
2020 ANNUAL REPORT



OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE



**Owen Sound
Chief of Police**



Reflecting back, 2020 was a year of constant change. Many plans had to be put on hold as a result of the pandemic. The response, although led by Public Health, forced police to adapt and to enforce orders that were enacted for public safety and health. Police members were seen as leaders in the community response and a source of information around the always changing public health measures. I would like to recognize the amazing resilience of all of our uniformed and civilian members who risked their own safety, through potential exposure, in order to protect and provide services to the community. *No single area of the Service went unchanged or unaffected by the pandemic but the challenge was met with success by all.*

Despite the pandemic, other significant events also shaped the year and the future; The continuing Opioid Epidemic, Truth and Reconciliation and in the USA, the death of George Floyd. Opioids continue to take lives in record numbers and creative solutions to address this other public health crisis are required. We continue to learn from our partnership with M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre to identify opportunities to reconcile past practices and implement the recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation Report. The death of George Floyd opened the eyes of the police and community to the realization of systemic racism not only in policing and justice, but in almost all sectors.

Our strong community policing efforts and the relationships already established within our community places the Service in a strong position to collaboratively move forward with change.

Looking ahead, we hope that 2021 provides an end to the pandemic and we know policing will continue to evolve and adapt to meet new challenges. We will continue to work with other social agencies and Community Safety and Wellbeing partners to provide better response options to calls for service and better outcomes for those we serve.

**Craig Ambrose
Chief of Police**

I am pleased to introduce the 2020 Annual Report on behalf of the Owen Sound Police Services Board.

2020 was a year like the Service and, for that matter, the world has never experienced. Covid-19 provided many challenges for the Service as well as the citizens of Owen Sound.

Police Service staff were engaged in responding to the many legislative changes introduced by the Ministry of the Solicitor General and with protecting the citizens of Owen Sound



This annual report reflects the dedicated efforts of the men and women of the Owen Sound Police Service and their commitment to keeping the citizens of the City of Owen Sound safe and secure.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the sworn, civilian members, and auxiliary members of Service for their unrelenting perseverance, competency and dedication. It is through their stellar efforts and support that we were able to accomplish the objectives and goals set out in our business plan.

John H. Thomson
Chair

OSPS Jurisdiction

Owen Sound City Population:	21,341
Policing Jurisdiction In Sq. Km:	23.69
Total Linear Street Km:	133
Total Number Of Households:	8,900

OSPS Staffing

1 Chief 1 Inspector Operations 1 Inspector Administration 1 Executive Assistant to OSPS & PSB
1 Director of Civilian Services 1 Director of Information Technology 1 F-T Information Technology
1 Director of Corporate Services 1 P-T Financial Coordinator

POLICE OFFICERS

37 FULL-TIME

5 PART-TIME

9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS

DISPATCHERS

8 FULL-TIME

8 PART-TIME

SWITCHBOARD

2 FULL-TIME

DATA & RECORDS SECURITY

5 FULL-TIME

3 PART-TIME

SPECIAL CONSTABLES

3 FULL-TIME

10 PART-TIME

First Responders

4 platoons

24 hour cycle

7 days a week

12 hour shifts

Dispatch & Data

4 platoons / 24 hour cycle

7 days a week / 12 hour shifts

Peak times- Day and Afternoon volume coverage

Calls For Service

17,006 calls for service in 2020*

16,592 calls for service in 2019*

Charges Laid

Year	Total Charges	Adult Males	Adult Females	Young Offender Males	Young Offender Females
2020	2090	1642	380	48	20
2019	2107	1575	435	85	12

*manual calculations may be subject to minor variances.

R.I.D.E

5,441 Vehicles Stopped

184 Hours

60 Offences

27 Impaired Driving Charges



OIPRD



In 2020, six complaints were received by the OIPRD. All of these complaints were in relation to officer conduct. There were no complaints related to policy or service. Five of the complaints were screened out by the OIPRD as being either frivolous, not in the public interest to investigate or to be more appropriately dealt with under another Act or law. One of the complaints was sent back to the police service to investigate by the OIPRD and was found to be unsubstantiated.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Criminal Investigations Bureau provides highly skilled investigative support to frontline officers. In addition, detectives conduct criminal investigations of more serious crimes that are increasingly complex and intensive in nature.

