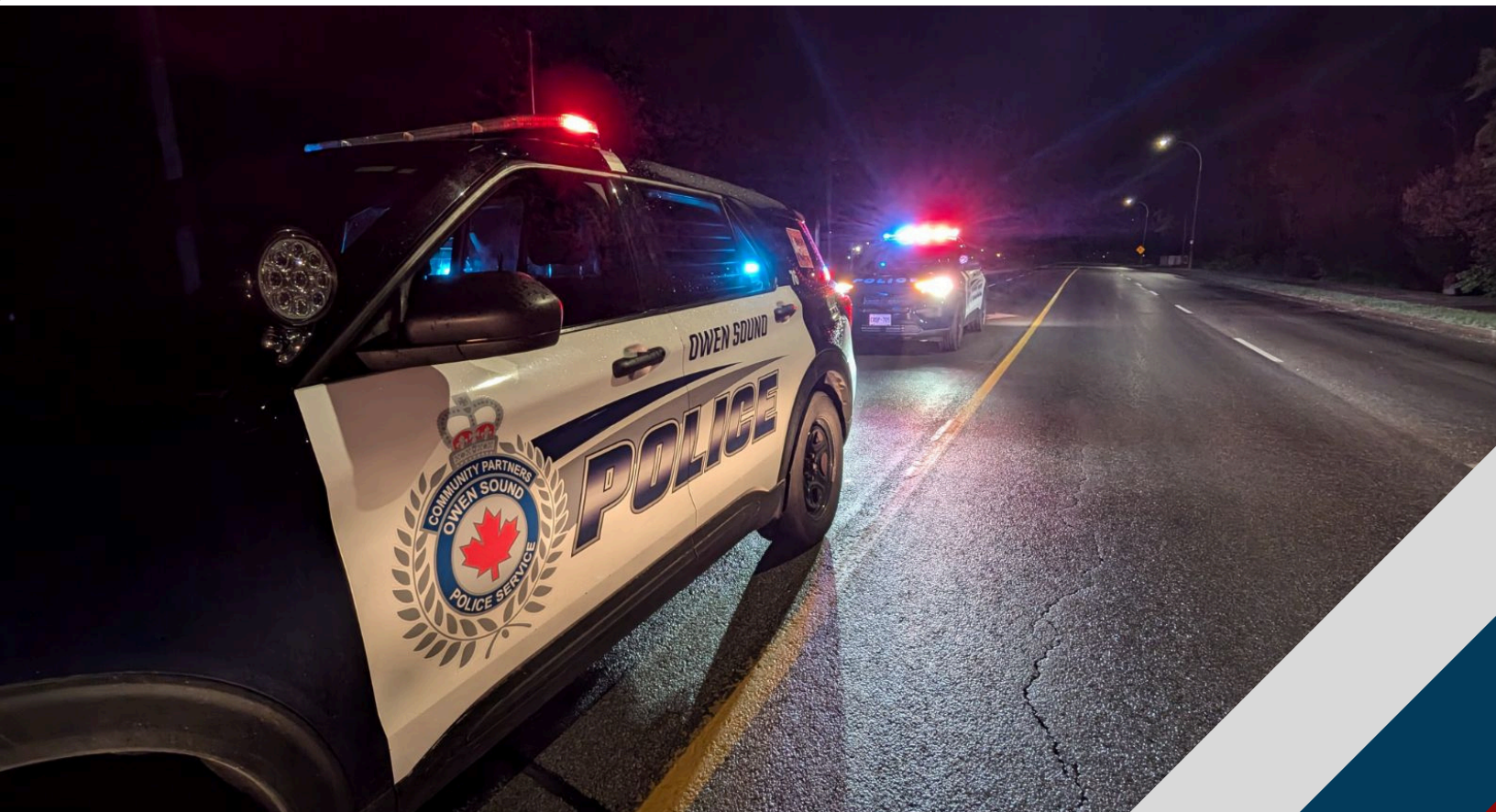


2024 ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM THE POLICE SERVICE BOARD CHAIR



On behalf of the Owen Sound Police Service Board (the Board) I am pleased to join Chief Ambrose in introducing the Owen Sound Police Service's 2024 Annual Report.

I would like to recognize my fellow Board members for their continued commitment, participation and flexibility in bringing strong, measured governance and leadership to support our community, and the police service personnel that deliver services to our community every day.

In April 2024 the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA), 2019, came into force. This was the first major change to the policing act since the previous Ontario Police Services Act was established in 1990. This new act is one of the pillars of our governance structure and outlines responsibilities for police service boards to ensure policing functions are provided in accordance with established standards and legal requirements.

The CSPA has approximately 30 supporting regulations that are tailored for municipal police services including a clear definition of Adequate and Effective Policing. This new act has dramatically changed the administrative work of police services and has placed a significant additional workload on our already busy police service. The introduction of the Inspectorate of Policing has also increased the reporting and the measurement of police functions in order to properly measure and determine the adequacy and effectiveness of the provision of policing services in our community. The new act also prescribes mandatory training for board members prior to them becoming board members and also during their tenure.

The past year continued to see a rise in drug, alcohol, mental health, and property crime related issues within our city limits. In 2024 the service expanded its deployment model for mental health workers who are now working days and afternoons, riding with officers, and attending calls where they may offer assistance and contribute to positive outcomes.

In October 2024 we completed the renovations and modernization of the Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre (OSECC). OSECC is one of only two communications centres across Ontario providing dispatch services to a number of other emergency services. This new modern facility is in the final stages of testing and implementation of the “Next Generation 911 Service.”

I would like to acknowledge the work and dedication that is continually being displayed by our uniform, civilian, and special constable staff members, and auxiliary volunteers who work tirelessly in our community to keep our residents and visitors safe.

Lastly, I would like to thank Chief Ambrose for his endless support and unwavering commitment to the service and the community.

John Thomson Chair – Owen Sound Police Service

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

As Chief of the Owen Sound Police Service, it's my privilege to present the 2024 Annual Report. This is our opportunity as a police service to provide insight and information highlighting the significant events, demands on resources, and milestones of the past year, as we continue to fulfil our vision "to be a trusted partner in advancing the safety and wellbeing of a vibrant, inclusive, and healthy community." It is also a key opportunity to provide an update on the implementation of the Board's 2023 to 2026 Strategic Priorities.



On behalf of the Owen Sound Police Service, I wish to thank the members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board for their continued guidance, governance, and oversight. Their work, on behalf of all residents, is vital to ensuring effective police service delivery that promotes public safety in our community.

On April 1, 2024, the Ontario Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, replaced the Police Services Act, 1990. This legislation made sweeping changes to the way police services and their boards operate across Ontario. Although this has been a significant adjustment for the policing profession, we look forward to continue modernizing and working through the Regulations and the impact of these changes with the Ministry of the Solicitor General, the Inspectorate of Policing, the Owen Sound Police Service Board, and our members.

In October 2024, we unveiled a newly relocated and expanded Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre (OSECC) to meet growing service demands across 28 municipalities and two Indigenous communities.

This investment has enhanced operational resilience, boosted responder coordination, improved the work environment for Communicators' wellbeing, and ensured faster, more effective delivery of emergency services to our community and all those we serve—advancing public safety well into the future. This investment was completed without funding from the City of Owen Sound and will help to continue to offset the costs of policing to our city taxpayers into the future.

