

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Owen Sound Police Service

922 2nd Ave West

Owen Sound, ON

www.owensoundpolice.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE POLICE SERVICES 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 2023 Annual Report.

Police service boards are governance bodies that are responsible for oversight and maintaining a police service to ensure adequate and effective policing by meeting the needs of the population of the area that it serves. As part of board governance and in preparation for the new Community Safety and Policing Act that was enacted April 1, 2024, the Board reviewed, updated and approved ninety-six board policies and twenty-five bylaws during 2023.

In 2023 the Board, in conjunction with OSPS command staff, held extensive consultation with the community and our members to develop a strategic plan for 2023-2026 which contains four Strategic Priorities - Community Safety, Community Wellbeing, Our Members, and Sustainability. This year's Annual Report provides an opportunity to share with the community the successes of year one's progress of our Operations Plan.

The Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre (OSECC) is one of only two in the province that provides unique dispatching services to a number of other police services as well as fire and county operations.

Year over year your police service continues to see a significant rise in drug, alcohol, mental health issues, and property crime within the city limits. The rise in violent crime was exacerbated in 2023 by three homicides taking place within the span of six weeks, which created an enormous impact on our investigative resources and will continue to draw on resources through the court process. Continued increases in local crime serve to place additional impact on our limited resources.

I would like to thank the members of the Owen Sound Police Services Board for their continued service to the community. In addition to attending board meetings, members of the Board participate in service events and engage in professional development. I am thankful to have a committed team who have a shared vision for police governance.

Our Chief reminds us that policing is a 24/7 operation. While we engage in our daily routines, we can be assured that the members of the Owen Sound Police Service are working around the clock to keep our community safe and well. For this I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Chief Ambrose, his command staff, sworn and civilian members, special constables and our auxiliary members who continue to display a substantial level of dedication and loyalty to safeguard the citizens of Owen Sound. It is through their combined efforts and coordinated support that we are able to accomplish the objectives and goals set out in our Operations Plan.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

It is my privilege as Chief of the Owen Sound Police Service to present the 2023 Annual Report. This is our opportunity as a police service to provide insight and information that summarizes the significant events, demands on resources and milestones of the past year. It is also an opportunity to provide an update on the implementation of the Board's Strategic Priorities.



One highlight early in the year was gathering input from the public and our community partners in the form of a community survey. That feedback, along with a members survey, was very informative and assisted the Board in identifying the Strategic Priorities of the Service - Community Safety, Community Wellbeing, Our Members, and Sustainability. With these Strategic Priorities, the Service then took the information and created an actionable and measurable Operations Plan and assigned the various actions to members of the Service. The 2023-2026 Operations Plan creates a path to achieve the desired results of the Board and community and holds the Service accountable to meeting those priorities. You can look forward to regular updates and milestones as we move forward in the implementation over the coming years. I encourage everyone to read the Operations Plan, monitor the progress, and hold the Service accountable to the implementation. I also encourage you to provide input throughout the life of the plan to properly address the ever-changing issues that we face in providing community policing to our citizens.

Looking back on 2023, there has never been a busier time for our Police Service. The calls for service from the community, the level of violence of those calls and the complexities of the investigations were staggering. Never in the past has there been a year involving so many deaths as a result of criminal acts. Those deaths included the senseless death of Sharif Rahman, a local resident and restaurateur who died tragically after an altercation outside his restaurant. The Service continues to focus attention on these matters as investigations continue and other investigations progress and work their way through the challenges of the judicial system.

It is important to highlight the work of our dedicated members who investigated these incidents and the hours spent seeking justice for the victims who no longer have their voice. Many members of the service, both uniformed and civilian, sacrificed time with their families, to meet the demands of the service in 2023 and that dedication has not gone unnoticed.

The Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre (OSECC) continues to provide outstanding service to not only the citizens of Owen Sound, but to the other communities across Ontario. Whether it be the professional Communicators answering a frantic call to 911 or the IT professionals who keep our systems running across the province, these dedicated members were called on to meet the demands of the service despite staffing shortages, and never failed to fulfill our commitment. Thank you to all of our members who make the Service run effectively day in and day out. Your hard work and dedication are invaluable to the citizens we serve.

