



O W E N S O U N D P O L I C E S E R V I C E

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



When reflecting back on 2021, I remember at the beginning of the year looking forward to the end of the pandemic. I hadn't imagined the challenges that were ahead of us and another complete year of emergency declarations, restrictions, virtual meetings and ever changing responses to the pandemic.

Policing faced many challenges in 2021 and I am proud to say that the Owen Sound Police Service met those challenges and achieved success. When different variants of Covid-19 infected our community, our members risked their own health and safety to meet the needs of the community and respond to the calls for service.

Working together with Grey Bruce Public Health and the Owen Sound Police Association we were able to provide the best guidance and personal protective equipment available to keep our members healthy.

There were a lot of personal sacrifices and extra shifts to meet the needs of the service and the extraordinary dedication and commitment of our members made that possible.

The 2021 Annual report provides an opportunity to highlight some of the great work conducted during the year. Our continued work with all of our community partners, to provide the proper assistance to those who need it, and reduce involvement in the criminal justice system appears to be working as we have lowered our calls for service and criminal incidents for the first time in many years.

I also need to thank the Police Services Board for their ongoing support and direction, to Senior staff and all members sworn and civilian for their dedication to the police service and to the citizens of this great community that we serve.

Craig Ambrose

Chief of Police



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE POLICE SERVICES BOARD



On behalf of the Owen Sound Police Services Board I am pleased to introduce the Owen Sound Police Services 2021 Annual Report. The Board's most important responsibility, as the governing body of our local police service, is to ensure that the citizens of Owen Sound have adequate and effective policing delivered in the most cost efficient manner possible.

Like many communities across the province the service continued to see a rise in drug, alcohol, mental health issues, and property crime. There is also an unknown future impact on mental health as the isolation from Covid restrictions are felt. The service also saw an unprecedented number of firearms and illicit drug seizures in 2021, as well as a significant increase in the number of overdoses compared to those in 2020.

Combine this with the ever changing Covid-19 mandated requirements, the uniformed and civilian men and women of the Owen Sound Police Service were engaged in responding to the many legislative changes introduced by the Ministry of the Solicitor General, while providing outstanding service and for this we are extremely grateful.

This year's annual report is dedicated to the members of the Owen Sound Police Service who display a high level of dedication and loyalty to the safe guarding of the citizens of Owen Sound, their children, property and the daily visitors to our city.

On behalf of the board, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Chief Ambrose, the command staff, the sworn and civilian members, special constables and our auxiliary members of the service for their unrelenting perseverance and competency. It is through their combined efforts and support that we were able to accomplish the objectives and goals set out in our business plan.

John H. Thomson

Chair



VISION, MISSION & 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 and
our people through:

- INTEGRITY** - by serving with respect, honesty & accountability
- DEDICATION** - by fostering a commitment to well-being, growth & inclusivity
- LEADERSHIP** - by motivating & inspiring a vision for the future
- TEAMWORK** - by empowering the contributions & opinions of others
- INNOVATION** - by encouraging progressive ideas & solutions





