



**County of Wellington O.P.P.
Detachment Board**

April 2024

Detachment Commander:
Inspector Steve Thomas

From the Detachment Commander

With spring upon us, April showers in full swing and mother nature giving us a taste of summer weather in April I can confidently say that Spring has arrived, boating season will soon commence and outdoor activities across Wellington County will increase. I want to remind everyone that safety should come first no matter what activities you plan to take part in. Remember to have the appropriate safety equipment in your vessels, vehicles, and backpacks. Your preparation prior to heading out could save a life or assist someone in need.

With the weather slowly warming up Wellington County OPP has received and continues to receive notices of community events, festivals and other activities scheduled across the County. We look forward to seeing familiar faces, meeting new members of the community, and conversing with those in attendance. Your safety is our priority, so you can enjoy the festivities, food and entertainment in a safe environment.

As summer approaches, barbeques, backyard campfires and all the fun activities that come along with summer will return. Please do not drink and drive! Make plans beforehand for a designated driver, call a taxi or an uber, or sleep over. Drinking and driving is a menace to the roads and the public in general. Wellington County OPP officers will be on the roadways and running RIDE programs across the County to keep the community safe.



Inspector Steve Thomas
519-846-5930

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Crime

Crime Unit

Supervisor: Detective Sergeant, Jennifer Foley

This month members of the Wellington Crime Unit attended training on Sexual Assault Investigation, the Ontario Sex Offender Registry, and Investigative Genetic Genealogy.

In April 2024 Detective Constable Roman Walizad participated in several community events hosted by York Regional Police. Along with members of York Regional Police, Toronto Police Service, Peel Regional Police, a Ramadan Iftar dinner, and an Eid al-Fitr celebration. D/C Walizad represented the OPP in his dress uniform.



Community Street Crime Unit

Supervisor: Detective Sergeant, Jeffrey Dudley

April has been a busy month for Wellington County Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU). They have assisted with several frontline investigations and have completed their own trafficking investigations which produced impressive results. Wellington County CSCU continues to support the Major Crime Unit and frontline investigations where possible.

D/C Merkus has completed his temporary assignment and is returning to frontline duties. D/C Merkus did an excellent job during his time in CSCU and I would like to thank him for his countless contributions to the Wellington County Team.

In April, Wellington County CSCU completed a four-month project into drug trafficking in Center Wellington. Two search warrants were executed in Center Wellington and Waterloo Region. As a result, one person from Center Wellington was charged with drug trafficking offences. One person from Waterloo Region was charged with trafficking offences. Police seized quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, crack cocaine, prescription medication, weapons, drug trafficking paraphernalia and a large amount of Canadian Currency. Wellington CSCU were assisted by Huron/Perth CSCU, Grey Bruce CSCU, Regional Support Team, Emergency Response Team, Tactics and Rescue Unit and members of the Wellington County Detachment. This investigation shut down a large drug distribution network in Wellington and Waterloo Region and will have a large community impact for months to come.

Wellington County responded to a possible impaired in Center Wellington. A female was located passed out behind the wheel of her motor vehicle. During the arrest a quantity of cocaine and methamphetamine was located. CSCU assisted with judicial authorizations and processing the drug related items. The driver was charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking and impaired related offences.

Wellington County was contacted by York Regional Police Service regarding a stolen vehicle from their area. CSCU authored a judicial authorization to search a property for the stolen vehicle. CSCU and frontline members executed the warrant and located five stolen high-end vehicles. The estimated value to the recovered stolen vehicles is \$345,000.00. Great teamwork by frontline and CSCU members.

In April Wellington County CSCU assisted frontline with a string of residential break and enters and vehicle thefts in Center and South Wellington. Three people broke into several residences and stole various items including vehicles. The accused parties were located and quickly arrested. CSCU and Frontline worked together to reach out to the victims of crime, get the property returned and lay a number of charges related to the break and enters. Great work by frontline and CSCU members.

Wellington County OPP responded to a string of break and enters in Center Wellington. The suspects broke into various residences and stole items including identification and credit cards. CSCU assisted with video canvassing and case review. The suspects then used the credit cards at several commercial businesses in the tri city area. A neighboring police service assisted with identification of the accused parties and charges have been laid in relation to the break and enters. Wellington County Frontline and CSCU did an excellent job with this investigation.

Wellington County assisted Grey Bruce CSCU with a cocaine trafficking investigation in the Meaford area. As a result, five firearms were seized, large quantities of cocaine and a large quantity of Ketamine was seized. Two Grey County residents have been charged with trafficking related offences.

