



Owen Sound Police Service Board

2nd Floor Board Room

Wednesday June 24, 2026

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

Members Present:	J. Thomson (Chair), M. Koepke (Vice Chair), C. Merton, M. Dickson, B. O'Leary
Management Present:	Chief C. Ambrose, Deputy Chief D. Bishop
Absent with Regrets:	Inspector T. Doherty, Inspector C. Matheson
Guests Attending:	F. Dobbyn- Executive Director of United Way, H. Zehr- Police Service Advisor - Inspectorate of Policing
Minutes:	K. Wardell

1. Call to Order

Chair Thomson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Chair Thomson reported that the last two weeks have been very difficult for policing in Canada as we have lost three members in line of duty deaths and three other members have been shot and severely injured during incidents. He asked members to rise for a moment of silence in honour of:

- O.P.P. Constable Tarun Bali
- Toronto Police Constable Marc Pinizzotto
- Ville de Montreal Police Constable Mohamed Lamine Benredouane

2. Land Acknowledgment

Chair Thomson gave the land acknowledgment.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by B. O'Leary, seconded by M. Koepke.

“That the agenda dated June 24, 2026 be approved.” CARRIED.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest arising out of the Minutes and Matters Listed on the Agenda. HEARING NONE

5. Presentations, Deputations, and Public question period.

Chair Thomson introduced Francesca Dobbyn, Executive Director of the United Way Bruce Grey. Ms. Dobbyn had requested to appear before the board and provide an update on the local service navigation projects.

Chair Thomson thanked Francesca for coming to the open session and providing her update on local service navigation projects. F. Dobbyn left the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

6. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Public Session held May 27, 2026.

Moved by M. Dickson, seconded by B. O’Leary.

“That the minutes dated May 27, 2026 be approved.” CARRIED

7. Business arising out of the Public Session Minutes of May 27, 2026. HEARING NONE

8. Correspondence received

Chair Thomson referred members to correspondence received for information purposes.

- a) Letter from Sargent
- b) Appreciation email
- c) A counter Narrative on River District Woes
- d) Good things in The River District
- e) Downtown Owen Sound
- f) OSPSB Motion
- g) Our River District

- h) Monday Meeting
- i) Letter to Mayor, Council and Police
- j) Safety Concerns re: 612 2nd Ave East
- k) Thank you for Sponsoring 2026 PGO Spring Conference and AGM

9. Chairman's Report

PGO

Chair Thomson reported that members Koepke, O'Leary, and he attended the PGO AGM and Spring Conference on May 31 thru June 3, 2026. The theme of this year's conference was from Compliance to Governance.

M. Koepke and B. O'Leary provided highlights on the sessions that interested them the most and the takeaways they had from the conference.

Chair Thomson reported that one of his takeaways was a quote that best described the governance relationship between the Board and the Chief. "You (Board) are the "what" (policies) and the Chief is the "how" (implementing policy)"

Zone 5 Meeting

Chair Thomson reported that on June 9, 2026 members Koepke, Dickson, Chief Ambrose and he attended the Zone 5 meeting in Clinton hosted by the Huron OPP Detachment Board.

The guest speaker was Jacqueline Massi VP of Operations from Accident Support Services International.

Accident Support Services International has been in business since 1994 and is funded by the Insurance Industry and manages 60 collision reporting centres across Ontario. Owen Sound's reporting centre is included in that number.

Chair Thomson also reported that Hank Zehr provided a report on IoP's recent findings report, their decisions and directions which included next steps related to Project South.

The IoP is currently working on:

- Developing an inspection methodology

- Issue inspection dates – comprehensive list and sight inspections of 25 services have been identified
- Reports on their findings are anticipated to be delivered in September 2027
- Police response times will also be included in those inspections

Election of Zone 5 officers for 2026 were held:

- Jim Dietirck to Chair
- Ian McSweeny to Vice Chair
- John Thomson to Zone 5 director until the end of his term with OSPSB.

IoP

Chair Thomson reported that the IoP had released their IoP Intelligence Hub and it is now available to board members through the link below. Board members will need their board credentials in order to log onto this site.

<https://ontariogov.sharepoint.com/sites/SOLGEN-IOPHUB>

He encouraged members to visit this site and review the information it provides, especially in comparing municipal police service across the province, including size, budgets etc.

10. Governance

- a) Bill 119 Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026, Schedule 3
<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-44/session-1/bill-119>

The bill is currently being debated at its Second Reading in the Ontario Legislature after passing a closure motion on June 2, 2026.

If passed, Bill 119, will introduce an omnibus package of public safety measures. For a local service like the Owen Sound Police Service (OSPS), the impacts will primarily center around new enforcement tools, streamlined administrative capabilities, and expanded areas of oversight.

SCHEDULE 3 Section 3 has items that are significant for all municipal boards.

The duties of the Minister in Section 3 of the Act are expanded to include consulting with and advising on the effective operation of police service boards and monitoring trends in policing.

1. A new section 3.1 is to be added to give the Minister the power to issue directives to police service boards establishing priorities that the board must be reflected in their strategic plan.
2. Section 22 is amended to allow the Minister to require the Inspector General to investigate and report on whether appropriate arrangements have been made for the provision of adequate and effective policing if an arrangement were to be approved by the Minister under that section. A similar existing power in subsection 30 (3) is amended to allow the Minister to require the Inspector General to investigate and report, rather than ask for the investigation and report.
3. Section 44 is amended to provide that meetings of a police service board, or of a committee of the board, are also closed to prescribed persons. The duty of confidentiality in subsection 44 (4) is expanded to apply to any person who attends a meeting or part of the meeting that is closed to the public.

11. Operational Reports

- a) Criminal Investigations Branch and Drug Enforcement/Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIB), Community Oriented Response & Enforcement Unit (CORE) and Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension Unit (BCWA)
- b) Auxiliary Unit Report
- c) Front Line Patrol and Collision Statistics
- d) Community Services Office
- e) Training

Chair Thomson noted that over the past weekend call volumes were significant as officers attended 151 calls for service.

12. Administrative Reports

- a) Records, Courts and Bylaw
- b) OSECC and IT
- c) Human Resources

Moved by M. Koepke and seconded by M. Dickson

"That Special Constables Krista Fluney and Tina Kirkpatrick be approved for re-appointment." **CARRIED**

d) Lost Hours

13. Building and Facility Update

Chief Ambrose provided the building and facility update. The exterior brick deterioration remains an outstanding issue with no work scheduled for 2026. Previous water leaks have not recurred following repairs completed by City staff. Cleaning services continue to meet expectations, and ongoing on-site facilities support has resulted in improvements to routine maintenance and repairs.

The elevator continues to require manual lockout to restrict access to the upper floor. The front lobby washroom lock conversion to keyed access remains pending scheduling by a locksmith. AODA compliance requirements remain under long-term review with no capital funding currently planned.

HVAC balancing and recalibration were completed in May, with effectiveness to be evaluated as seasonal weather conditions continue. Interior painting of the main floor hallways and selected office spaces has been completed, with no additional painting scheduled. Parking lot storm drain issues recurred following heavy spring rainfall and will be reviewed further, with routine maintenance requested. Renovations to the main floor staff washrooms are underway, with demolition having commenced in mid-June and construction expected to continue over the coming weeks.

Chair Thomson reported that a meeting is planned for June 25, 2026, with representatives from the City to review the first draft of the Facility Review – Project Charter.

14. Financial Update from the Chief of Police

Chief Ambrose reported that based on current projections, the budget is forecasted to be approximately \$22,810 over budget. Chief Ambrose will continue to work with City staff to closely monitor expenditures and the budget throughout the remainder of the year.

15. Operating Reports from the Chief of Police

a) Chief's Activity Reports

16. Other Items and New Business

a) The Corporation of the City of Guelph By-law Number (2024) – 20990

Chief Ambrose outline that The City of Guelph bylaw related to regulating space within the municipality. He will forward it to City staff for review, as it may be relevant in relation to the previously circulated City of Cobourg bylaw on short-term accommodations.

b) Location of PGO Zone 5 Meeting for October 8th, 2026

Sydenham Campus will be the location for the Zone 5 meeting, and details will be shared with J. Fields Police Governance Ontario Zone 5 Secretary/Treasurer.

c) Connected Officer Platform

Chief Ambrose's report recommended that all sworn members of OSPS be issued individual cell phones. Currently, personal devices are only assigned to senior leaders and specialized positions, while patrol officers share phones linked to vehicles. The report identified that shared devices create operational and security challenges, particularly with upcoming Multi-Factor Authentication requirements and access to key systems such as M365, Axon Evidence, the Bail Compliance Dashboard, and RMS tools. Individually issued phones would improve communication, efficiency, officer access to digital tools, and evidentiary continuity, while also supporting modern policing practices and mobile reporting systems.

Moved by M. Dickson seconded by C. Merton

"That the Owen Sound Police Service Board approve proceeding with issuing individually assigned cell phones to all sworn officers, with costs to be funded through Board reserves and future costs be included in annual operating budgets."

CARRIED

d) Section 14 Agreements with the Municipal Services in Grey Bruce

Chief Ambrose reported on Section 14 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, which allows police service boards to enter into agreements with other police services to provide specialized policing services, including canine services, marine units, and major case management services. He noted that these agreements help improve service delivery while making efficient use of available resources.

e) River District Stats

f) Shoulder Flash Redesign

Moved by M. Koepke, and seconded by M. Dickson

*“That the OSPSB approve the redesigned shoulder flash and proceed with the replacement of all shoulder flashes all at once.” **CARRIED***

17. Motion to move into Closed and Confidential Closed Session

Moved by C. Merton and seconded by M. Koepke.