OWEN SOUND POLICE JURISDICTION & STAFFING

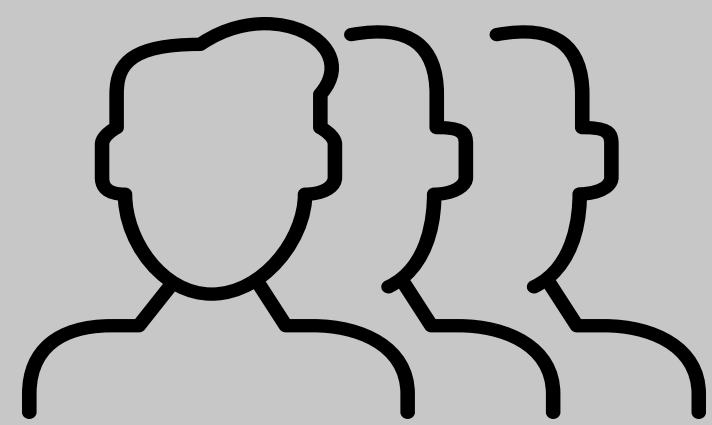


21,612
Population

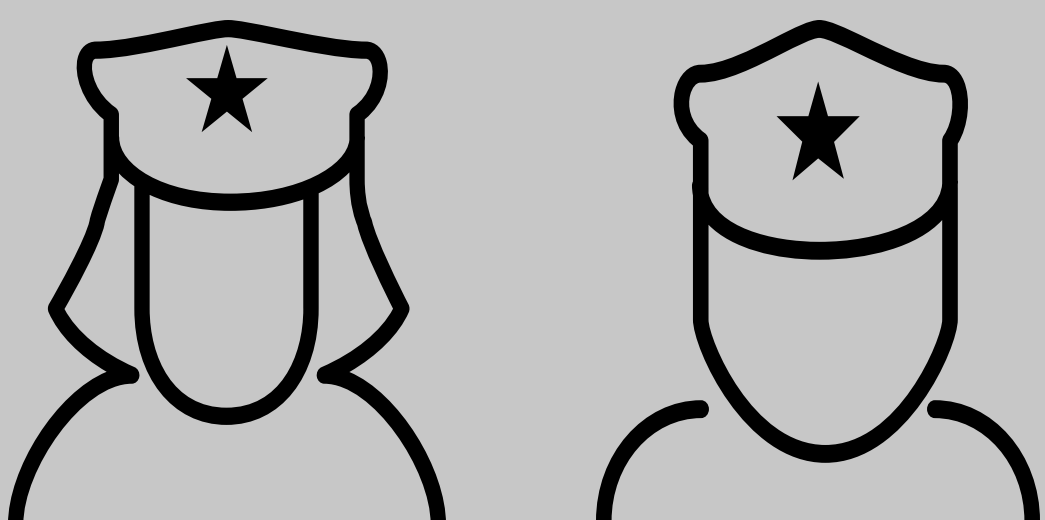
9895
Households

20.91 km²
Area

OUR MEMBERS

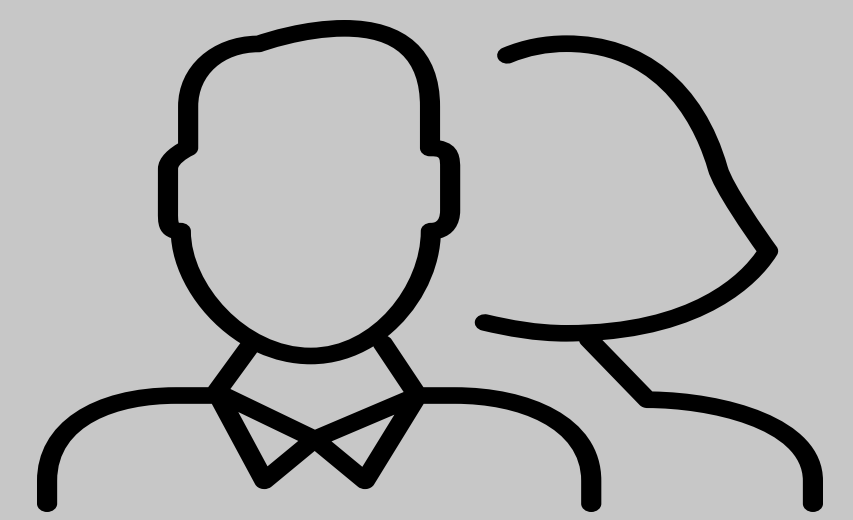


8
EXECUTIVE
MEMBERS



41
POLICE
OFFICERS

45
CIVILIAN
MEMBERS

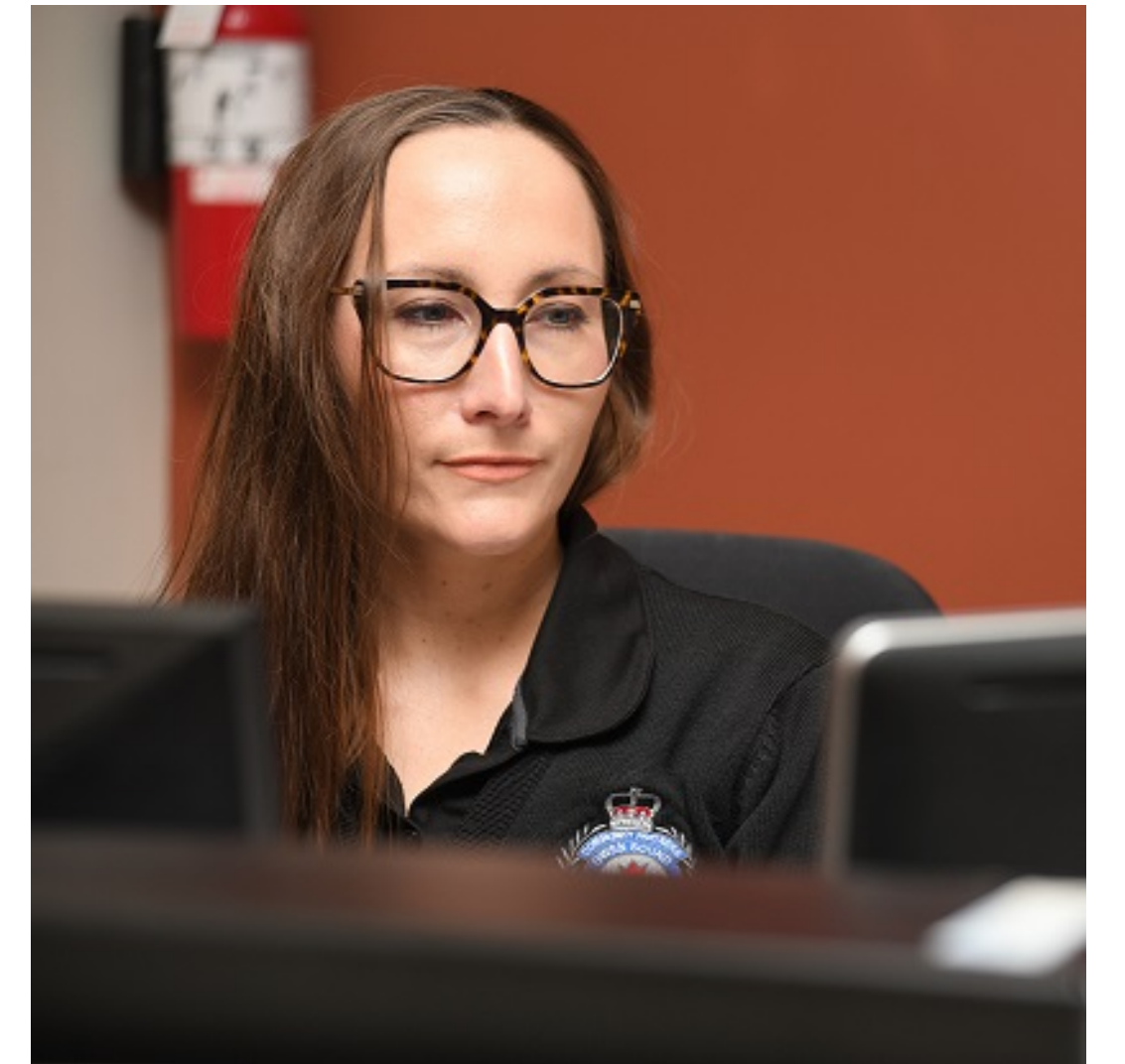




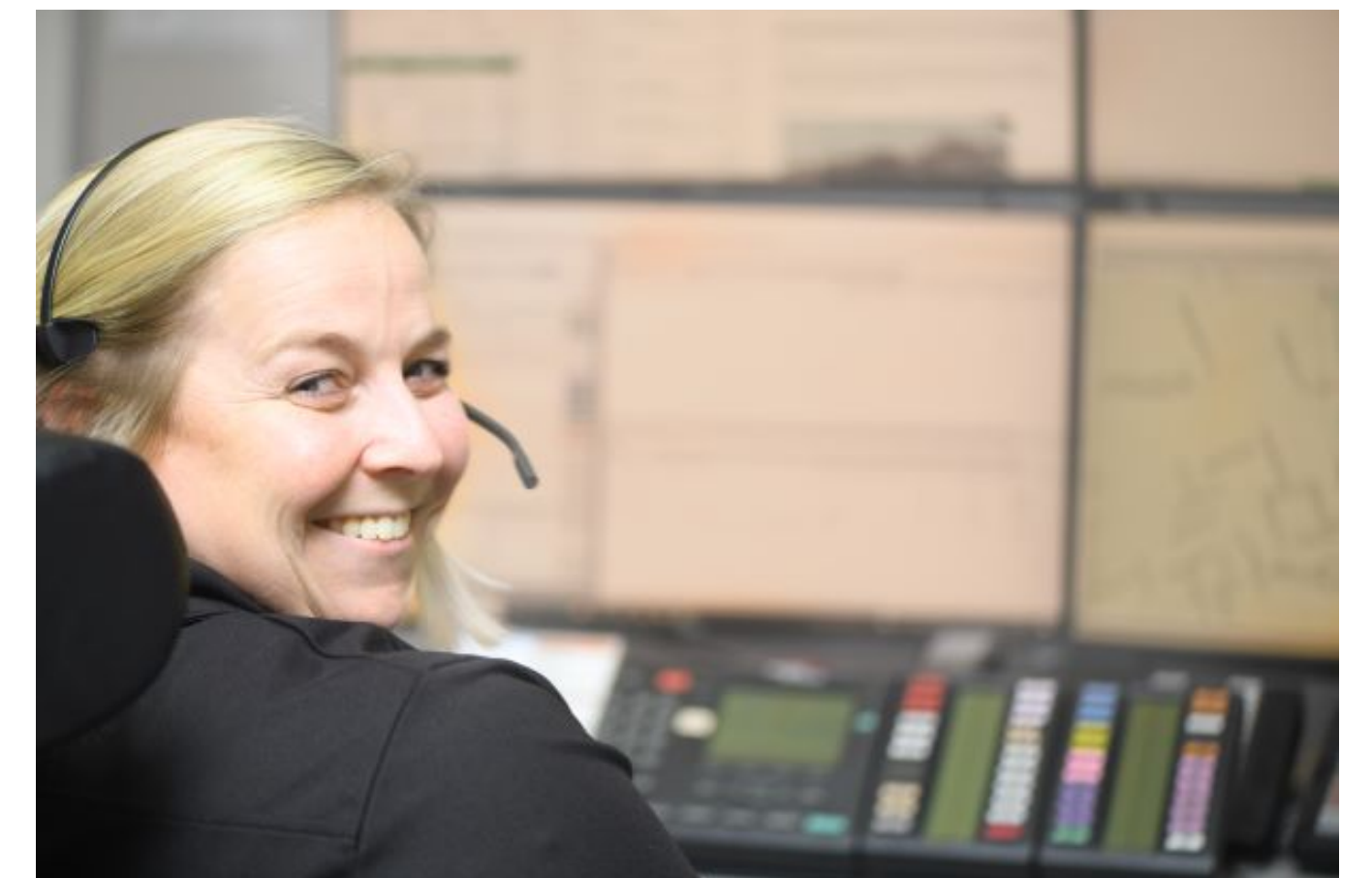
STATS



16,697 Calls for service



62,159 911 Calls
43,319 Police Calls
3,012 Fire Calls
64,832 Total calls for service
dispatched



