



ANNUAL REPORT

OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE

2025



Land Acknowledgment

The Owen Sound Police Service acknowledges that we are on the traditional lands of the First Nations that 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

John Thomson

On behalf of the Owen Sound Police Service Board, I am proud to present our Annual Report for 2025. This report serves as a reflection on a year marked by significant legislative transition, proactive governance, and an unyielding commitment to the safety and security of the City of Owen Sound.

Navigating Legislative & Governance Milestones

The year 2025 represented a landmark period of modernization for our board. Following the provincial enactment of the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA), the Board worked diligently to update and align our governance policies, ensuring our oversight framework remains transparent, modern, and legally robust.

Additionally, as part of our strategic focus on institutional efficiency and forward planning, the Board moved forward in 2025 with the creation of a new Facilities Review Committee to proactively address the future infrastructure needs of our service.

Addressing Core Community Priorities

Throughout 2025, the Board has been responding to the feedback and concerns of our residents and business owners. We recognize the ongoing challenges faced by our downtown core, particularly within the River District, regarding perceptions of safety, the impacts of homelessness, and social vulnerabilities. In response, the Board has actively supported Chief Craig Ambrose and his leadership team in sustaining targeted downtown engagement, reinforcing communication with local shopkeepers, and working closely with our community partners.

Evolving Our Service Model

Public safety models must naturally evolve to meet modern demands. In November 2025, after years of valuable contribution, the Community Oriented Policing (COP) volunteer unit was formally retired. We extend our deepest gratitude to the volunteers who dedicated their time to this unit over the years. Simultaneously, unexpected provincial directives regarding court security have required us to pivot operationally. The Board has supported management to integrate enhanced armed court security personnel planning into our fiscal strategy to ensure our court facilities remain secure without significantly compromising front-line deployment.



John Thomson
Board Chair



Mary Dickson
Provincial Appointee



Marion Koepke
Council Member Appointee



Carol Merton
Council Member Appointee



Brian O'Leary
Provincial Appointee



Kayla Wardell
Executive Assistant



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

John Thomson

Gratitude and Appreciation

Our progress would not be possible without the exceptional leadership of Chief Craig Ambrose, Deputy Chief Dave Bishop, and the senior management team. To our sworn officers, civilian staff, dispatch communicators and dedicated auxiliary members: thank you for your professionalism, resilience, and unwavering dedication to protecting Owen Sound every single day.

I would also like to thank fellow board members for their support throughout the year.

Finally, thank you to the citizens of Owen Sound. Community safety is a shared responsibility, and your ongoing collaboration and trust remain our greatest assets.

Sincerely,
John Thomson
Chair, Owen Sound Police Services Board



John Thomson
Board Chair



Mary Dickson
Provincial Appointee



Marion Koepke
Council Member Appointee



Carol Merton
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Brian O’Leary
Provincial Appointee



Kayla Wardell
Executive Assistant



MESSAGE FROM **THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

Craig Ambrose

It is my privilege to present the 2025 Annual Report for the Owen Sound Police Service. At the heart of our work is a strong commitment to the people we serve, and this report reflects the partnerships, trust, and shared responsibility that help keep our community safe.

Policing in Owen Sound continues to evolve, with increasing calls related to mental health, substance use, and community wellbeing. These challenges remind us that public safety is not achieved alone. Through collaboration with local organizations, community groups, and residents, we continue to build meaningful connections and provide support to those who need it most.

I can't say enough about the dedication of the police and civilian professionals who serve our community. Our members serve with compassion and remain dedicated to being visible, engaged, and responsive. Whether through community events, proactive patrols, youth programs, or traffic safety initiatives, we are focused on prevention, education, and building positive relationships across our city.

We are also proud to support programs that invest in our future, including initiatives that connect with youth and encourage community involvement. These efforts help foster understanding, trust, and a sense of shared responsibility for safety and wellbeing.

I would like to sincerely thank our sworn and civilian members, and auxiliary volunteers for their ongoing dedication and professionalism. I also extend my appreciation to the Police Services Board and, most importantly, to the community of Owen Sound for your continued trust, support, and partnership.

Together, we will continue to build a safe, inclusive, and connected community.





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*

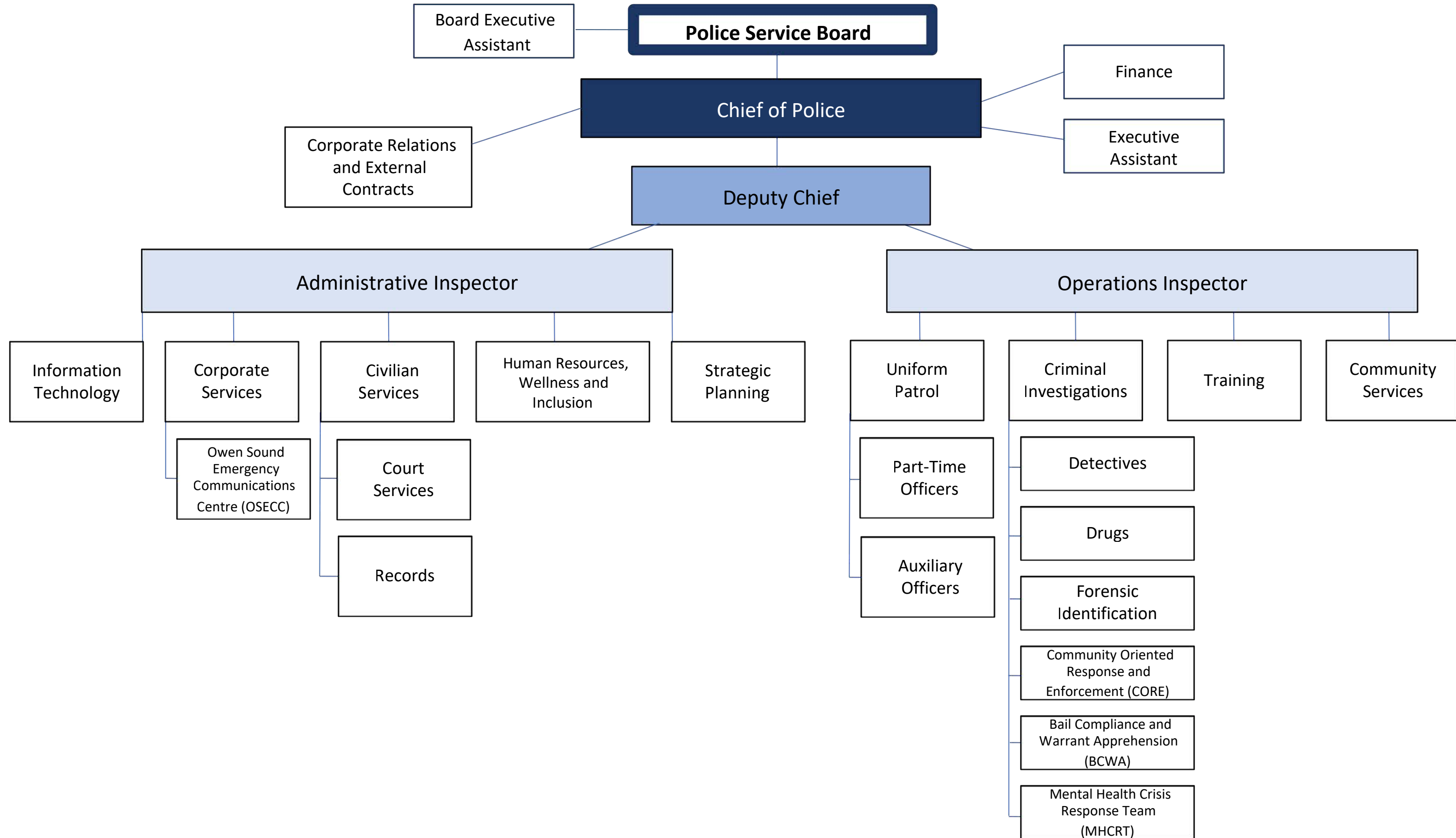
LEADERSHIP – *By motivating and inspiring a vision for the future*

TEAMWORK – *By empowering the contributions and opinions of others*

INNOVATION – *By encouraging progressive ideas and solutions*



Owen Sound Police Service – Organizational Chart



Promotions



Deputy Chief Dave Bishop

In September 2025, the Owen Sound Police Service Board announced that Dave Bishop would assume the new role of Deputy Chief. Dave joined the OSPS as an Inspector in 2019 and brings a total of nearly 39 years of experience to the team, having served in a wide range of roles over his policing career. Thank you Dave for your continued commitment to public safety and professional excellence.



