

Wellington County OPP Detachment Board 2023 Annual Report







Earl Campbell

Wellington County OPP Detachment Board Chair

The Wellington County OPP Detachment Board (WCOPPDB) is a five-member civilian body that oversees the Wellington County OPP. The WCOPPDB annually reviews and approves the operating budget for policing in the County for a population base of over 106,390* residents.

In 2023, the policing costs for the County were \$17.8 million to deliver policing services from three OPP Operations Centres: Aboyne, Teviotdale and Rockwood. Under the administration of the WCOPPDB and OPP Detachment Commander Inspector Stephen Thomas, the detachment has taken steps to adopt leading-edge technology and equipment.

The Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) cruiser captures the license plates of vehicles for violations, including vehicles that have been stolen. Portable weigh scales ensure compliance with Commercial Motor Vehicles on local roadways. Additional enforcement tools and technologies also improve traffic offence/crime detection, investigative capabilities, and enhance public officer safety. Additionally, thanks to investments

in policing by the Government of Ontario, the Wellington County OPP has acquired and is implementing in-car cameras (ICC) with ALPR technology for frontline police vehicles.

Adopting ICC/ALPR technology is a tangible example of the OPP's commitment to accountability, transparency, and professionalism. ICC systems deliver added benefits from a public safety and investigative perspective, particularly in light of the OPP's mandate for policing provincial highways. The speed of data capture for ALPR systems allows for much larger data sets to be submitted and validated than would be possible through a human data entry process. ALPR has proven to be an effective way to leverage technology and increase the efficiency of investigations related to both traffic and criminal offences. It does so by detecting license plates that are linked to occurrences such as: wanted or missing persons, stolen vehicles, stolen and unattached plates, suspended/prohibited drivers, vehicles associated with AMBER Alerts, and other serious occurrences.

The critical partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association of Waterloo Wellington (CMHAWW) has resulted in the Integrated Mobile Police and Crisis Team (IMPACT), which enables police and clinicians to provide immediate crisis response to people in the comfort of their homes and community.

The WCOPPDB is also incredibly grateful for our partnerships with SCWC, VSGW, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and CSGW. These important community partnerships improve public safety by strengthening trust between law enforcement and the diverse communities they serve.

In 2024, Wellington County OPP will continue to focus on impaired and distracted driving, intimate partner violence, crime prevention, fraud, and cyber-crime issues.

As Wellington County OPP Detachment Board Chair, I am proud of the work of our officers, civilian members and auxiliary members do in our communities. These officers put their lives on the line every day to ensure that the County remains a safe and secure community to live, work and visit.

*Numbers based on the 2016 Census and new residential permits.





Stephen Thomas

Wellington County OPP Detachment Commander

The OPP has a strong Strategic Plan which supports our vision of Safe Communities... Secure Ontario. The OPP Strategic Plan enhances our commitment to public safety through the delivery of proactive and innovative policing, in partnership with the communities we serve. The vision, mission, and values of the OPP align to key priorities expected by County of Wellington residents.

We will continue to focus on prevention, harm reduction, and risk intervention strategies to improve the overall well-being of our communities.

Throughout 2023, we were committed to enhancing our current partnerships while seeking new and innovative relationships. We continue to work with external partners and programmes such as the Integrated Mobile Police and Crisis Team (IMPACT), Guelph Wellington Crime Stoppers, Victim Services Guelph Wellington (VSGW), Canadian Mental Health Association of Waterloo Wellington (CMHAWW), Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy (WDGS), local Youth Hubs, Wellington Health Care

Alliance, and Safe Communities Wellington County (SCWC) to enhance community safety and well-being. We also work with internal resources within the OPP including: the Digital Forensics Unit, Child Sexual Exploitation Unit, Aviation Unit, Provincial Liaison Team, Provincial Asset Forfeiture Unit, Criminal Investigations Bureau, and our local volunteer Auxiliary OPP officers. These units, partners and programmes help us to deliver a tailored and responsive service to meet the needs of our community. We are stronger together.