“That the board move into closed session and upon termination of the closed session the board move into confidential closed session. These meetings are to review and discuss matters that fall under Section 44 item (2) of the Community Safety and Police Act and Section 25 item b) of the OSPSB General Policy 003- Board Governance to consider:

- a. Educational or training sessions.*
- b. A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the board;*
- c. personal matters about an identifiable individual, including members of the police service or any other employees of the board;*
- d. labour relations or employee negotiations;” **CARRIED***

18. Reporting out of Closed Session

In accordance with Section 44 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 and Section 25 item b) of the OSPSB General Policy 003- Board Governance to consider: the Owen Sound Police Service Board met in a closed session following the public meeting to discuss items pertaining to:

- a. Approval of minutes of the Closed Session of the Owen Sound Police Service Board meeting held on May 27, 2026 2026
- b. Matters regarding Board Training.
- c. Discussions regarding semi-annual meeting with City Council held on June 15th as required under the protocol agreement.
- d. Review and approval of draft 2025 annual report.
- e. Review of request to disclose future guidance to officers and future operational policies and procedures.

No additional decisions were made during the meeting and no direction was provided to staff

The Chair confirmed that no other matters were discussed.

19. Reporting out of Confidential Closed Session

In accordance with Section 44 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 *and Section 25 item b) of the OSPSB General Policy 003- Board Governance to consider:* the Owen Sound Police Service Board met in a confidential closed session following the closed meeting to discuss items pertaining to:

- a. Approval of minutes of the Confidential Closed Session of the Owen Sound Police Service Board meeting held on May 27, 2026; and
- b. Matters related to Staffing and labour relations
- c. The board approved an MOU amending certain sections of the Uniform and Civilian collective bargaining agreements.
- d. Matters related to SIU investigations
- e. The board approved an MOU amending certain sections of the Police Chief's contract with the board.

The Chair confirmed that no other matters were discussed.

20. Termination of the Public Meeting

Having completed all of the business items listed on the agenda Chair Thomson terminated the open meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 23rd, 2026

[REDACTED]
You
[REDACTED]

Dear Chair and Members of the Police Services Board,

I respectfully request that this correspondence be circulated to all Board members, included in the correspondence package for the next Board meeting in June, and entered into the public record of that meeting.

I am writing to ask that the Board review the implications of the Ontario Superior Court's decision in *Regional Municipality of Waterloo v. Persons Unknown and to be Ascertained*, 2023 ONSC 670, with respect to the enforcement of municipal by-laws against individuals living in tents or encampments.

In that decision, the Court found that where there are insufficient accessible shelter spaces available, preventing unhoused individuals from erecting temporary shelters may violate their rights under section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which protects life, liberty, and security of the person. The Court concluded that municipalities cannot simply prohibit homeless individuals from sheltering on public land when no realistic alternative accommodation exists.

I recognize that the circumstances of each encampment are different and that the Waterloo decision does not prohibit all enforcement actions. However, the ruling makes clear that Charter rights must be carefully considered before tents or temporary shelters are removed.

For that reason, I respectfully ask the Board:

1. To confirm what guidance officers receive regarding Charter obligations when interacting with unhoused individuals living in tents or encampments.
2. To clarify whether officers are required to determine the availability of accessible shelter spaces before participating in tent removals.
3. To explain what policies or procedures are in place to ensure that enforcement actions do not expose individuals to heightened risks to their health, safety, or security.
4. To indicate whether the Board has reviewed the Waterloo decision and whether any policy changes have resulted from that review.

The growing housing and homelessness crisis presents difficult challenges for municipalities, service providers, and police services alike. Nevertheless, constitutional rights remain in force during times of crisis. I believe the public would benefit from greater transparency regarding how the Police Service ensures that its actions comply with the Charter when responding to encampments.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Owen Sound, ON

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2026 15:00
To: INFO <info@owensoundpolice.com>
Subject: Appreciation

Chief Ambrose,

I wanted to tell you what I saw on Owen Sound City streets earlier this week. I'm a visitor, former resident, and I hear lots of news about the challenges facing your police officers.

But what I saw was the best of beat patrols. I was making a left from Main St., and not in a position to pull over to talk to your officers, or to get their names. I suspect you will know who I am talking about.

The team was a Sikh patrolling with a female officer. Nice enough. But what struck me was that the female officer was picking up trash from city sidewalks. A few pieces of paper and cardboard, maybe a pop bottle or two, that had spilled from an overflowing trash can.

They were relaxed, fully present and vigilant, but evidently care for their city. I wish I had taken a picture. That's what policing is about.

I did resist using 'Police Cleaning up Owen Sound Streets' in the subject heading.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
You;council@owensound.ca

To Members of Owen Sound City Council and the Owen Sound Police Services Board,

I am writing in response to the growing volume of negative commentary about Owen Sound's downtown, particularly on social media. While most concerns are genuine, I believe it is important to offer a counter-narrative to the notion that our downtown is unsafe and that more policing is our best solution.

I am a public servant with a Master's degree in Public Health, so I understand the complexity of the challenges our community faces and the intense public pressure on city governments and police to resolve these enormous challenges quickly. The opioid epidemic, homelessness, and mental illness are interconnected issues seriously affecting communities across Canada. Progress is difficult and often slow, requiring sustained collaboration across sectors and jurisdictions. There is no silver bullet that city council or Owen Sound police can take to address it, so I'm not writing to demand a single action.

What concerns me is the direction much of the public discourse has taken. I'm seeing a lot of focus on blaming individuals, prioritizing enforcement over prevention and support, or advocating for vulnerable people to simply be moved elsewhere. This discourse ignores the complexity of the challenges we face. Community safety is about more than policing. It is also about social connection, compassion, and a willingness to support neighbours through difficult circumstances. Inclusion and community care are essential components of safety.

I have two young children, aged six and nine, and I do not hesitate to bring them downtown. They occasionally see things that prompt difficult questions, but these moments create opportunities to teach empathy and understanding. Owen Sound's challenges are not unique; many larger communities have faced them for years.

I believe community leaders have an important role in promoting evidence-informed solutions and challenging narratives that portray downtown as inherently unsafe. Fear-based narratives can become self-fulfilling. When residents avoid downtown, businesses struggle, public spaces become less vibrant, and the sense of community that contributes to safety weakens.

The most tragic event in recent memory in the River District was the killing of Sharif Rahman. Importantly, this horrific act was not committed by those often blamed for making people feel unsafe downtown, and was enabled by the fact that on a summer evening when our city should be bustling, it was not. A key lesson from that tragedy is that vibrant, populated public spaces contribute to safety. The thriving downtown we all want is one where residents, families, visitors, and businesses are actively present and engaged instead of complaining behind keyboards from home.

Revitalizing our downtown will not happen by policing away social problems or pushing vulnerable people out of sight. It will happen through policies and investments that support those in need while continuing to invest in a downtown people want to visit and enjoy.

In addition to the dominant discourse about downtown issues, we must also recognize broader forces contributing to high vacancies and suboptimal pedestrian traffic in the river district, such as Owen Sound's multi-decade focus on big-box retail and car-focused development. Alongside the need to support the struggling residents who are the center of focus of the outcry over the river district, we need policies and programs to incentivize and support downtown businesses, expand programming and events, and create more reasons for people to spend time downtown throughout the week (especially on Sundays!).

The river district has so much to offer. My family's favorite activities include visits to the Farmers' Market, local cafés, our great selection of stores, and restaurants. Yesterday we attended the pride parade and block party downtown and it made me so proud to be part of this fun and vibrant community.

Social media amplifies negative voices and creates a distorted picture of reality. As a community, we need to share positive stories and push back on toxic narratives and proposed solutions that are not compassionate nor evidence-based. A thriving and safe downtown will not be built through fear, exclusion, or blame. It will be built through community care, evidence-informed action, economic investment, and a collective commitment to showing up for one another.

Thank you for your consideration of the other side of the coin, from an Owen Sound resident who has lived in 6 different cities across three countries and now proudly calls Owen Sound home.

[REDACTED]

she/her/elle

[REDACTED]
You;council@owensound.ca

To Owen Sound City Council and the Police Services Board,

I'm writing to you today because I want to talk about good things happening downtown, amidst an increasingly negative perception of our city centre.

I own a business in the River District. I live with my young family just a few blocks outside of the downtown core. We are often Downtown, on foot, bike, or by car. We live, shop, go to the library, and enjoy ourselves here.

Yesterday I spent the entire day downtown. The Goods for coffee, working in my shop, attending the parade, then enjoying the festivities at the block party to follow. I felt completely safe and comfortable the whole time. My son joined in with lots of other kids running around and making joyful quintessential childhood memories.

These are the experiences that make us love living here, and they happen all the time.

Which is what is so disappointing about the way that our leadership talks about our city. The negativity aimed at our most vulnerable residents, and front line organizations who serve them is embarrassing.

Owen Sound's issues are complex but not unique. We need to listen to the professionals on how best to fix our problems and help our residents.

There are healthcare professionals, and social service providers who have answers, so please listen to them, make changes, and get on with it.

In the meantime, I would invite any one of you to come spend a Saturday with me and see how I see this city. Maybe you'll learn to love it too.

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sun, Jun 14, 2026 at 11:34 PM
Subject: Downtown Owen Sound
To: Mayor & Council <council@owensound.ca>

Good evening Mayor and Council and OS Police Services Board Members

After reading the agenda for tomorrow's meetings, I went back to watch the precipitating discussion at the Police Services Board.

I was disappointed to see a former member of Owen Sound City Council and Grey County Council speak so disparagingly of the efforts of both bodies. There was a lot of buck-passing.

I fully agree with [REDACTED] when she said at the Board that in order to find workable strategies, everyone needs to be sitting at the table together with common goals. I look forward to seeing such a table become a reality.