The Bureau is comprised of three units; Criminal Investigations, Drugs and Intelligence and Forensic Identification & Property Management. There is a total of four investigators and one Special Constable within the bureau which is supervised by a Detective Sergeant. Members of the Bureau utilize various investigative techniques to conduct efficient investigations. Investigators continue to receive updated training in order to keep pace with rapidly advancing technology that is being utilized by offenders to commit various crimes over the Internet including financial crimes, the unlawful distribution of intimate images, human trafficking and cyberbullying. Detectives conduct investigations into a variety of criminal offences including assaults, sexual assaults, robberies, weapons related offences, property crime, frauds, arson and cyber crimes involving advanced computer technology.

Drugs and Intelligence

The Drug Unit investigates drug offences which predominantly consist of the trafficking of controlled substances. Information is shared amongst other police agencies through membership in the Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario. The Drug Unit executed numerous search warrants throughout the year and worked joint forces operations with neighbouring policing agencies. In 2020 drug investigations focused on the trafficking and abuse of Fentanyl and Crystal Methamphetamine. Fentanyl is highly toxic and believed to be responsible for several overdose incidents, both fatal and non-fatal, over the course of the year.

2020- Noteworthy Drug Investigations

- February- A joint forces drug trafficking investigation conducted with the O.P.P. concluded with the arrest of a male and the execution of a search warrant at his residence. Police seized Cocaine, Heroin, LSD, Oxycodone and cash valued at more than \$93,000. Police also seized a long gun and ammunition (see pic).



- February- A joint forces drug trafficking investigation conducted with the O.P.P. concluded with drug trafficking charges against two Georgian Bluffs residents. Police executed a search warrant and seized a large quantity of Fentanyl as well as Cocaine, Crystal Methamphetamine, Oxycodone, G.H.B. and Psilocybin. The total value of drugs and cash seized exceeded \$50,000.
- December- 'Project Dragon' was a drug trafficking project that targeted local traffickers of Fentanyl, Crystal Methamphetamine and Cocaine. The project, which spanned an 18 day period, utilized various investigative techniques and resulted in 72 charges being laid against a total of 10 local drug traffickers. Police also seized more than \$20,000 worth of Fentanyl, Crystal Methamphetamine, Cocaine, Oxycodone, Morphine, Heroin and Illicit Cannabis during the investigation.

Forensic Identification

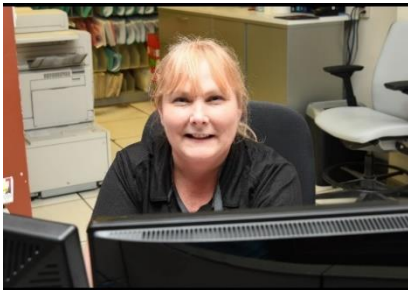
The Forensic Identification Unit provides investigative support to the Criminal Investigation Bureau and front-line officers. Staffing in 2020 included one full time special constable and one patrol officer that are trained Forensic Identification Officers.

The Unit is responsible for the collection, documentation, preservation and packaging of physical evidence. These specialists attend crime scenes in search of evidence that can include fingerprints, footwear impressions, trace/fiber evidence, and biological samples for DNA analysis. They conduct physical matching, prepare charts and scale crime scene drawings, and seize physical evidence for submissions to the Centre of Forensic Sciences.

The identification officer manages all seized, recovered and found property, as well as police documents. Additionally, data entry, inventory control and securing all property into secure storage areas are part of this officer's responsibilities.



Records Management



The Records Branch is comprised of six full-time and three part-time civilian members under the direction of the Director of Civilian Services. Four full-time members are assigned to a platoon performing information sharing services, employee/volunteer criminal record checks, processing and maintaining court documentation, criminal records and police file maintenance, C.P.I.C. services, records quality control, accident reports and 24-hour data entry. One full-time member is the Criminal Investigation Branch Clerical Secretary who provides support to the Criminal Investigations Branch and the Records Department as well as one full-time member is the Issuer of Licenses for our Police Services Board Bylaws. The Records Branch also provides data entry services to all other police agencies dispatched the Communications Centre.