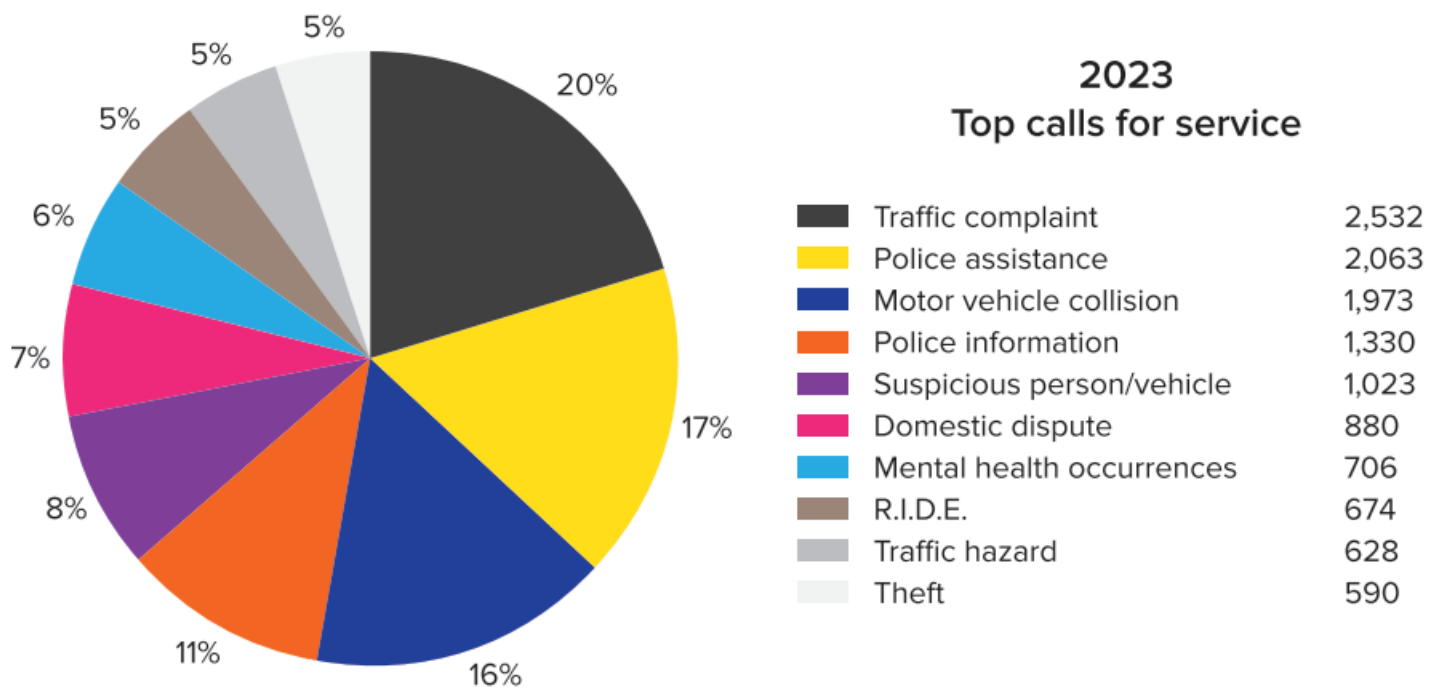
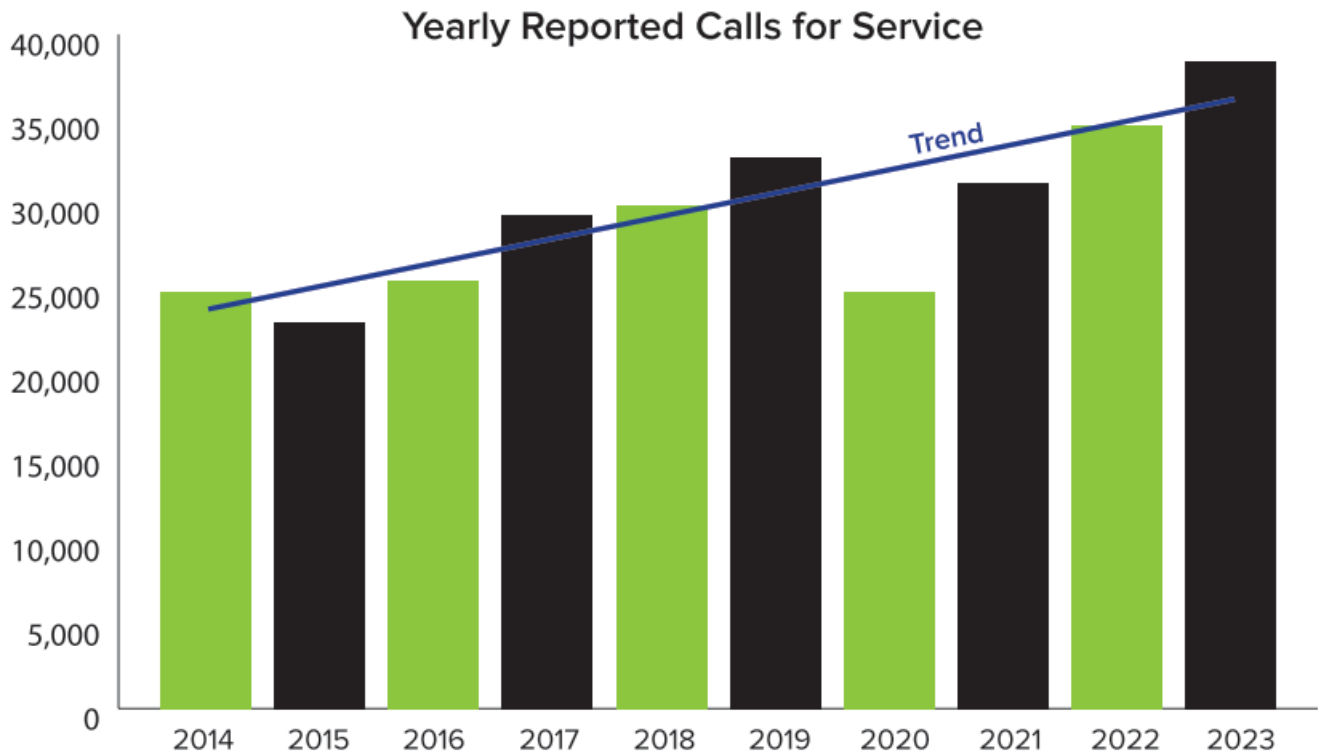
As a collaborative and progressive OPP, we continued to support the priorities of SCWC's Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWB).