Of course I too am discouraged that we have citizens in Owen Sound who have nowhere safe to go during the day or overnight.

However, as a resident who is walking downtown several days every week, including on 8th St and 2nd Ave East, I do not share the experience or opinion of the mover of the OSPB motion, [REDACTED]

Yesterday I thoroughly enjoyed the Pride parade and Big Gay Block Party with people from three months old to ...my age, and everything in between. The smiles and joy were a delight.

Today I walked from home down 8th St, past Safe and Sound as I often do, to 2nd Avenue. I saw no one in doorways and people were using the ATM at Scotia Bank on a Sunday afternoon. I am not denying anyone their experience, but I felt safe and comfortable, as I usually do in my downtown.

I have never found the door locked at any of the twenty or so businesses I frequent downtown. (I have found it locked at Meridian in the East Court Plaza since they were robbed twice. I've also found the door locked at Taylor's Jewellers at their 16th St E. location, since the smash and grab at their Collingwood location.)

My friend who is one of the hundreds of students from toddlers to adults who take classes at the Owen Sound Dance Academy said she has never been accosted or delayed by anyone on her way to the studio.

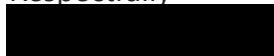
I am absolutely aware that the surge in rents in Owen Sound and very low vacancy rate, along with a toxic drug supply and still-growing post-pandemic demands on the mental health systems are increasing the visibility of distress downtown. There are issues we collectively need to address. No attempt to move them or hide them will suffice.

Last year Andrea Donaldson, who grew up and went to school here, became addicted and lived in active addiction here for many years and has been in recovery for over 15 years, came home and spoke to front-line providers and the public about her experiences. She is coming to do the same this August. On her post about the event in Owen Sound, someone commented "I googled the place - it doesn't sound great. Good luck be careful."

While I absolutely think we should not hide or deny our own reality, the amplification of it has now - unfairly in my view- eclipsed the daily reality of most Owen Sound residents who are downtown regulars. We are attendees at the Roxy and Heartwood, take classes at GB Arts, get our hair cut, buy shoes, scones, books, baby clothes, go to the library and Farmers' Market, eat out, - and support the almost two dozen WOMAN OWNED businesses in the River District.

Let the work on improvement, the advocacy for solutions, and the great stories of our downtown people be the lead stories - the first to come up in Google. That's your challenge.

Respectfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

June 15, 2026

To: Owen Sound City Council
Owen Sound Police Services Board
City Clerk

Re: OSPSB Motion

Dear Members of Council and the OSPSB:

I listened with great interest to the Police Services Board meeting of May 27, 2026, particularly the discussions regarding the prevalence of unhoused people congregating in the downtown.

Firstly, I must say that my spouse and I, both senior citizens, walk downtown every day. Yes, we have seen the entrance to Safe 'N Sound, people succumbing to substance use disorder, tents, and those making use of downtown benches. Never once have we felt unsafe. Our dog is very friendly and she stops to greet many on the street and we have only every had pleasant interactions. Before you think us Pollyanna's, know that we used to live in Toronto where we encountered situations not dissimilar from what one sees in Owen Sound. And that was 36 years ago. This is not to say that we do not understand the issues, but at \$130,000 per person per year, incarceration is a costly alternative.

More specifically, I am writing in reference to the Motion by [REDACTED]:

"In an effort to ensure the continued enjoyment of public and private property for residents visitors and property owners in the City the OSPSB requests the City Of Owen Sound Council take action on concerns raised by the River District, Police Service Board, Council, and municipal residents regarding loitering and other social disorder matters taking place in the City of Owen Sound, particularly the River District."

I suggest that this matter is much larger than discussed and that it goes well beyond the purview of Owen Sound City Council.

I too have observed the changes to our City and starting last fall, took it upon myself to undertake some research into the matter. More specifically, I was curious as to what precipitated the current situation and what the solutions might be.

After all, if we don't understand the source of a problem, it is impossible to find solutions. As the late Desmond Tutu noted, "There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find

out why they're falling in." Clearly, many people are falling into the river of homelessness, leading to what is being characterized as loitering and social disorder.

To begin with, Owen Sound is not alone in experiencing increasing numbers of unhoused and those suffering from substance use disorder. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario recently published two reports on this matter noting that at the end of 2025, 84,973 people experienced known homelessness in Ontario. More importantly, AMO also reported that "Under an economic upturn, homelessness is projected to reach approximately 128,265 people by 2035. Under steady conditions, the projection rises to 177,483, while under an economic downturn, the number reaches approximately 297,985." This means that Ontario can expect to have 43,292 to 213,012 more homeless people by 2035.

My research is being published in two series of articles, one on The Owen Sound Current and the other on the Owen Sound Hubbub. Below, I offer a précis of my research along with some suggestions for your consideration. Please pardon my verbosity, but the matter is rather complex and in order to address it, we need to understand its constituent parts.

There are currently about 654,692 social assistance cases (a single individual or a family unit receiving social assistance) representing 972,979 beneficiaries (the total number of individuals covered by a case) in Ontario. The amount of social assistance provided by the Province to the recipients of Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program is well beyond insufficient, forcing recipients to decide whether they will pay rent or buy food.

Since most choose the former (pay rent), the City has seen increasing number of people turning to OSHaRe (Figure 1) and the Salvation Army Food Bank. As you can see, between 2017 and 2025, the number of meals served has increased by 15 times or 1435%. One has to ask, how much longer can this be sustainable? Based on AMO's "steady conditions" prediction, OSHaRE will need to provide 900,000 meals annually by 2035.

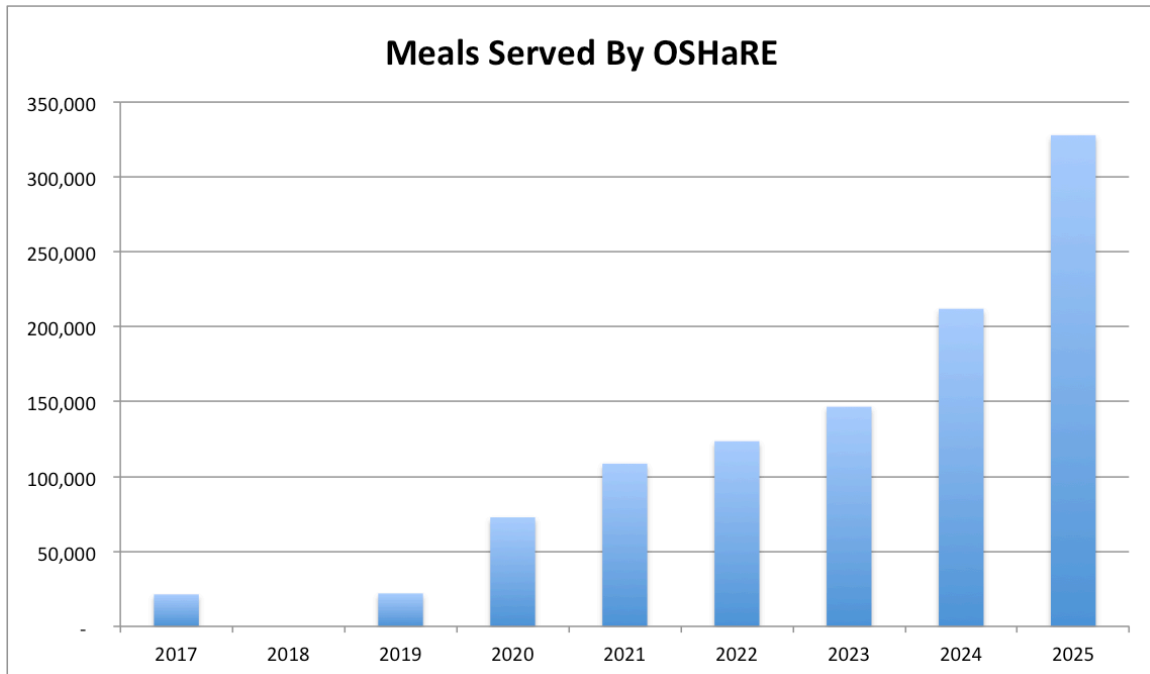


Figure 1. Number of meals served by OSHaRE each year.

To put the matter into further perspective, the following two charts compare the “poverty line” as defined by Statistics Canada’s Low Income Measure (LIM), with the annual incomes for recipients of OW, ODSP, the now defunct Universal Basic Income (UBI), the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) including Old Age Security (OAS), the Minimum Wage, the Living Wage, and the Average Individual Income in Owen Sound and Ontario.

Anyone one earning an income that falls below the LIM (the red line) is considered to live in poverty. The distance below the line is a measure of the degree of poverty (i.e. the further below the line, the greater the poverty).

The first chart (Figure 2) is for a single person and the second chart is for a family of four (Figure 3).

As can be seen on Figure 2, singles living on payments from the first 5 categories are living in poverty and those earning the minimum wage just barely reach the poverty line. In the case of families (Figure 3), those in the first 3 categories are living below the poverty line and those earning the Minimum Wage also just reach the poverty line.