To all of the members of our community, thank you for your cooperation and support and your role in community safety and wellbeing. Without your support and assistance, we cannot provide you the policing services that you deserve and expect.

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

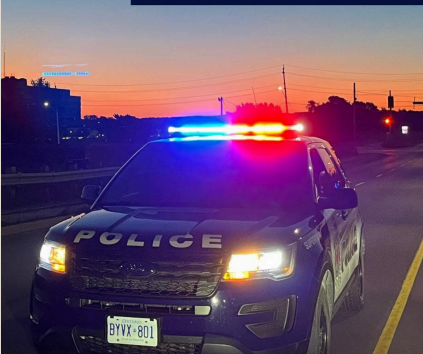
OPERATIONS PLAN 2023-2026

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 Services Board approved the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan. The Plan includes 14 goals and 50 specific actions within the Board's Strategic Priorities of:



Owen Sound Police Service
2023-2026
Operations Plan



- COMMUNITY SAFETY
- COMMUNITY WELLBEING
- OUR MEMBERS
- SUSTAINABILITY

The full Plan can be viewed on the OSPS website **Publications and Reports | Owen Sound Police Service**

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

OPERATIONS PLAN 2023-2026

YEAR ONE PROGRESS

At the end of the Plan’s first year, two actions have been completed; three actions are not started and designed to begin in 2024; and of the other 45 actions 90% are in progress.

Sustainability goal 1, to promote and plan for long term succession, includes one action that has been completed (S1c): by developing a long-term facility plan that anticipates future growth and updates. With the City Facilities Assessment completed in June 2023, short- and long-term facility needs up to the next 10 years can now be aligned and help support long term budgeting, staffing, and IT requirements which are also included within the Sustainability priority.

The other completed action is part of Our Members goal 1, to promote OSPS members’ mental and physical wellbeing, by evaluating the shift schedule rotation pattern to maximize member wellness (OM1b).



In partnership with the Owen Sound Police Association, an evaluation was conducted of the 12-hour schedule being piloted. Analysis found overtime and sick time were not significantly influenced and the majority of members agree the new schedule has improved their overall wellness.

	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
Platoon 1				D	D	N	N	N					D	D
Platoon 2		D	D	N	N						D	D	N	N
Platoon 3	D	N	N						D	D	N	N		
Platoon 4	N					D	D	D	N	N				
January	1/29	2/30	3/31	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
February	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
March	26	27	28	1/29	2/30	3/31	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

YEAR END REPORTING



- **2,306** – Incidents cleared by charge
- **605** Adult males charged
- **198** Adult females charged
- **19** Young Offender males charged
- **9** Young Offender females charged

Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) Program

- **282** RIDE Programs
- **12,591** Vehicles Stopped
- **2** Impaired Drivers (from RIDE program)



YEAR END REPORTING

Report Type	2023	2022
Crown Briefs	725	804
Missing Person	76	64
Sudden Death	49	56
Freedom of Information	65	45
Criminal Record Checks	1,738	1,608
Warrants Processed	627	611
Police Reports	4,305	4,494

Collison Reporting	2023	2022
Total Collisions	489	558
Total Collisions Involving Injury	42	60
Fatal Collisions	0	0
Investigated By OSPS	240	300
Investigated by Collision Reporting Centre	249	258
Collisions with Pedestrians	7	9
Collisions Involving Cyclists	8	5

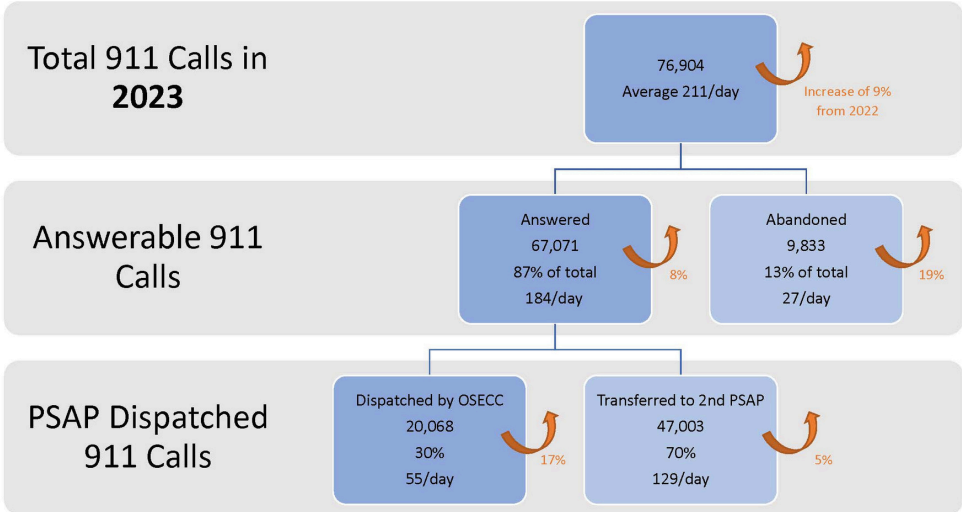
OWEN SOUND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE (OSECC)