Wellington County CSCU assisted Grey Bruce CSCU and Saugeen Shores Police Service with project Riptide. As a result, four search warrants were executed in Grey Bruce County, Saugeen Shores and Brampton. Police Seized firearms, cocaine, psilocybin, fentanyl, illegal cannabis marihuana, weapons and indicia of trafficking. Five people have been charged with several weapons and trafficking related offences.

Wellington County OPP CSCU continues to prioritize local crime trends, the opioid crises and targeting local people identified in property thefts. CSCU members are committed to continuous learning and are attending training when time permits. CSCU has developed local training, mentoring initiatives for front line members to promote officer safety and enhance their local knowledge on the current drug and property crimes trends in the area.



Traffic

Traffic Management Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant Kevin Driscoll

Black Cat Speed Monitoring Devices

| | Study Length | Number of Vehicles | Recommended Enhanced Enforcement | Posted Speed Limit | 85 th Percentile | Collision History (5 years) |
|---|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Location | | | | | | |
| Main St E - Drayton | 8 days | 29127 | No | 50 | 63 | |
| Location | | | | | | |
| Wellington St N - Drayton | 8 days | 20856 | Yes | 50 | 70 | |
| Location | | | | | | |
| Twelfth Line – Mapleton between Wellington Road 11 and 12 | 8 days | 11323 | No | 80 | 100 | 1 fatal collision April 2024 |
| County Deployed | | | | | | |
| Location | | | | | | |
| County 24 between County 22 and 124 | 7 | 25128 | No | 80 | 90 | |
| Location | | | | | | |
| County 16 between 6 th line and north limits | 7 | 12116 | No | 50 | 67 | |
| Location | | | | | | |
| County 125 Ospringle south of McKinnon | 7 | 12325 | No | 80 | 94 | |

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 April 2024.

| Location | Charges |
|--|---------|
| Concession 1 between Hwy 6 and Townline Road Puslinch | 2 |
| Indian Trail between Spirit Valley Path and the River – Guelph-Eramosa | 24 |
| Wellington Road 7 Elora -David St to Wellington Road 18 Salem | 16 |
| Simpson St Alma between Wellington Road 7 and Raglan St | 2 |

Traffic Management Unit - Administration

The Township of Centre Wellington has sent out their media release for the new 40km/hr zone in Elora. Educational component to commence.

There was a serious motor vehicle collision on the Twelfth Line in Mapleton, due to a high volume of traffic utilizing this road to bypass the bridge closure on Wellington Road 7. A Black Cat was deployed to assist with traffic pressures being observed on this roadway.

Marine patrols on Wellington bodies of water to commence May 18th. Assistance from West Region Traffic Management Unit as well as the Wellington County OPP Auxiliary to be utilized.

Wellington County will be participating in the Provincial Motorcycle Safety Awareness Week campaign (May 1-5)

Traffic Unit members and the Wellington OPP Auxiliary unit will be assisting with a bicycle safety rodeo in Puslinch on May 11th.

A Wellington Tow Association meeting was held at the Centre Wellington Detachment.

Collision Reporting Centre (CRC)

Supervisor: Sergeant Ange Stiles

OPP Collision Reporting Centres (CRCs) enhance safety on our County roads. They help with rapid clearance, reduce the risk of secondary collisions, allows OPP to maximize resources, and allows drivers an alternate means to reporting a collision at a time that is convenient for the involved parties.

By October 2023, our CRCs surpassed year two of operations in the County of Wellington.

In April 2024, the County of Wellington OPP were dispatched to over 100 vehicle collisions (MVCs).

Our County CRCs processed over 45 MVCs for the month of April.

The top three contributing factors for MVCs in our County are: Wild/domestic animal; Follow too close; and Speed – Too fast for conditions.

Depending on the month, County of Wellington CRCs usually receive and process 50% of the dispatched MVCs.

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 one of our CRCs.

Community Response

Community Response Unit

Supervisor: Sergeant Adam McGough

Community Response Unit / Offender Management & Apprehension Program:

The members of the Community Response Unit have been very active in the Offender Management & Apprehension Program. The program, kickstarted by a government grant has been very successful.

For this reporting period, Wellington County OPP have executed 49 warrants. 74 warrants have been sent to the Ministry of the Attorney General for review.

In April, Wellington County OPP will pivot the focus to bail compliance checks for those in the community.