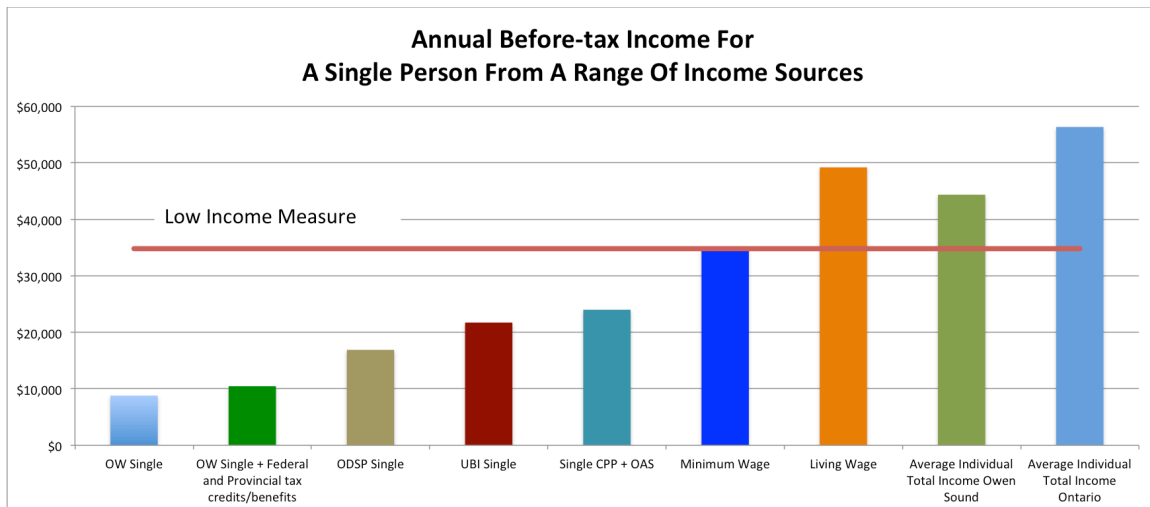


Figure 2. Social assistance and other sources of income relative to the Low Income Measure for a single person.

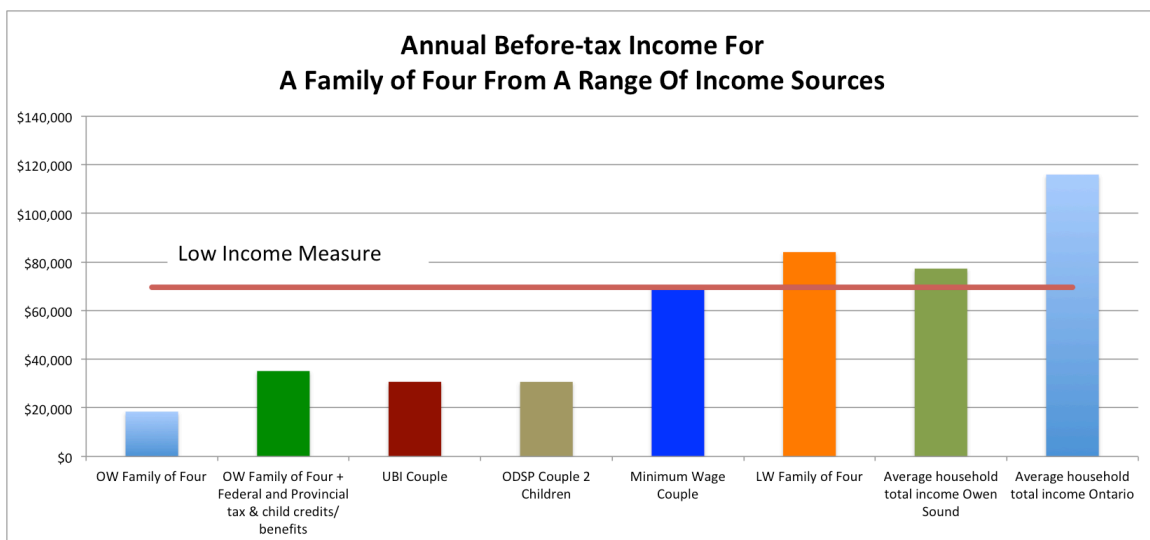


Figure 3. Social assistance and other sources of income relative to the Low Income Measure for a family of four.

When people can no longer afford rent, they become homeless. Recent data, obtained through an Ontario Government Freedom of Information Request, published by the Maytree Foundation, confirms the link between inadequate social assistance rates and increasing numbers of unhoused. In January 2019, 16,001 beneficiaries of Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program were listed as living in either an Emergency Shelter or had No Fixed Address or Transient. By August 2025 that number had increased to 31,105.

Remember, these numbers are only those Ontarians who receive social assistance. Many more have given up applying.

Finally, I will share one more chart. Figure 4 compares the degree to which the amount received by a single person on Ontario Works (blue line) has fallen below Statistics Canada's Low Income Measure (Poverty Line) with the number of unhoused as reported by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (red line). As you can see, the further below the poverty line that social assistance falls, the greater number of unhoused there are in Ontario.

Now, obviously we know that 54,000 unhoused people did not appear out of thin air in 2016 (the year that AMO's count begins). The black dashed line is an exponential function trendline applied to the AMO counts. It 'back casts' what the number of unhoused would have looked like in previous years. As you can see, the number of unhoused has been increasing for some time.

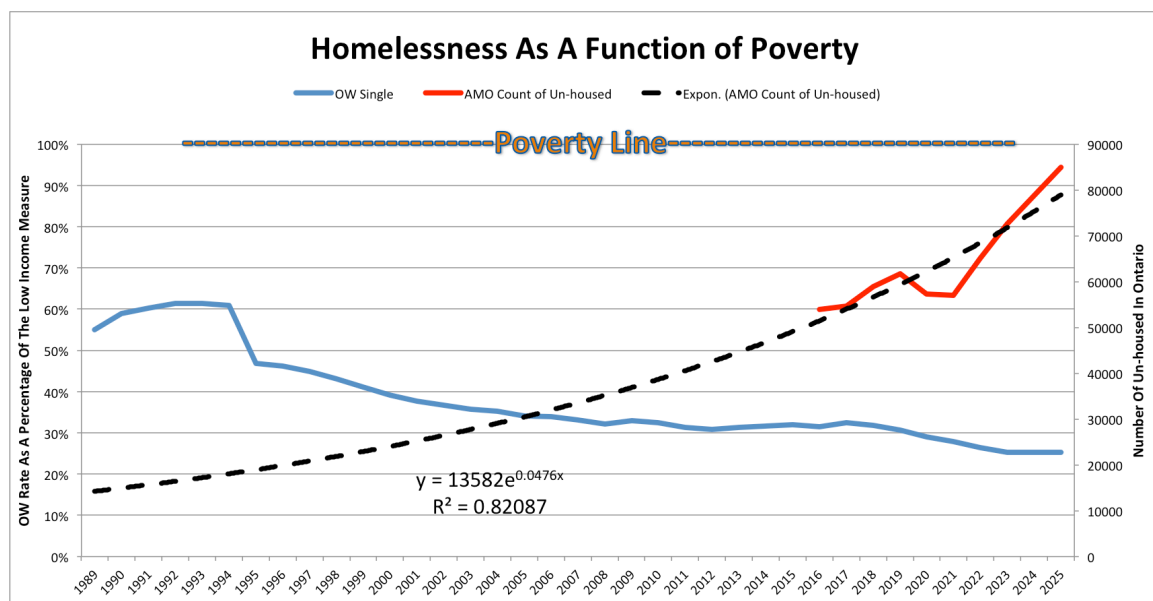


Figure 4. The relationship between the extent to which social assistance rates put recipients below the poverty line and the number of unhoused in Ontario.

So, what can the City of Owen Sound do? Unfortunately, not very much. This problem rests with the Provincial Government and until it takes steps to address the issue (e.g. increase social assistance rates), the problem will worsen. In that regard, I recommend that the City of Owen Sound write the Province demanding they take immediate action to double social assistance rates.

To make matters worse, as I'm sure Chief Ambrose knows, recent court rulings have essentially disabled the Ford government's recent attempt to give municipalities and police "enhanced tools they need to end encampments and clean up our parks and public spaces," through the Bill 6 (aka the Safer Municipalities Act).

Recent cases in Kingston and Waterloo have established that enforcing bylaws to dismantle encampments violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In 2023, the court ruled that Kingston's efforts to prohibit camping deprived homeless individuals of life, liberty, and security of the person by preventing them from erecting temporary overnight shelters. Just last month the court again ruled that the Region of Waterloo was prevented from clearing an encampment in Kitchener, Ont., without offering alternatives.

My suggestion in this regard is that the City of Owen Sound designate a space where the unhoused can set up camp. Failure to do so means that they can establish an encampment on any public land and the courts would likely deny any attempt to move them. By establishing a designated area, people who are homeless would have a space to live and the police would stand a better chance of limiting encampments in other locations. If the courts are prepared to deny Region of Waterloo from clearing an encampment to make way for construction of the Kitchener Central Transit Hub, it seems unlikely that these precedents would be reversed for small events in Owen Sound.

And please, do not try to force the unhoused to some location on the outskirts of town. This would only serve to paint the City in an unfavourable light and would not likely be supported by the courts. Establish a location with washrooms, water, and some degree of privacy proximal to the services they need. I know that many will object, but it is only a matter of time before you lose the opportunity to choose a location.

Finally in closing, I would be more than happy to meet with you and share more of what I have learned. In particular, I have explored the lack of population growth, high crime rates, development, etc. and would be happy to make a presentation. In the meantime, you can find the first four "Our Town" articles on The Owen Sound Current and the first five "Story of Social Assistance" articles on the Owen Sound Hubbub.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

[REDACTED]
You;council@owensound.ca

Good morning,

I have noticed a lot of negative conversation surrounding Owen Sound's River District, and I am writing to express a different perspective. While I acknowledge that our downtown faces challenges, I dispute the overarching narrative that "no one" feels safe, and that this is the fault of those in our community who are experiencing homelessness or substance abuse disorders.

I live a few blocks from the river district with my young family, and we are downtown frequently – at the library, the farmer's market, the shops, cafes and restaurants. There are always others out doing the same. Yes, empty storefronts and struggling populations are visible, but so is genuine community commitment to our local businesses.