Like many police services across the province and country, the Owen Sound Police Service faced ongoing challenges in recruiting in 2024. Despite these obstacles, OSPS successfully welcomed a record number of new employees into our policing family. We have worked hard to attract individuals who are committed to community service and excellence in policing. The onboarding of these new members has not only strengthened our capacity but also brought fresh perspectives and energy to our team.

Overall, 2024 was another busy year for our police service, responding to challenging, varied and an ever-increasing number of calls for service, engaging with our community, and advancing the safety and wellbeing of Owen Sound. It is important to highlight the incredible dedication and resilience of our sworn and civilian members and senior leaders of the service, who enable our operations to run effectively day in and day out. Their hard work and commitment are invaluable to the citizens we serve.

Finally, to all of the members of our community, thank you for your trust, cooperation, engagement, and your role in community safety and wellbeing. It's with your support and collaboration that we are able to provide you with the policing services that you deserve and expect.

Craig Ambrose Chief of Police – Owen Sound Police Service

VISION

MISSION

VALUES

OUR VISION

To be a trusted partner in advancing the safety and wellbeing of a vibrant, inclusive, and healthy community.

OUR MISSION

To deliver high quality policing services while fostering collaborative partnerships and community engagement that strengthen public safety and community wellbeing.

OUR VALUES

We value our community and our people through:

INTEGRITY	By serving with respect, honesty, and accountability
DEDICATION	By fostering a commitment to wellbeing, growth, and inclusivity
LEADERSHIP	By motivating and inspiring a vision for the future
TEAMWORK	By empowering the contributions and opinions of others
INNOVATION	By encouraging progressive ideas and solutions

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

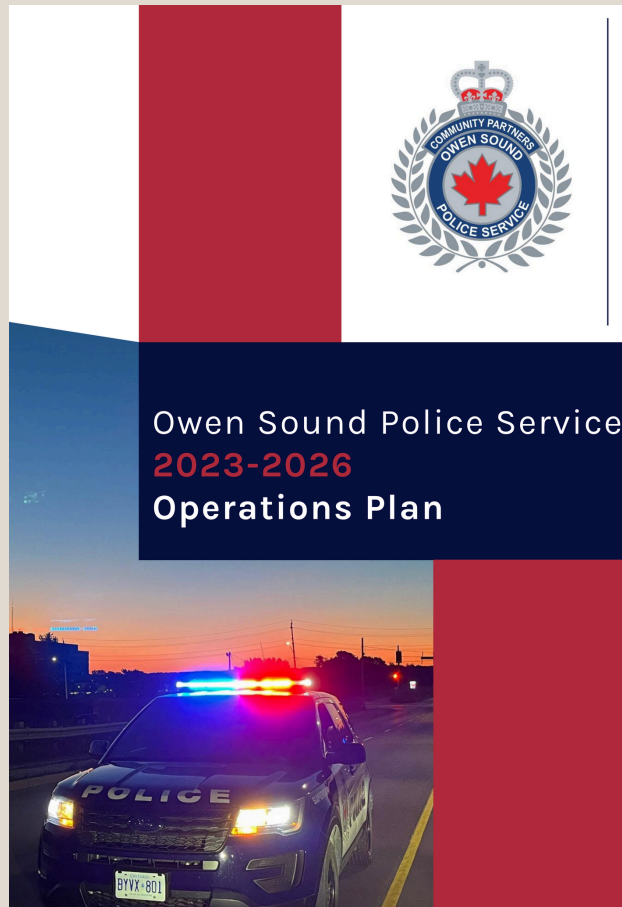
The Owen Sound Police Service acknowledges that we are on the traditional lands of the First Nations and that the land has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples from the beginning. In particular, we acknowledge the history, spirituality, and culture of the Territory of the Anishinabek Nation; the People of the Three Fires known as Ojibway, Odawa, and Pottawatomi Nation and further give thanks to the Chippewas of Saugeen, and the Chippewas of Nawash, known collectively as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, as the traditional keepers of this land. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this area as well as the contributions of the Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples whose ancestors shared these lands and waters. May we live with respect for each other on this land and live in peace and friendship with all its diverse peoples.

OPERATIONS PLAN 2023-2026

Owen Sound Police Service's 2023-2026 Operations Plan is a collective result of much time and effort from the Police Service Board, OSPS members, and the community in thoughtfully and constructively sharing feedback, acknowledging successes, and identifying challenges with public safety and delivery of police services in the City of Owen Sound.

In March 2023 the Owen Sound Police Service Board approved the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan. The Plan includes 14 goals and 50 specific actions within the Board's Strategic Priorities of:

- COMMUNITY SAFETY
- COMMUNITY WELLBEING
- OUR MEMBERS
- SUSTAINABILITY



The full Plan can be viewed on the OSPS website

<https://www.owensoundpolice.com/learn-about-us/publications-and-reports/>

OPERATIONS PLAN

2023-2026

YEAR TWO PROGRESS

As part of our commitment to achieving the Plan's goals, each action has a designated Position and Person Accountable selected to lead, coordinate, and take ownership of moving the action forward. The end of 2024 marks the Plan's second year. At this midway point, four actions have been completed; one action is to be initiated; and the other 45 actions (90%) are all in progress.

There are tremendous efforts and initiatives ongoing across the Service. In some cases, significant steps have been completed while additional actions continue; and in other cases, the efforts in the first two years are part of ongoing work to solidify the actions into long term, standard business practice some. Some highlights from Year Two's progress:

- **Completed** - The Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre (OSECC) achieved a significant milestone in 2024, with the grand opening of the newly renovated centre in October. This completes the action to relocate the OSECC to a modern, functional workspace that better supports emergency dispatch needs.
- Many other initiatives continue to foster a sustainable communications centre, such as: regular block training specific to dispatchers; development of new Standard Operating Procedures revised call subtypes and priority definitions implemented in December 2024; and a partnership formalized in Fall 2024 with Sarnia Police as the OSECC back-up site.
- **Completed** - To advocate for a sustainable police funding model, the City of Owen Sound and Grey County formalized an agreement to provide equitable funding to assist with court security costs annually. Although this completes action, review of court needs and costs will be part of ongoing business practices.

OPERATIONS PLAN

2023-2026

YEAR TWO PROGRESS

- Leveraging grant funds from the Ministry, Community Oriented Response Unit (CORE) officers conducted and collated information from business owners in the River District regarding their concerns, complaints, and safety concerns. This feedback was used to focus police visibility in high priority areas.
- Along with CORE officers, part-time officers continue to conduct high visibility foot and bike patrols at peak periods. Most recently, in the 2024 fall/winter season, these dedicated officers were assigned to patrols during noteworthy events including Remembrance Day Parade, Hottest Yard Sale, Festival of Northern Lights, Ribfest, Owen Sound Attack home games and the Farmer's Market among many others.
- Attending, hosting and promoting community events by the Community Services Officer and the summer Youth In Policing Initiative students has also contributed significantly to improving police visibility.
- With support from the Ministry's Enhanced Mobile Crisis Response Team grant, a second Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) crisis worker was added to the OSPS team, expanding hours of their availability, and maximizing opportunities for police and crisis workers working together.
- Victim Services is now occupying office space at OSPS, increasing the opportunities for referrals, efficiencies, and follow up with victims of crime.
- A new Efficiency Committee was formed in October 2024 to address issues and processes across the Service that may be unnecessary, inefficient, inconsistent or missing. Representative members from areas across the Service are now meeting monthly.