Police Reports – 4,854

Arrest Reports (criminal) – 812

Missing Person Reports – 110

Sudden Death Reports – 53

Freedom of Information requests – 23

Criminal Records Checks – 1013

Warrants Processed - 220

Court Services



The Owen Sound Police Service is responsible for all security at the courthouse under the authority of the Police Services Act. Special Constables perform a variety of tasks related to court security including front entrance screening, prisoner control, building and courtroom security, prisoner escorts and collection of court ordered DNA samples.

A court case manager is the liaison with the Crown Attorney's office and ensures the effective management of court cases. The Director of Civilian Services is responsible for supervising and overseeing the court security and court case management functions.

COVID-19 changed court operations. Most court appearances for the Ontario Court of Justice and Superior Court of Justice are completed virtually. Prisoners were only transported to the courthouse for their trial.

10 part-time Special Constables

1 full-time Special Constable

235 transported persons in custody

222 prisoner meals

121 DNA samples

1279 Special Constable shifts

Communications Centre

911 Calls 57, 076

Owen Sound Police Service

Average Response Time: 7:36

Total OSPS Calls for Service: 17,006*

Total Police/Fire Calls Dispatched: 57,101*

*manual calculations may be subject to minor variances

The Owen Sound Police Communications Centre, supervised by the Director of Corporate Services is staffed by eight (8) full-time, and eight (8) part-time communicators, and two full-time switchboard operators. In 2020 the Owen Sound Police Service Emergency Communications Centre focused on the vast undertaking of being one of the first Public Safety Answering Points using Next Gen 9-1-1. Due to our planning and technology upgrades in 2019, our Communications Centre, along with those of the Toronto Police and Fire, Calgary and Ottawa Fire trialed the technologies and capabilities in 2020. The Communications Centre is responsible for dispatching 8 police services, 23 fire departments and Grey County Transportation Services. In 2020 the Owen Sound Police Service Emergency Communications Centre was awarded dispatch contracts for dispatch South Bruce Peninsula Fire (Sauble Beach and Wiarton) and Shelburne Police during their transition period.

Information Technology

Our Director of IT and assistant oversee the daily technical operations of the Communications Centre and other electronic information systems at the Owen Sound Police Service. The IT Unit ensures we provide leading edge technology to deliver quality dispatch services to our municipal and emergency services partners. The Unit also provides IT support to other partner agencies. The IT department is responsible for maintaining critical public safety infrastructure for 911 and dispatch services for approximately 300,000 citizens.

New projects in 2020 included completion of NG911 voice trials (one of the first in Canada), expansion of surveillance video systems as well as voice and data networks, a new phone system and the initial stages of an expanded alternate communications facility.

Staff were issued a number of devices for continued work during the Covid-19 pandemic. Work is continuing on the Grey County radio system for Fire Departments and Emergency Operations/Transportation under the review of OSPS IT.

Community Services

The Community Services Office operates with one full time Community Services Officer (CSO) who works directly with local schools, both private and public, as well as community organizations. The CSO is responsible for updating and maintaining OSPS's social media accounts, oversight of the Citizens on Patrol program and Youth In Policing Initiative (YIPI) as well as coordination of OSPS's involvement at community events and local crime prevention initiatives.