Inspector Craig Matheson

Inspector Craig Matheson began his policing career in 2002 with the Owen Sound Police Service. Over the course of more than two decades, Inspector Matheson has developed extensive experience across a variety of roles, demonstrating strong leadership and a commitment to community safety. His dedication and professionalism have contributed significantly to the Service and the community it serves.

Sergeant Nick Houston

Sergeant N. Houston joined the Owen Sound Police Service in 2011 after first serving as an Auxiliary member beginning in 2007. Through years of dedicated service, Sergeant Houston has demonstrated commitment, reliability, and professionalism in a variety of assignments. Nick's progression reflects a strong work ethic and ongoing dedication to public safety and community engagement.

Sergeant Glenn Tremblay

Sergeant G. Tremblay began his policing career as an Auxiliary member in 2009 before being sworn in as a Constable in 2013 with the Owen Sound Police Service. Through years of dedicated service, Sergeant Tremblay has built a strong foundation of experience across a variety of roles, demonstrating professionalism, commitment, and leadership. Glenn's continued contributions reflect a dedication to public safety and to serving the community with excellence.

Sergeant Mike Holovaci

Sergeant M. Holovaci joined the Owen Sound Police Service in 2002, bringing prior policing experience with the LaSalle Police Service, where service began in 1998. With a long and distinguished career in policing, Sergeant Holovaci has contributed a wealth of knowledge and experience. Mike's commitment to excellence and leadership has been a valuable asset to the Service and the community.

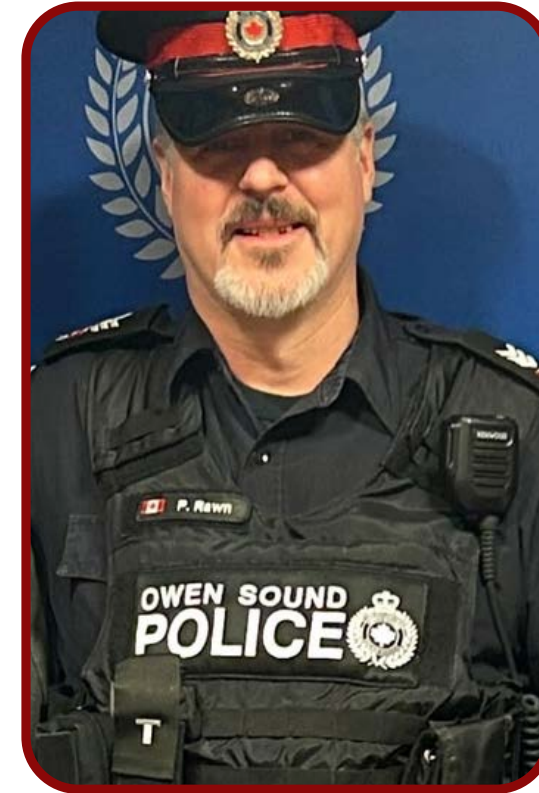


Retirements



Inspector Jeff Fluney

Congratulations to Inspector Jeff Fluney on his retirement following a distinguished 30-year career with the Owen Sound Police Service. Known for his dedication, leadership, and commitment to protecting the community, he has made a lasting impact on both the Service and the City of Owen Sound.



Sergeant Patrick Rawn

Sergeant Pat Rawn retired from the Owen Sound Police Service following a dedicated 30-year career. Throughout his service, Sergeant Rawn demonstrated professionalism, commitment, and a strong dedication to serving the community.



Sergeant Brent Baker

Sergeant Brent Baker concluded a 30-year career with the Owen Sound Police Service in 2025. Over the course of his service, he made valued contributions to the organization and demonstrated a strong commitment to the community.



Dispatcher Jeannie Kozan

After 35 years of dedicated service, Jeannie retired as one of the most respected voices behind the headset. Known as the calm behind the call, she supported both the community and emergency responders with professionalism and care.



POLICE RECRUITS



Constable Matthias Hubmann



Constable Harjot Singh



Constable Reid Kinal



Constable Rebecca Geates



Constable Dawson DeJeu

Constable Meghan Souliere

Constable Jordan Dlouhy



Sergeant Josh Gurney Awarded Ontario Medal For Police Bravery



Sergeant Josh Gurney was awarded the Ontario Medal for Police Bravery, one of the province's highest honours for law enforcement. The award was in recognition of Sgt. Gurney's exceptional courage and professionalism during a high-risk incident on September 24, 2023, when he responded to a dangerous call involving two stabbing victims and armed suspects. His swift and strategic actions ensured the safe arrest of both suspects and expedited medical care for the victims. Sgt. Gurney placed himself between a suspect and civilian witnesses, prioritizing their safety while using tactical communication and spatial control to avoid the use of deadly force. His situational awareness enabled a successful transition to non-lethal means to subdue the suspect. Immediately after, he identified that a second suspect remained at large and took initiative to locate and arrest that individual, preventing further harm. These actions exemplify the highest standards of policing and reflect Sgt. Gurney's commitment to public safety. The Ontario Medal for Police Bravery recognizes police officers for individual acts of outstanding courage.



2023-2026 Operations Plan – Year Three Progress



Owen Sound Police Service 2023-2026 Operations Plan



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.

As part of our commitment to achieving these goals, each action has a designated Position and Person Accountable who was selected to lead, coordinate, and take ownership of moving the action forward, and update on progress every six months.

2025 marks the end of the third year of the OSPS 2023-2026 Operations Plan. At this point in time, one (1) action has not yet started; fourteen (14) actions are in progress; and thirty-five (35) or 70% of actions are considered completed. Actions were designated “Completed” if they are ongoing, continuous initiatives that are now solidified into regular OSPS business practice.

Some highlights of “Completed” actions are:

- Improving police visibility in the River District and at other priority areas continues as part of regular foot and bicycle patrols (**CS2a**), and by attending and/or hosting community events (**CS2c**).
- Improving collaboration with social service providers by educating on roles, responsibilities, and authorities of police and social service providers involved with mental health, addictions, and homelessness (**CW1a**).
- Leveraging available social services/resources by reviewing follow-up with victims of crime (**CW2a**).
- To improve members’ mental and physical wellbeing, OSPS hosts and supports social events for OSPS members and their families each year (**OM1c**).
- A long-term staffing recruitment and retention plan is now fully operational to promote and plan for long term succession (**S1a**).
- Finding efficiencies in ways of doing business throughout the organization is now part of ongoing business practices (**S3c**) with an Efficiency Committee meeting regularly.