This includes the creation of the OPP Youth Advisory Committee, which aims to engage residents of the County aged 14 - 20, and provides an opportunity to have their voices heard by creating a lasting impact. Our youth provide valuable insight, priority and direction on issues such as youth crime, victimization, cyber-bullying and online safety.

The Wellington County OPP is committed to supporting our work, our people and our communities. The County of Wellington Traffic Management Unit (TMU) continues to provide specialized Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) expertise. The TMU continues to prioritize enforcement activities based on analytics. Our officers ensure that our presence, education and enforcement efforts address unacceptable driving behaviours. You will see our TMU, Community Response Unit, and front-line officers everywhere in the County - including on bikes, foot patrol, boats, ATVs, and snowmobiles.

Our priorities in the County of Wellington are vision-focused, mission-driven and values-based. We are successful because of our collaborative partnerships.

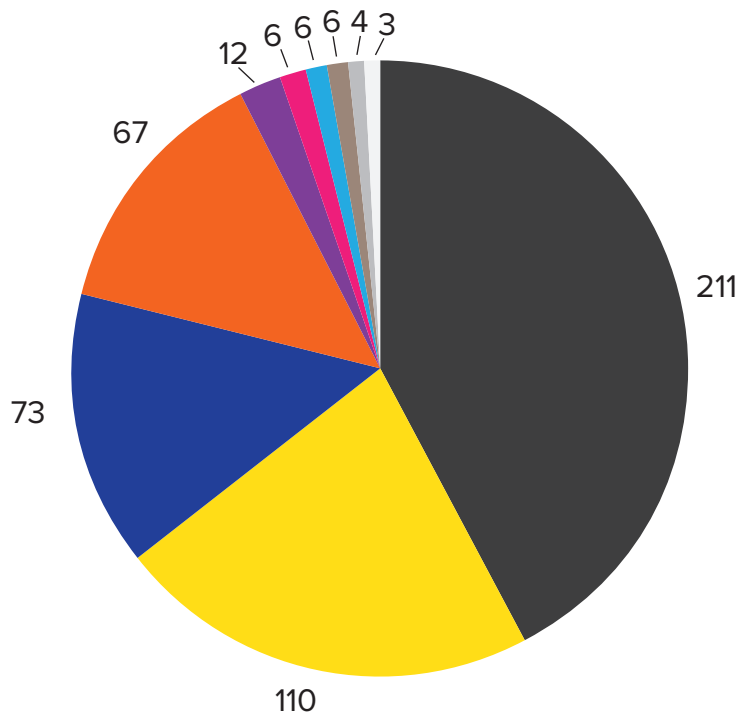
By protecting our citizens, upholding the law, and preserving public safety, we continue to deliver effective and quality professional policing services to the residents of the County of Wellington.





2023 Top Violent Crime Occurrences

Assault	211
Threats	110
Sexual Assault	73
Criminal Harassment	67
Other Violent Crimes	12
Abduction/Confinement	6
Firearms Offence	6
Assault Police Officer	6
Robbery	4
Extortion/Intimidation	3

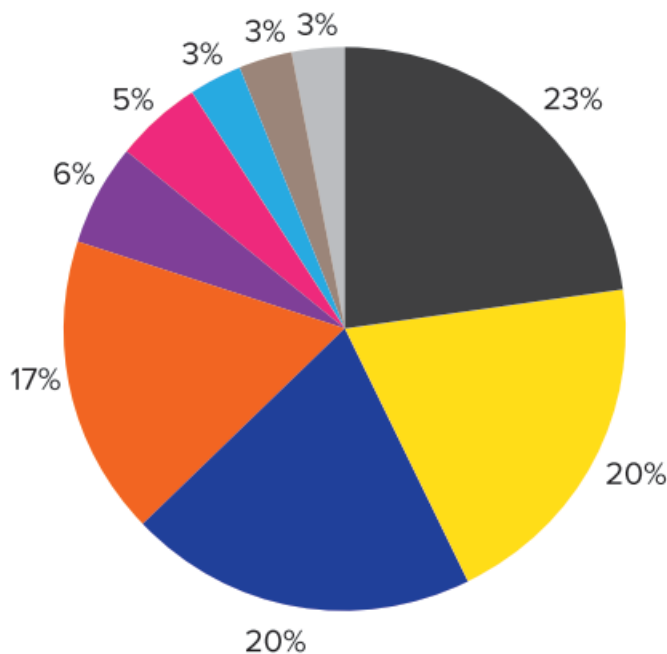




HELP KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE BY:

- ✓ Being aware of suspicious people or vehicles
- ✓ Report suspicious people or vehicles to OPP at
1.888.310.1122
- ✓ Anonymously provide information regarding
property crimes to Crime Stoppers at
1.888.222.8477 (TIPS)
<https://crimestoppersguelphwellington.com>





2023 Top Drug Crime Occurrences

Trafficking Cocaine	8
Possession - Crystal Meth	7
Possession Other Drugs	7
Possession Cocaine	6
Trafficking Crystal Meth	2
Possession - Opioid (other than cultivate, propagate or harvest)	1
Possession of Cannabis (for Distribution)	1
Possession Cannabis (over 30g adult)	1
Other	1



The WGDS uses four key areas of focus to help reduce the impacts and harm that can occur from substance use. Under the Drug Strategy model, each area of focus is called a pillar. The pillars are: prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery, and community safety. The Wellington County OPP, along with the Guelph Police Service in the City of Guelph, are essential community safety partners for the Drug Strategy. They are the backbone of the community safety pillar. They support the work of the Drug Strategy by partnering with it to host community events and by having staff participate in project-based work.