1949 Charges Laid
1517 Adult Male Charges
361 Adult Female Charges
61 Young Offender Males Charges
10 Young Offender Female
Charges



R.I.D.E
183 RIDE Programs
6,545 Vehicles Stopped
360 Snowmobiles Stopped
52 Offences
31 Impaired Driving Charges

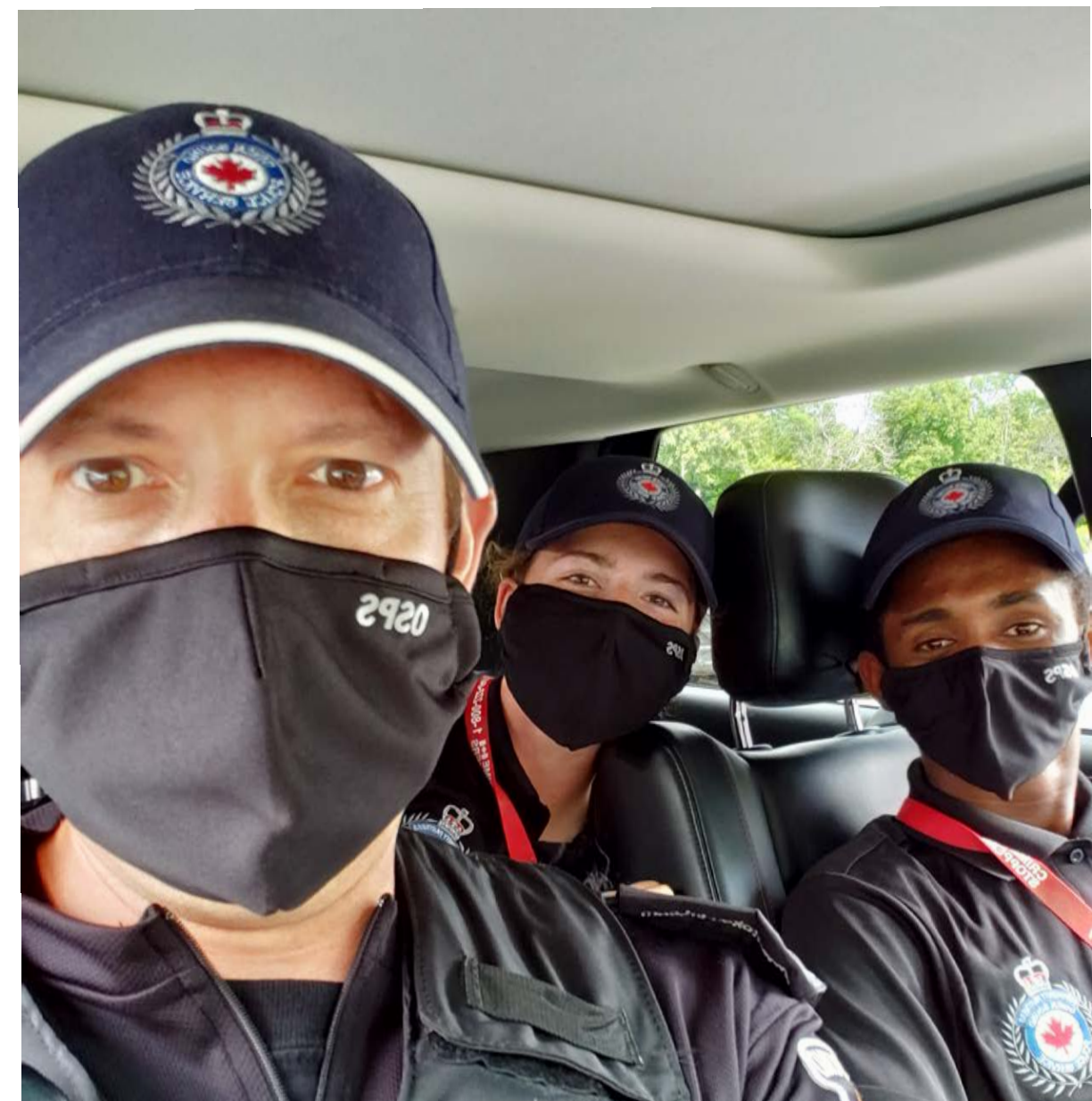




YOUTH IN POLICING

The Youth In Policing Initiative (YIPI) is a summer program for high school aged youth. This program provides youth an opportunity to learn about and work in the field of law enforcement and community engagement. Students are empowered to design a summer program that meets the needs of local youth and the community, with a focus on safety and engagement. Using the best practice method of peer to peer youth engagement, YIPI students embark on a summer of opportunity, responsibility and fun.

The Owen Sound Police Service is committed to strengthening partnerships with organizations working with and supporting New Comer families to Owen Sound. OSPS is committed to providing opportunities for New Comer youth and families to work and/or participate in programs and services offered at OSPS. As was the case in 2021, when, through the Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) the OSPS hired a New Comer youth to work as a summer student along with 3 other Owen Sound youth. OSPS partnered with the Youth Sydenham Optimist Club to run a Bike and Street Safety Workshop, specifically geared toward New Comer families. OSPS was also featured in the book *A Place to Belong* highlighting the work being done by OSPS helping New Comers feel safe as they arrive in their new community. These are a few examples of how OSPS have put words into action in 2021.





COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

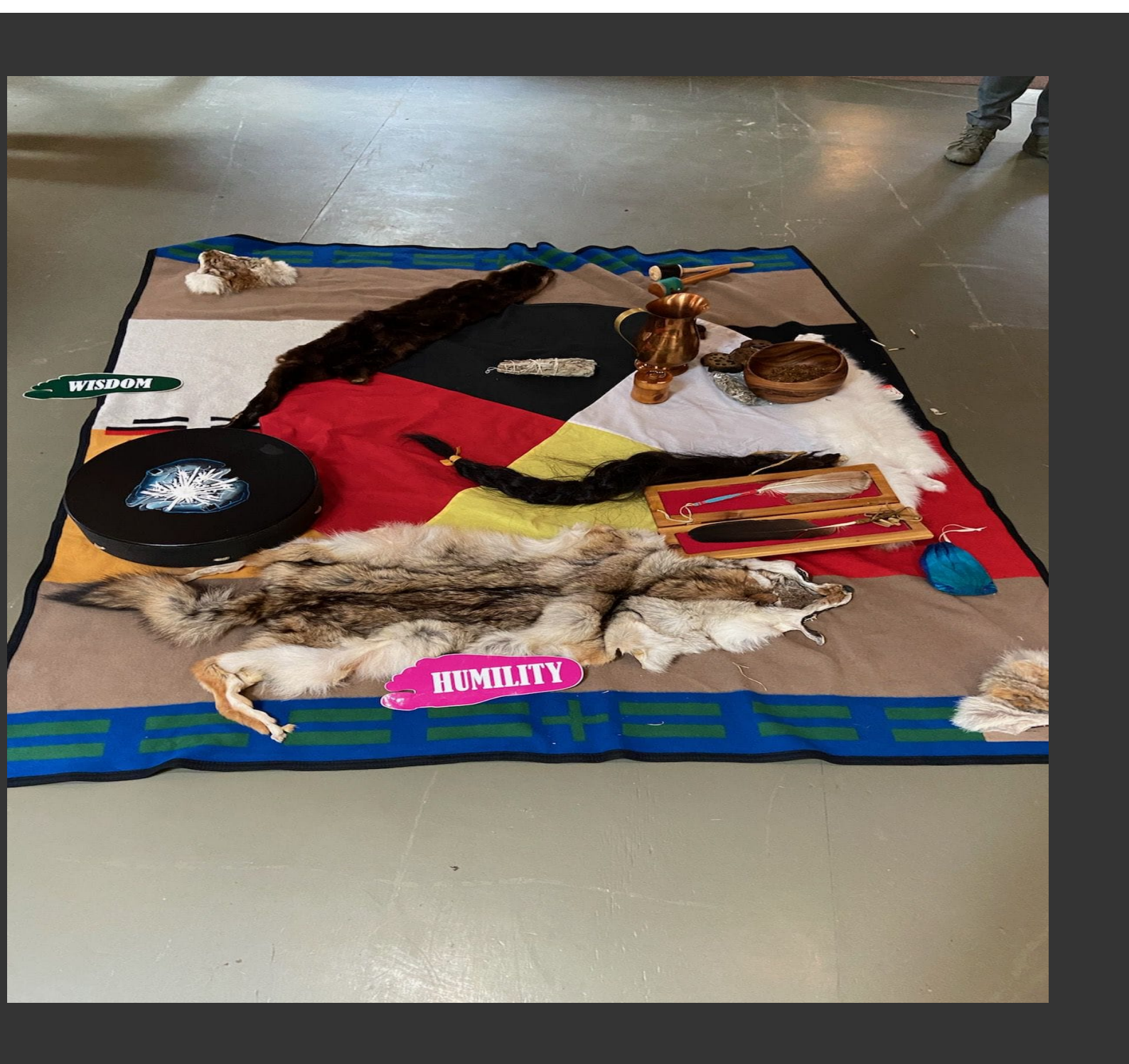
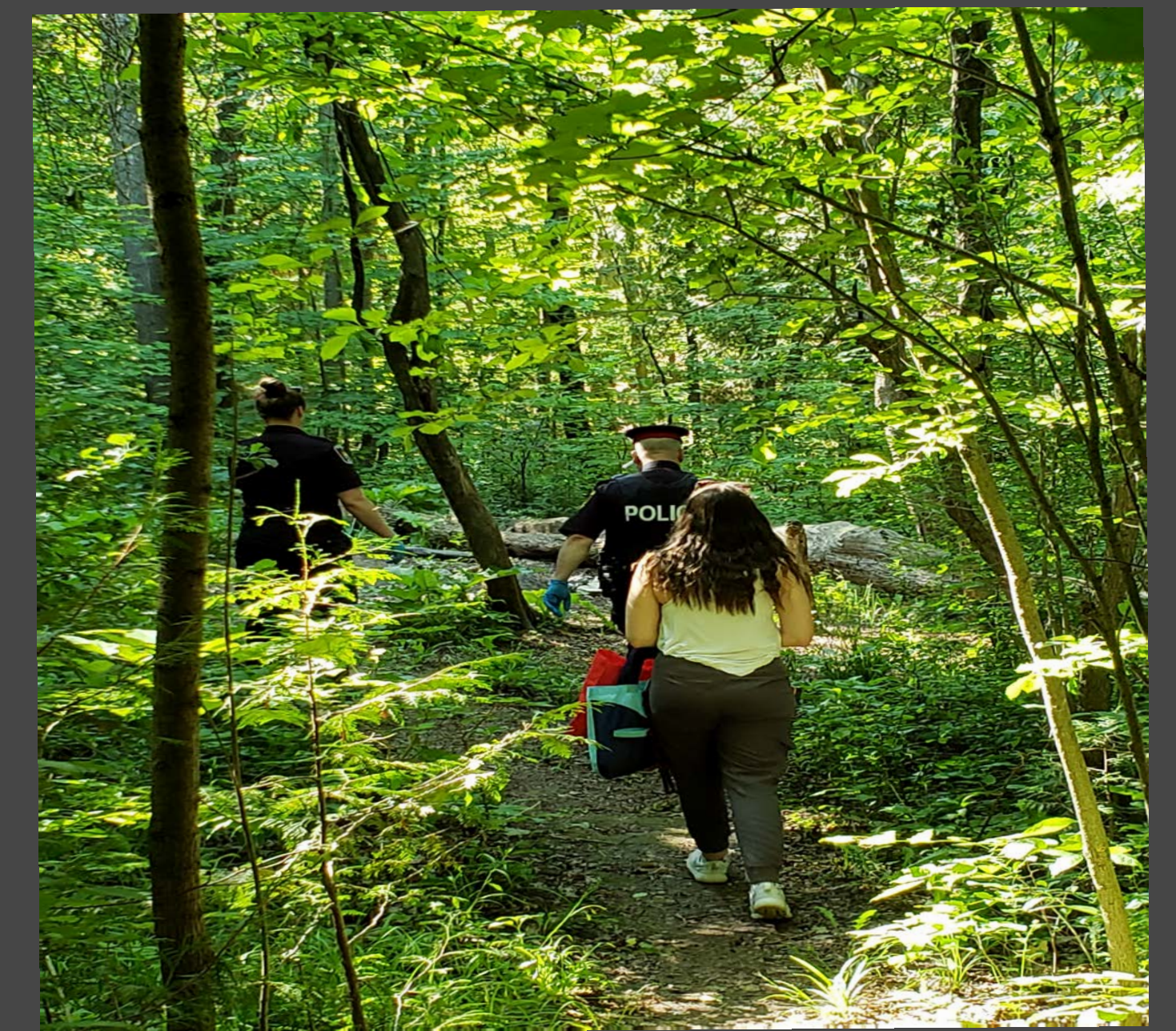


Rainbow Crosswalk

On June 17th the City of Owen Sound unveiled its first-ever Rainbow Crosswalk. The Owen Sound Police Service proudly stands in solidarity with the LGBTQ2S+ and BIPOC community. This crosswalk is a symbol and reminder that everyone has the right to feel safe and have equity and inclusion in the community.

Encampment Walks

Each month the Community Service Officer and/or Community Oriented Response Unit Officer partner with local agencies and organizations to check in on the well being and safety of people living on the street and in encampment settings. Encampment walks allow Officers and local partners to work in coordination for the overall health and well being of Owen Sound's most vulnerable.