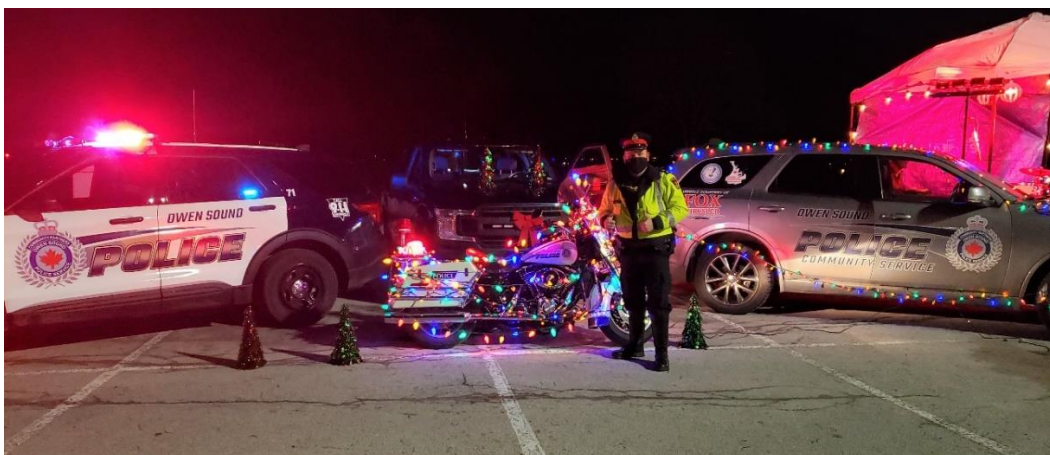
Throughout the year, the CSO prepares and presents instructional seminars and information sessions for the community about Crime Prevention including Elder Abuse, Frauds and Scams, Social Media Awareness, Internet Safety, Personal Safety and the KIDS program.



Even though the recent pandemic prevented many larger scale events from taking place, the police service continued to participate when possible. Some of the community events the service participated in were; Big Brothers and Sisters Bowl for Kids-Sake, #HereToHelpGB, Bike Safety Awareness for Youth and Youth Adults, Annual Cuff Links Golf Tournament raising money for the REACH program, Halloween Drive-Thru Parade, Opening of the Festival of Northern Lights, the Santa Claus Parade and School Graduation Night

All local schools were visited regularly by the Community Services Officer with a focus on knowledge transfer, promoting positive youth engagement and supporting in-school initiatives.

The past summer the service was one of two police services in Southwestern Ontario to successfully run a YIPI program. The YIPI program provided youth with an opportunity to learn and experience life at the Owen Sound Police Station, while providing bike and street safety education and relevant crime prevention education sessions to the community.





"I had the great opportunity to be one of the Y.I.P.I summer students for the Owen Sound Police Service and I took away so many things that I learned about community policing and policing overall. Here is a list of things that I learned as a Y.I.P.I summer student..."

Learn and demonstrate bike and street safety to community partners

Experience different jobs within the Service

Public relations and interactions to effectively engage youth & community

Providing information to visitors of the station & assisting with Covid-screening

Able to work independently or as a team, and demonstrate time management skills

Openness to diversity and welcoming newcomer families to our community

Presenting as a good ambassador for the Owen Sound Police Service and the City of Owen Sound.

Desiree Kalte- Summer YIPI Student



Auxiliary Police Unit



For over 30 years the Owen Sound Police Auxiliary Unit has been a dynamic link between the Police Service and our community. Members of the Auxiliary volunteer their time while gaining experience for their own personal or professional lives. Many Auxiliary members aspire to become police officers and it has shown to be an excellent opportunity for them to work with the Police Service and in our community.

Community engagement is the backbone of the Owen Sound Police Auxiliary Unit. In 2020 the Unit was affected significantly by the Covid-19 pandemic due to off and on regional lockdowns as well as limitations and cancellations of community events. During months with less regional restrictions, members were able to participate in outdoor events working with partnering agencies such as the United Way, Salvation Army, and the local school boards in conjunction with the Community Services Officer.

This past year our annual Christmas Food Drive, which has become one of the Auxiliary Unit's most significant annual accomplishments, collected an impressive 981 pounds of food and \$5,283.25 in monetary donations that support our local Salvation Army Food Bank directly. Despite the setbacks created by the pandemic, the Auxiliary Unit members were still able to dedicate a total of 757 hours serving the Owen Sound Police Service and the community.



Collision Reporting

The Collision Reporting Centre is operated on-site by Accident Support Services International Ltd. in co-operation with the Owen Sound Police Service. It is estimated that the Collision Reporting Centre alleviated the front-line and traffic officers of approximately 500 hours of time that would have otherwise been spent doing an investigation, photography and collision reports.