Blaming our most vulnerable community members is harmful, dehumanizing, and unproductive. Increased enforcement is not the answer. We need compassion and support for our most vulnerable, and most of all we need creative solutions to revitalize our downtown core. Years of prioritizing big box stores and car-dependent development have eroded the river district. Limited Sunday hours have also taken a toll. Despite this, so many wonderful businesses still exist and thrive. I am amazed at the resilience of our downtown, and the strength of our community in supporting it.

I recently had family visit from out of town, and they commented on how vibrant our downtown remains – how many interesting independent businesses we still have despite the struggles that face our community and many others. Our issues are not unique to Owen Sound. What is unique is the resilience of our community in showing up for each other and for our businesses. I encourage you to lean on that resilience in developing solutions. This is where our real strength lies, and where real change will come from.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
You;council@owensound.ca

I want to relay my downtown experiences in advance of the council/police services meeting Monday June 15.

Downtown is always my first go to place for any goods and services I need. Supporting local is my mantra. I walk, bike or drive there. Lately when I've driven, it's been difficult to get a parking spot on 2nd Avenue East which I find really exciting. I'm very happy to walk from a less convenient spot and join the others who share my appreciation for downtown OS.

At no time....day or night....have I ever felt unsafe in downtown Owen Sound. I've walked home alone many times following a Heartwood or Jazzmyn's night and feel comfortable. One night my husband and I came upon a younger man who appeared to be in difficulty. We called the police and stayed with him until a member of the police department arrived. The young man rallied somewhat; it was clear that the officer knew him. We felt so grateful for her ability to manage the situation with understanding, compassion and respect.

I was recently downtown on a Friday night; dinner at Sabitri's, Karaoke at Parkwood. Lots of people downtown. On our way home, Jazzmyn's and Rumpus Room were buzzing. Flies in the face of comments that "no one goes downtown." That is not my experience.

I always acknowledge people I meet who are part of the more disadvantaged members of our community. I have pleasant conversations, I feel I know many of them personally and provide support as I can in specific situations. I am grateful for OSHaRE and Safe & Sound; two organizations I support as I can along with United Way, particularly the SOS program. I am so proud of the support services within our community. Homelessness is everywhere; I believe our community does as well or better than other places.

A community is judged by how we treat its weakest members. I hope there is room in the conversation for positive narratives which I am seeing regularly on social media. I am encouraged by the positive voices and the efforts being made by so many members of our community to be welcoming, inclusive and caring.

Thank you for continuing the conversation to support all members of our community.

[REDACTED]

On Jun 15, 2026, at 6:06 PM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Warning: Unusual sender [REDACTED]

You don't usually receive emails from this address. Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Mr. Mayor, Council and Police.

I'm writing to you along with the support of my neighbors with regards to 1st Avenue East between 9th Street and 10th Street. This is the river district that you spent \$2M of tax payers hard earned dollars to renovate and it was a beautiful job and certainly welcomed.

That pleasure and enjoyment of the beautification of the river district of the city was short lived and should current circumstances continue it will soon be nothing but "Drug Alley".

I have sent numerous emails to the Mayor, By-law Enforcement department and to the Owen Sound Police. Also, on occasion when I have been woken up at night by screaming, yelling and foul filthy language and feared that someone was going to get hurt, I have called the Police, but usually by the time the Police get there it has died down or they have scattered.

This city has a serious drug problem and everyone refers to it as a homeless problem, but from my vantage point and from the photos some of you have on file sent by me and others it definitely is a drug issue.

You need to stop the flow of drugs into this city and your loitering and vagrancy laws need to have teeth. They are also defacing the new boardwalk, which if that continues it won't be nice for long.

If the Provincial and Federal laws prohibit you from clout with the current law, then it is time you lobbied the respective government people to get this changed.

In the meantime perhaps I can make a suggestion, that all the help facilities located downtown, that currently help these Street people, drug addicts and mentally ill individuals such as Safe and Sound, O'Share, and Community Living etc be moved to the outskirts of town to a vacant building for instance, where they can all be under one roof and work together. Thereby these individuals will have to leave the downtown core and go there for help and food, thus keeping them away from downtown.

However as that will take time, it would be appreciated by all residents who live in the river district and I'm sure all businesses as well, that you get this area cleaned up of the drug dealers and users, who by the way do it right in front of you with no remorse or shame.

I urge you to address this issue right away as this city is going to be known as the drug city of Ontario and property values are going to drop and more vacant stores will happen and its a quick downhill slide for the downtown and your tax revenue. Then what will it look like?

I appreciate your attention to this very serious matter as soon as possible. Less talk and discussion and more action, please.

Another issue which needs to be addressed is the garbage downtown. I walked along the boardwalk at around 10 am with small pieces of garbage all the way along. Both bins at the south end and the north end were overflowing and laying on the ground

around them. Then proceeded east on 10th Street East to 2nd Avenue East and looked down the street. Garbage everywhere, plus discarded clothing, pillows and blankets, a large cardboard box and the list goes on.

Is this the presentation we want to give to visitors and shoppers coming to our downtown. Not a pretty site!

Please address this issue as well.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
Date: June 15, 2026 at 1:29:02 PM EDT
To: Carol Merton [REDACTED] >, Scott Greig <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Safety concerns re: 612 2nd Ave E

Warning: Unusual sender [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Councillor Merton and Deputy Mayor Greig,

I am writing to you as a resident and business owner in our community to express my strong concerns regarding the proposed overnight shelter at 612 2nd Ave. East.

I operate a licenced home daycare within a couple hundred feet of this property. My primary concern is the safety and well-being of the children in my care. My outdoor play space is less than 50 feet from the Charlie Kelly parkette. Given that the proposed shelter site lacks any outdoor space, it is highly likely that the parkette will become a gathering point, effectively turning a space intended for children into an open-air drug den.

This location is entirely unsuitable due to its immediate surroundings. On the other side of the proposed site is Family and Children's Services, where children attend for sensitive, supervised visitations. Additionally, the site backs onto the river and the Mill Dam area, which is a key tourist attraction for Owen Sound. Placing a high-needs facility in such a high-traffic area, directly adjacent to spaces serving vulnerable children, seems like a major oversight.

Beyond the logistical concerns, there is a clear track record to consider. Safe 'N Sound's management of their current location has left many neighbors with significant concerns about their ability to be good stewards of a property. Currently, the vacant building at 612 2nd Ave. East is already accumulating trash, seemingly stored there by an individual struggling with mental health issues. If the organization cannot maintain basic property standards while the building is vacant, I have little confidence they will manage the site appropriately once it is operational.

I would like to understand what level of involvement the City had in approving this specific location. Additionally, what is the City's formal response to the mounting concerns from those of us who live and work in this immediate neighborhood?

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on how the City intends to address these issues and prioritize the safety of the children and families in this area.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Property owner on 5th St A E, Owen Sound.

From: Carol Merton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 07:03
To: [REDACTED]; Tim Simmonds [REDACTED]; Ambrose, Craig
[REDACTED]; Pam Coulter <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Scott Greig [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Safety concerns re: 612 2nd Ave E

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for sending your email highlighting your safety concerns relating to the overnight shelter planned for 612 2nd Ave. East Owen Sound. I am including the City Manager Tim Simmonds, the Chief of Police Craig Ambrose and the Director of Community Services Pam Coulter who oversees the Planning department in this response to you so that they can review your concerns and respond as appropriate.

Deputy Mayor Scott Greig, as a Grey County Councillor, may be able to provide information relating to how the location decision was made at the County level as part of the Grey County Housing and Homelessness Plan, who was consulted in the decision making process and what strategies might have been discussed specific to the location and the function of the shelter.

It is important that your concerns are sent on and it may be that those I have included in this response may also wish to obtain input from others including those who will be responsible for the management and operation of the shelter.

Again thank you for reaching out about this issue.
Carol

Carol Merton (she/her)

Councillor, City of Owen Sound

808 2nd Ave. E., Owen Sound, ON. N4K 2H4

519-376-1440

cmerton@owensound.ca | www.owensound.ca

The City of Owen Sound respectfully acknowledges the Territory of the Anishinabek Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.



POLICE GOVERNANCE ONTARIO

Education . Advocacy . Expertise

John Thomson
Owen Sound Police Service Board
922 2nd Avenue West
Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 4M7

June 17, 2026

Dear John,

On behalf of the **Police Governance Ontario (PGO – formerly OAPSB)**, it is our sincere pleasure to thank you for sponsoring the 2026 Spring Conference and AGM. Your partnership is appreciated and valued.

This year's conference was a great success. We had an excellent agenda, a great group of speakers and many generous supporters. Perhaps the greatest value was in the discussion and questions that were raised as we collectively worked through some important and timely issues related to our evolving governance roles. Together we shared information and different perspectives and learned from each other. We have some great momentum that we need to continue to build on. We can and will accomplish more together.

Your sponsorship contribution was used to:

- Help keep costs as low as possible for Members to attend the Spring Conference
- Offset the expenses related to delivering the event
- Support the marketing and outreach required to inform and communicate with members
- Compensation for speakers and entertainment
- Deliver upgrades to our education & training to membership

We thank you so much for providing your partnership and hope you will return in 2027!

Sincerely,

Lisa Darling
Executive Director

CC Alan Boughton
Chair, Police Governance Ontario (PGO)
PO Box 43058 London RPO Highland ON N6J 0A7

CC Holly Doty
Police Governance Ontario (PGO)
PO Box 43058 London RPO Highland ON N6J 0A7
T: 1-800-831-7727 | C: 519-636-7707

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD



SUBJECT: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BRANCH
BAIL COMPLIANCE AND WARRANT APPREHENSION UNIT (BCWA)
COMMUNITY ORIENTED RESPONSE AND ENFORCEMENT UNIT (CORE)

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: June 24, 2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The work of the Criminal Investigations Branch supports positive outcomes in the following Strategic Priorities established by the Board in the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan:

- ☒ Community Safety
- ☒ Community Wellbeing
- ☐ Our Members
- ☐ Sustainability

REPORT:

Notable Investigations:

Sexual Assault: Charges were laid after an investigation into an allegation of sexual assault that was brought forth by a female working as an escort in the city.