OPERATIONS PLAN

2023-2026

YEAR TWO PROGRESS

- The newly created Human Resources (HR) Manager position was filled and onboarded in June 2024. The HR Manager is now steering many goals and actions. For example:
 - a strategic recruitment plan has been developed, career fairs are booked, and a new social media campaign has been launched to help with long term recruitment and retention of members within a competitive labour market;
 - a internal Wellness Committee has been formed and over 50% of members participated in a 30x30 fitness challenge in November;
 - training for performance appraisals was completed, and appraisals were initiated for senior team members in 2024; and
 - civilian members attended regular block training with sworn members for the first time in the Fall of 2024. Plans are already underway for this annual civilian block training each fall.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Despite facing a challenging recruiting environment during 2024 the Owen Sound Police Service made strides in attracting new members to our workforce. We were able to attract 27 new members to the service, 8 of whom were Recruit Constables and 37% of them were women, exceeding the goal of 30% across the province.

Policing is inherently demanding, often involving unpredictable and high-stress situations. Recognizing the importance of mental wellness, we increased the size of our peer support team adding another civilian and another sworn member to the team. This was accompanied by an educational campaign for our members helping them understand and make use of this program.

To better support members returning to work from leaves or traumatic work events the HR Manager was trained as a Reintegration Facilitator. This program provides a member centric return to work program tailored to specific needs. It provides both skills and equipment exposures in a planned format that provides the member (sworn and civilian) with the tools they need to make a successful return to work.



Looking forward into 2025 focus will be placed on further developing our Recruitment and Wellness programs, Organizational Development and Health & Safety.

YEAR END REPORTING

Clearences and Charged Persons



	2024	2023	Differential
• Incidents cleared by charge	2,372	2,306	+ 3%
• Adult males charged	771	605	+ 24%
• Adult females charged	294	198	+ 39%
• Young Offender males charged	29	19	+ 42%
• Young Offender females charged	14	9	+ 43%

Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) Program



	2024	2023	Differential
• RIDE Programs	226	282	- 22%
• Vehicles Stopped	12,673	12,591	+ 1%
• Impaired Drivers (RIDE program)	4	2	+ 67%

YEAR END REPORTING

Reports

Report Type	2024	2023	% Change
Crown Briefs	1,026	725	+ 34%
Missing Person	99	76	+ 26%
Sudden Death	60	49	+ 20%
Freedom of Information	50	65	-26%
Criminal Record Checks	1,779	1,738	+2%
Warrants Processed	423	627	-39%
Police Reports	4,169	4,305	-3%

Collision

Collison Reporting	2024	2023	% Change
Total Collisions	537	489	+9%
Total Collisions Involving Injury	52	42	+21%
Fatal Collisions	0	0	-
Investigated By OSPS	246	240	+2%
Investigated by Collision Reporting Centre	291	249	+16%
Collisions with Pedestrians	12	7	+53%
Collisions Involving Cyclists	10	8	+22%

OWEN SOUND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE (OSECC)

Grand Opening of the Newly Renovated OSECC

The Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre (OSECC), as part of OSPS, has been providing professional radio communications to emergency services for more than 30 years across Ontario. It currently serves a population of 370,000 across 28 municipalities, two Indigenous communities and 48 different locations. Depending on each agency's requirements, OSECC provides 911 services, call taking and/or dispatching, or centrally hosted NG911 call handling.

The newly renovated OSECC officially opened on October 29, 2024. The communications centre features eight full dispatch desks (radio and NG911) with two call taker positions (NG911). Among many other new features, the workspaces have independent desk surface and monitor height adjustments as well as lighting, heating and cooling to provide an optimal work environment for communicators on 12-hour shifts.

The OSECC was featured in the Ontario Association of Chief's of Police (OACP) HQ Magazine, Winter 2024- 2025, in an article titled "[Improving Service & Enhancing Public Safety](#)", see link: [Improving Service & Enhancing Public Safety](#)



OWEN SOUND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE (OSECC)

Grand Opening of the Newly Renovated OSECC



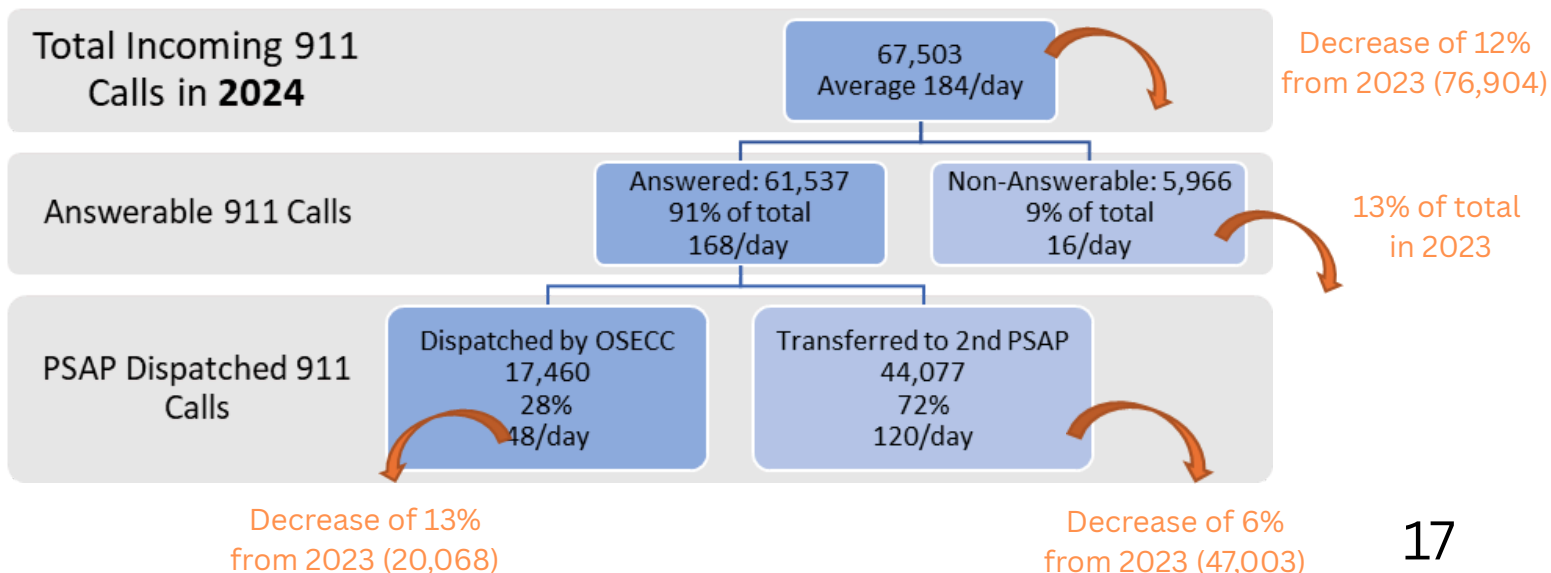
OWEN SOUND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE (OSECC)



INCOMING 9-1-1 CALLS

The OSECC serves as both a primary and secondary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). As a primary PSAP, incoming 911 calls are routed directly for Grey and Bruce County, and all six of the police agencies served: Owen Sound Police Service, Cobourg Police Service, Saugeen Shores Police Service, Port Hope Police Service, West Grey Police Service and Hanover Police Service.

