



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

January 2024

Detachment Commander:
Inspector Steve Thomas

From the Detachment Commander

Wellington County OPP wants to remind everyone that despite the unusually warm winter and lack of snow, winter could, and most likely will, return. Please drive according to the weather and road conditions as they can quickly deteriorate during a winter storm. Also be mindful of fast-moving waterways as the snow melts and increases river volumes. A relaxing, leisurely activity could turn deadly serious if you underestimate a thaw.

I am looking forward to 2024 and providing exceptional police services to the County of Wellington. Our members are ready and able to serve the community, their number one priority is your safety.



Inspector Steve Thomas
519-846-5930

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Crime

Crime Unit

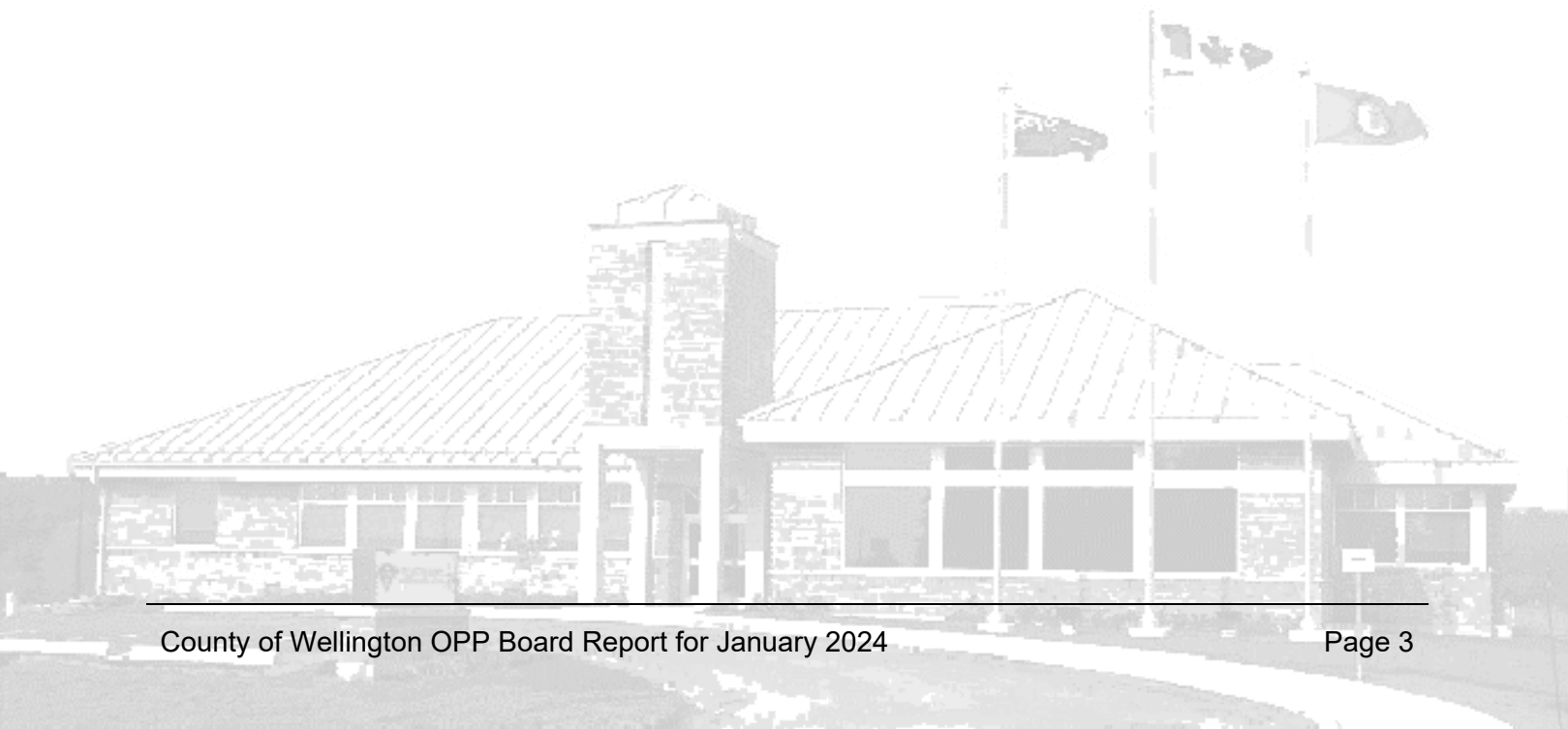
Supervisor: Detective Sergeant, Jennifer Foley