Some highlights of “In Progress” actions are:

- To help address controlled substances, firearms, and violent crime, the Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension (BCWA) team integrates repeat-offender targeting into routine enforcement operations (**CS3b**).
- Improving internal communication by maintaining and providing access to common information resources (**OM3a**), and by identifying best practices for different types of internal communications (**OM3b**) will be completed in year four as M365 Sharepoint is implemented.
- Undertaking a comprehensive service delivery model review by reviewing call type response methods to police calls for service (**S3a**) and by reviewing alternative response methods to non-police calls for service (**S3b**) is planned to be initiated in fall 2026.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Community Safety

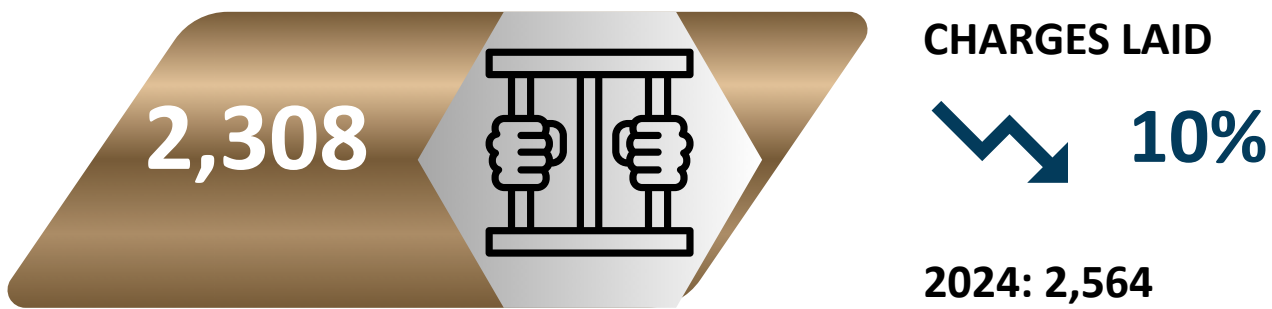
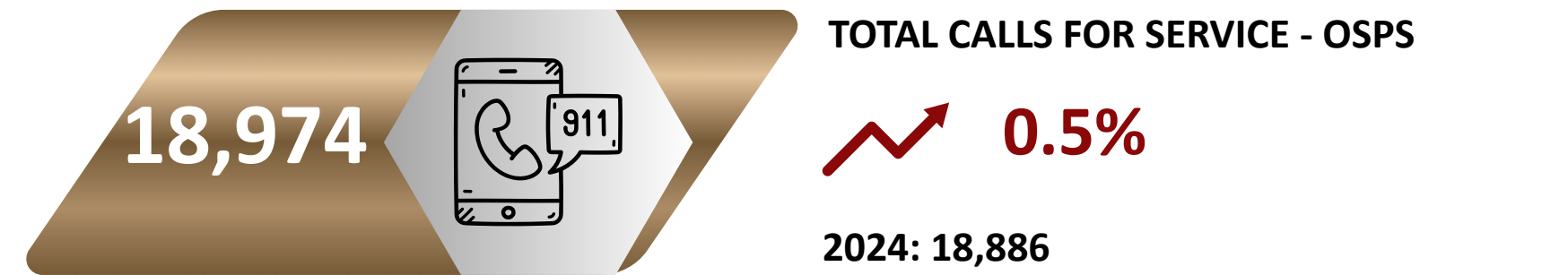
Community Wellbeing