The OSECC is the primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for Owen Sound Police Service, five other police services, more than 50 fire stations and Grey County Transportation. The OSECC PSAP serves 35 municipalities with an estimated population of 372,000.

EMERGENCY 9-1-1 CALLS

There were 76,904 calls received from the emergency 911 line in 2023, an increase of 9% compared to 2022. Of the answerable 911 calls, 30% are dispatched by Communicators, and 70% are transferred to a secondary PSAP.



Source: Bell Flex Reports.

OWEN SOUND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE (OSECC)

COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH (CAD)

Calls that are dispatched by the OSECC Communicators come from a variety of sources, such as:

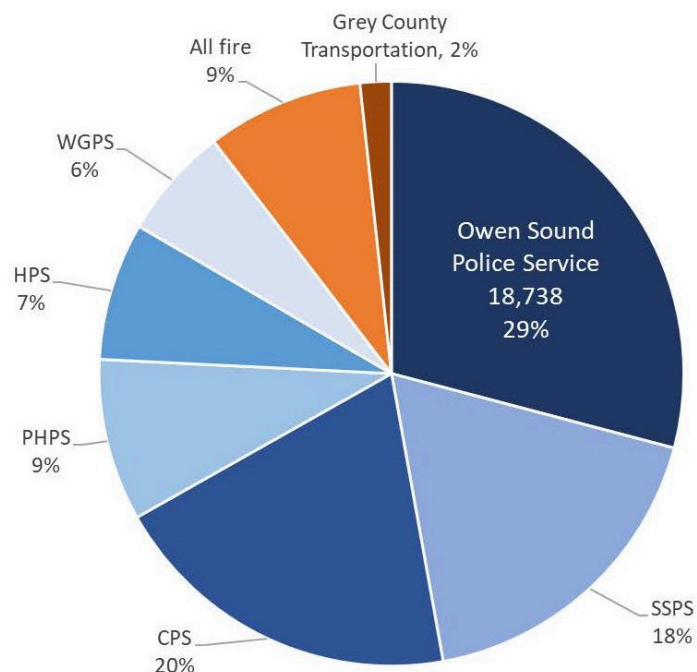
- **the emergency 9-1-1 line**
- **the non-emergency phone line**
- **walk-ins**
- **officer generated**

There were 64,397 calls dispatched by the OSECC in 2023, an 8% increase from 2022. Owen Sound Police Service accounts for the largest volume of dispatched calls in the OSECC: 29% or 18,738 in 2023. The volume of dispatched calls varies by day of week, and by hour of day.

Top Most Frequent OSPS Call Types in 2023:

1. Traffic enforcement
2. Police assistance
3. 911 Call – Admin/Dropped
4. Community services
5. Suspicious person
6. Person welfare check
7. Theft
8. Unwanted person
9. Execute warrant
10. Police information
11. Motor vehicle collision
12. Property related
13. Domestic dispute
14. Alarm
15. Disturb the peace
16. RIDE
17. Harassment
18. Complaint
19. Shoplift
20. Fraud