In January 2024, the Crime Unit arrested and charged two people relating to sexual assaults occurring between 1961 and 1984. An 89-year-old male was charged with Gross Indecency (nine counts), Gross Indecency (three counts), Indecent Assault on a Female (eight counts), Sexual Assault, Assault and Forcible Confinement. An 85-year-old female was charged with Assault and Forcible Confinement.

The Crime Unit received information that a member of the public was in illegal possession of a firearm. A Criminal Code search warrant was executed at residence where a firearm and ammunition were located. As a result, an adult male was charged with Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm, Careless Storage of a Firearm and Fail to Comply with Undertaking.

Members of the Crime Unit receive enhanced training in many areas of criminal investigation to ensure they have the specialized knowledge and skills to investigate major crimes and mentor new officers. In January, members of the Crime Unit attended training on Instructional Techniques, Asset Forfeiture, Child Interviewing, and Investigative Interviewing.

We continue to receive reports of online frauds related to cryptocurrency. Reports typically detail a victim who believes they are making an investment in a legitimate cryptocurrency company. They liaise with someone who they believe is a legitimate “agent”, often shown that they have a quick return on their investment and are convinced to invest larger amounts of money. Then when they want to make a significant withdrawal from their virtual wallet, they are unable to reach the “agent” and the initial investment funds are no longer available. The Crime Unit liaises with the OPP Cybercrime Investigations Team in Orillia to assist with tracing these transactions. While each case is investigated individually, the perpetrators of these offences are often found to be operating from countries where we do not have reciprocal law enforcement powers. This makes investigations exceedingly difficult and lost funds are rarely recovered. Members of the public are encouraged to do their research for scams or complaints relating to the company they are dealing with, and to report suspicious transactions to both police and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