Our Members

Sustainability



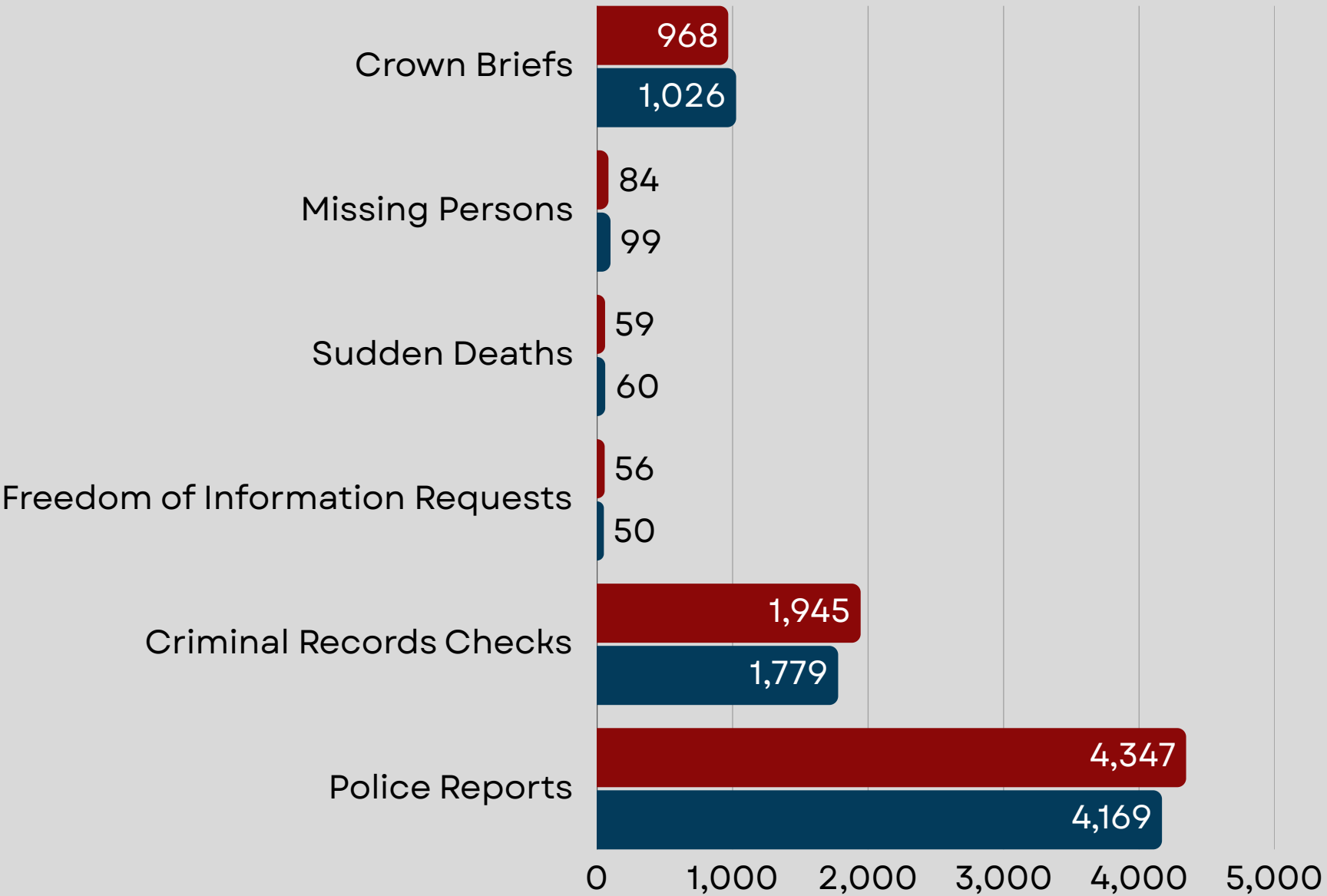
2025 IN NUMBERS



2025 IN NUMBERS

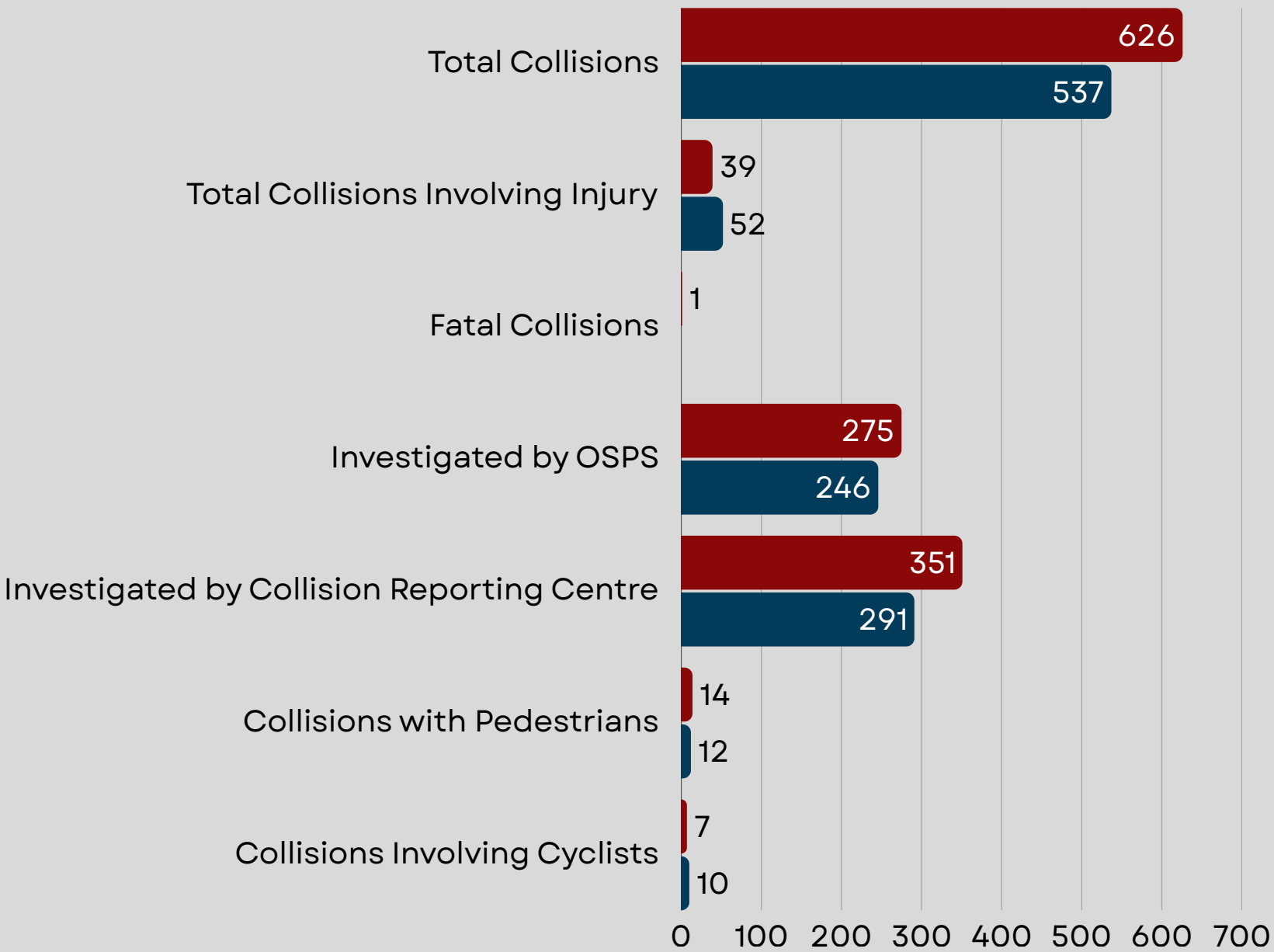
Reports

2025 2024



Collisions

2025 2024



DRUG ENFORCEMENT

Like many Ontario municipalities, Owen Sound experiences a number of socio-economic challenges such as homelessness, food insecurity, and substance misuse, and we continue to see increases in calls for service relating to these issues.

In August of 2020, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC), who are responsible for prosecutions under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA), issued a guideline document to their prosecutors restricting the prosecution of possession of controlled substances to what the PPSC deemed “the most serious manifestations” of the offence. The net result of this direction has been that, although possession of controlled substances remains an offence under the CDSA, very few charges are advanced through court.

The Owen Sound Police Service understands that many of these issues are complex and often intertwined with other underlying conditions such as medical and mental health disorders. The Service also recognizes and respects the perceived safety concerns of the community with respect to increased public drug use. The Service supports the four pillar drug strategy approach, and will continue to aggressively enforce the law related to trafficking in controlled substances. In cases of open public consumption of controlled substances, the Service continues to utilize a measured approach which may include referrals to support agencies, warnings, and also arrest, seizure of evidence, and charges where appropriate.



DRUG ENFORCEMENT

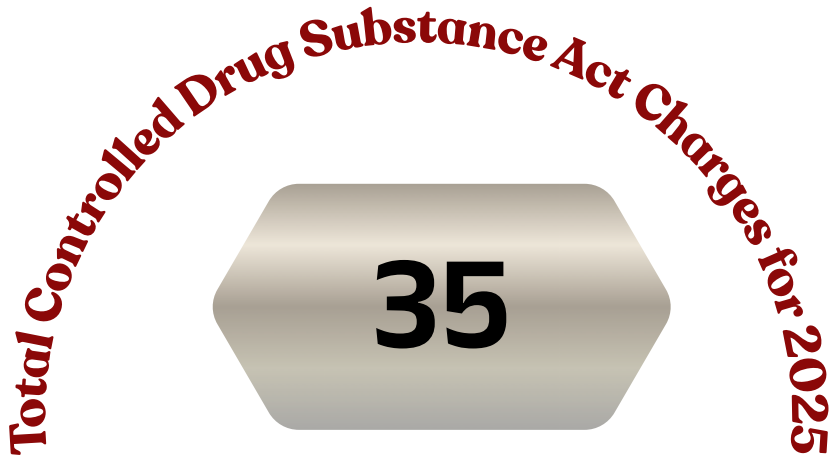
In 2025, the Owen Sound Police Service continued to focus its enforcement efforts on individuals responsible for trafficking illicit drugs within our community. While possession-related prosecutions remain limited due to federal prosecution directives, the Service remains committed to disrupting the supply of dangerous substances and holding drug traffickers accountable.

Several significant investigations conducted by the Owen Sound Police Service, often in partnership with neighbouring policing agencies, resulted in the seizure of substantial quantities of fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, oxycodone, and other controlled substances. These investigations also led to the seizure of firearms, cash proceeds of crime, and trafficking paraphernalia, significantly disrupting the local drug trade.

In April 2025, members of the Owen Sound Police Service Criminal Investigations Branch executed a search warrant following a violent incident. Police seized approximately 800 grams of cocaine, fentanyl equivalent to approximately 860 individual doses, and more than \$30,000 in Canadian currency. The estimated street value of the seized drugs exceeded \$97,000, and multiple trafficking-related charges were laid.

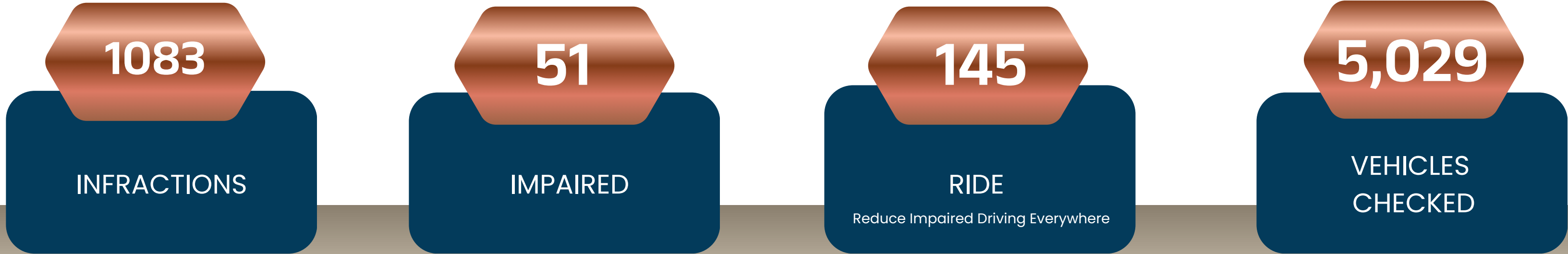
Also in April 2025, the Owen Sound Police Service partnered with the Ontario Provincial Police and Grey Bruce Community Street Crime Unit on "Project Backboard," a regional drug trafficking investigation. The operation resulted in the seizure of approximately \$100,000 worth of illicit drugs, including cocaine, crack cocaine, fentanyl, oxycodone, and MDMA. Investigators also seized a loaded handgun, cash, and drug trafficking equipment. Multiple individuals were charged with drug trafficking and firearms offences. Police estimated that the fentanyl seized alone represented approximately 850 individual doses removed from the community.

The Service also continued to address concerns related to open public drug consumption in the downtown core through targeted enforcement initiatives. These operations resulted in numerous arrests, the seizure of fentanyl and methamphetamine, and referrals to community support services where appropriate. The Service remains committed to balancing enforcement with harm reduction, treatment, prevention, and community safety.



ROAD SAFETY

Ensuring the safety of our roadways remains a key priority. Through proactive enforcement, education, and targeted initiatives, officers work to reduce collisions, prevent injuries, and promote responsible driving behaviours. The following data highlights enforcement activity related to traffic infractions, impaired driving, and RIDE programs.