Training & Engagement:

PC Cunningham has been facilitating our first Citizens Police Academy in Wellington County. This program showcases the OPP, its services, equipment, history and more to those who applied.

Community Safety Officers PC McClinchey, PC Cunningham, and Community Response Unit member PC Rockefeller recently attended the Trauma Event System conference in Guelph. The committee identifies need, gaps and challenges that are facing our community and shared work and explores opportunities to address those gaps.

IMPACT (Integrated Mobile Police and Crisis Team)

March 2024

| Individuals Served | Requests for Service | Live Calls with Police | Calls Diverted from Hospital |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 53 | 61 | 41 | 92.7% |

Safe Communities Wellington County

Safe Communities Wellington County focused our media on ATV Safety whether you are on roads or trails within Wellington County. We also had a very busy April with us participating in three events; including The Drayton Farm Show where we partnered with the Wellington County OPP to educate families about ATV safety, Mental Health in the farming community and a variety of other injury prevention areas. To close out the month we participated in The First Annual Spring Fling at The Stables at Grand River Raceway, and Lights and Sirens at The Centre Wellington Sportsplex.

Auxiliary Unit

Unit Commander: Auxiliary Staff Sergeant J. SWAN

Liaison: Provincial Constable Kyle Draves

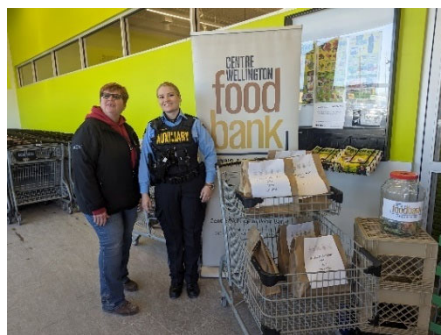
Regular training was held in the North Wellington Operations Centre this month. Our main training topic covered community mobilization and engagement.

Auxiliary members completed our annual refreshers on defensive tactics and firearms familiarization. We are very appreciative of the local in-service training unit for accommodating weekend dates for Auxiliary members to attend.

I had the opportunity to join the “Swap Talk” program on The Grand 101.1 radio in Centre Wellington this month to share information about the Auxiliary program. The hosts had numerous questions both on and off air about the Auxiliary program. It was a great opportunity to promote the activities of the unit in the community as well as to raise awareness of the Auxiliary Program in general.

Members attempted one Safeguard audit this month that the homeowner was not present for in addition to regular patrol hours. At the start of the month, we assisted with a food drive at Freshco in Fergus for the Centre Wellington Food Bank that brought in over 700 bags of food and \$647 in cash donations. We also had members attend the Drayton Farm Show and the Lights and Sirens Hockey Game in Fergus.

In May Auxiliary Constable Natalie BUREK has arranged for a number of Auxiliaries in Wellington County to become certified child car seat inspectors. More details about this clinic will be shared in the May report.



Crime Stoppers

Sarah Bowers-Peter, Program Coordinator CSGW

April highlights for Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington (CSGW) included Youth Fire Chief for a Day and the second annual Lights and Sirens where Wellington County OPP faced off for a fundraising hockey game with Centre Wellington Fire Rescue.

The event was held April 21 at the Centre Wellington Sportsplex. With a family skate starting the day, the hockey game was the main attraction as the two first responder teams going head-to-head. CSGW sold 50/50 tickets and took donations at the door, along with Centre Wellington Foodbank. The amount raised for CSGW was being confirmed at time of writing.

The Youth Fire Chief campaign was straightforward. Anyone who made a donation to CSGW between March 13-31, 2024, would have their name entered into a draw. If their name was drawn, they could name a youth of their choosing to be Youth Fire Chief for Centre Wellington Fire Rescue. The title was open to candidates aged 5-12 years of age. The winner, from Wellington North, was delighted with her time as the "Chief" wearing a special shirt, learning fire safety techniques, touring the fire hall, riding a fire truck and getting lunch with Chief Mulvey before touring the Township of Centre Wellington municipal offices. While this was a modest fundraising, for a first time event it was deemed a success and a subsequent campaign is being planned.

Presentations continue to be popular. This includes the Communications Training Developed at CSGW to assist volunteers joining the Board. This training covers internal communications, public relations, dealing with media and community engagement. This training was recognized by the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers and Canadian Crime Stoppers Associations and has been delivered to programs across Canada as a result.

As we move into May, CSGW is prepping for Mulch Sale Season, a key fundraising campaign in Mount Forest (May 11th) and Guelph (May 4th in person – and all month long). For more information, check out www.csgw.tips or CSGW social media.