- 456 total collisions in 2020
- 78 collisions involved injury
- No fatal collisions
- 240 investigated by OSPS and 216 by CRC
- 11 collisions with pedestrians
- 7 collisions involving cyclists

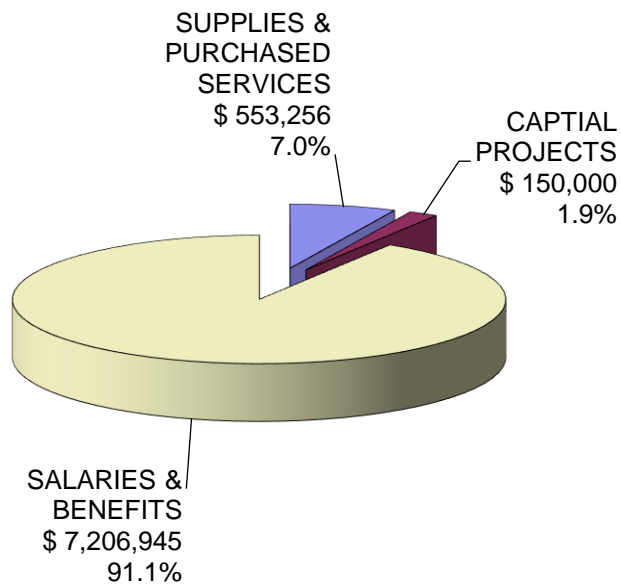
Statistical Comparison

OFFENCE TYPE: COMPARISON BY YEAR

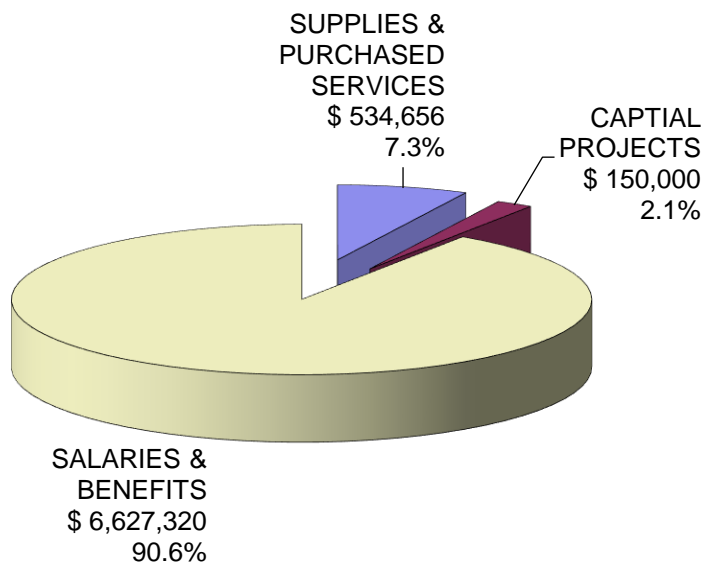
OFFENCE TYPE	2019	2020	Percent Change
Murder	0	0	0%
Attempt murder	0	0	0%
Sexual Assault	39	43	10.26%
Aggravated Assault	3	3	0.00%
Assault with Weapon/Bodily Harm	26	69	165.39%
Assault	216	222	2.78%
Criminal Harassment	106	113	6.60%
Utter Threats	144	179	24.3%
Break & Enter	94	90	-4.26%
Theft Over \$5000	8	26	225.00%
Theft Under \$5000	581	512	-11.88%
Mischief	239	209	-12.55%
Weapons	48	71	47.92%
Drug Offences	75	116	54.67%