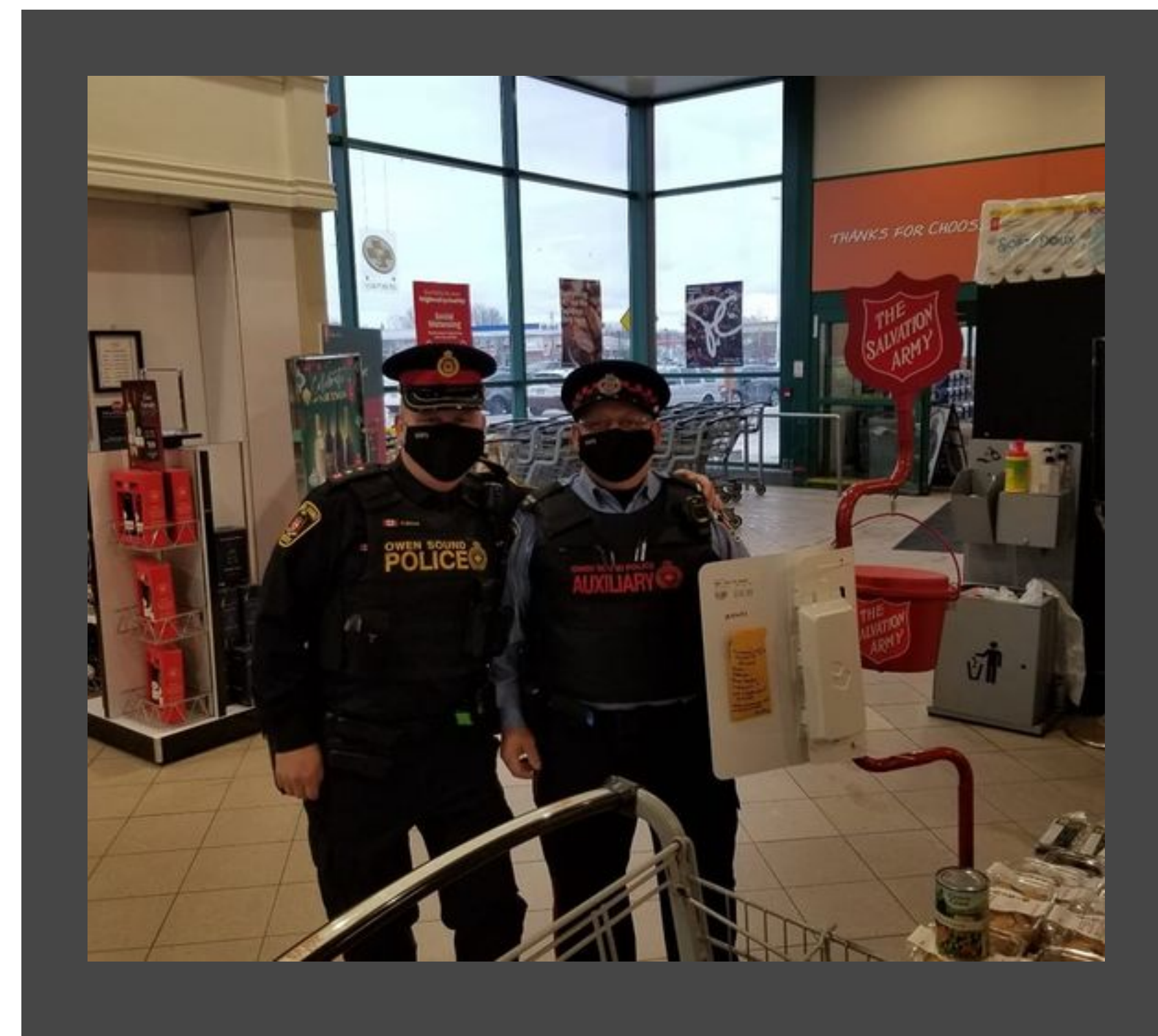
Cultural Mindfulness Training

Members of the Owen Sound Police Service had the honor and privilege of attending a Cultural Mindfulness Workshop hosted by M'Wikwedong. This training aids first responders in creating an awareness of the local history and being able to improve the lives of the vulnerable by creating safer service delivery. This is an important step towards Truth and Reconciliation, and we look forward to building on this partnership and upon the knowledge gained.

Auxiliary

In 2021, the Auxiliary Unit was significantly affected by Covid-19 with community events being cancelled and postponed due to the Provincial lockdown guidelines and gathering restrictions. Throughout the year however, the 18 Member Unit was still able to contribute over 460 volunteer hours.

One of the Auxiliary Unit's largest events is the holiday food drive which supports the Salvation Army in their campaign to assist those in need. Despite the pandemic and financial stresses felt by many, the community remained generous and the Auxiliary Food Drive raised 6602 pounds in food and \$5,646.15 in monetary donations to support our local Food Bank.



Engagement with Schools

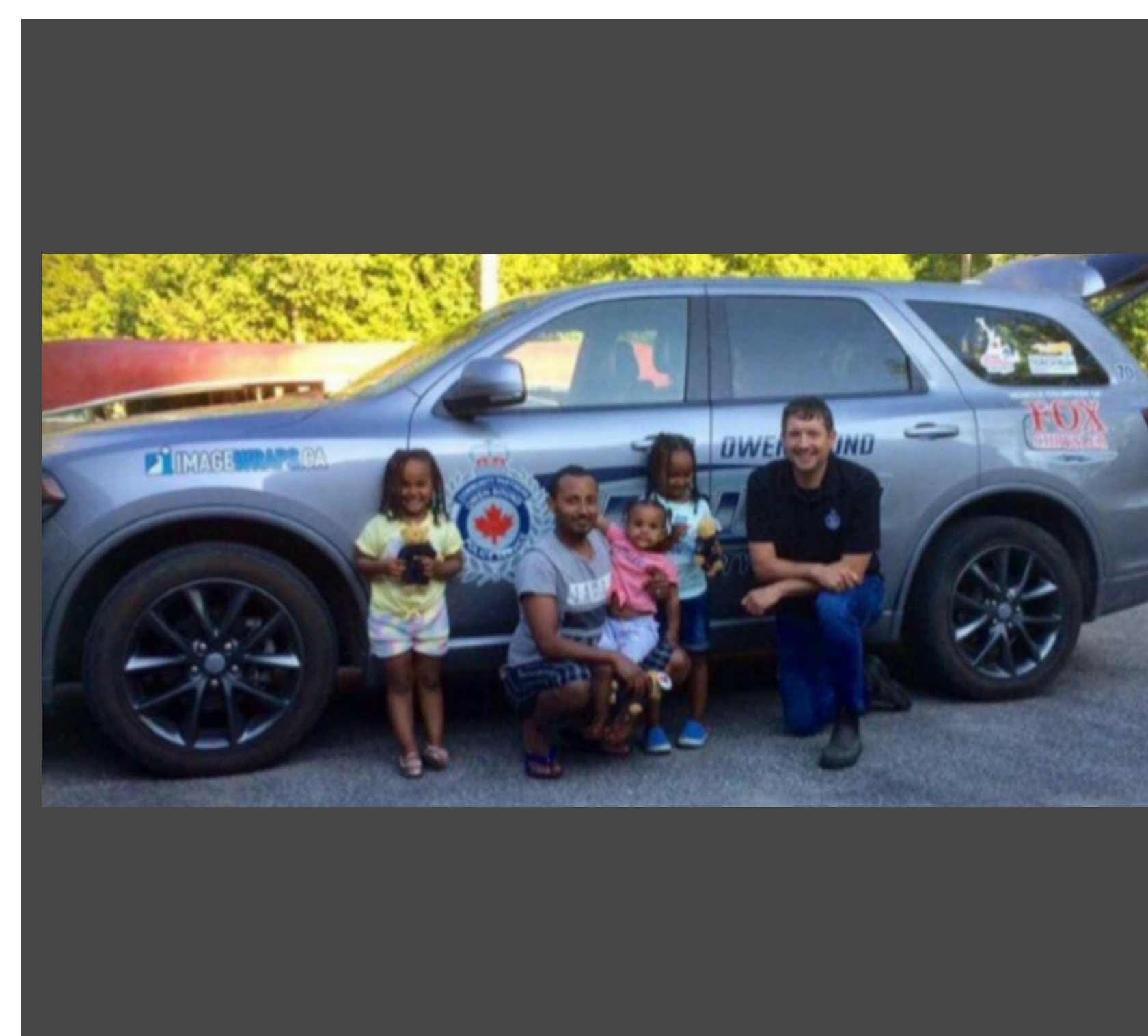
OSPS works very closely with local school boards on a myriad of partnership opportunities, most notably; traffic awareness, lockdown drills, positive ticketing and education on youth and the law. Every aspect of the partnership is meant to foster an environment of safety and community engagement.