OSECC Dispatched CAD Events, by Agency, 2023

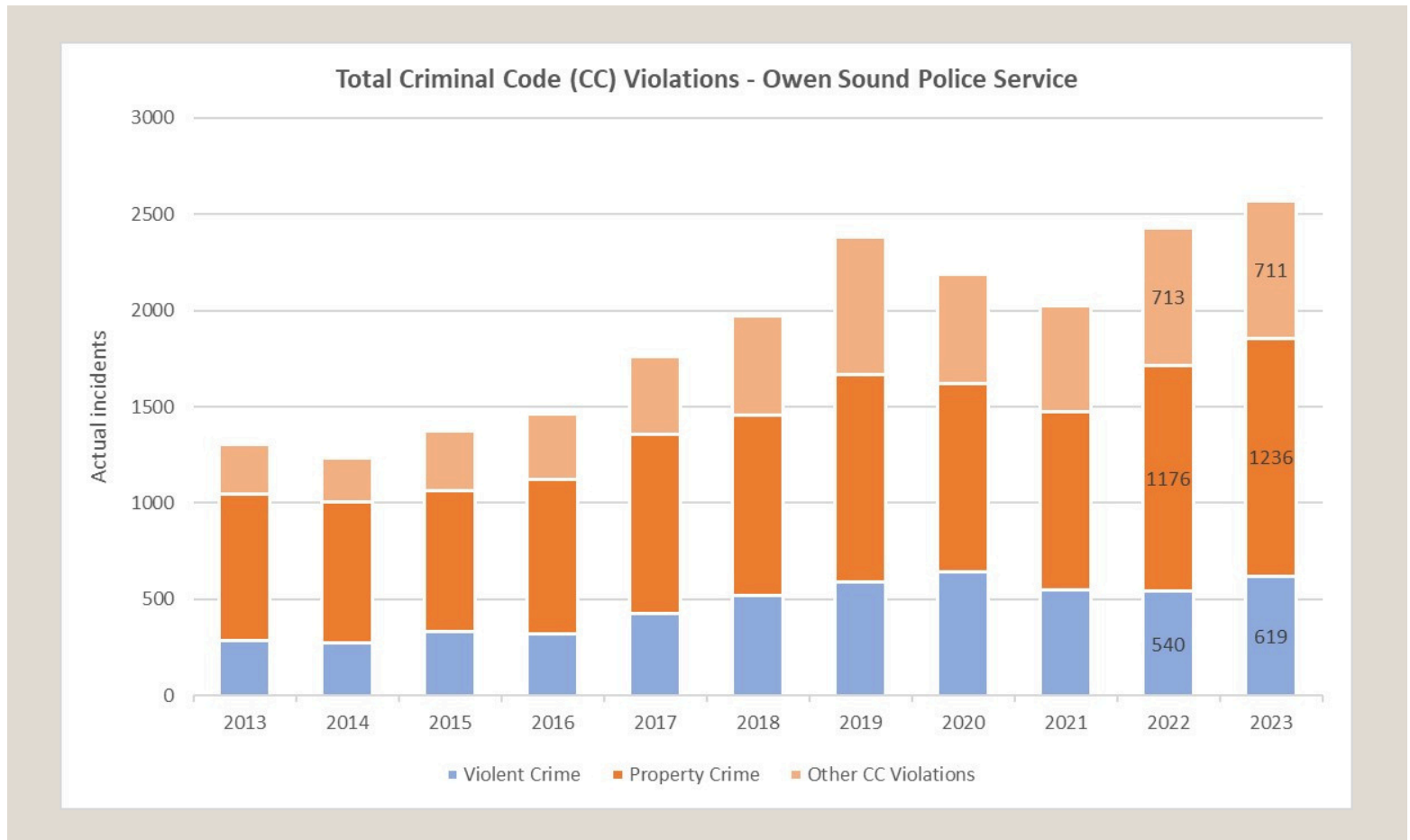


Source: OPTIC On Call Analytics, CAD

POLICE-REPORTED CRIME, OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE 2023

Police-reported crime is measured by a count of the most serious violation within an incident. In 2023, there was a total of 2,566 Criminal Code (CC) violations (excluding traffic) reported to OSPS. This was a 5.6% increase in volume compared to 2022, as a combined result of:

- Violent Crime or Crimes Against Persons increasing **+14.6%**;
- Crimes Against Property increasing **+5.1%**; and
- Other Criminal Code Violations decreasing **-0.3%**.