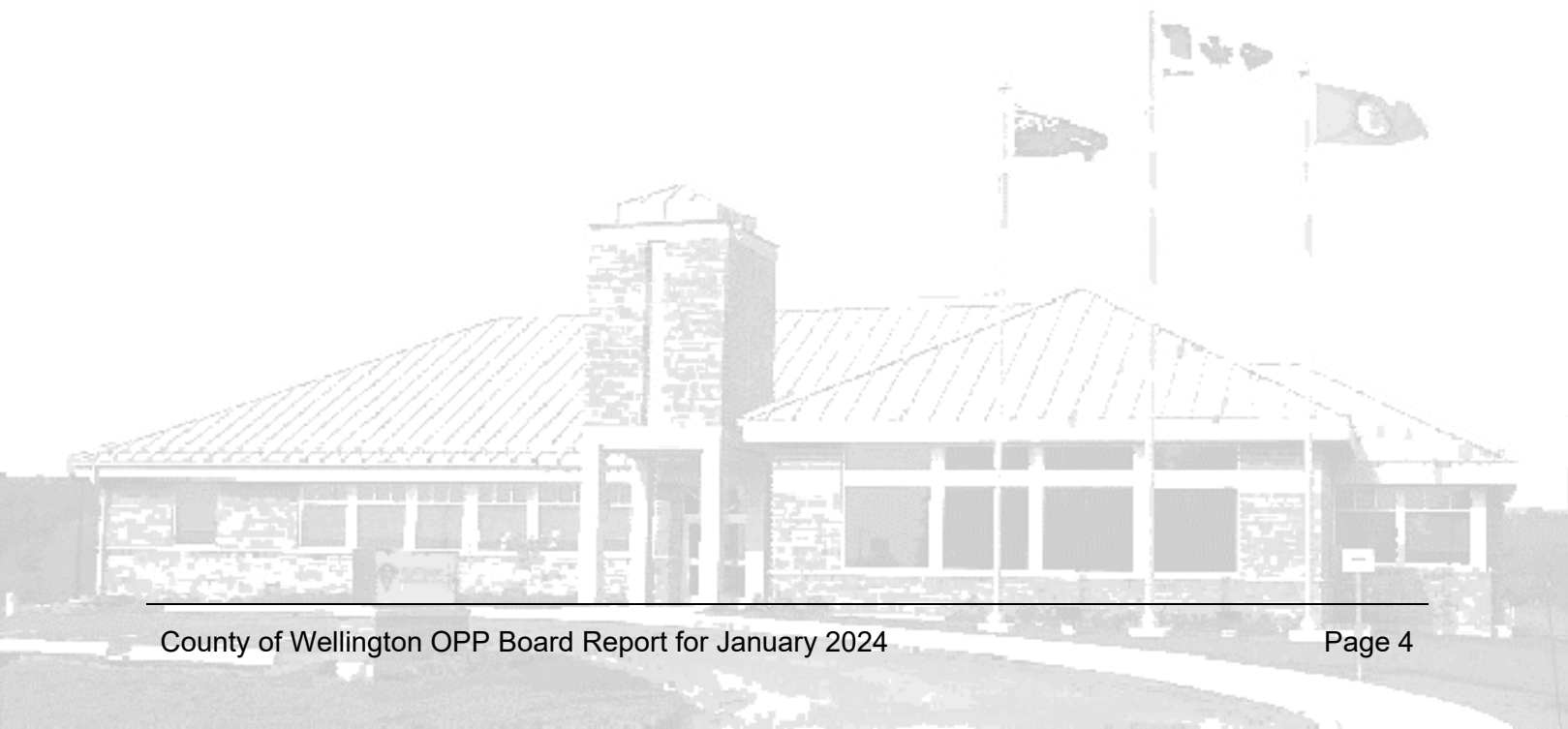


Community Street Crime Unit

Supervisor: Detective Sergeant, Jeffrey Dudley

The Community Street Crime Unit had a very bust January 2024. Following are several investigations both ongoing and concluded:

- The Community Street Crime Unit executed a Controlled Drugs and Substances Act search warrant in the town of Erin in relation to a street level cocaine trafficking investigation. A male party was arrested.
- Assisted frontline with a \$50,000 theft of wire from Nexans in Fergus.
- Completed the investigation into stolen vehicles from Centre Wellington. Suspects were identified and charges were laid.
- Continued to investigate the theft of tire rims from a Wellington North retailer.
- Members assisted Dufferin County OPP with a theft/methamphetamine trafficking investigation affecting Wellington County. Two male parties have been arrested and charged with property and drug related offences.
- Investigated a multi-jurisdictional LCBO theft. Suspects were identified and arrest warrants were issued.



Traffic

Traffic Management Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant Adam McGough

Black Cat Speed Monitoring Devices

	Study Length	Number of Vehicles	Recommended Enhanced Enforcement	Posted Speed Limit	85 th Percentile	Collision History (5 years)
Location	Andrews Dr, Drayton – Mapleton Twp <i>At Maple St</i>					
	10 days	4,599	No	50	47	0
Location	Wellington Road 8, Goldstone – Mapleton Twp <i>Sideroad 18</i>					
	8 days	19,811	Yes	60	83	2
Location	Gore Road, Puslinch Twp <i>near Concession 7</i>					
	6 days	6,313	Yes	60	89	0
County Deployed						
Location	Wellington Road 11, Mapleton Twp <i>Between Scenic Dr & Highview</i>					
	7 days	7,077	Yes	80	100	0
Location	Wellington Road 16, Centre Wellington Twp <i>Between Sideroad 15 & Sideroad 20</i>					
	7 days	10,388	Yes	80	103	9
Location	Wellington Road 18, Centre Wellington Twp <i>Between Stumpf St & Emily St</i>					
	7 days	19,851	No	50	60	0
Location	Wellington Road 7, Centre Wellington Twp <i>Between York St & 1st Line</i>					
	7 days	56,049	No	50	68	1
Location	Wellington Road 26, Centre Wellington Twp <i>Between Wellington Road 18 & Wellington Road 19</i>					
	7 days	17,409	No	80	98	0
Location	Wellington Road 43, Centre Wellington Twp <i>Between Wellington Road 18 & St Andrew St</i>					
	7 days	60,672	No	50	63	2

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

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 November 14 to December 31, 2023.

