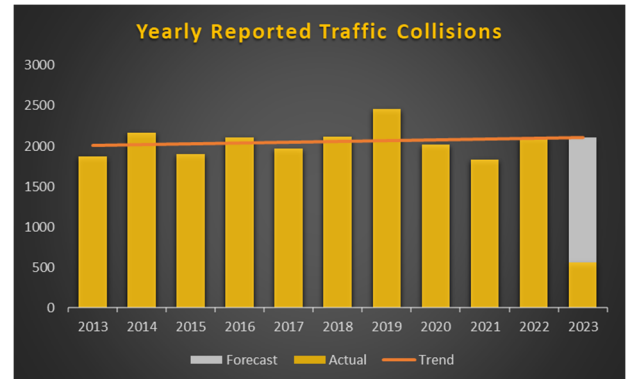
Year to date traffic occurrences have increased 5% over the same period last year with March 2023 showing a 28% increase in occurrences over March 2022 and April 2023 currently showing a 1% decrease over April 2022.



## Motor Vehicle Collisions

Reductions in vehicle collisions were enjoyed during 2020 and 2021 however an increase in 2022 was observed. It is forecast that collisions will remain at 2022 levels in 2023.

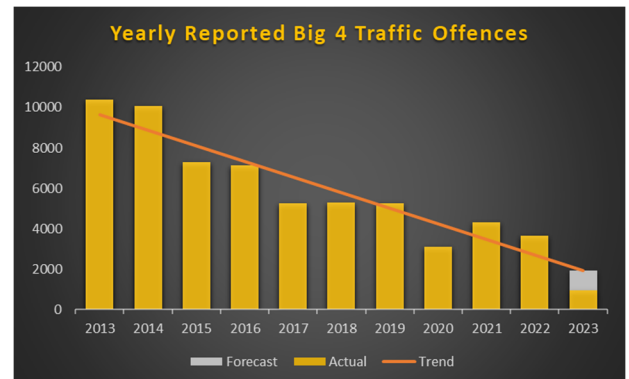
Year to date collisions have decreased 26% over the same period last year with March 2023 showing a 12% decrease in collisions over March 2022 and April 2023 currently showing a 16% decrease over April 2022.



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

Statistically, a decrease in Big 4 Traffic Offences is anticipated.

Year to date Big 4 offences have increased 24% over the same period last year with March 2023 showing a 19% decrease in offences over March 2022. Data for April 2023 was unavailable at the time of this report.



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.



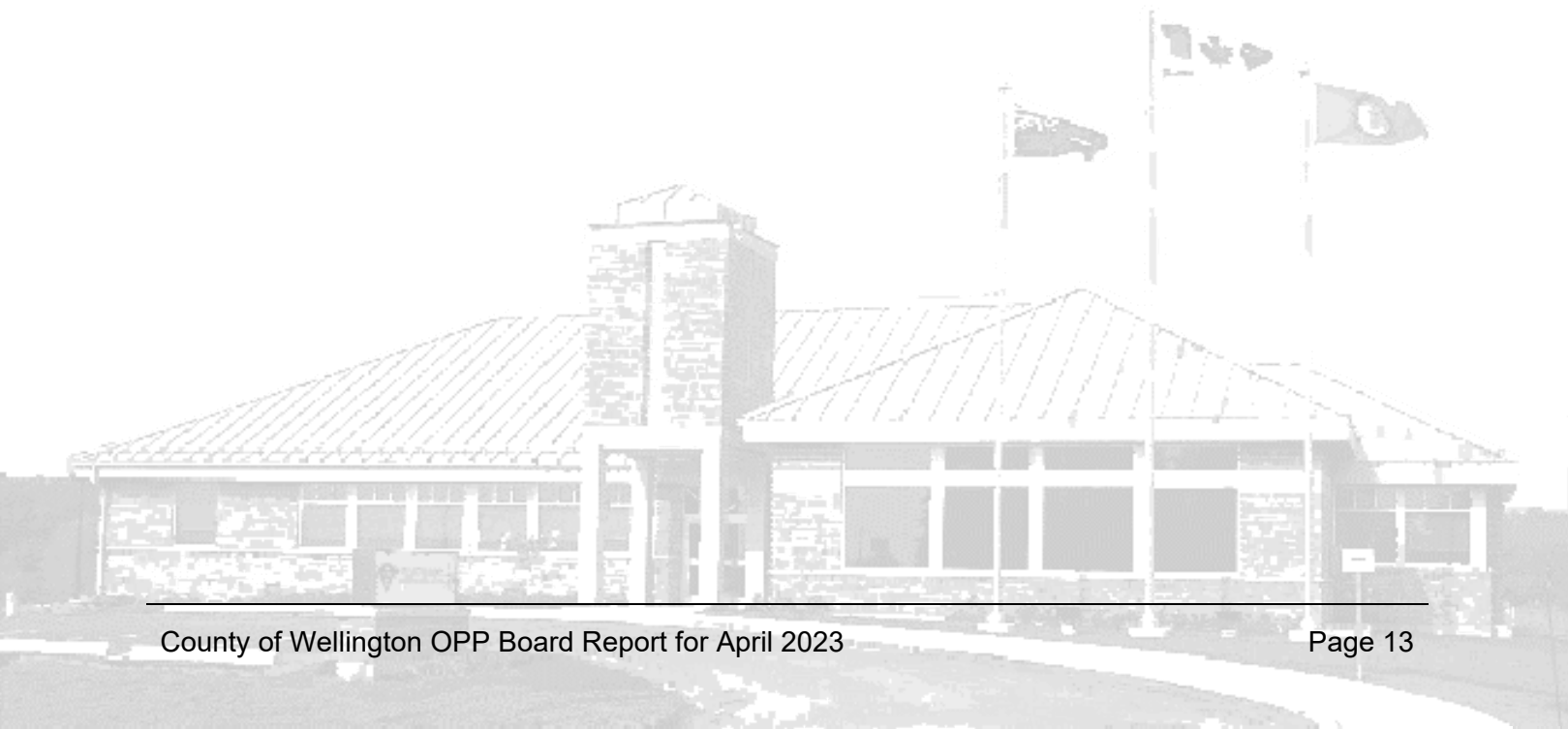
# Report Summary

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Spring 2023 just started, and Wellington County OPP has been flooded with event and festival notifications from multiple organizations across the County. We look forward to these opportunities to meet directly with members of the public to answer questions, provide education and to continue to develop partnerships within the community.

Wellington County OPP held fraud presentations across the County to educate and inform vulnerable members of the community about various frauds and schemes being used to extract money and personal information from victims. We focused our presentations on senior members of the community as they seem to be the primary target of these fraudsters. Through education and word of mouth hopefully we can get the message across to everyone. Hang up the phone, block the phone number when possible and report these scams to police if you have suffered monetary loss or have given out personal information such as your SIN Number or credit card number. You can also contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or via their website <https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm>.

Let's have a fantastic and safe spring. Enjoy the sunshine between the rain.



# 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



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