Source: Statistics Canada

POLICE-REPORTED CRIME, OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE 2023

Most numerous violent offences in 2023

186 Assault, level 1

↓ 2%

125 Uttering threats

↑ 6%

89 Criminal harassment

↑ 13%

58 Sexual assault, level 1

↑ 29%

52 Assault, level 2

↑ 21%

Most numerous non-violent (property and other CC) offences:

708 Total thefts under \$5000

↑ 13%

531 Total Administration of Justice violations (fail to comply with order, fail to appear, breach of probation)

↓ 7%

230 Fraud

↑ 11%

186 Mischief

↓ 13%

116 Disturb the peace

↑ 29%

Percent Change from 2022

Percent Change from 2022

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW DIRECTOR (OIPRD)

In 2023, a total of 16 OSPS complaints were received by the OIPRD. Fourteen of the complaints were in relation to officer conduct with one additional complaint split into two separate complaints, one being in relation to conduct of officers and one being services provided by the OSPS, however both originating from the same set of circumstances.

One of the complainants filed five individual complaints, the remaining 10 complaints were individual, unique complainants (with one complaint split into 2 totalling 16).

The single service complaint was recently received and remains under investigation. The conduct component of this complaint has been deemed by the OIPRD to be not in the public interest to investigate.

Of the 15 officer conduct complaints, 11 were screened out by the OIPRD who deemed them to be not in the public interest to investigate. A further one was screened out by the OIPRD due to a lack of information to proceed. One was resolved informally between the complainant and subject officer. Another was withdrawn by the complainant prior to the OIPRD making a screening decision. One remains under investigation.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology (IT) branch actively develops and deploys solutions for the Owen Sound Police Service, and other police and fire agencies served by the Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre. Along with day-to-day help and support, IT maintains the 911 and administrative phone lines, radios, Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, custom applications and ever evolving data analytics.

OSPS's IT branch was the first agency in Canada to transfer Emergency Incident Data Objects (EIDO) and is leading the Next Generation (NG) 9-1-1 call hosted solution development which will be live in 2024. The IT branch's growing portfolio is responsible for systems covering approximately 500,000 residents in 8 counties across the Province.



YOUTH IN POLICING INITIATIVE (YIPI)

The Owen Sound Police Service's Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) is a program designed to build and strengthen relationships between police and the citizens of Owen Sound. The program, funded by the Ministry of Children and Community Services, provides employment opportunities for youth 13-18 years old. Throughout the year YIPI students develop skills in delivering information on such topics as crime prevention, social media awareness and bike safety as well as supporting local special events and festivals.

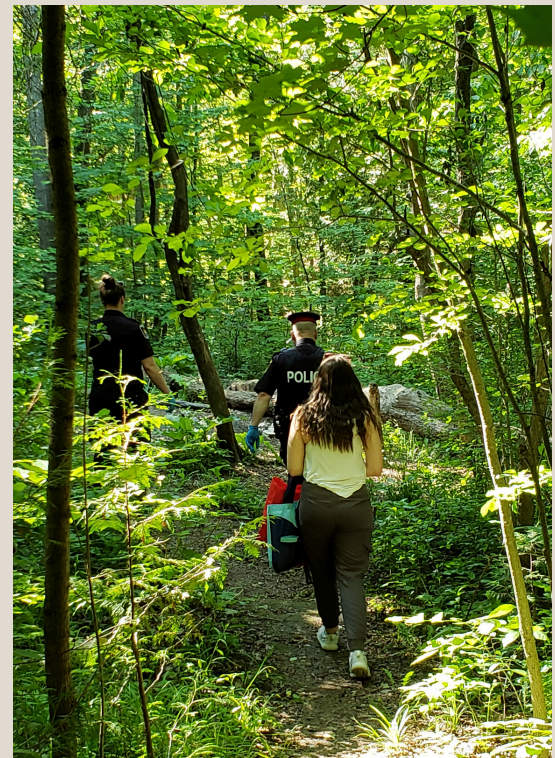


MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM (MHCRT)

The Owen Sound Police Service and Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Grey Bruce enhanced their partnership in 2023 by adding a full-time crisis worker dedicated to the Owen Sound Police Service.

MHCRT is comprised of a plain-clothed police officer and a CMHA crisis worker who respond as a team to calls for service where mental health or addictions concerns are present.

The main goal of MHCRT is to ensure an individual dealing with mental health or addictions is provided with the most timely and best care possible. MHCRT act as advocates for the individual by making referrals to the appropriate community supports. MHCRT also conducts training with OSPS officers. By providing officers with additional knowledge and tools, OSPS officers are able to better recognize possible alternatives to apprehensions under the Mental Health Act.



MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM (MHCRT)



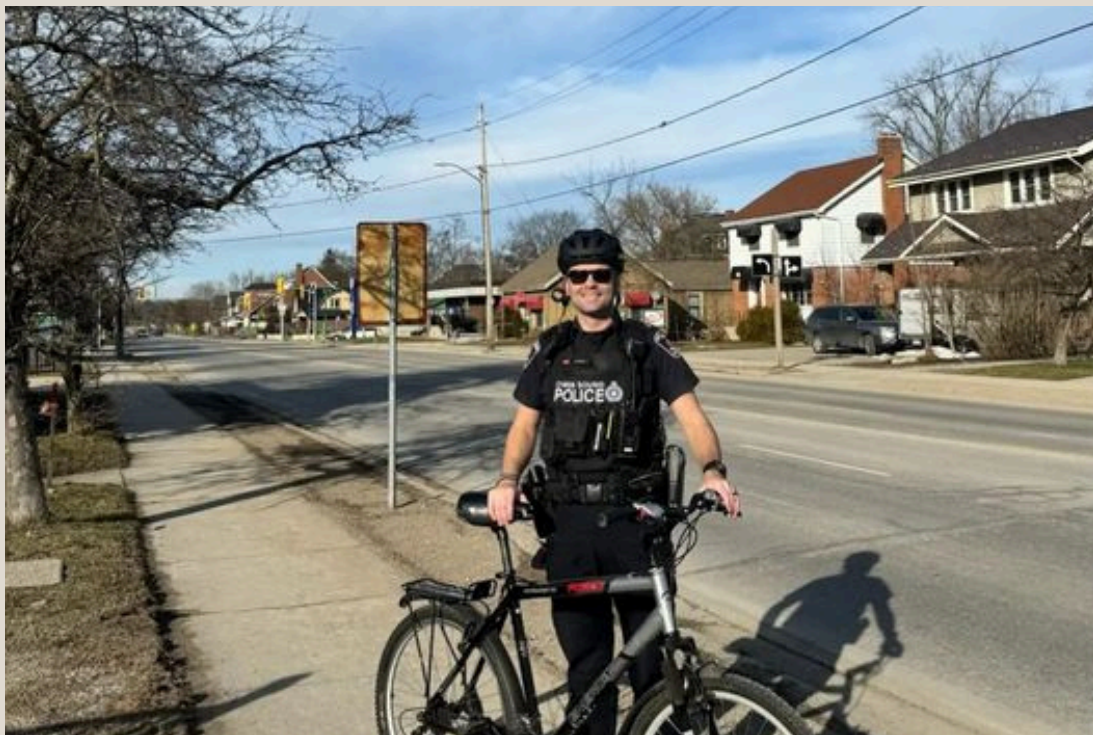
In 2023, OSPS responded to **1,388** mental health related calls for service. During these calls, MHCRT provided support to officers on - scene by providing timely assessments, resources and supports. This immediate MHCRT response led to a 36% decrease in

the number of individuals apprehended under the Mental Health Act compared to 2022.

Placing individuals in timely contact with the appropriate supports alleviates unnecessary admissions to the hospital Emergency Department, provides a better short and long-term support plan and a more dignified outcome for the individual. MHCRT continues to grow “the circle of care” by working closely with other mental health, addictions, housing, poverty and other community organizations striving to provide the best care for those in our community.

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 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 2023 are summarized below.

Aggravated Assault

A male was stabbed multiple times by another male that was known to him, in the 1900 block of 6th Avenue East in May 2023. The male required surgery and was expected to make a full recovery. After a complete investigation, an Owen Sound male was charged with Aggravated Assault, two counts of Assault with a Weapon and Possession of a Weapon for a Dangerous Purpose. The male was convicted in August and remains incarcerated.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Criminal Negligence Causing Death

Police attended the sudden and unexpected death of a 22-month-old child that occurred in a residence in the 400 block of 10th Street West in July 2023.