New Comer Families and Youth Ambassador Program

In an effort to break down potential barriers, increase education and provide a higher level of safety, the Owen Sound Police Service have been proactively working with New Comer families who have chosen to make Owen Sound their home. Special Constable Jason Cranny, the Community Services Officer, made a connection with a New Comer family and a gradual relationship building intervention took place and the family began to feel safe.

Sp/Constable Cranny still visits regularly and works with the family and the family's sponsor to continue to establish relationships with New Comer families and youth in Owen Sound.





O I P R D



In 2021, a total of 12 complaints were initially received by the OIPRD. 11 of the complaints were in relation to officer conduct with one deemed to be in relation to services provided by the OSPS. Two of our complainants filed more than one complaint each, so in reality, 9 complainants filed 11 conduct complaints. All of the 11 conduct complaints were screened out on initial review by the OIPRD, for various reasons including being deemed frivolous, not in the public interest to investigate, or more appropriately dealt with under another Act or law. The lone service complaint was screened in by the OIPRD and referred to the OSPS for investigation, however the complainant subsequently withdrew their complaint prior to it being investigated.

I n f o r m a t i o n T e c h n o l o g y

In 2021, the Owen Sound Police Service Information Technology branch delivered a number of large scale projects including being one of the first compliant communication centres for Next Generation 911 in Canada to complete testing.

NG911 is a mandated upgrade from the CRTC at a federal level which will deliver enhanced services to 911 callers for over 300, 000 residents through our centre. This will provide real time chat with staff as well as future photo/video capabilities.

In addition, our branch delivered a new alternate dispatch location to our Service which allows for continuity of business in emergency communications for all our community partners in the event of a disaster.

The IT branch was also instrumental in bringing the Grey County Fire radio project forward which is nearing completion. This system will provide reliable and dedicated communications to Grey County fire departments throughout the County.



Mobile Mental Health and Addiction Response Team

Mobile Mental Health and Addictions Response Team (MMHART)

The Owen Sound Police Service and Canadian Mental Health Grey Bruce continued their partnership in 2021 with the MMHART program.

MMHART is comprised of a plain clothed police officer and a mental health support worker who respond as a team to calls for service where mental health or addictions concerns are present. MMHART is not only able to assess an individual's mental health status but they more often act as advocates for the individual by making referrals to the appropriate community supports. The main goal of MMHART is to ensure an individual dealing with mental health or addictions is provided with the most timely and best care possible.

MMHART also conducts training with OSPS officers. By providing the officers with additional knowledge and tools OSPS officers are able to better recognize possible alternatives to apprehensions under the Mental Health Act. In 2021 OSPS/MMHART were able to provide immediate assistance and also make referrals to community supports to 69% of the 1,108 mental health calls for service. By placing the individual in timely contact with the appropriate supports this alleviates unnecessary admissions to the strained Emergency Department, provides a better short and long-term support plan and just as importantly a more dignified outcome for the individual.

MMHART continues to grow the network of "the circle of care" by working closely with; mental health, addictions, housing, poverty and numerous other community organizations striving to provide the best care for those in our community.





Community Oriented Response Unit



The CORE (Community Oriented Response Unit) unit was re-implemented in 2021 and is currently staffed by Cst. Chevonne Martin. The CORE unit provides the opportunity for the Owen Sound Police Service to proactively address issues and concerns to avoid police calls for service.

The CORE unit works in partnership with many community agencies to address issues relating to criminal activity, by-law complaints, homelessness, addictions and mental health. The CORE unit also works closely with DIA and business owners both downtown and throughout the city to address specific concerns. Having the time to deal with concerns proactively and the partnerships within the community provides creative responses to address those problems, helps avoid calls for service and, more appropriately, provide assistance to those who need it most.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Homicide of 22-Year-Old Man - May 16th

A 22 year old man was murdered after an altercation that occurred in the 900 block of 6th Street East. Since the murder, Detectives have been conducting an exhaustive investigation into the circumstances of the incident. Four persons have been identified, arrested and charged for First Degree Murder. Police have seized extensive evidence in the case, some of which is currently undergoing forensic analysis. The charges are still before the courts and two of the accused remain in custody.