Traffic Infractions

Violations of provincial traffic laws, such as speeding, careless driving, and distracted driving. Totals represent all tickets and charges issued during the reporting period.

Impaired Driving

Offences involving operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Totals include all related charges laid during the reporting period.

RIDE Programs

Police roadside checks conducted to detect and deter impaired driving. Totals reflect enforcement activity during scheduled RIDE initiatives.

Vehicles Checked

Total number of vehicles stopped and checked during RIDE programs. These checks are conducted to identify impaired drivers, promote road safety, and educate the public.



USE OF FORCE

With 18,974 occurrences generated in 2025 for OSPS, the 28 incidents involving Use of Force represents 0.1% of these events.

36

2025

In 2025, the Owen Sound Police Service completed **36** Use of Force reports covering 28 separate incidents. These incidents involved 22 individuals and six animals, all of which were sick raccoons. No more than two subjects were involved in any single incident.

31

2024

In 2024, the Owen Sound Police Service completed **31** Use of Force reports related to 25 separate incidents. These incidents involved 21 individuals and three animals, with up to four subjects involved in any single incident. Activity levels were generally consistent with 2023.

Use of Force Reporting

Police officers are required by provincial legislation to complete a Use of Force report whenever certain types or levels of force are used, such as the drawing or use of a firearm or Conducted Energy Weapon, or when force results in an injury requiring medical attention. These reports are submitted for oversight and review, and are used to monitor compliance with legislation, evaluate training and procedures, and support transparency and accountability.

CONDUCTED ENERGY WEAPON

Officers discharged a Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) on **7** occasions. The CEW was also drawn and displayed for de-escalation purposes in **16** incidents.

FIREARM

Officers drew their firearms in **12** operational incidents in 2025, with half of these incidents involving animals (sick raccoons).

PHYSICAL CONTROL

Officers used empty-hand physical control techniques in **2** operational incidents.



Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension (BCWA)

With funding support from the Ministry of Solicitor General, officers dedicated to Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension have 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. Leveraging technology, the team has been successful enforcing, monitoring, and building improved accountability in partnerships with the Crown Attorney's office, Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP), and surrounding police jurisdictions.



**INDIVIDUALS REOFFENDED
WHILE OUT ON BAIL**



**WARRANTS EXECUTED FOR
BAIL VIOLATION**



**INDIVIDUALS UNDER
COMMUNITY SUPERVISION
WHO REOFFENDED**



**INDIVIDUALS UNDER
COMMUNITY SUPERVISION
WHO HAVE BEEN FOUND IN
VIOLATION OF BAIL
CONDITIONS**



**INDIVIDUALS MONITORED
BY BCWA**



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Law Enforcement Complaints Agency (LECA)

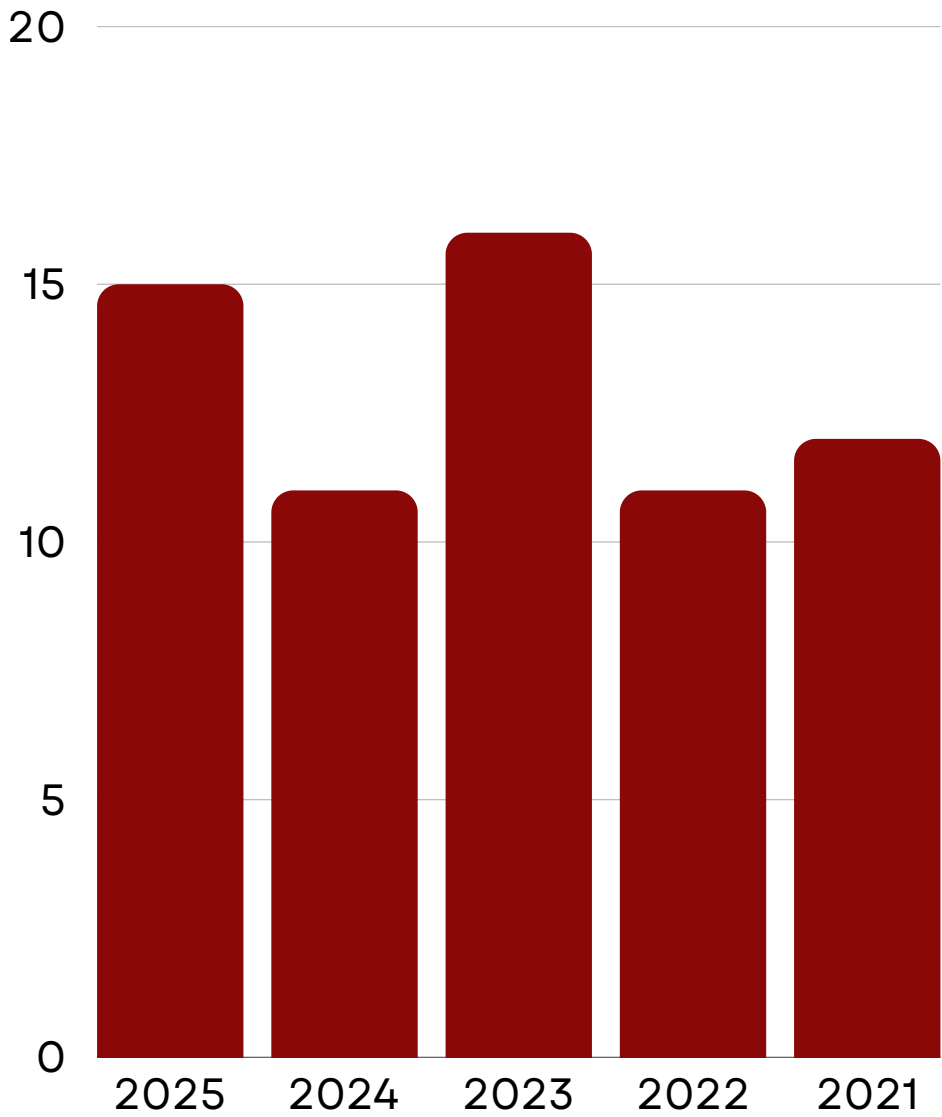
In 2025, the Law Enforcement Complaints Agency received **15** complaints, compared to **11** in 2024. All complaints fell within LECA’s mandate and related to allegations of officer conduct.

Following LECA’s screening process, the majority of complaints were screened out, primarily as not being in the public interest, outside prescribed time limits, or lacking sufficient grounds to proceed. Six complaints progressed beyond the initial screening stage. Most of these were referred to the Owen Sound Police Service for investigation, with several investigations completed during the year and determined to be unsubstantiated. One complaint was withdrawn by the complainant, one remained under investigation at year end, and one complaint received in late December was referred to another police service for investigation.

Special Investigations Unit (SIU)

In 2025, the Owen Sound Police Service reported **two** incidents to the Special Investigations Unit in accordance with the Special Investigations Unit Act, 2019. In both cases, the SIU opened case files and conducted reviews of the circumstances. The SIU determined that no OSPS officers were designated as subject or witness officers, and both investigations were subsequently closed without charges or the issuance of public reports. There were no active SIU investigations involving the Owen Sound Police Service at the end of 2025.