Location	Charges
Wellington Road 22, Town of Erin <i>Between Wellington Rd 24 and 6th Line</i>	7
Wellington Road 23, Town of Erin <i>Wellington Rd 22 and Sideroad 17</i>	6
Concession 7, Puslinch <i>Between Concession 2 & Wellington Road 34</i>	10
Wellington Rd 51, Guelph/Eramosa <i>Between Highway 6 & Wellington Road 7</i>	21
Wellington Road 7 <i>Rothsay, between Wellington Rd 10 and Wellington Rd 10</i>	35
Concession 1, Puslinch <i>Between Highway 6 and Townline Rd</i>	27
Wellington Road 7, Mapleton <i>near Wellington Road 11</i>	11
Jones Base Line, Guelph/Eramosa <i>At Highway 7</i>	New
Brock Road North, Puslinch <i>At Wellington Road 34</i>	New
Lake Road (Wellington Road 32), Puslinch <i>Within 50 km/h zone</i>	New

Traffic Management Unit - Administration

Wellington County Traffic Management Unit has welcomed two new members into the fold. These members bring a wealth of experience relating to traffic safety and enforcement.

TMU is sending one member for motorized snowmachine operator training at the beginning of February, should the weather conditions permit the course to run. This will allow the unit to continue engaging with community members on trails and participate in safety events.

COLLISION REPORTING CENTRES (CRC)

Supervisor: Sergeant Ange Stiles

In January 2024, the County of Wellington OPP were dispatched to over 200 motor vehicle collisions (MVCs). Of those, over 90% were “vehicle damage only” collisions.

Depending on the month, the County of Wellington CRC receives and processes over 50% of the motor vehicle collisions.

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 our CRC.

Community Response

Community Response Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant, James Mackenzie

Community Response had a busy January supporting front line and engaging with the Community. We continued our Coffee with a Cop initiative at the Coffee Culture in Mount Forest and Supported Grace Community Church with their first Polar Bear run through Elora and Fergus.

CSS sent a representative to Peel Region to participate in the Bocce (Bocci) Ball Spring Games. This was an event where officers joined Special Olympic Athletes for a tournament of fun.

We partnered with the Centre Wellington Snowmobile Association to plan a safe season on our trails...we just need the snow to stay for a few weeks!

CSS is looking forward to this year, we already have over 30 community events on the schedule. See you out there!

IMPACT (Integrated Mobile Police and Crisis Team)

January 2024

Individuals Served	Requests for Service	Live Calls with Police	Calls Diverted from Hospital
47	54	22	95.5%

Safe Communities Wellington County

Safe Communities was in high gear with planning for the year, including presentations of Action Plans for 2024 from the Falls, Motor Vehicle, Mental Wellness and Accidental Poisonings Action Groups. January was also a month focused on our mental health with a focus on tips to help with Seasonal Affectiveness Disorder on social media and radio.

Auxiliary Unit

Unit Commander: Auxiliary Staff Sergeant J. SWAN

Liaison: Provincial Constable Kyle Draves

The Auxiliary Unit training this month consisted of going over everyone's annual reviews and reviewing the OPP Auxiliary Mission Statement. Due to our large number of new members, we took the time to share a brief overview of the usual events we cover over the course of the year. We had one event to attend - assisting with traffic at a Polar Bear Run in Elora. Members continue to assist officers with general patrol duties.

Crime Stoppers

Sarah Bowers-Peter, Program Coordinator CSGW

January is Crime Stoppers month. Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington adopted the theme of “Join the CSGW Team” to increase awareness of volunteer opportunities. Two Board members stepped away in December 2023 and one member is in the intake process. The Board can seat 20 volunteer members and currently sits at 12. Anyone who knows of someone interested in volunteering with CSGW is asked to have them complete an application at www.csgw.tips . Applicants must clear a Criminal Record Check and complete the interview process. Ideally, we would have representation from Mapleton, Erin, and Wellington North as these have minimal volunteer support of only one individual represents the community.

The CSGW Board of Directors held an appreciation dinner on January 10, that celebrated the support of individuals, businesses and organizations that have supported the program. Representatives from Wellington County OPP and Guelph Police Service were also in attendance as supporting police agencies. Awards were presented to partners who contributed to OACS and CSI recognition, as well as the annual Cornerstone Award for 2023.