Human Trafficking Investigation - Nov 16th

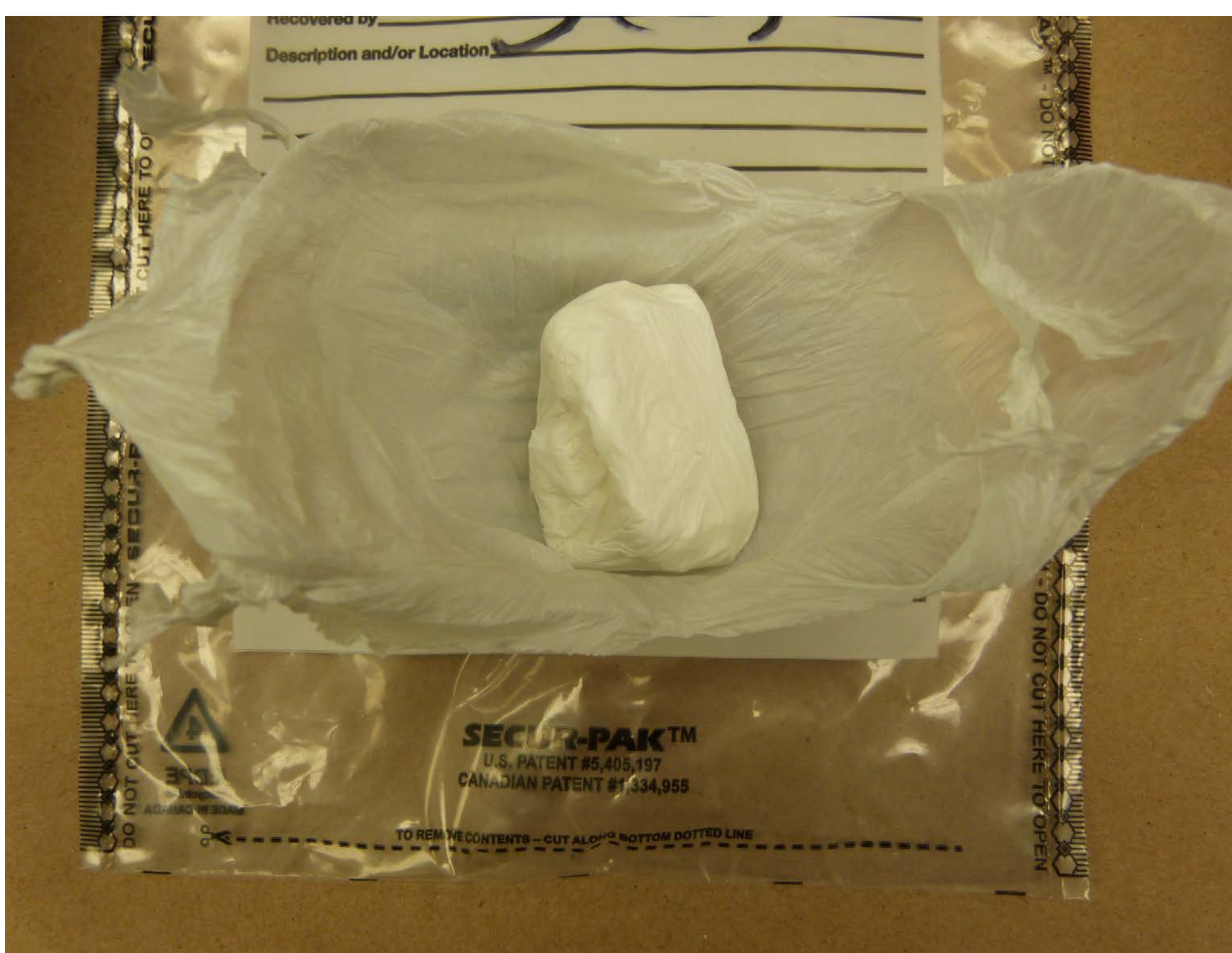
A representative of a local organization reached out to a member of the Criminal Investigations Branch whom they were aware was trained in the area of human trafficking. The complainant had concerns that a 12-year-old girl currently residing in Owen Sound may be the victim of human trafficking. A production order was completed for cellphone subscriber information, interviews commenced and the Owen Sound Police Open Source Analyst was utilized. This does not appear to be a human trafficking case, however the investigation determined a suspect and Kirkland Lake OPP arrested the male party on OSPS warrant for 3 counts of making child pornography - CIB obtained a further warrant for the cell phone belonging to the accused. The cell phone was seized, downloaded and searched for further evidence by CIB.



DRUGS & INTELLIGENCE

Drug Offences - February 23rd

On Feb 23, 2021 members of the Drug Enforcement Unit concluded a drug trafficking investigation with the arrest of a male and a female from their rental vehicle in the parking lot of a downtown business. Police seized more than 1,050 methamphetamine pills that were stamped with the word 'ICE'. The total street value of the seized pills ranges between \$5,300 and \$11,000. The rental vehicle associated with the arrested parties was seized and investigators sought a search warrant. After obtaining judicial authorization to search the vehicle, police seized approximately 45 grams of cocaine with a street value of \$4,500 as well as \$5,380 in cash proceeds of crime. A 23 yearold male from the Ottawa area and a 19-year-old female from Collingwood have been jointly charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Cocaine for the Purpose of Trafficking and Possession of Proceeds of Crime.

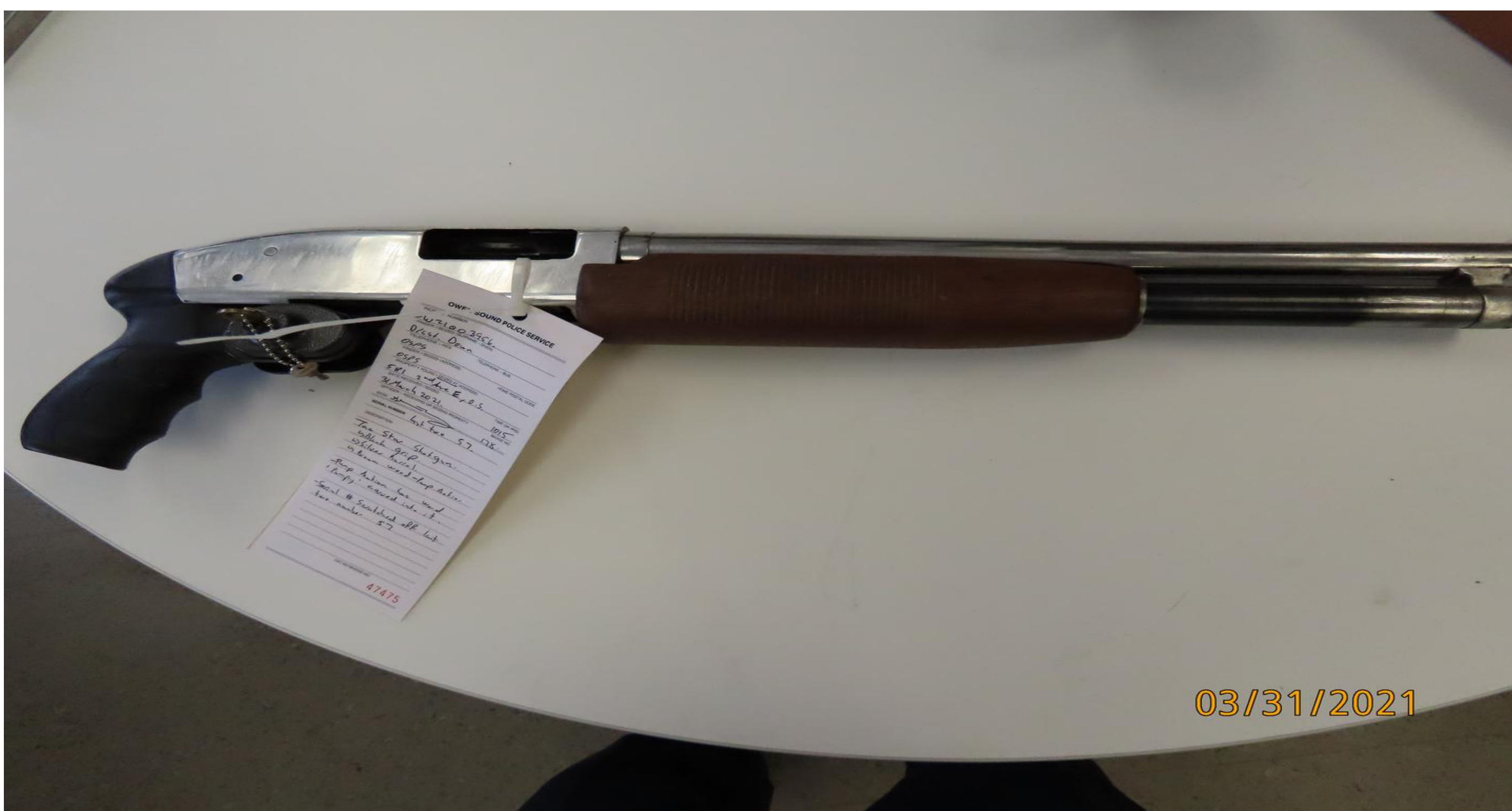




DRUGS & INTELLIGENCE

Drugs & Firearms - March 31st

Members of the Drug Enforcement Unit concluded a Fentanyl and methamphetamine trafficking investigation with the arrest of a Brampton resident. The accused was arrested in his rental vehicle as he arrived at an east side residence. The man was found to be carrying a loaded .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol that was concealed in a shoulder holster as well as three magazines containing numerous rounds of additional ammunition. A search was conducted of the rental vehicle occupied by the accused which resulted in the location of two loaded pistol grip, pump action shotguns as well as ammunition belts containing shotgun rounds, additional handgun rounds, police-style body armour, an expandable baton and various knives. Police also located Fentanyl, crystal methamphetamine and cash proceeds of crime. The total value of cash and drugs seized is in excess of \$7,500. The man was the subject of a lifetime ban from the possession of firearms as a result of a prior conviction in 2017 in Owen Sound for possessing explosives as well as Fentanyl and methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking. The accused, a 35-year-old male, was charged with a total of 26 firearms and drug trafficking related offences and he remains in custody.