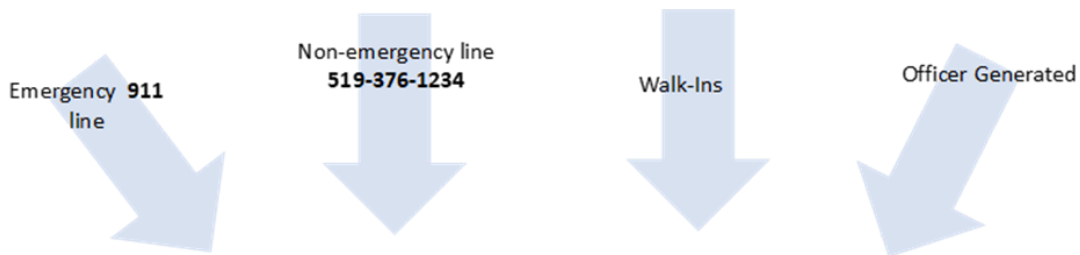
As the secondary PSAP for fire departments in Huron and Perth Counties, the 911 calls handled by OSECC are transferred from another primary PSAP for OSECC to complete the dispatching process. Approximately 72% of answered 911 calls are transferred to another PSAP, while Communicators in the OSECC dispatch about 28% of 911 calls.



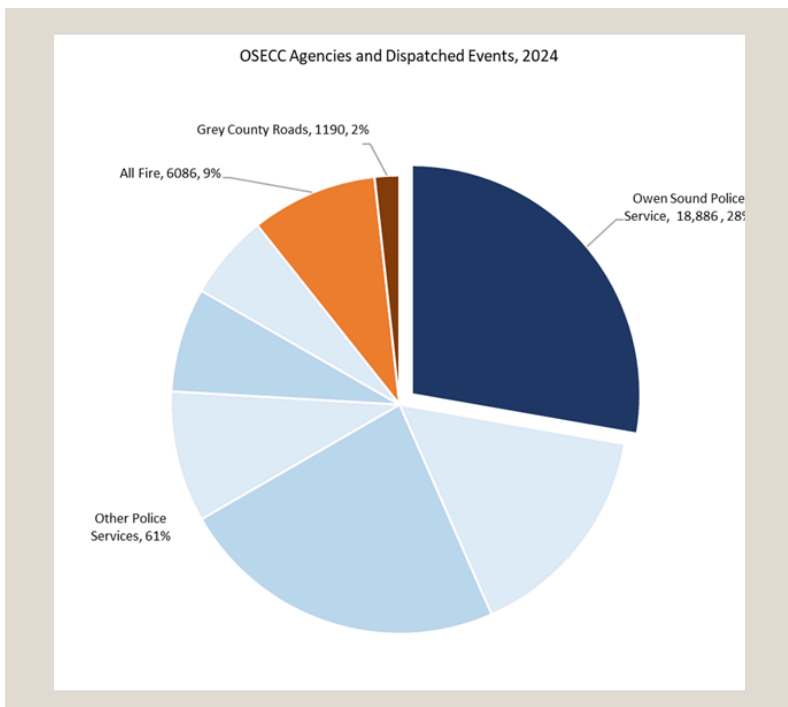
OWEN SOUND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE (OSECC)

COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH (CAD)

Calls that are dispatched through CAD come from a variety of sources such as the non-emergency phone line, walk-ins, officer generated, as well as the 911 phone line.



	2024	2023	Difference
All CAD Events in OSECC (Number)			
All Police (inc. OSPS)*	60,776	57,702	5.3%
All Fire	6,086	5,582	9.0%
Grey County Transport	1,190	1,113	6.9%
OSPS	18,886	18,738	0.8%
All CAD Events in OSECC (Avg Daily Rate)			
All Police (inc. OSPS)*	166.1	158.1	5.1%
All Fire	16.6	15.3	8.5%
Grey County Transport	3.3	3.0	10.0%
OSPS	51.6	51.3	0.6%



There were 68,052 calls dispatched by the OSECC in 2024, a 6% increase from 2023. Owen Sound Police Service accounts for the largest volume of dispatched calls in the OSECC with 28% or 18,886 calls dispatched for OSPS in 2024.

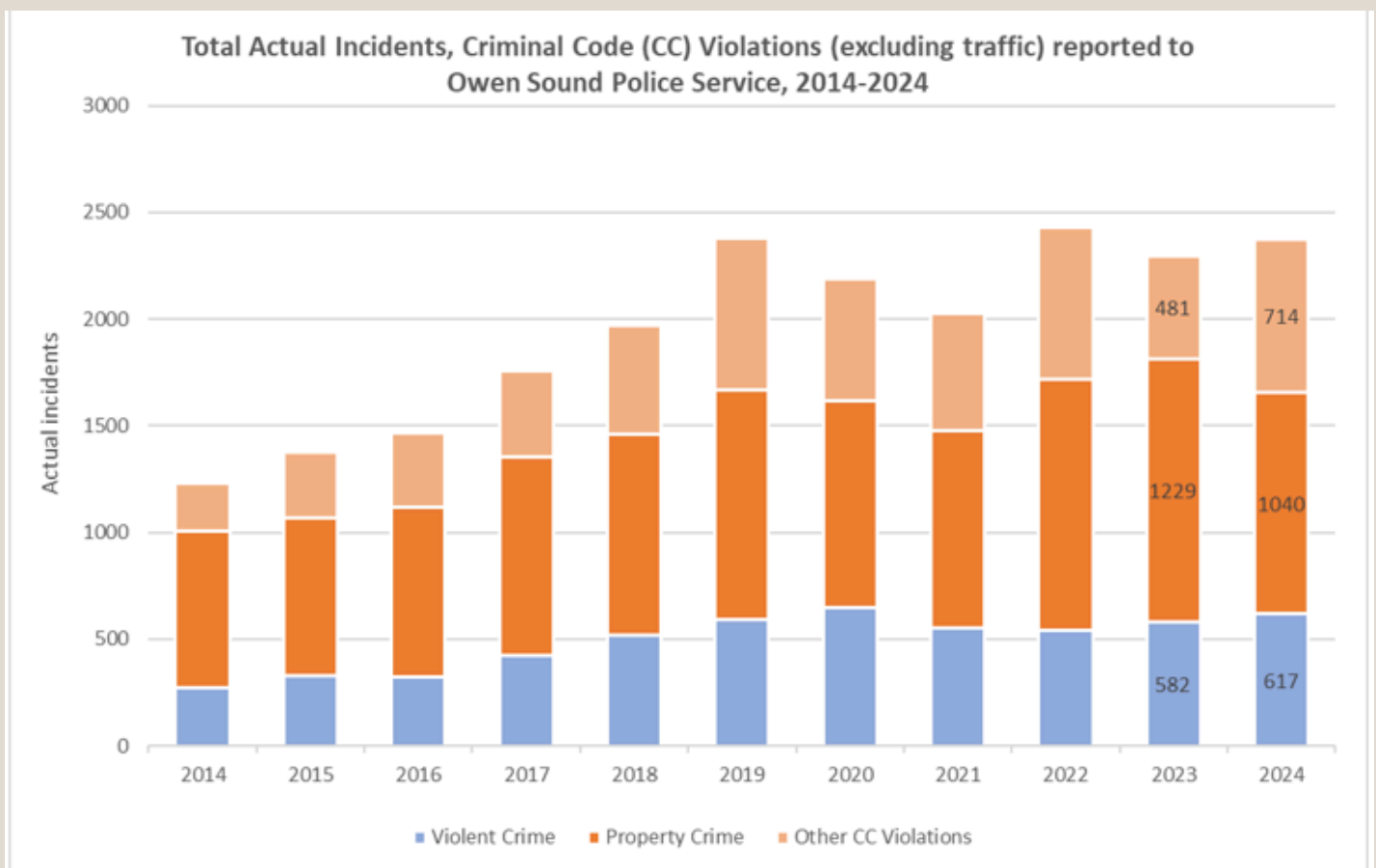
POLICE-REPORTED CRIME, OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE 2024