Interest in live presentations continues. Fraud Talk, Hate Crime and 5 Tips, 5 Ideas and 5 Signs are the most popular at this time. Anyone interested in a CSGW presentation is invited to “Contact Us” through the website to arrange a presentation date.

Media

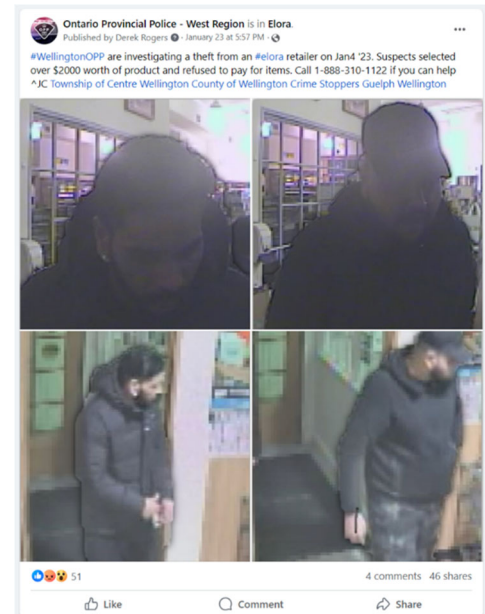
Provincial Constable Josh Cunningham

The Media Unit was kept busy this month organizing the upcoming Citizens Police Academy set to start on March 6th. The Academy will take place on ten consecutive Wednesdays, at the Centre Wellington Operations Centre. Applications to attend can be picked up at any of the three Wellington County OPP Detachments (Rockwood, Fergus, Teviotdale). Applications are open to members of the public and does not exclude Police Service Board members from applying.



Citizens Police Academy

Wellington County 2024



Court

Supervisor: Acting Sergeant, Mike Deboer

The Wellington County Court Unit advised of no major developments within the courts this month.

The following chart displays the number of bail hearings, warrants issued, and summons issued/served in January 2024.

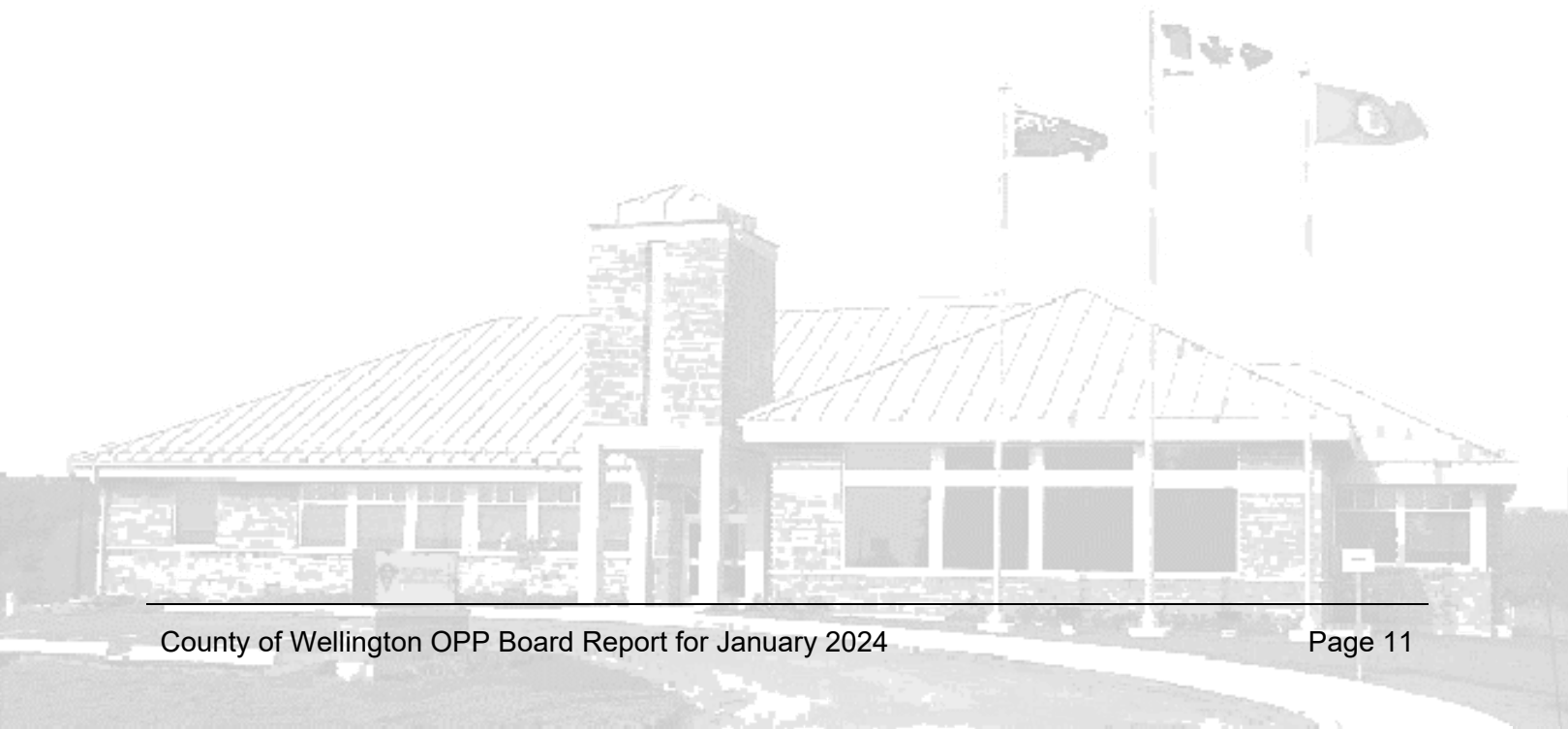
Statistics	January	YTD
Number of bails at Detachment	21	21
# Arrest Warrants Issued - Endorsed	20	20
# Arrest Warrants Issued - Unendorsed	10	10
# Arrest Warrants Issued YTD	30	30
# Processes Issued	105	105
# Processes Served	34	34