Aggravated Assault: Along with members of Uniform Patrol, CIB investigated a May stabbing incident in the downtown core. The investigation revealed that the accused stabbed the victim, a person known to them, during the course of a dispute. Injuries sustained by the victim were significant, but not life altering. The accused was charged and remanded into custody.

Child Sexual Abuse Material: CIB members assisted the O.P.P. in executing a search warrant at an Owen Sound residence in relation to the possession of child sexual abuse material. Multiple digital devices were seized. The investigation is ongoing under the direction of the OPP Child Sexual Exploitation Unit.

Missing Person: CIB assisted with a missing person investigation involving a person who had not been seen since October 2025. As a result of the investigation, police located the individual unharmed in the Greater Toronto Area.

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM

Officer Referrals/Consultations: 3

Follow-ups: 4

Community Support Consultations/Referrals: 2

Incident Response/Support: 30

Proactive foot patrol: 3

DRUG OVERDOSE INFORMATION

In May 2026, the city had one suspected drug-related death.

This was the first drug- related death investigation in Owen Sound for 2026.

Missing Persons

There are no outstanding missing persons.

BAIL COMPLIANCE AND WARRANT APPREHENSION UNIT (B.C.W.A.)

FOOT PATROL (Hours)	4
CRIMINAL CHARGES	4
WARRANT ARRESTS	6
ARREST - FAIL TO ATTEND FOR PRINTS	5
PROVINCIAL OFFENCES	0
COMPLIANCE CHECKS	10
S.O.R. COMPLIANCE CHECKS	3

The B.C.W.A. Unit investigated an assault that resulted in serious injuries to the victim and required surgery. The investigation has concluded, and charges were laid.

B.C.W.A. also executed warrants on individuals wanted in connection with theft-related offences across multiple jurisdictions. The accused are believed to be associated with an organized theft ring. Charges were laid, and the accused remain in custody pending further court proceedings.

In addition to investigative responsibilities, BCWA continued to participate in regular collaboration and information-sharing meetings with community partners. Members attended weekly meetings with Ontario Probation and Parole, Correctional Service Canada - Parole Office, and the HRRT Committee in support of coordinated offender management and community safety initiatives.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED RESPONSE AND ENFORCEMENT UNIT (C.O.R.E.)

FOOT PATROL (Hours)	30
CRIMINAL CHARGES	9
CDSA	4

On May 25 and May 26, The CORE unit conducted an enforcement and outreach initiative targeting open drug use throughout the River District. The operation addressed ongoing community concerns related to open and blatant illicit drug use in the community. Eight individuals were arrested, a total of ten criminal charges were laid, and Fentanyl and Methamphetamine were seized. The initiative reflects the Service's continued commitment to public safety and broader community well-being.

The CORE Unit remained actively engaged in community outreach, partnership initiatives, and problem-solving efforts. The unit conducted school tours for students from Alexandra School and took part in the annual Shop with a Cop event with East Ridge School on May 11.

The unit also attended weekly Situation Table for Acute Risk (STAR) meetings each Tuesday, including an urgent meeting held on May 22.

On May 30, CORE members participated in the Wheel and Ride event in the River District, promoting community engagement and public safety awareness.

The unit continued to work closely with community partners to address quality-of-life concerns. In collaboration with Municipal By-law Enforcement, CORE members assisted with the collection of abandoned grocery carts throughout the city and facilitated their return to the appropriate businesses.

FINANCIAL/RISK IMPLICATION(S):

Nil

SUBMITTED BY:

Craig Matheson, Inspector

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD



SUBJECT: **Auxiliary Unit- May 2026**

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: June 24th, 2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The [contents of this report] contributes to the positive outcomes within the following Strategic Priorities, set by the Board in the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan:

- ☒ Community Safety
- ☒ Community Wellbeing
- ☐ Our Members
- ☐ Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

In May 2026, the Auxiliary Unit actively supported the Uniform Branch through ride-a- longs and community events, contributing a total of **211 volunteer hours**.

During May 2026, the Auxiliary Unit supported the Uniform Branch with the IRD portion of block training. A total of **16 hours** was volunteered by the unit to assist with this training.

On May 11, the Auxiliary Unit participated in the annual shop with a cop event. The event was a success, pairing local students with members to raise funds for the Salvation Army Food Bank.

The unit partnered with the C.S.O. and participated in an Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving event at O.S.D.S.S. Members of the unit stopped student vehicles leaving the parking lot to educate on impaired driving, highway safety, and Highway Traffic Act offences and penalties.

The Unit participated in the Wheel and Ride Safety Festival and Bike Program. This annual event is presented in partnership with the Owen Sound River District, Kiwanis Club, Optimist Club, Owen Sound & District Junior Optimists, and Scenic Cycle. The event promotes safety, and includes a helmet fitting clinic, obstacle course, and tune-ups.

SUBMITTED BY:

Craig Matheson, Inspector



REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD

SUBJECT: FRONT LINE PATROL REPORT AND COLLISIONS- MAY 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: June 24, 2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The activities of Front-Line officers contribute to the positive outcomes within the following Strategic Priorities, set by the Board in the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan:

- ☒ Community Safety
- ☒ Community Wellbeing
- ☐ Our Members
- ☐ Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

The following report highlights key metrics from OSPS Front Line Patrol and Collision Statistics for April 2026.

	Platoon #1-4		Part Time Officers	
	May 2026	May 2025	May 2026	May 2025
Highway Traffic Act:	95	88	7	12
Recorded Cautions:	58	44	6	10
Criminal Code/ CDSA:	106	117	0	1
Warrants Executed:	31	30	2	0
Liquor Licence and Control Act:	15	7	0	0
Foot Patrol Hours:	94	84	7	10.5
Court Security Hours:	0	0	206.25	0

Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE):

- 11 R.I.D.E. checks conducted
- 24 officers
- 10 total hours
- 325 drivers checked
- 5 roadside breath tests administered

Impaired/ Over 80 mgs Charges

- There was a total of **five** impaired drivers charged during the month of May 2026.

Collision Statistics:

MAY 2026 APR 2026 MAY 2025

Total Collisions:	40	39	25
Collisions - East side	15	11	9
Collisions - West side	9	8	3
Collisions - parking lots	16	20	13
Fail to Remain Collisions	7	11	7
Collisions referred to CRC:	23	19	18
Collisions investigated by OSPS:	17	20	7

FINANCIAL/RISK IMPLICATION(S):

Nil

SUBMITTED BY:

Craig Matheson, Inspector

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD



SUBJECT: Community Service Officer

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: June 24, 2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The [contents of this report] contributes to the positive outcomes within the following Strategic Priorities, set by the Board in the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan:

- ☒ Community Safety
- ☒ Community Wellbeing
- ☐ Our Members
- ☐ Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The following report highlights key engagements of the Community Services Officer in May 2026

Community Engagement & Local/Provincial Committee Work

- OSAID Event- Local
- CSWBP Crime Prevention Action Table- Regional
- Shop with a Cop- Optimist Club- Local
- LETR Regional Meeting in Hanover- Zone meeting, Regional
- Wheel & Ride meeting- Partners- Kiwanis, Optimist, River District- Local
- Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership- External/Regional
- LEAPPS (Law Enforcement Agencies & Partners to Protect Seniors)- External/Provincial
- Youth in Policing Initiative-External/Provincial meeting
- CPYN National Meeting (Canadian Police Youth Network)
- Alpha Street Community Partners Monthly- Local
- VTRA meeting with Catholic Board- Regional

Community & School Presentations/Training

- Presentation to grade 1 & 2- on street and bike safety- Alexandra School
- Notre Dame School city walk- DL class, safety on the street.
- OSDSS Career Class- becoming a police officer & what civilian positions are available at OSPS
- Presentation to St. Mary's High School Law Class- youth & the law
- Presentations to Notre Dame grade 7/8- Online safety & the law on taking & sharing photos
- Presentation to St. Mary's Boys Phys Ed- Texting, sharing photos & privacy online.
- Meetings with parents of students who have commitment offences that could become criminal

Community Events

- Wheel & Ride Event- River District
- Shop with a Cop Event- raising money & awareness for the food bank- Food Basics
- OSSAID- SAID-Day- education on driving under the influence & the law- OSDSS
- Job/Career Fair- Base Borden



(Pic L-R Kinal & CSO Cranny at Base Borden & CSO with students & Optimist at Shop with a Cop)

Traditional Corporate and Social Media for OSPS (Community Outreach Education/Celebrations/Awareness/Media Releases)

- Driving Impaired, Investment Scams, #WeAreHiring, Traffic Road Closures, #TheNighShift, Lost & Found at OSPS, Westside Fire, Officers & Kids, Highschool Education RIDE, #PoliceWeek, Deer Through the Window, Mother's Day, CSO & Schools, Bear Safety in the City, Order of Merit, #JoinOurTeam, Pete Shultz Retires, 8 Arrested Downtown, Job Fair & Base Borden, #WheelAndRide
- **39 Posts in May**

FINANCIAL/RISK IMPLICATION(S):

Nil

SUBMITTED BY:

Jason Cranny
Community Service Officer #569
Owen Sound Police Service

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD



SUBJECT: Training Report – May 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: June 24, 2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

A continued emphasis on training for all members contributes to the positive outcomes within the following Strategic Priorities, set by the Board in the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan:

- ☐ Community Safety
- ☐ Community Wellbeing
- ☒ Our Members
- ☒ Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

The following report highlights Training for Owen Sound Police Service members during May 2026.