The Wellington County OPP provides essential data regarding drug seizures and substance-related arrests in the County. This information informs the community about drug trends, safety concerns, the presence of new street substances and so on – which in turn helps to guide the work of the WGDS.

The Wellington County OPP has also had a long history of community engagement which far exceeds its core mandate to provide police services. In the County of Wellington, the OPP has partnered with the WGDS historically to provide the Strengthening Families for the Future programme. In 2018, this programme was successful in receiving core funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, which means that it will continue to be offered on an ongoing basis under the administration of CMHAWW. In addition, the Wellington County OPP has championed and guided five Safe Communities Wellington County Committees. Through these Committees, the WGDS has been able to work with organizations and people throughout the County to provide educational sessions, information about substances, and advocacy to improve service programming for rural residents.

The WGDS thanks the Wellington County OPP for their ongoing work to improve the safety of the lives of all the residents of the County.



Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington (CSGW) has served the County of Wellington and City of Guelph since 1988. Its impact in the community is notable. In 2023 more than \$1.3 million in drugs, personal property and cash was recovered by investigative partners who actioned CSGW Tips. The programme offers an anonymous and confidential method of reporting crime. CSGW cannot do what they do without the support of brave Tipsters who want to keep their community safe.

CSGW is not a police agency, but rather a community-based organization that relies on volunteer participation. Anyone can provide information that can solve a crime by calling 1.800.222.TIPS or digitally at www.csgw.tips. Information leading to an arrest may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$2,000. Due to the cash reward component, fundraising is ongoing with several events scheduled each year.

CSGW takes an active role in crime prevention and crime trend awareness through presentations such as Crime Stoppers 101, Senior Crime Stoppers, Fraud Talk, No Room for Hate, Educate Parents and Children Together (EPACT) 5 Tips, 5 Ideas, 5 Signs (cyber safety and human trafficking awareness), to name a few. Book your CSGW presentation by going to www.csgw.tips and Contact Us.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the governance of the programme and is instrumental in fundraising to ensure CSGW can function and pay out Tipster rewards. The Board is currently taking applications for new members to fulfill its mandate.

To bring your skills to the table and work with a fun, diverse group of people for an award-winning programme, go to www.csgw.tips and Support Us to complete your application.

Follow CSGW on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn.



The vision of SCWC is to make the County of Wellington, the safest and healthiest place in which to live, learn, work and thrive in Canada. 2023 strongly highlighted the promotion of safe and healthy behaviours that protect residents from harm.

Safe Communities Day for Grade 5 students - held virtually since 2019 - was a success: approximately 650 students participated from both the Upper Grand District School Board and Wellington Catholic District School Board.

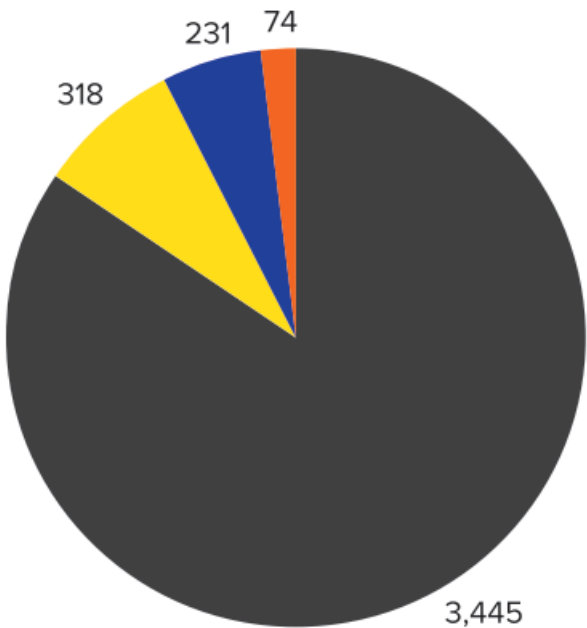
The continued success of our #take10wellington campaign, emphasizing the crucial practice of dedicating just 10 extra minutes to prevent injuries, has empowered individuals to adopt proactive measures, fostering a safer and healthier community.