Personnel & Acknowledgements

Wellington County OPP is proud to announce following promotions to the rank of Sergeant.

- Detective Constable Kevin Detweiler
- Provincial Constable Greg MacDonald
- Provincial Constable Darren Gould

Detweiler and MacDonald are currently members of the Wellington County OPP. Gould is a member of the Toronto OPP - Highway Safety Division and will be joining us this Spring. Congratulations to all and we look forward to seeing them in their new frontline supervisory roles.



Statistics Summary

Calls for Service

2024 year to date calls for service appear to have decreased 20% over the same period last year.

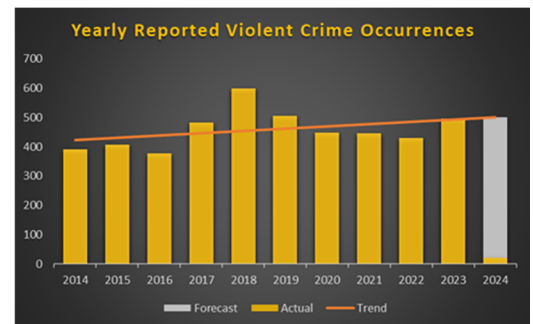
It is projected that annual calls for service should remain stable in 2024.



Violent Crime

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

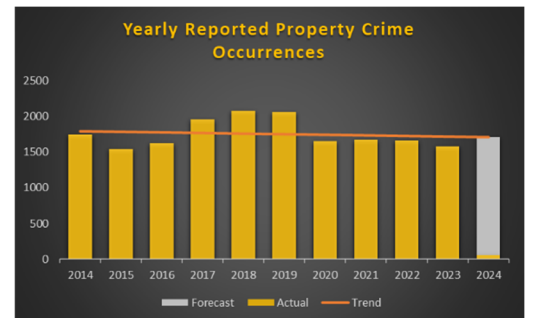
2024 year to date violent crime has decreased 46% over the same period last year.