Public Complaints Yearly Comparison



Next Generation 9-1-1

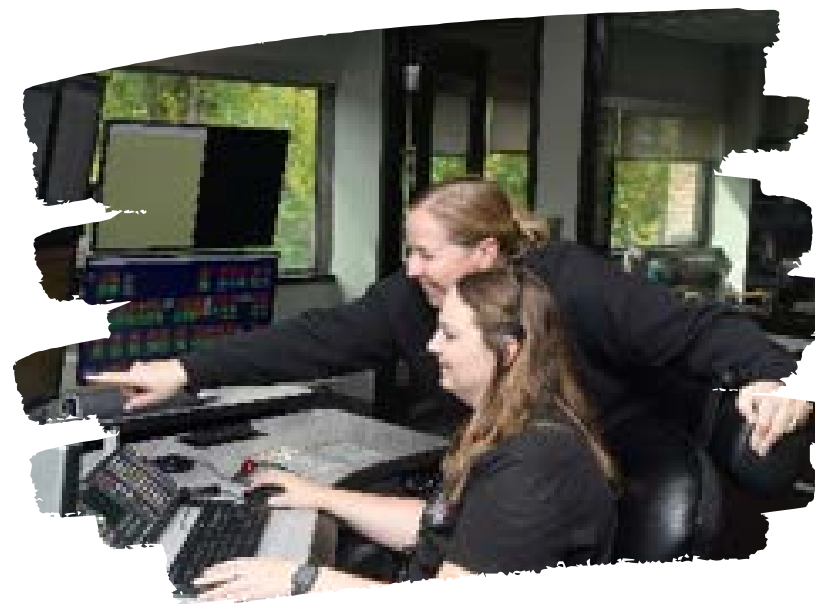
OSPS launched Next Generation (NG) 9-1-1 at the Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre on November 25, 2025, marking a significant milestone in the Service's commitment to strengthening public safety and emergency response. The NG9-1-1 transition from the legacy 911 emergency phone network now provides a digital infrastructure for modern emergency telecommunications. While dialing 911 remains unchanged for callers, the underlying transformative technology provides faster, more reliable help when people need it most.

The upgrade's enhanced features include:

- More accurate caller location and phone number information
- Enhanced cybersecurity, with added backup capabilities to ensure system reliability
- Future ability to support real-time text messaging and other digital technologies

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has mandated that all service providers and Primary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) must transition to the new NG9-1-1 network by March 2027. Over the last five years, OSPS has invested significant time and resources into the NG9-1-1 program, such as purchasing, installing, and updating technology at both the PSAP's primary and back-up sites, participating in voice trials, identifying potential engineering issue with networks, and developing a host solution for other agencies across Ontario.

"The transition to NG9-1-1 allows OSPS to continue evolving and improving services for our Communicators, Police Officers and other Emergency Responders, and most importantly, to the people we serve in Owen Sound, and in communities all across Ontario."

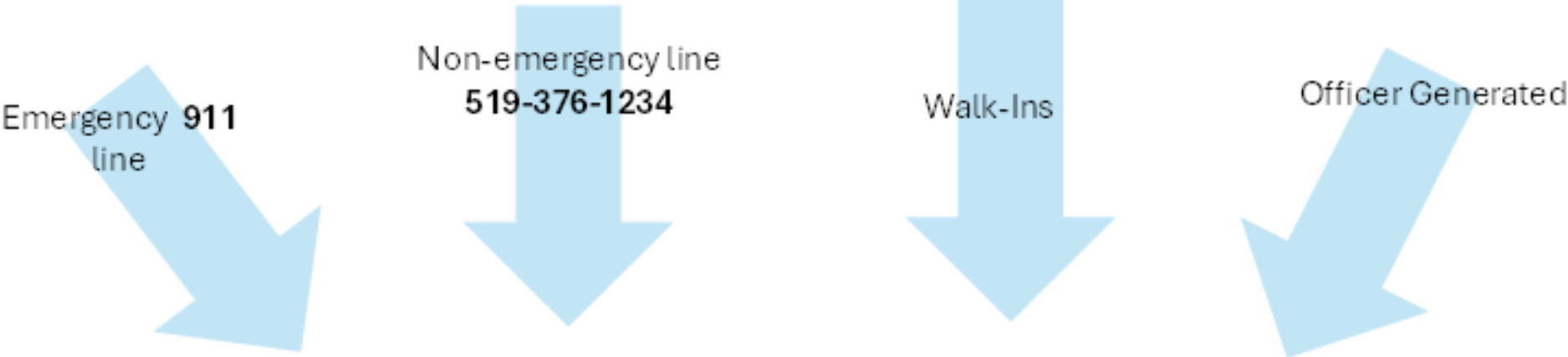


Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre (OSECC)

As part of the OSPS, the OSECC has been providing professional radio communications to emergency services for over 30 years across Ontario. The OSECC serves as both primary and secondary PSAP. As a primary PSAP, incoming 911 calls are dispatched directly for six police services, and Grey and Bruce Counties.

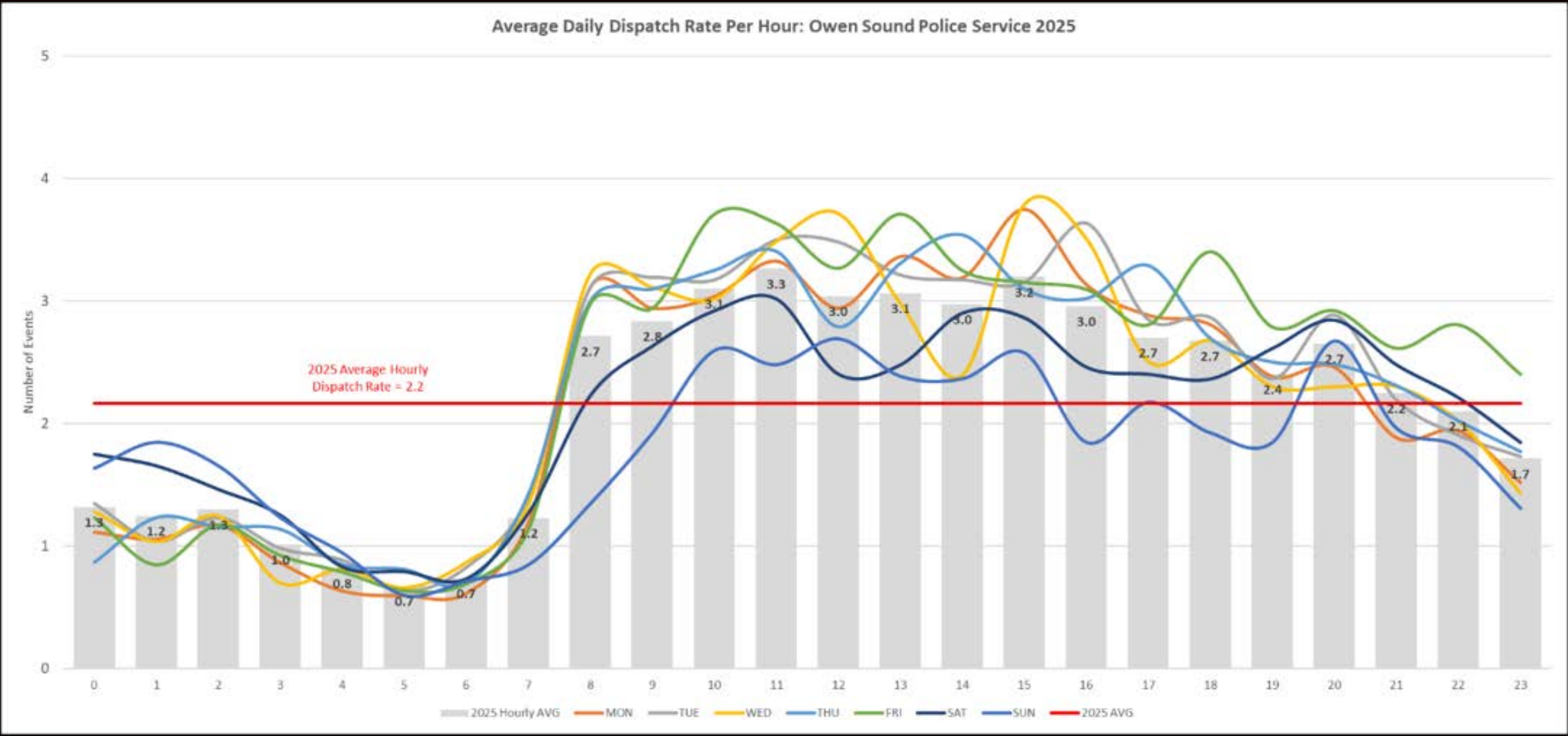
As a secondary PSAP for fire departments in Huron and Perth counties, the 911 calls handled by OSECC are transferred from another primary PSAP for OSECC to complete the dispatching process. OSECC is also be hosting NG9-1-1 infrastructure services for several other communities.