National Teen Driver Safety Week focused on impaired, aggressive and distracted driving. And included a variety of important conversations with students from Centre Wellington District High School, Erin District Secondary School and Wellington Heights Secondary School.

Also, in partnership with the Wellington County OPP, we brought back the Positive Ticketing Blitz, a productive campaign stressing the importance of good driving behaviours. A special thank you to Guelph/Eramosa Safe Communities, Mapleton Safe Communities, Minto Safe Communities, and Puslinch Safe Communities for their impact on preventing injuries across their communities in 2023.

SCWC also turned to their current County-wide partners to positively influence their injury priorities – Motor Vehicle Collisions (On/Off Road), Falls, Intentional Self-Harm, Accidental Poisonings, Pedestrians and Cyclists, Sports and Recreation, and Agricultural Machinery and Tools.

2023
Big 4 Traffic Offences



Speeding offences	3,445
Seatbelt offences	318
Impaired driving	231
Distracted driving	74

6831
Number of
Highway
Traffic Act
Charges

Collisions Resulting
in fatalities

18
Collisions

19
Fatalities

Contact Christine Veit, Programme Coordinator, SCWC, at 226.820.1413 if you are interested in learning more about what SCWC is doing to prevent injuries across the County of Wellington, and how you can join to make an impact on your community.



MADD Canada is proud to partner with the Wellington County OPP, who we thank for their ongoing support of our mission: **to stop impaired driving and to support victims of this violent crime.**

Did you know that impaired driving is one of the leading causes of death/injury in Canada?

Each year, hundreds of Canadians are killed and thousands injured and yet, every impaired driving crash is 100% preventable.

Campaign 911 is a Canada-wide campaign to encourage and empower the Canadian public to report suspected impaired driving by calling 911.

By calling 911 and reporting suspected impaired drivers to police, all Canadians can play a role in keeping our roads, waterways and trails safe.

Jointly, programmes like Campaign 911 help keep our roads, waterways and trails as safe as possible, while helping to help reduce impaired driving crashes, deaths and injuries.



Sadly, our work in the fight against impaired driving is far from over. We are looking for leadership volunteers/board members to help us raise awareness, fundraise and form a local Chapter in Wellington County once again.

If you are interested in joining us and/or want to make a difference another way, please contact

Renata Cvitkovic,
Regional Manager, Ontario:

T. 1.800.665.6233 X 243

rcvitkovic@madd.ca

www.madd.ca



2023 was a year of continued growth for the IMPACT collaboration, which began in 2015. The programme, a partnership between Wellington County OPP and the CMHAWW, is comprised of CMHAWW clinicians working alongside uniformed OPP officers to assist, in real-time, with calls involving those in crisis. IMPACT has received province-wide recognition and interest.

Locally, clinicians attended a total of 357 live calls and served another 788 requests for service that in total served to support 623 individuals. The IMPACT's critical work helped several individuals avoid trips to emergency department, which resulted in the reallocation of health, paramedic, and police services to address other important tasks.



Help to support emergency services by becoming a volunteer with VSGW. Unfortunately, anyone can become a victim.