Property Crime

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

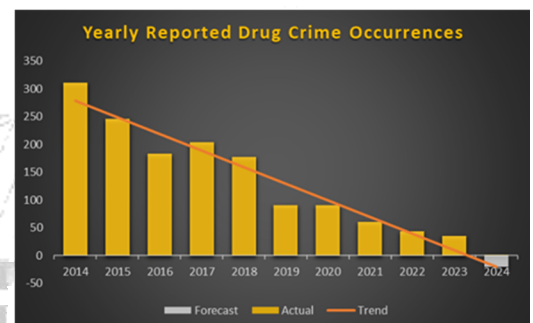
2024 year to date property crime has decreased 53% over the same period last year.



Drug Crime *

Drug Crime continues to trend lower than previous years. This trend is mostly due to the decriminalization of cannabis and related substances in 2018. 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 occurrences have decreased by 75% over the same period last year. This does not appear to be significant due to the lower numbers of drug charges processed.

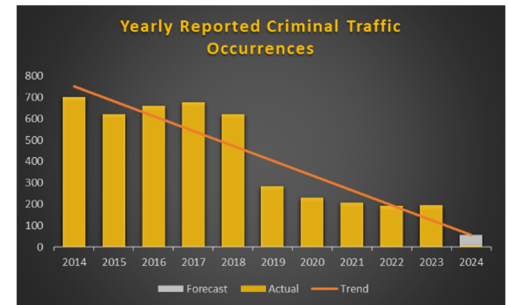


* Note: Recreational use of cannabis was decriminalized on October 17th, 2018

Criminal Traffic Offences

Criminal Traffic occurrences are projected to decrease over 2023 levels.

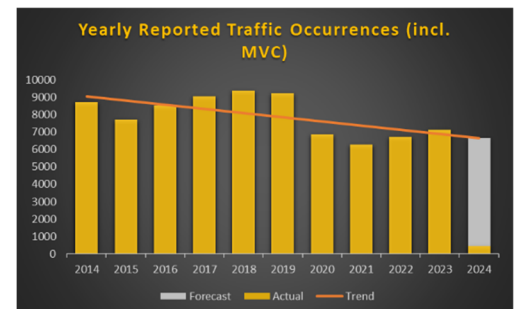
2024 year to date criminal traffic occurrences have decreased by 23% over the same period last year.



Traffic Related Occurrences

Although reductions were observed in traffic occurrences since 2019, an increase in 2023 was realized. A projected decrease is forecast in 2024, however it is reasonable to expect that levels will remain close to more recent annual totals.

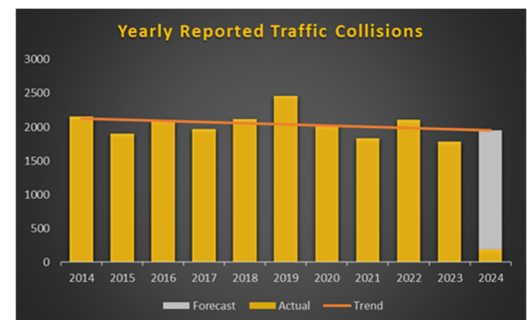
Year to date traffic occurrences have decreased 2% over the same period last.



Motor Vehicle Collisions

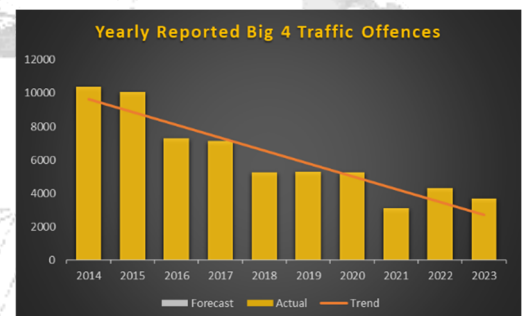
Motor vehicle collision occurrences appear to be trending slightly upward. Reductions were enjoyed during 2021 and 2022 however an increase in 2023 was observed. It is forecasted that collisions will remain at 2023 levels in 2024.

2024 year to date collisions have increased 8% over the same period last year.



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

Data for January 2024 was not available 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.