Detectives became involved as it was believed that the child died as a result of a fentanyl overdose. As a result of the full investigation into the circumstances of the death, Detectives charged the child's parents, an Owen Sound man and woman with Criminal Negligence Causing Death and Failure to Provide the Necessities of Life. The child's cause of death was determined to be fentanyl toxicity. The charges are still before the courts.

Second Degree Murder

In July 2023, a 47-year-old male from Toronto was murdered, with the investigation commencing at a residence in the 500 block of 2nd Avenue East. After a thorough investigation into the circumstances of the death, Detectives charged an Owen Sound man with Second Degree Murder as well as other offences, and an Owen Sound woman was charged with Accessory After the Fact to Murder as well as other offences. Both remain in custody with the charges still being before the courts.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

First Degree Murder

A 17-year-old male from the Greater Toronto Area was murdered, as a result of what Detectives believe to be a targeted shooting, in an apartment complex on 6th Avenue West in July 2023. After an in-depth investigation, males from North York, Brampton and Owen Sound were all charged with First Degree murder. These charges are still before the courts.

Manslaughter

As a result of a serious assault which occurred in the 900 block of 2nd Avenue East, a criminal investigation commenced based on the level of injury. On August 24th the victim died from his injuries and as a result, the active investigation transitioned into a homicide investigation. This complex and comprehensive investigation continues and remains a priority, with investigators being dedicated to this incident.

DRUGS ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE

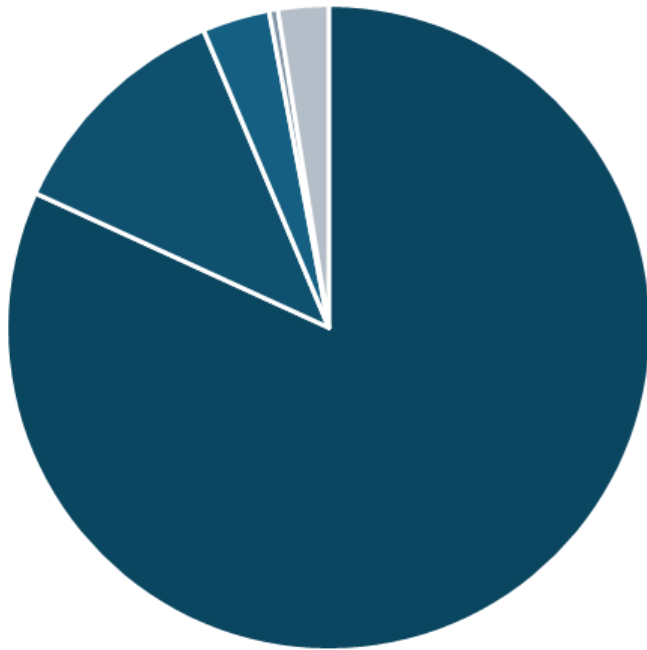
Drug Project Conclusion January/February

Members of the Drug Enforcement and Criminal Intelligence Unit concluded an extensive project, “Project Winter”, which began in 2022 and focused on targeting drug trafficking on the streets of Owen Sound. The project resulted in five individuals from Owen Sound being arrested and charged with a total of 23 drug related offences and \$8000 worth of illegal drugs being seized, including Fentanyl, Methamphetamine and Cocaine.

Joint Force Operation March

In March, the Drug Enforcement and Criminal Intelligence Unit participated in a Joint Forces Investigation with the OPP Street Crime Unit. The investigation resulted in three search warrants being executed: two at Owen Sound residences; as well as one at a residence in Georgian Bluffs. Large quantities of Cocaine and Canadian currency were seized from all three residences and five individuals were charged in relation to Trafficking Cocaine and Possession of Proceeds of Crime.