Police-Reported Crime, Owen Sound Police Service, 2024

Police-reported crime is measured by a count of the most serious violation within an incident. In 2024, there was a total of 2,371 Criminal Code (CC) violations (excluding traffic) reported to OSPS.

This was a **3%** increase in volume compared to 2023, as a combined result of:

- Violent Crime or Crimes Against Person increasing **6%**
- Property Crime or Crimes Against Property decreasing **-15%**
- Other Criminal Code Violations increasing **48%**



Source: Statistics Canada

POLICE-REPORTED CRIME, OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE 2024

Some of the more numerous and significant police-reported crimes are highlighted:

Violent Crime			
Criminal Code Violation	2024 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	Percentage Change
Homicide (includes first and <u>second degree</u> murder, manslaughter, criminal negligence causing death)	1	4	-75%
Sexual Assault with weapon, Level 2	1	3	-67%
Sexual Assault Level 1	29	58	-50%
Aggravated Assault, Level 3	7	6	17%
Assault with weapon or bodily harm, Level 2	71	52	37%
Assault Level 1	188	183	3%
Assaults Against a Peace Officer	19	11	73%
Robbery	8	4	100%
Criminal Harassment	121	85	42%
Utter Threats	124	97	28%
Indecent/Harassing Communications	37	38	-3%
Property Crime			
Criminal Code Violation	2024 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	Percentage Change
Break and <u>Enter</u>	57	59	-3%
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	11	21	-48%
Theft Over \$5000	19	9	111%
Theft Under \$5000	576	706	-18%
Fraud	201	225	-11%
Mischief	163	187	-13%
Other Non-Violent Criminal Code Violations			
Criminal Code Violation	2024 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	Percentage Change
Administration of Justice Violations (includes <u>fail</u> to comply with order, <u>fail</u> to appear, breach of probation)	518	295	76%
Weapons Violations	29	31	-7%
Disturb the Peace	120	116	3%
Indecent Acts	12	7	71%

Notes: (1) Based on most serious violation of the incident; (2) Statistics are preliminary and may fluctuate based on final Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) release; (3) Some 2023 counts have been revised.
Source: Statistics Canada.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Police officers in Ontario are governed by the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, and by the OSPS policies and procedures. On April 1, 2024, when the CSPA came into effect, the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) became Law Enforcement Complaints Agency (LECA). LECA operates in much the same way that the OIPRD did, continuing to receive, screen, and investigate public complaints concerning police conduct. However, LECA's mandate now includes Special Constables.

Upon receiving a complaint, LECA can elect to:

- conduct an investigation,
- screen the complaint out as being not in the public interest to proceed,
- direct an investigation to be conducted by the police service of the respondent officers, or
- direct an investigation to be conducted by another police service.

Complaints not involving officer conduct, such as complaints about a Service's procedures or the policies of a Police Service Board, or the adequacy and effectiveness of a police service, are now the responsibility of the Inspector General of Policing. No such complaints were received about OSPS in 2024 from the Inspector General of Policing.

In 2024, a total of 11 complaints in relation to OSPS officer conduct were received by LECA. This compares to 16 received in 2023 (by the OIPRD).

Of the 11 conduct complaints in 2024:

- 8 were screened out by LECA as being not in the public interest to investigate, and
- 3 were screened in by LECA for investigation by OSPS.

Findings of the three 2024 LECA investigations:

- One complaint was discontinued by LECA when it was determined that the complainant was before the courts on charges related to the complaint.
- One complaint was withdrawn by the complainant after the complainant was shown video footage of the incident that formed the substance of the complaint.
- One complaint was resolved informally after the investigation showed that a new officer missed an important point in a police report, and the report was corrected to the complainant's satisfaction.

There was one OIPRD investigation carried over from late 2023, and in early 2024, the OIPRD screened out the complaint as being not in the public interest to investigate following receipt of information from OSPS that the complainant was before the courts on charges related to the complaint.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Throughout 2024, the IT team was heavily involved in the completion of the new OSECC dispatch centre. This required the installation of approximately 40+ computers to ten workstations as well as wall displays including custom wiring for telephony.

The transition to Next Generation (NG) 911 was also a significant focus in 2024. There were installations at both the primary and secondary (back-up) communication centres, certification testing, and ongoing training. This complex undertaking is on track to transition in 2025 before the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) deadline.

OSPS welcomed new partners for our NG911 Call Hosted Solution including Smiths Fall Police and Fire Services, Brockville Police and Fire Services, Gananoque Police, and Hawkesbury Fire Department. This required site visits in Eastern Ontario, fibre cable design and network programming and documentation for approximately 12 locations and 40 devices.

OSPS IT attended the Grey County Emergency Resource Workshop and lead a team consisting of OPP, County, and municipal representatives in an ice storm situation involving prolonged outages and degradations of service.

The OSECC completed its Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) upgrade which provides for modernized hardware and software. This was conducted by the vendor, the provincial government, and OSPS IT. This required many days of preparation and programming with communication to all dispatch partners.

IT continues many other projects initiated in 2024, for example: security audits; development of bail compliance dashboard; Microsoft 365 implementation; provision of backup dispatch services for other policing agencies; upgrades to fire department alerting; enhanced analytics; and Records Management System's transition to a new User Application (UA) platform.

YOUTH IN POLICING INITIATIVE (YIPI)

The Owen Sound Police's Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) continues to serve as a vital program for building and strengthening relationships between the police and youth in the community of Owen Sound. Funded by the Ministry of Children and Community Services, YIPI offers meaningful employment opportunities for youth aged 13 to 18, while promoting civic engagement, skill development, and community connection.

Throughout the year, YIPI students play a key role in delivering information and presentations on topics such as crime prevention, social media awareness, and bike safety. In addition, participants support local special events and festivals, contributing to a safer and more connected community.

In Summer 2024, OSPS proudly employed five YIPI students, who brought enthusiasm, leadership, and fresh perspectives to their roles. For the 2024-2025 school year, which concluded in March 2025, OSPS continued the program with four additional students, maintaining strong youth engagement throughout the year.

One exciting highlight this year was welcoming our first former YIPI student as a police constable. This individual first joined us as a YIPI student in summer 2021, and after showing continued dedication and hard work, they were officially sworn in as a constable with the Owen Sound Police Service in September 2024. It's a proud moment for the program and a great example of how YIPI can help shape future careers in policing.



LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO

On Thursday, June 13, 2024, the Owen Sound Police Service hosted the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) in support of Special Olympics Ontario. OSPS members, local Special Olympic Athletes, along with Saugeen Shores Police, Hanover Police, West Grey Police, and the OPP, ran and walked routes across Grey and Bruce counties in Port Elgin, Hanover, Durham, and Chatsworth. The event culminated with a final run in Owen Sound and a BBQ at Victoria Park, next to the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre.

The Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) is the largest public awareness and grass-roots fundraiser for Special Olympics. Known honourably as Guardians of the Flame, law enforcement members and Special Olympic Athletes carry the “Flame of Hope”, symbolizing courage, celebrating diversity, and championing acceptance, uniting communities around the globe.

Over the years the Torch Run has evolved and now encompasses a variety of innovative fundraising platforms including Polar Plunges, Tip-A-Cops, NHL Alumni Games, Torch Rides, Endurance Series and more. Since its inception, the LETR has raised more than \$46M and changed millions of attitudes.



OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE AUXILIARY UNIT

The OSPS Auxiliary Unit continues to be an incredibly valuable part of our organization, providing dedicated volunteer support that strengthens our connection with the community and enhances public safety.

Throughout 2024, our Auxiliary members were active and engaged, contributing their time and energy to a wide range of community events and supporting front-line operations through ride-alongs with uniformed patrol officers.

A standout moment this year was their leadership and participation in our annual holiday food drive, held in partnership with the Salvation Army. Thanks to their efforts, the event was a resounding success—bringing in 890 lbs of food and \$3,881 in cash and tap donations. When calculated together, the total value of contributions reached an impressive \$7,000.

The Auxiliary Unit's dedication, professionalism, and commitment to service make them an indispensable part of our team. We are deeply grateful for their continued support and look forward to their ongoing contributions in the years ahead.



CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY (CPA)

Have you ever wondered what policing in Canada is really like? The Owen Sound Police Service Citizens' Police Academy (CPA) is an opportunity for interested community members to take a deep dive into the world of policing operations here in Owen Sound.

The program was launched in 2023 and runs annually for eight weeks. Each week different subject matter experts present on such topics as complex criminal investigations, forensic identification techniques, police communications and dispatch, technical surveillance and digital evidence, and the courts and criminal justice system. The 2024 CPA ran from January to March 5, 2024.



NATIONAL POLICE WOMAN DAY

On September 12, National Police Woman Day, OSPS acknowledged the brave women of law enforcement who serve our community and keep us safe.

OSPS is grateful for the important and valuable contributions female Police Officers bring to the policing profession. Their skills in de-escalation, communication, problem solving, decision making, community engagement, compassion and empathy have a profound impact on our police services and the communities we serve.



NEW OSPS WEBSITE

Owen Sound Police Service's new website launched on March 20, 2024. The new version of OwenSoundPolice.com enhances user experience and increase searchability for police information and online services.

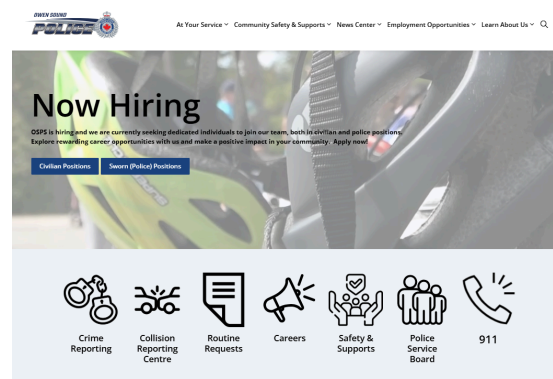
The new site designed included extensive research, content review, and consolidation, internal and external testing, refinements based on feedback, and staff training. Search functionality was one of the top priorities guiding the development of the new site. The website was designed to make it easier for visitors to navigate the site and includes an improved sitemap structure and enhanced search function to help users find the information they need faster.

OSPS's website project includes enhancements such as:

- Development of subscription-based newsletters offering users the ability to receive proactive updates relating to news, job opportunities, and events
- Navigation organization that is aligned with how visitors typically search for information and items
- A responsive design that provides consistent viewing on any device or computer

The website is one of OSPS's key communication tools, and serves as a valuable resource for residents, businesses, and visitors, and is the quickest way to find current information on police services, programs and recruitment opportunities.

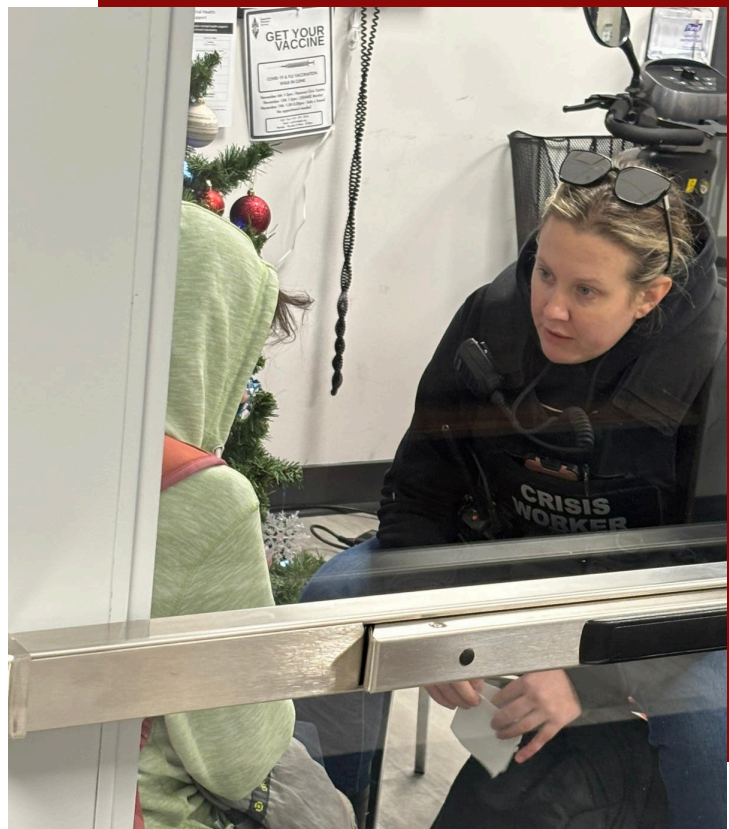
Visit the new website at OwenSoundPolice.com.



MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM (MHCRT)

Since October 2019, the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Grey Bruce and the Owen Sound Police Service (OSPS) have partnered on a mobile crisis intervention program, now called the Mental Health Crisis Response Team (MHCRT). With a second full-time CMHA Crisis Worker joining the MHCRT team in 2024, coverage was expanded over afternoon and evening hours. Also in 2024, with improved access to mental health and addiction experts, the overall deployment approach was modified. CMHA Crisis Workers began to spend their shift riding along with patrol officers, rather than waiting in the office for a mental health call. With the change in deployment method, the percentage of the CMHA Crisis Workers' time attending live calls changed from about 20% to 75%.

This new deployment method is welcomed by all and has greatly leveraged the knowledge, skills and abilities of the Crisis Workers. Partners indicate increased understanding of MHCRT's role, improved trust with CMHA Crisis Workers present, and quicker turnaround at the hospital.