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 9-1-1 line.



		2025	2024	% Change
All CAD Events in OSECC (Number)		69,877	68,052	2.7%
	All Police (including OSPS)	62,106	60,776	2.2%
	All Fire	6,112	6,086	0.4%
	Grey County Transport	1,659	1,190	39.4%
	OSPS	18,974	18,886	0.5%
All CAD Events in OSECC (Avg Daily Rate)		191.4	185.9	3.0%
	All Police (including OSPS)	170.2	166.1	2.5%
	All Fire	16.7	16.6	0.6%
	Grey County Transport	4.5	3.3	36.4%
	OSPS	52.0	51.6	0.8%
Source: OPTIC's OnCallAnalytics				

Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre (OSECC)



There were 69,877 calls dispatched by the OSECC in 2025, a 3% increase from 2024. Owen Sound Police Service accounts for the largest volume of dispatched calls in the OSECC with 27% or 18,974 calls dispatched for OSPS in 2025.

Communicators dispatch an average of 52 calls for OSPS each day, although the call volume fluctuates by day and hour.

Community Oriented Response Unit (CORE)

CORE focused on proactive and high-visibility foot and bike patrol relating to objectives within the Community Safety goals of the OSPS Operations Plan to increase public safety in the River District during impactful times. Foot patrol was conducted in key areas and locations identified by concerned citizens and businesses such as issues of open drug use, vagrancy, and graffiti. Wellbeing checks on vulnerable persons were conducted during the winter months. CORE was also instrumental in arrests for public drug use and shoplifting, undertook visits to encampments within the city and at Harrison Park, and proactively promoted crime prevention with CPTED audits and CamSafe. CORE supported front-line patrol and CIB with search warrants for drug trafficking, missing persons and canvassing for major investigations. Ongoing community outreach involved participating at events such as: Shop with a Cop; BBQs, Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, M'Wikwedong Summer Bash, Santa Claus parade and Remembrance Day parade. The proactive time of the dedicated CORE officers provides OSPS the opportunity to focus on addressing ongoing concerns raised by citizens, businesses, and local schools.

351
hours

Foot Patrol

35

Criminal Charges

11

Warrants Executed



MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM (MHCRT)

OSPS’s Mental Health Crisis Response Team was operating with two dedicated Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Crisis Workers, expanding their coverage with schedule adjustments now including day, afternoon, and weekend shifts. In June 2025, a new deployment approach was initiated. Rather than mainly working with the liaison officer, Crisis Workers began riding along with front-line officers for their entire shift, better leveraging their time and expertise in the community. The partnership between OSPA and CMHA Grey-Bruce is essential to the success of this initiative, as well as partners who are part of the Grey Bruce Community Safety and Well Being (CSWB) Situation Table for Acutely Elevated Risk (STAR) including: Brightshores Health System, United Way, Safe ‘N Sound, school boards, and Support Outreach Services (SOS).



438

MENTAL HEALTH & ADDITIONS CRISIS
CALLS ATTENDED BY MHCRT

2024: 376

2204

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS
CRISIS CALLS RECEIVED (# OF
MENTAL HEALTH RELATED
OCCURENCES)

2024: 1631

72

OUTREACH & SUPPORT ACTIVITIES
INITIATIVE BY MHCRT

2024: 65

1:41

AVERAGE WAIT TIME AT HOSPITAL
WITH MHA

2024: 1:42



Examining Mental Health Calls to the Owen Sound Police Service

In the summer of 2024, OSPS partnered with a team of researchers from Carleton University to conduct a study titled “Examining Mental Health Calls to the Owen Sound Police Service” to develop a better understanding of the perceptions of community members who OSPS and MHCRT frequently interact with. This was an incredible opportunity to collaborate with academics, and study the unique situation of a smaller city within a predominantly adjacent rural setting. Findings and recommendations from this research were shared with our local partners through the CSWB’s STAR table and at “Building Bridges Evidence-Based Policing (EBP) conference in October 2025. Both OSPS and our community partners continue to review the implementation of recommendations.

Even with the Mental Health Crisis Response Team , CMHA Crisis Workers riding with OSPS police, mental health calls continue to increase.

Ongoing mental health call analysis determined 2,204 police calls in 2025 involved mental health – close to 12% of annual dispatched calls and up 35% from 1,632 in 2024.

In 2025, total OSPS officer time waiting with Mental Health Act apprehensions at hospital averaged more than 19.5 hours per month.



Citizens Police Academy (CPA)

The Owen Sound Police Service Citizens' Police Academy is an opportunity for interested community members to take a deep dive into the world of policing operations here in Owen Sound.

The third annual CPA program ran throughout the winter in 2025 for eight weeks, on consecutive Wednesdays from 6:30pm to 9:00pm at the police station at 922 2nd Avenue West, Owen Sound.

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 program is free of charge and is open to anyone with an interest in policing and a desire to learn.



“I have always viewed the OSPS in a favorable light, however, the CPA experience really opened my eyes to the full scope of how hard everyone at this department works and what all they do for the community, especially with the resources at their disposal.”

“While I always respected police work, the academy taught me that Owen Sound’s service operates more like a community Swiss Army knife - equally prepared for crime prevention education, mental health crises, and complex fraud investigations.”

“Before, I did not know much about OSPS, now I have a much better understanding what's involved, what they do and what their challenges are. Thank you so much for offering this to the public. I wish you lots of more people to come and learn what it takes to keep us all safe.”

Auxiliary Unit

Our Auxiliary members continue to play an important role in supporting front line policing and strengthening our connection with the community. They enhance police visibility through their participation in community events, parades, and ride-alongs with officers, while also providing valuable assistance to patrol operations. Over the past year, Auxiliary members contributed more than 2,500 volunteer hours, demonstrating their strong commitment to public safety and community service.

We extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to our Auxiliary members for their dedication, professionalism, and continued support. Their contributions make a meaningful difference in helping us serve our community.



Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Ontario

On Tuesday, June 10, the Owen Sound Police Service was proud to once again host the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) in support of Special Olympics Ontario (SOO). OSPS members, local Special Olympic athletes, along with Saugeen Shores Police Service, Hanover Police Service, West Grey Police Service, and the Ontario Provincial Police, walked and ran 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 Owen Sound District Secondary School.

With the endorsement of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, the first LETR in Canada was held in 1987. The LETR is one of the most meaningful events OSPS takes part in each year. It brings together our police services, communities, and Special Olympic Athletes in a shared celebration of inclusion, perseverance, and the power of sport. OSPS is proud to support SOO and to help shine a light on the incredible accomplishments of these Athletes.



Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI)



The Youth in Policing Initiative provides local youth with a valuable opportunity to gain hands-on work experience while building positive relationships with the police service and the community. Through this program, students work alongside members of the Owen Sound Police Service, supporting community events, delivering crime prevention messaging, and engaging with the public. Participants develop important skills in leadership, teamwork, communication, and customer service, while gaining insight into the many roles within policing. The program emphasizes mentorship and provides a supportive environment for youth to build confidence, learn new skills, and explore future career interests.

The Owen Sound Police Service is proud to support youth through this initiative and remains committed to fostering positive connections with young people in our community.



Court Security Costs

Both the Ontario Court of Justice (OCJ) and the Superior Court of Justice (SCJ), serving Grey and Bruce counties, are located in Owen Sound. The OCJ's Practice Direction on Jordan-Compliant Trial Scheduling, introduced in November 2023, significantly increased the number of criminal trials scheduled each week. In Owen Sound, courts adopted trial stacking to meet scheduling requirements and ensure matters proceeded within constitutional timelines. In fall 2025, an additional Justice was appointed to the SCJ in Grey Bruce. Numerous Superior Court matters—some transferred from Walkerton for accessibility and section 11(b) delay-related reasons—were heard in Owen Sound. Many of these were lengthy, in-custody trials, which increased the need for enhanced security staffing.