It is in the hours following a traumatic event that victims need compassion, support and assistance the most. Whether an accident has occurred, a crime was committed, or a loss has been suffered, VSGW is available to support victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

As a non-profit organization established in 1997, VSGW has partnered with the Wellington County OPP to deliver person-centered and trauma-informed support to victims.

Over these 27 years of working together, much has changed. We now have a full-time staff member, Lauren Hotchkiss, working in the North Wellington Detachment. Since 2020, the number of referrals VSGW receives from Wellington OPP has increased by almost 120%, including over 350 referrals in the year 2023-2024. This significant increase in referral volume means that we also need to increase our number of volunteers.

VSGW volunteers are trained extensively to help meet the short-term needs of victims. Training topics include: crisis intervention, grief and bereavement, Intimate Partner Violence, and Human Trafficking, to name only a few. We bring a knowledgeable and reassuring presence to what can be a highly emotional, stressful, and overwhelming circumstance.

For more information on our volunteer opportunities, contact Lauren at 519.546.5691 or visit www.vswguelph.on.ca.



Project Lifesaver Guelph-Wellington is dedicated to assisting with and responding to the challenges that caregivers have of finding wandering loved ones who

suffer from Alzheimer's, Autism or other forms of cognitive impairment.

Participants in the programme wear a bracelet with a battery-operated wrist transmitter. This life-saving bracelet emits a unique radio frequency signal every second, twenty-four hours a day.

When a caregiver notifies the Wellington County OPP or the Guelph Police Service that a client has gone missing, specially trained police officers use portable directional receivers to search for and locate the missing person.

Project Lifesaver Guelph-Wellington is not a replacement for the attention and supervision of caregivers, but is a valuable tool that can be utilized to save lives and reduce the enormous expenses generated by long and arduous searches.

For additional information on Project Lifesaver, please contact Victim Services Guelph-Wellington at 519.824.1212 X 7304.





**Centre Wellington
Operations Centre (Fergus)
Detachment**

371 Charles Allan Way
Fergus, Ontario
N1M 2W3
T. 519.846.5930
F. 519.846.5460



**North Wellington
Operations Centre (Teviotdale)
Detachment**

6725 Wellington County Road 109
R.R.#1, Box 729
Palmerston, Ontario
N0G 2P0
T. 519.343.5770
F. 519.343.5780



**South Wellington
Operations Centre (Rockwood)
Detachment**

5145 Wellington Road 27
Rockwood, Ontario
N0B 2K0
T. 519.856.1506
F. 519.856.2372



1 844 437 3247
(HERE247)

Call anytime to access
Addictions, Mental Health
& Crisis Services
Waterloo-Wellington

For over ten years, Here 24/7 has guided our community in navigating the mental health and addictions systems; providing intake, crisis intervention, addictions/mental health assessments, and brief support functions.

The CMHAWW is the lead agency for Here 24/7, working with 11 partner agencies across Waterloo Wellington on referrals, waitlists and appointment booking for local mental health/addictions programmes for children, adults, and seniors.


Here 24/7 is also the local crisis telephone hotline and mobile crisis service. If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis, Here 24/7 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Not sure what you need? Call 1.844.437.3247
or visit www.here247.ca for support.




Important Links

Regional news and information


 X (Formerly TWITTER):
[@OPP_W11R](https://twitter.com/OPP_W11R)


Regional traffic and alerts

 X (Formerly TWITTER):
[@OPP_COMM_WR](https://twitter.com/OPP_COMM_WR)

Other links

www.opp.ca

 **Facebook**
[@OPPWest](https://facebook.com/OPPWest)

 **Instagram**
[@OPP_west](https://instagram.com/OPP_west)

For emergency assistance DIAL 911

**Non-emergency calls
for service** 24 hour toll free,
anywhere in Ontario
1.888.310.1122
1.888.310.1133 (TTY)

Criminal Record Checks
www.opp.ca/crc

Online Reporting
www.opp.ca/reporting

Collision Reporting Centre
www.opp.ca/collision

Careers
www.opp.ca/careers

Alternative formats
available upon request.