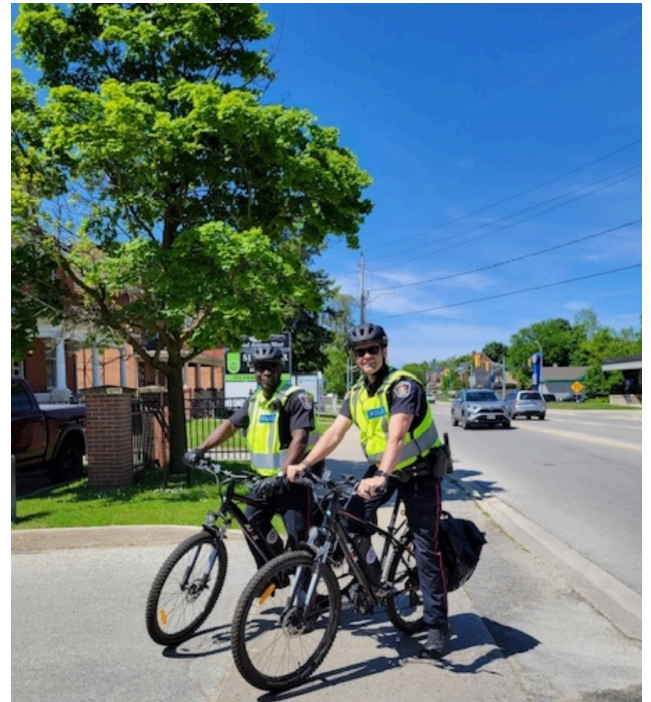


MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM (MHCRT)

	2023	2024	Difference
Number of mental health and addictions crisis calls attended by MCRT	84	123	46%
Percentage of mental health and addictions crisis calls attended by MCRT that led to apprehensions under the Mental Health Act (MHA)	25%	11%	-56%
Average wait time at hospital with MHA	2:07	1:42	-20%
Number of proactive outreach and support activities initiated by MHCRT	45	129	187%

COMMUNITY ORIENTED RESPONSE UNIT (CORE)

The CORE unit provides the opportunity for the Owen Sound Police Service to proactively address community issues and concerns, and to alleviate police calls for service. CORE works in partnership with many community agencies to address issues relating to criminal activity, by-law complaints, homelessness, addictions and mental health concerns. CORE also works closely with business owners in the River District, as well as throughout the



city, to address specific concerns they may have. Dedicating time to proactively deal with concerns and fostering partnerships within the community helps provide creative responses to problems, helps prevent calls for service and provides more suitable assistance to those who need it most.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Criminal Investigations Branch (CIB) investigates incidents that are more serious in nature and are often more complex. As a result, Detectives complete comprehensive investigations which include identifying and obtaining evidence from victims, witnesses, forensics, video surveillance, electronic devices, as well as other investigative actions, which often include judicial applications. Some of the major investigations that Detectives investigated in 2024 are summarized below.

Sexual Assault

CIB assisted members of uniform patrol with a sexual assault allegation made in December by two former employees of a local business against the general manager. To date, twelve victims have been identified, numerous interviews have been conducted and the matter remains under investigation. A 58-year-old male was arrested in February 2024 and charged with twenty-five criminal offences, mostly against youths, in relation to Sexual Assault, Sexual Interference and Sexual Exploitation. The male was held, however was released by the courts with a future court appearance.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Bank Robbery

Members of CIB assisted uniform patrol officers with the investigation into a robbery that had occurred at a downtown financial institution. As a result of the quick police response, an 18-year-old man was arrested approximately fifteen minutes after the robbery had been reported. The man was charged with Robbery and Possession of Proceeds of Crime.

Drug Trafficking

Patrol members conducted proactive patrols based on information provided by the Criminal Intelligence unit. This resulted in a traffic stop which led to two individuals, one from Brantford and one from Mississauga being arrested and 144 grams of Fentanyl, 52 grams of Cocaine, and over \$10,000 cash being seized. CIB members executed a search warrant on the motor vehicle and located further indications of drug trafficking.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Weapons

Members of CIB continued the investigation into a serious assault which occurred on June 22, 2024, on 8th Street East. The investigation revealed that the accused, a 37-year-old, Owen Sound man had attacked the victim, a 32-year-old man with a knife. The injuries sustained by the victim included three deep lacerations which required medical care. The accused was arrested on June 25th, 2024, and was remanded into custody.

Aggravated Assault/Weapons/Drug Offences

Uniformed officers responded to an east side apartment building for the report of a male with a handgun standing over an unconscious male. Officers arrested a 46 year old male for numerous firearms related offences at the scene. Further investigation revealed that a 27-year-old male had been the victim of an assault and was transported to hospital via ambulance. It was later learned that the victim suffered a significant head injury and was transported to a London hospital for further medical treatment. CIB attended, and the investigation revealed that the victim had been robbed by two suspects, who fled in a motor vehicle. Uniformed officers located and seized the motor vehicle. A subsequent search warrant was executed, with officers locating a quantity of suspected methamphetamine and fentanyl, as well as multiple prohibited weapons. Two suspects, a 22 year old male and 31 year old male, were arrested and charged with numerous criminal offences including Aggravated Assault, Robbery, Possession of Prohibited Weapon and drug offences and Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. 34

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Fraud

Members of CIB were assigned to continue the investigation into a suspected fraud reported by an Owen Sound business. The investigation revealed that a stolen debit card was used to make numerous purchases and cash withdrawals across Grey County, between September and October 2024, that resulted in a significant loss. Video surveillance footage has been obtained and a suspect has been identified. Further Production Orders for video surveillance footage has been requested and this matter remains under investigation.

Sexual Assault and Forcible Confinement

Members of CIB assisted uniform patrol with a sexual assault and forcible confinement investigation. As a result, a 47-year old Owen Sound man was charged with robbery with violence, uttering threats to cause death or bodily harm (3 counts), assault (3 counts), assault with a weapon (2 counts), sexual assault, sexual assault using a restricted or prohibited firearm, forcible confinement (2 counts), possession of weapon for dangerous purpose (2 counts), and three counts of possession of a schedule I substance (3 counts).

CIB subsequently executed a search warrant on the residence which resulted in the seizure of \$47, 000 of illicit drugs and \$1300 cash proceeds. The accused was further charged with possession of a schedule I substance for the purposes of trafficking (3 counts), Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime under \$5000 – in Canada.

ARRESTS MADE IN ONGOING SHARIFUR RAHMAN HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

On July 30, 2024, as a result of the ongoing homicide investigation being conducted by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Owen Sound Police Service (OSPS), arrests were made. The investigation began when Sharifur Rahman of Owen Sound, was assaulted in the area of 2nd Avenue East in Owen Sound on August 17, 2023, at approximately 9:20 p.m. The victim succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased on August 24, 2023. Police released a description and photos of two suspects and a vehicle, requesting public information.