OSPS Special Constables provide ongoing security to both at the OCJ and SCJ courthouse and the Provincial Offences Act (POA) court, averaging 1418 hours/month in 2025 . In August 2025, following a recommendation from the Ministry of the Attorney General, OSPS implemented enhanced court security measures with the addition of an armed police officer at court facilities during all operational court days. This enhanced court security involved 7 armed police officers scheduled per week, averaging 201 hours/month in 2025. The improved court security measures have improved court security but placed significant pressure on police resources and budget. Operational readjustments were made and part-time officers were moved from front-line support and proactive duties to court facilities daily.

Funding support for court security is received from the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Grey County, but these agreements shortfalls do not meet all court security costs resulting in the remaining costs being the responsibility of the police service.



Grant Funding

In 2025, OSPS successfully secured over \$1.7 million in grant funding through the Ontario provincial government. 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: 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.

Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario (CISO) - Membership and Proceeds of Crime help enhance investigative capacity.

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 (NG) 9-1-1 - The Ontario government has provided more than \$3.1M since 2022 to support the Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre’s transition to NG9-1-1.

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

Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) - Salary coverage for the YIPI summer program provides the opportunity for youth employment with the Owen Sound Police Service.

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.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

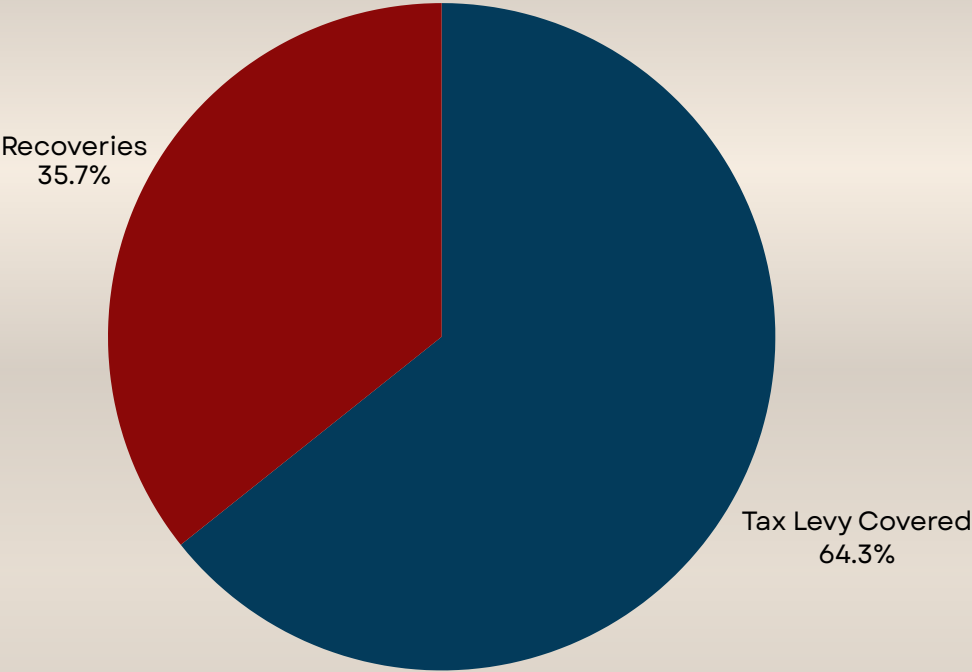
CATEGORY	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Police Officers	7,931,286	7,247,004
Police Civilians	781,138	893,403
Court Security	268,704	411,788
Police Services Board	26,995	26,613
Capital Projects	158,311	212,000
TOTAL	9,166,434	8,790,808

Did you know?

Over one-third of the Owen Sound Police Service budget is funded through external revenues and cost recoveries.

What This Funding Supports

-  Fleet replacement
-  Technology upgrades
-  Dispatch modernization
-  Community safety initiatives



Through proactive efforts to secure grants, funding programs, and alternative revenue sources, the Owen Sound Police Service continues to offset operational costs and reduce reliance on the municipal tax levy.

These efforts directly support important investments such as fleet replacement, technology upgrades, and the continued modernization of the dispatch and communications centre.

By maximizing available funding opportunities, the Service remains committed to delivering high-quality policing while minimizing the financial impact on the citizens of Owen Sound.



Social Media

Follow along!

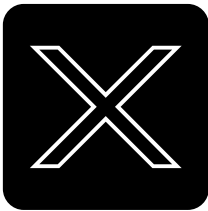
@owensoundpoliceservice



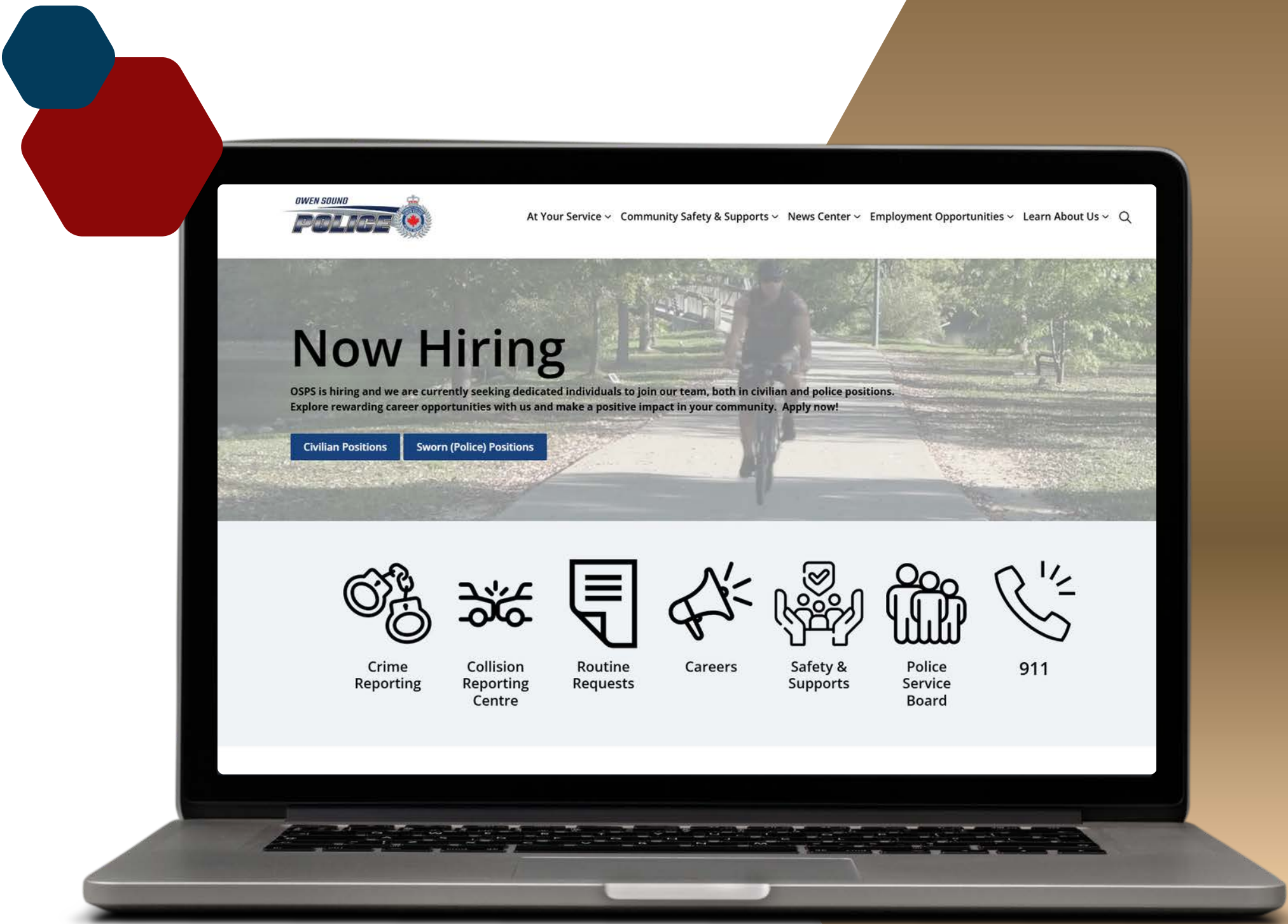
10,000



2,365



4,468



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