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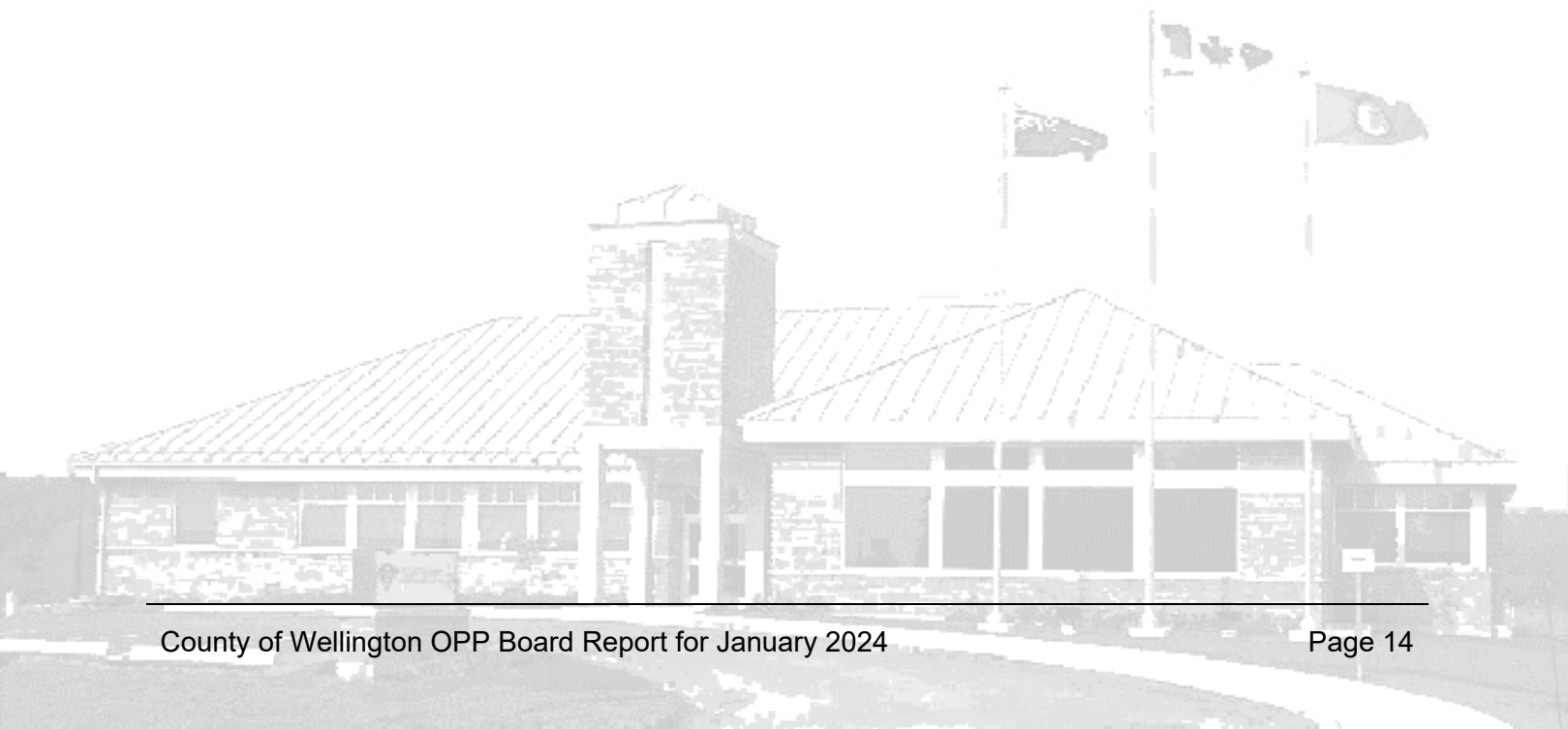
All data visualizations on maps are considered approximate and attempts to derive specific addresses are prohibited.

Report Summary

Wellington County OPP is anticipating calls for service to remain roughly the same as 2023 levels. Our officers have already hit the ground running with Enhanced Enforcement Program and the Black Cat Speed Monitoring Devices to maintain road safety. Our Crime Unit and Street Crime Unit had a very busy January 2024 with multiple investigations and charges laid.

With Spring on the horizon, Wellington County OPP is set to enter the preparation phase for the many community events and festivals in the near future. We look forward to providing community safety to ensure the public's enjoyment of the festivities.

Lastly, we want to remind everyone again, that winter will most likely return to the County. Please drive according to the road and weather conditions. Your adaptation to these changes could save a life.



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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