Media

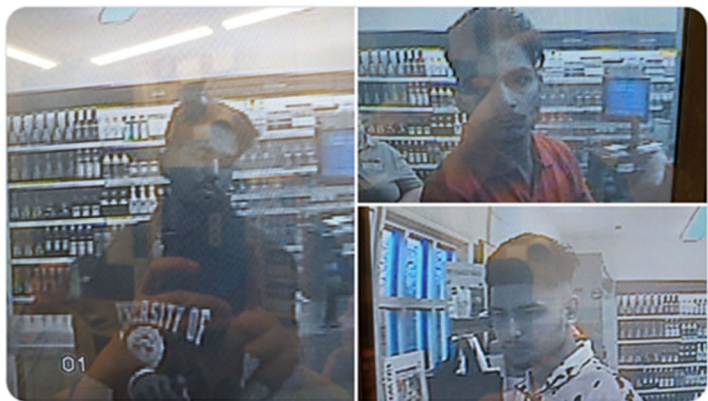
Provincial Constable Josh Cunningham & Provincial Constable Sarah McClinchey

- The media unit attended the Youth Advisory Committee on April 3rd
- Both members of the Media Unit attended the Regional CSO meeting on April 4th
- Media attended the Drayton Farm Show on April 10th & 11th
- PC McClinchey attended and completed the OPP media course from the 15th to the 19th of April
- PC Cunningham and PC McClinchey attended VTRA (Violent Threat Risk Assessment) training on the 24th & 25th of April
- PC Cunningham continued to facilitate the Citizen's Police Academy in April. Sessions 5, 6, 7 & 8 were completed this month.
- Wellington County OPP members participated in Smile cookie day on April 29th
- On April 30th the Media Unit were live on Radio Talk with the River 88.1



OPP West Region @OPPWR · Apr 9

#WellingtonOPP would like to speak to the individuals in the photos regarding a recent theft from a business in #Palmerston. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Wellington County OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. ^kl



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Court

Supervisor: Sergeant Shaugn Rogers

Wellington County Court Bureau highlights from March 2024,

- Currently providing direction and proposed training for all Detachment Administrative Clerks to assist in the duties of the court bureau.
- Provided direction for members on new procedure for uploading Detachment video interviews for disclosure to the Crown.
- Reviewed current practices and provided updated direction for members on implementing “plug in” tool for mandatory redaction of digital evidence.
- Implemented new procedure for members dealing with rescheduling of accused persons who failed to show for fingerprinting dates.



Personnel & Acknowledgements

D Platoons hard work leads to arrests

After a string of break and enters in South Wellington that resulted in a significant amount of high valued property being stolen D Platoon commenced an investigation that required forensic involvement that was invaluable to identifying suspects.

PC Oppong-Kyekyeku, PC Ritchie, PC Kalcsics and PC Lantz worked tirelessly to take numerous reports, process scenes and property via SOCO. Their detailed work was essential to three parties being arrested shortly thereafter by Dufferin OPP. The vehicles were recovered and the officers spent a lot of time doing follow up and returning items to their owners.

Statistics Summary

Calls for Service

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

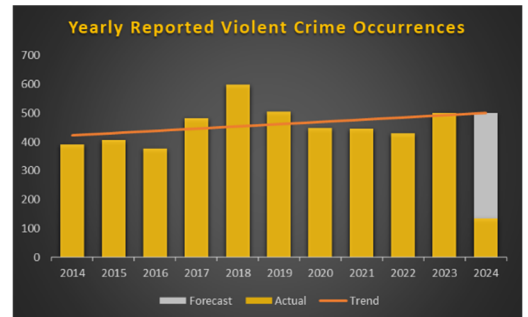
2024 year to date calls for service have decreased 3% from the same period last year.



Violent Crime

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

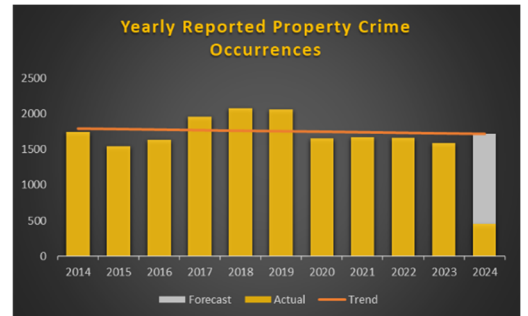
2024 year to date violent crime has decreased 6% from the same period last year.