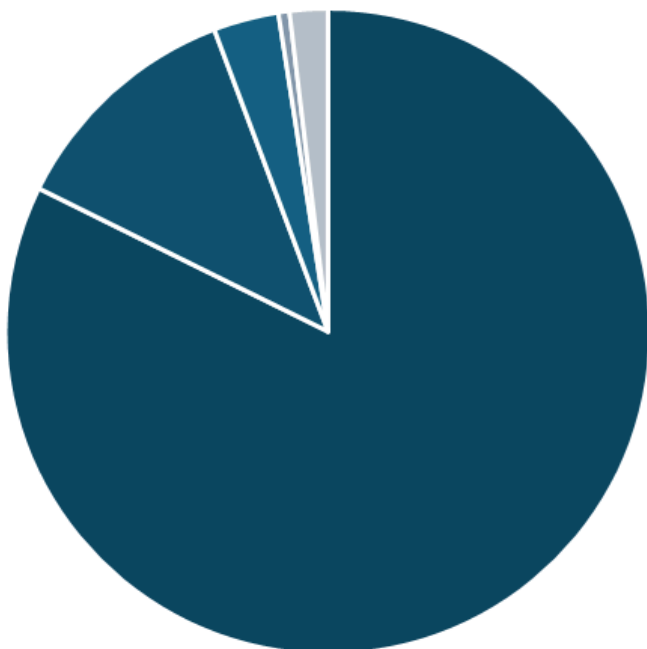
BUDGET BREAKDOWN



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

2023

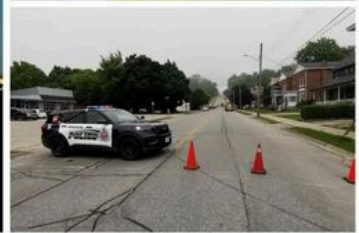
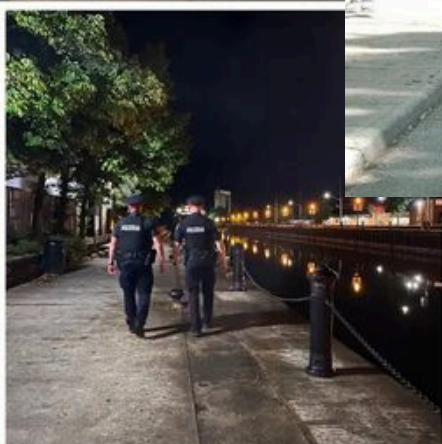
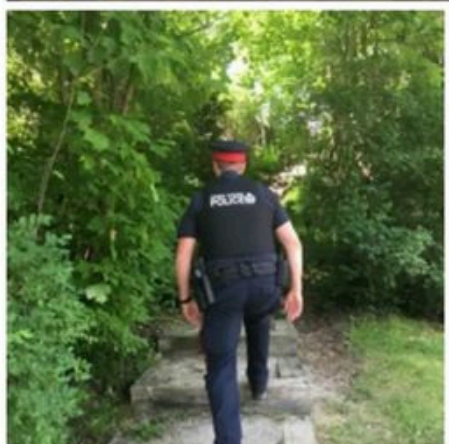
Police Officers - \$6,845,581
Police Civilians - \$988,516
Court Security - \$281,616
Police Services Board - \$37,337
Capital Projects - \$212,000

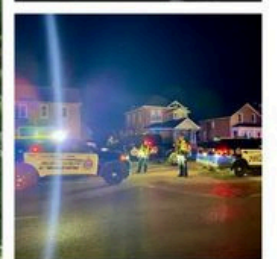
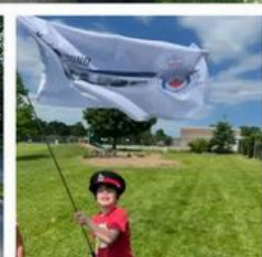
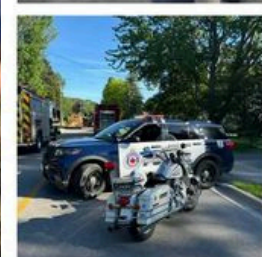
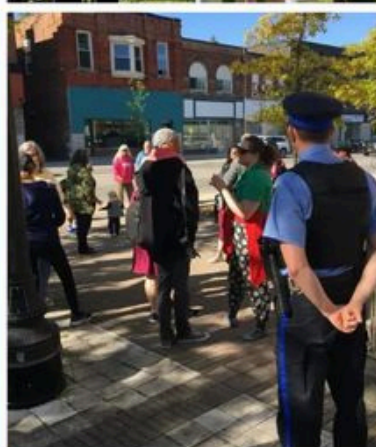


- Police Officers
- Police Civilians
- Court Security
- Police Services Board
- Capital Projects

2022

Police Officers - \$ 6,701,777
Police Civilians - \$973,003
Court Security - \$266,743
Police Services Board - \$44,836
Capital Projects - \$156,000





THANK YOU



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