The OSPS and the OPP thank the Owen Sound community for their support and valuable tips provided. This incident has had significant impact in the community and OSPS sincerely appreciates everyone's patience as the thorough and comprehensive investigation continues. On December 18, 2024, OSPS and OPP hosted a joint Press Release with an update on the ongoing investigation

BAIL COMPLIANCE AND WARRANT APPREHENSION (BCWA) TEAM

The BCWA Team proactively focus on individuals in Owen Sound who are re-offending while released on bail, issues of non-compliance, and re-offending by those under conditions of community supervision. Composed of a full-time officer, supplemented by officers on dedicated overtime shifts, and administrative support from a part-time civilian, the BCWA team became operational in early 2024. Their enhanced efforts continue to make a significant impact on community safety in Owen Sound, for example:

	2023	2024	Difference
Number of individuals who have been charged for reoffending while out on bail	80	156	95%
Number of warrants executed for bail violations	356	382	7%
Number of individuals under community supervision found in violation of bail condition	204	230	13%
Average number of charges laid per month that were issued to individuals who are on bail	37/month	86/month	132%

BRUCE AND GREY'S COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PLAN (CSWBP)

Owen Sound Police Service, along with many other community partners across Bruce and Grey counties, are actively involved in collaboratively enhancing community safety and well-being. The goal of crime prevention is not something that can be accomplished alone. Police services are often called upon to respond to calls for service that may be better served by proactive agencies with expertise in the areas of addictions, mental health, poverty and homelessness.

As part of the CSWBP, OSPS is an active participant in the weekly Situation Table for Acutely Elevated Risk (STAR), an evidence-informed initiative that involves over 35 partners working together to reduce the chance of imminent harm or victimization in situations where there is a combination of elevated risk factors.

OSPS Chief Craig Ambrose is a key participant on the Crime Prevention Action Table that launched in December 2023, and has been instrumental in developing action plans for the priority areas of concern:

- Human Trafficking
- Drug Trafficking
- Intimate Partner Violence/Gender Based Violence, and
- Road Safety.



RAISING CULTURAL AWARENESS AND ELIMINATING HATE IN OWEN SOUND

The Owen Sound Police Service's anti-hate initiatives have helped achieved steps towards increasing awareness and eliminating hate, strengthening public trust, and fostering a safer, more inclusive community. As part of these ongoing initiatives, OSPS was a lead partners in the first-ever Diversity and Belongingness Conference in September 2024. This event, brought together 150+ attendees from diverse sectors, including government, healthcare, education and faith groups, to celebrate cultural integration, inclusiveness and belonging. The conference provided a platform to engage in meaningful dialogue to better understand safety concerns, health care needs, and educational opportunities from new comers and immigrants who wish to call Grey Bruce Owen Sound home.



GRANT FUNDING

In 2024, OSPS successfully secured over **\$2.6 million** in grant funding through the Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General. These funds help to support and enhance operational initiatives and additional dedicated positions:

Bail Compliance Warrant Apprehension (BCWA) - A new dedicated team focused on individuals in Owen Sound who are re-offending while released on bail, issues of non-compliance, and re-offending by those under conditions of community supervision.

Community Safety and Policing (CSP) - Through the province's local and provincial priorities, the CSP grants helped support: a dedicated officer part-time to the Mobile Health and Crisis Response Team (MHCRT); additional part-time officers to assist with increased visibility and proactive activities during peak demands for service; and officers dedicated to the Community Oriented Response and Enforcement (CORE) project.

Court Security and Prisoner Transportation (CSPT) - Annual transfer payment to help offset the costs to OSPS for providing security services in court facilities and for transporting persons in custody.

Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) Enhancement - With this funding support, OSPS and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Grey Bruce now have expanded coverage with two dedicated Crisis Workers riding along with OSPS officers.

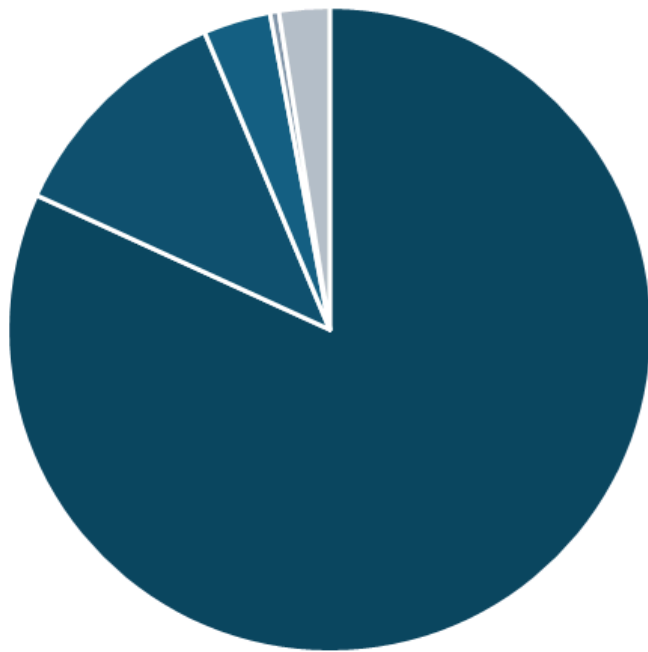
Next Generation 9-1-1 - Financial support to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) across Ontario with their transition to the new 9-1-1 emergency services communications network.

Reduced Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) - Annual transfer payment to help offset costs involved in operating RIDE sport checks.

Proceeds of Crime - Front-Line Policing - Together with our community partners, OSPS was able to initiate a project to raise cultural awareness and help to eliminate hate-incidents and hateful, online-bullying in Owen Sound.

Note: The funding for these grants is applied by the province's fiscal year of April 1- March 31, and has been prorated to the OSPS fiscal year of January 1 - December 31.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

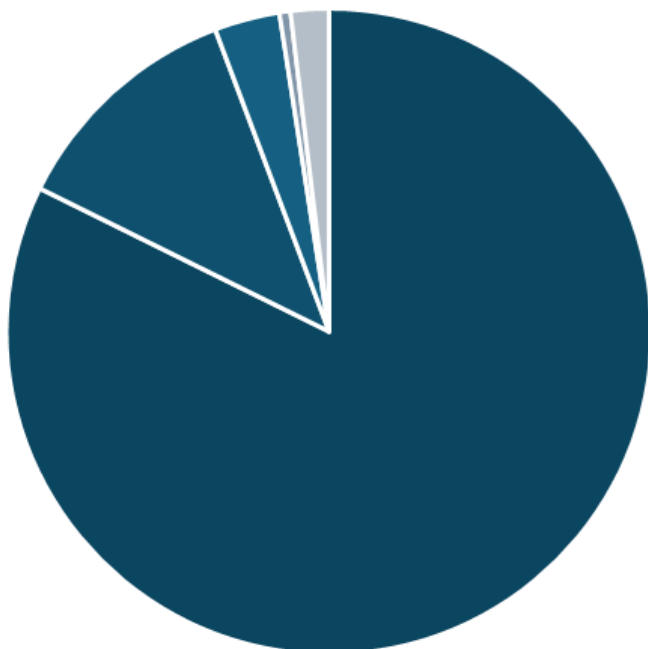


- Police Officers
- Police Civilians
- Court Security
- Police Services Board
- Capital Projects

2024

Police Officers - \$7,247,004
Police Civilians - \$893,403
Court Security - \$411,788
Police Services Board - \$26,613
Capital Projects - \$212,000

Total: \$8,790,808



- Police Officers
- Police Civilians
- Court Security
- Police Services Board
- Capital Projects

2023

Police Officers - \$ 6,845,581
Police Civilians - \$988,516
Court Security - \$281,616
Police Services Board - \$37,337
Capital Projects - \$169,500

Total: \$8,322,550

THANK YOU



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