DRUGS & INTELLIGENCE

JFO - Drug Investigation / Search Warrants Dec 1st - 3rd

A lengthy joint investigation with the OPP came to a conclusion on December 1st with over 45 officers involved in the arrest of 7 suspects, 6 residential search warrants (4 in the city), and 2 search warrants conducted on motor vehicles. Another search warrant was sought for a Southampton residence which was conducted on December 3rd. A total of 69 criminal charges were laid, mainly in relation to drug and weapon offences. Seized were 5 firearms, 2 of which were loaded 9mm handguns, 3 prohibited weapons as defined by the Criminal Code, a large amount of ammunition, cocaine with an estimated street value of over \$61,000 and Canadian currency totaling over \$110,000.





STATISTICAL COMPARISON

Offence Type: Comparison by Year

OFFENCE TYPE	2020	2021	PERCENT CHANGE
Murder	0	1	▲ 100%
Attempt Murder	0	0	0%
Sexual Assault	43	29	▼ 38.88%
Aggravated Assault	3	3	0%
Assault with Weapon/Bodily Harm	66	50	▼ 27.58%
Assault	206	173	▼ 17.41%
Criminal Harrassment	113	95	▼ 17.30%
Utter Threats	151	136	▼ 10.45%
Break & Enter	90	68	▼ 27.84%
Theft Over \$5000	37	38	▼ 2.70%
Theft Under \$5000	464	461	▼ .64%
Mischief	186	162	▼ 13.79%
Weapons	39	34	▼ 13.69%
Drug Offences **	69	19	▼ 113.63%

** Direction from Public PROSECUTION services of Canada changed enforcement criteria and number if charges laid



DEPARTMENT REPORTING

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Report Type	Amount	% Difference from 2020
Police Reports	4445	▼ 8.80%
Arrest Reports (criminal)	688	▼ 16.53%
Missing Person Reports	68	▼ 47.19%
Sudden Death Reports	54	▲ 1.87%
Freedom of Information requests	41	▼ 56.25%
Criminal Records Checks	1177	▼ 14.98%
Warrants Processed	305	▲ 32.38%

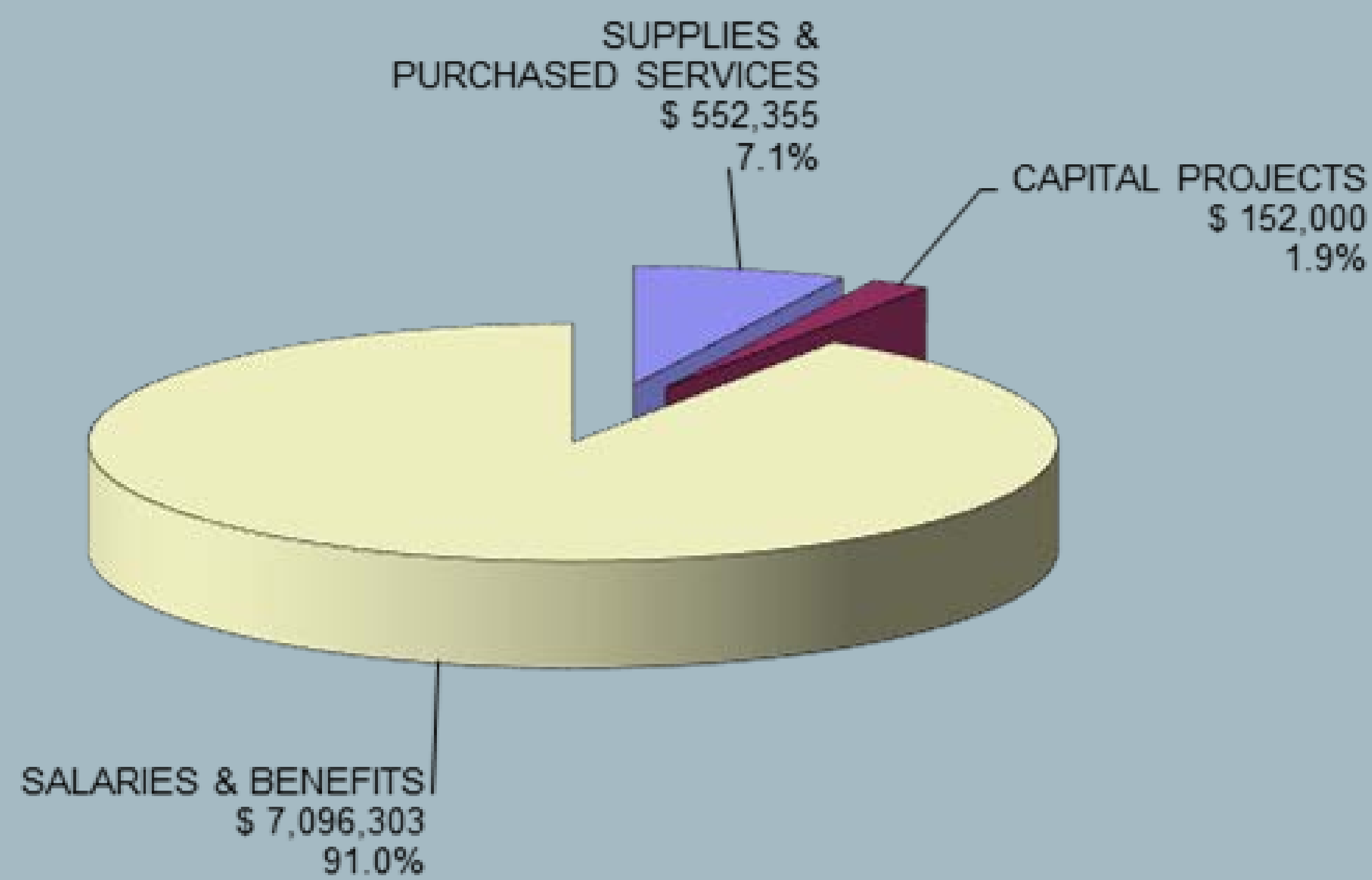
COLLISION REPORTING

Collision Reporting	Amount	% Difference from 2020
Total collisions in 2021	445	▼ 3.2%
Collisions involving injury	44	▼ 12.76%
Fatal Collisions	0	
Investigated by OSPS	235	▼ 3.35%
Investigated by CRC	210	▼ 3.28%
Collisions with pedestrians	10	▼ 9.09%
Collisions involving cyclists	1	▼ 85.71%



SALARIES & SURPLUS

OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY



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