Property Crime

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

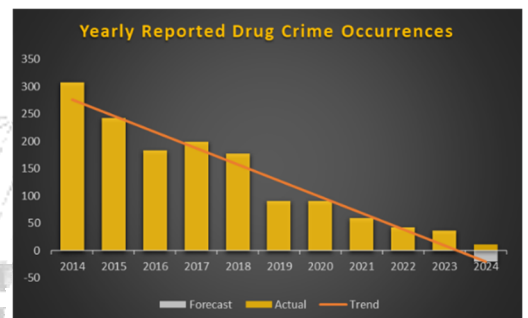
2024 year to date property crime has decreased 7% over the same period last year.



Drug Crime *

Drug Crime continues to trend lower than previous years. 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 crime has increased 84% from the same period last year. This increase is insignificant due to the low number of cases reported during the period last year.

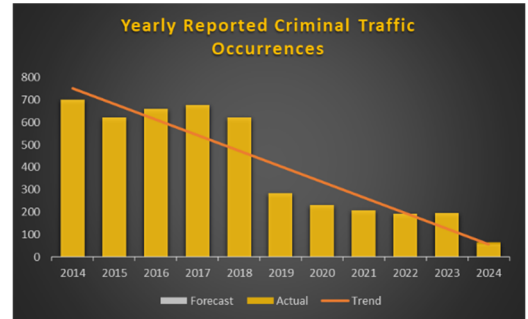


* Note: Recreational use of cannabis was decriminalized on October 17th, 2018

Criminal Traffic Occurrences

Criminal Traffic occurrences are projected to increase over 2023 levels.

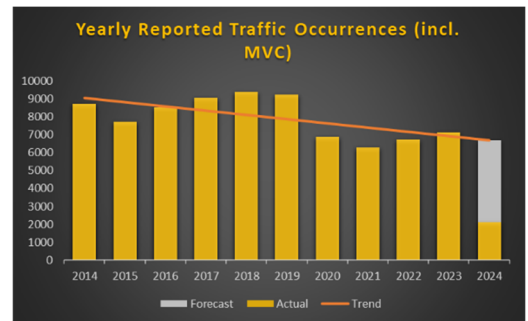
2024 year to date criminal traffic occurrences have increased by 18% over the same period last year.



Traffic Related Occurrences

Although reductions were observed in traffic occurrences since 2019, an increase in 2023 was realized. A decrease is forecast in 2024.

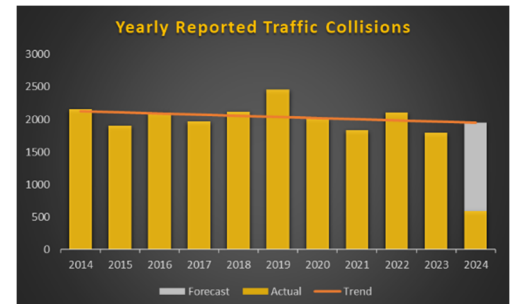
Year to date traffic occurrences have decreased 3% over the same period last.



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.

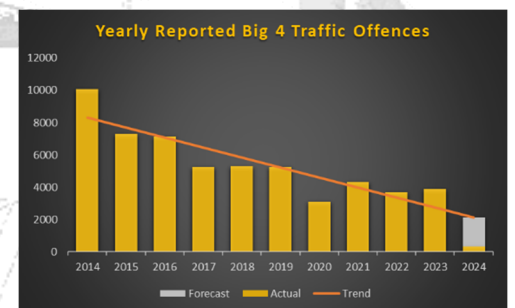
2024 year to date collisions have increased 2% over the same period last year.



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

Current data unavailable at the time of this report.

Chart depicted is January 2024 data.



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

With another busy season of winter driving and dangerous road conditions seemingly behind us, Wellington County OPP is looking forward to spring weather and the commencement of the many events and festivities that blanket the County at this time of year.

Our focus as always is safety, we want everyone to enjoy the entertainment, the weather, the parks, trails and waterways to the fullest; we ask that everyone take it upon themselves to ensure they are prepared for emergency situations that are inevitably going to happen. The best way to do this is to ensure you wear and use proper safety equipment for the activity you are taking part in. If you are out on the waterways make sure you have lifejackets for each person, if you are driving a vehicle slow down and do not drink and drive. If you are out hiking make sure you bring a first aid kit, water, and snacks. Your preparations and actions can save a life and prevent an emergency.



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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