Salaries & Surplus

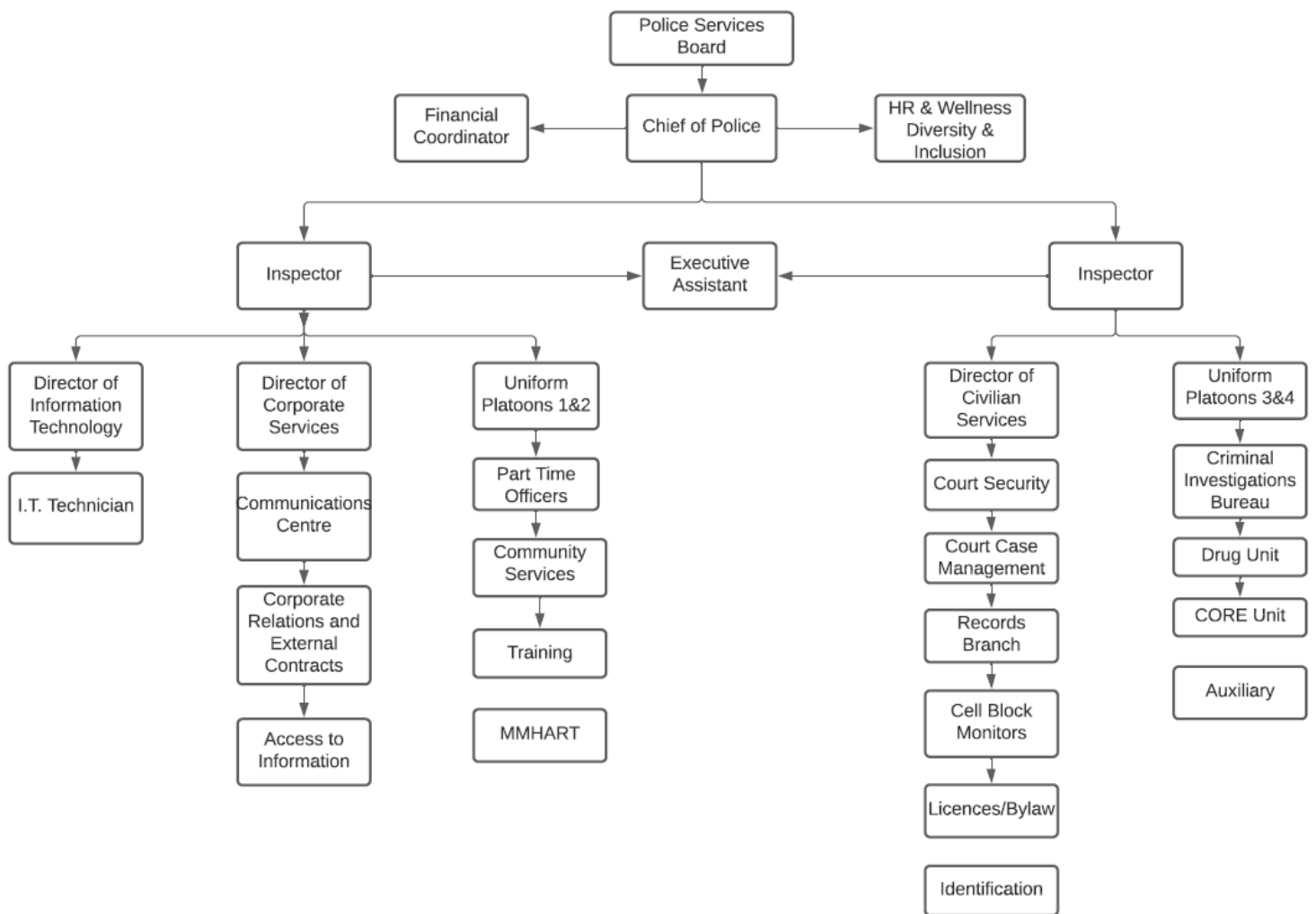
2020

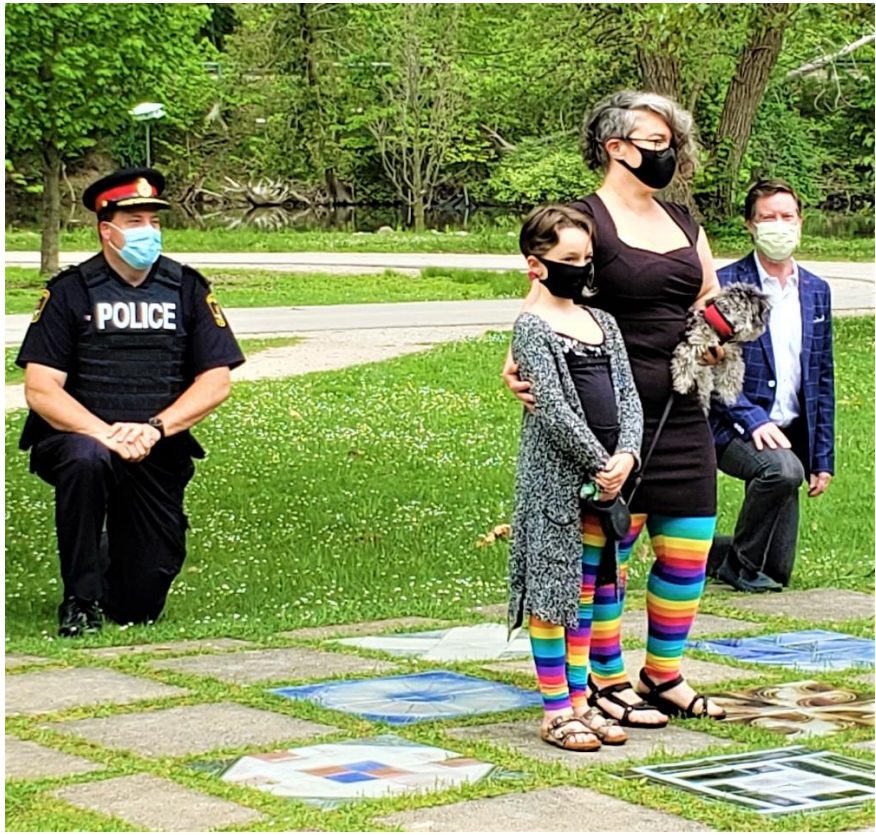


2019

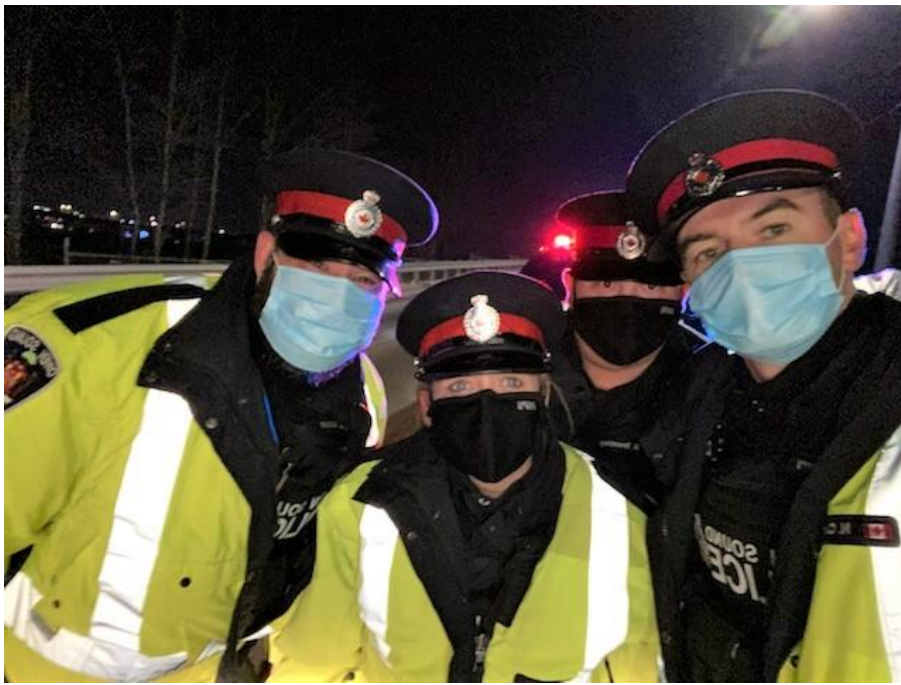


OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART











OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

OUR VISION – Working with our community to be the best

OUR MISSION – The Owen Sound Police Service, as a dedicated partner, is committed to ensuring a safe community

OUR VALUES – We value our community through:

INTEGRITY – By serving with respect, honesty and accountability

DEDICATION – By fostering a commitment to well-being, 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