Block training sessions for all front-line officers concluded in May, 2026. This training consisted of two-days per officer of firearms requalification as well as Immediate Rapid Deployment exercises (I.R.D.).

One Sergeant attended the Professional Standards Investigator Course in Ottawa.

A Detective Constable attended the Homicide Investigators course hosted by the Ontario Police College in London.

A Constable attended Criminal Investigators Training; a two-week course held at the Police College.

The Owen Sound Police Service hosted a Crisis Intervention Training Course which ran from May 19-May 22. The course included local presenters from The Canadian Mental Health Association, MMHRT and the Alzheimer's Society as well as several topics delivered by the course coordinator, who works with the Hamilton Police Service's Mental Health Crisis Response Team. In addition to several Owen Sound Police Officers, the course was attended by officers from Saugeen Shores Police and the Hanover Police Service as well.

SUBMITTED BY:

Craig Matheson, Inspector

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD



SUBJECT: Records, Courts, and Bylaw Report – May 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: June 24, 2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Records, Court Services, and Bylaw contribute to the positive outcomes within the following Strategic Priorities, set by the Board in the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan:

- ☒ Community Safety
- ☐ Community Wellbeing
- ☐ Our Members
- ☒ Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

Records – May 2026

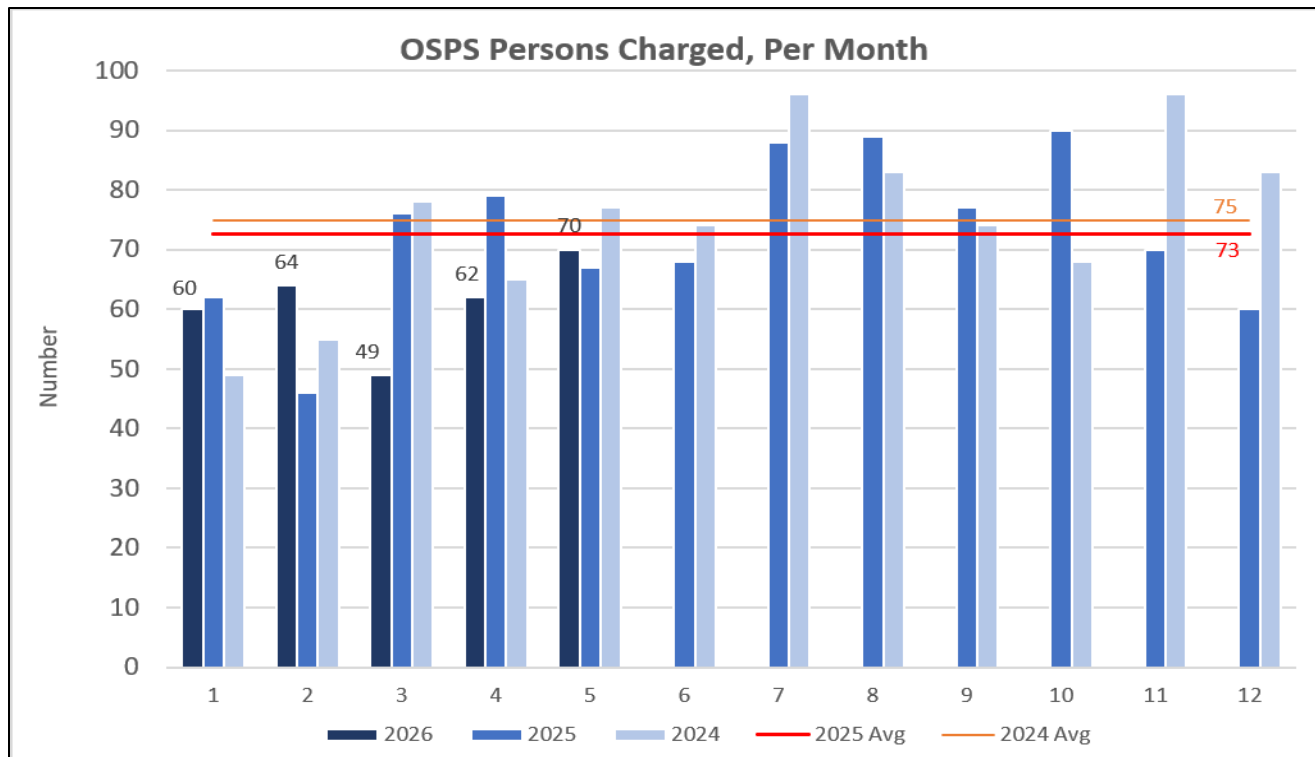
	This Month	Previous Month		Same Month	2026	2025	
	MAY 2026	April 2026	% Change	Previous Year	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	YTD
				May 2025	Jan.1-May31, 2026	Jan.1-May31, 2025	% Change
Records Services:							
Bulk Record Check Searches	9,083	8,537	6.4%	5,898	38,190	33,167	15.1%
Executed Warrants	64	56	14.3%	48	268	258	3.9%
Persons Charged	70	62	12.9%	67	305	330	-7.6%

In May compared to April 2026:

- There was a 6.4 % increase in bulk record check searches.
- There was a 14.3 % increase in executed warrants.
- There was a 12.9 % increase in person charged.

Year-to-date changes May 2026 compared to May 2025:

- There was a 15.1 % increase in bulk record check searches.
- There was a 3.9 % increase in executed warrants.
- There was a 7.6 % reduction in persons charged.



Courts – May 2026

	This Month MAY 2026	Previous Month April 2026	% Change	Same Month Previous Year May 2025	2026 Year-to-Date Jan.1-May31, 2026	2025 Year-to-Date Jan.1-May31, 2025	YTD % Change
Court Services:							
Total Custodies Transported	66	90	-26.7%	84	390	420	-7.1%
OPP	26	45	-42.2%	48	174	201	-13.4%
OSPS	40	45	-11.1%	36	216	219	-1.4%
Video/Appearances	28	41	-31.7%	29	181	158	14.6%
Court Security Hours	1,459	1,532	-4.8%	1,359	7,666	7,236	5.9%
Special Constable	1253	1,307	-4.2%	1,359	6,561	7,236	-9.3%
Police Officer	206.25	225	-8.3%	-	1105.25	-	

In May compared to April 2026:

- There was a 26.7 % reduction in custody transports.
- There was a 31.7 % reduction in video appearances.
- There was a 4.8 % reduction in Special Constable hours worked.

Year-to-date changes May 2026 compared to May 2025:

- There was a 7.1 % reduction in in custody transports.
- There was a 14.6 % increase in video appearances.
- There was a 5.9 % increase in Special Constable hours worked.

Owen Sound Police Service provides an armed officer at both the Ontario/Superior Court of Justice Courthouse and the Provincial Offences Court while courts are in session.

This requirement resulted in seven-armed officers being scheduled each week throughout May, totaling approximately **206.25 hours** of armed court-security coverage. These hours are in addition to the **1,253 hours** worked by Special Constables during the same month.

Bylaw – May 2026

Nothing to report for the month.

FINANCIAL/RISK IMPLICATION(S):

Providing court security and transporting persons in custody comes with inherent risk, while the efficient and accurate processing of judicial documentation is foundational to community safety.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Nil

SUBMITTED BY:

Krista Fluney, Director, Civilian Services

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD

SUBJECT: Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre (OSECC) – May 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: June 24, 2026



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The OSECC and the supporting IT infrastructure contributes to the positive outcomes within the following Strategic Priorities, set by the Board in the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan:

- ☒ Community Safety
- ☐ Community Wellbeing
- ☐ Our Members
- ☒ Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

9-1-1 Calls – May 2026:

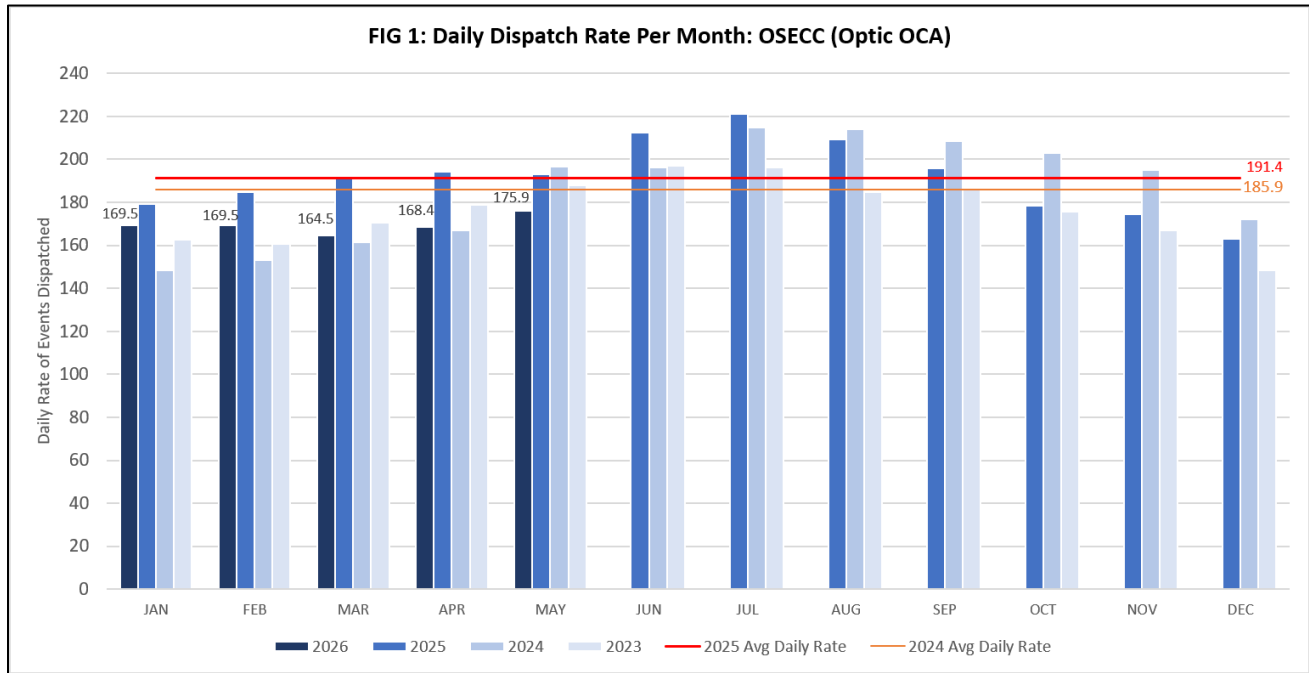
With the transition to NG911 on November 25, 2025, the previous source of monthly 911 data—Bell Flex reports—is no longer populated or applicable. The OSECC team is currently working with NG911 vendors to develop enhanced reporting using the expanded data available. Analysis of key performance metrics from these new reports is underway.

Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Events – May 2026:

Source: OPTIC's OnCallAnalytics	This Month MAY 2026	Previous Month April 2026	% Change	Same Month Previous Year May 2025	2026 Year-to-Date Jan.1-May31, 2026	2025 Year-to-Date Jan.1-May31, 2025	YTD % Change
All CAD Events in OSECC (Number)	5,453	5,053	7.9%	5,981	25,607	28,476	-10.1%
All Police (inc. OSPS)*	5,170	4,752	8.8%	5,475	23,170	24,957	-7.2%
All Fire	271	226	19.9%	494	1,571	2,507	-37.3%
Grey County Transport	12	75	-84.0%	12	866	1,012	-14.4%
OSPS	1,743	1,629	7.0%	1,627	7,847	7,449	5.3%
All CAD Events in OSECC (Avg Daily Rate)	175.9	168.4	4.5%	192.9	169.6	188.6	-10.1%
All Police (inc. OSPS)*	166.8	158.4	5.3%	176.6	153.4	165.3	-7.2%
All Fire	8.7	7.5	16.0%	15.9	10.4	16.6	-37.3%
Grey County Transport	0.4	2.5	-84.0%	0.4	5.7	6.7	-14.9%
OSPS	56.2	54.3	3.5%	52.5	52.0	49.3	5.5%

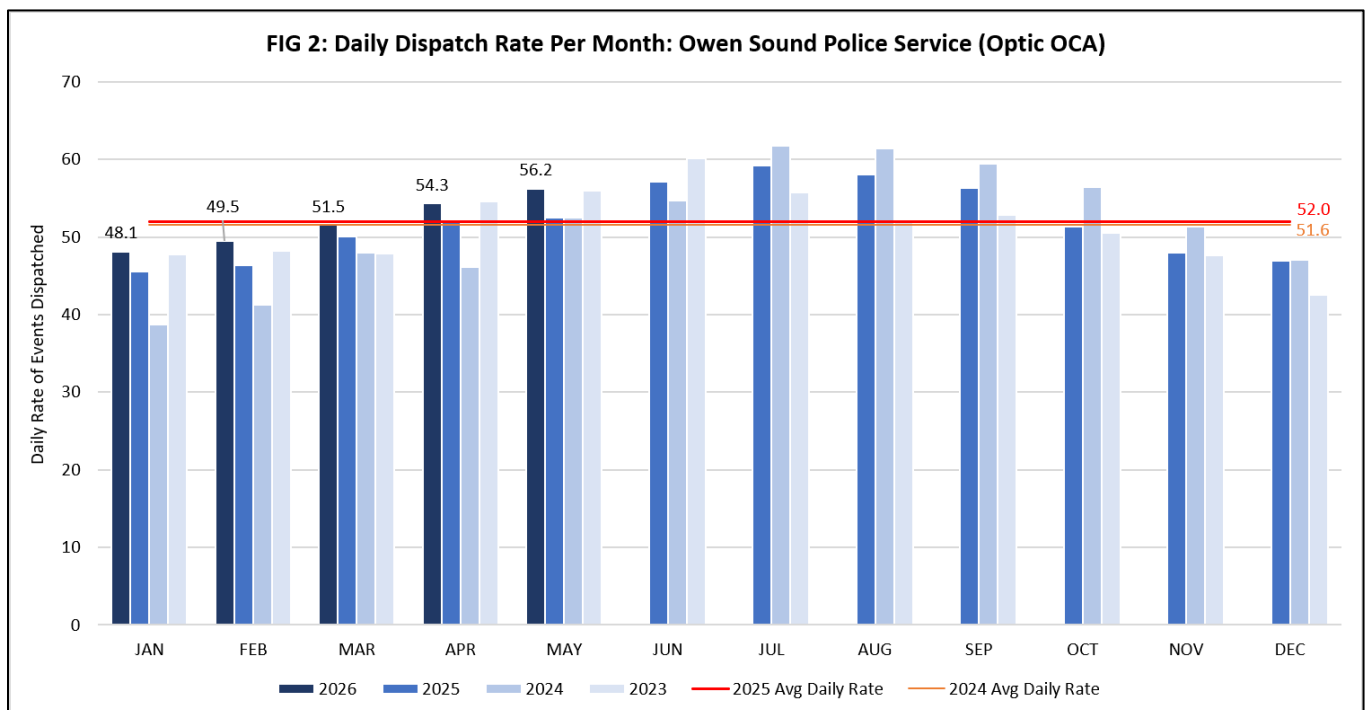
Calls dispatched by the OSECC through CAD originate from multiple sources, including non-emergency phone lines, walk-ins, officer generated events, and 911 calls. In May:

- In May 2026, the OSECC dispatched 5453 calls, averaging 180 calls per day (**Fig.1**), making it the busiest month so far this year.
- Year-to-date (from January to May), the OSECC's overall dispatch volume is down 10%.



Of the total dispatched calls in May, 1743 or 32% were dispatched specifically for the Owen Sound Police Service (**Fig.2**).

- OSPS call volume in May was an average of 56.2 calls/day, representing a 3.5% increase compared to April's average of 54.3 calls/day.
- Year-to-date, OSPS dispatch call volume has risen 5.5% compared to the same period last year.



Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure – May 2026:

May continued to be a very busy month with NG911 certifications (with only one certification remaining by end of June). Training preparations were conducted for NG911 in which all hosted agencies are visiting for one-on-one sessions with trainers and technical staff in June. IT Director Hill attended several Communication Centres in eastern Ontario to assist local IT staff in preparation of NG911 migrations.

Some labour changes are required due to staffing the Bail Compliance Dashboard for both IT and CIB operations, and to roll this new provincial tool out to all frontline officers. A business case has been developed and submitted to senior leadership for review.

Work was completed by IT technicians in conjunction with Goderich Fire and their radio provider for digital radio migrations.

OSPS IT assisted SSPS in remediations to their infrastructure for compliance using multiple tools (both free and paid subscriptions which OSPS maintains) and methods for thoroughness.

FINANCIAL/RISK IMPLICATION(S):

Risk management and contingency planning are integral to the day-to-day operations of a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). While the OSECC continues to grow and evolve, OSPS strives to maintain a balance of staffing that best aligns with workload demands, member wellness, emergency response standards, and contracted client expectations.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Nil

SUBMITTED BY:

Suzanne Bell-Matheson, Director, Corporate Services
Chris Hill, Director, Information Technology
Marg Gloade, Strategic Analyst

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD



SUBJECT: HUMAN RESOURCES – MAY 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: June 24, 2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The Human Resources Unit contributes to the positive outcomes within the following Strategic Priorities, set by the Board in the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan:

- ☐ Community Safety
- ☐ Community Wellbeing
- ☒ Our Members
- ☐ Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

OSL Update

System configuration is complete and internal testing has started. The initial data was sent in February, and so updates are being inputted so the data is current. As expected, the initial coding generated errors and the project team is working through issues. Supervisor training has been provided to the Communications Centre; they will now be responsible for scheduling and approving their unit with final approval remaining with Krista and Jeff in payroll. The next stage of testing will involve sending sample payroll files to the test version of Pearl. Once that is working smoothly we will be able to roll the system out for a full parallel test.

Recruitment:

- The Service attended a Career Fair at CFB Borden for members of the military looking to transition to work outside of the Military.
- 3 candidates completed first-round interviews for the Recruit Constable position.
- 1 candidate completed a second-round interview for Recruit Constable.
- 1 candidate was interviewed first and second round for experienced Constable.
- 7 candidates were interviewed for full time Dispatcher.
- 9 candidates interviewed for part time Special Constable.
- 5 candidates interviewed for part time Data Clerk.

Staffing:

The following staffing changes occurred during this reporting period:

New Hires:

- *None this month*

Transfers/Promotions:

- *None this month*

Resignations/Retirements:

- *None this month*

Financial/Risk Implications:

Personnel salaries and benefits represent more than 90% of the Service's operating budget. As people are the foundation of the organization, effective human resource management is essential. Ongoing attention to training, health and safety, staff wellness, and adequate staffing levels mitigates organizational risk and supports operational readiness.

ATTACHMENT(S):

None

SUBMITTED BY:

Wendy Pratt, Human Resources Manager

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD



SUBJECT: LOST HOURS – MAY 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: June 24, 2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The management of lost hours due to sick time and WSIB claims contributes to the positive outcomes within the following Strategic Priorities, set by the Board in the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan:

- ☐ Community Safety
- ☐ Community Wellbeing
- ☒ Our Members
- ☐ Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

The following report highlights key metrics from OSPS full time members for May 2026, including lost hours due to leave from sick time, short term disability (STD), and Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

Lost Hours:

Month/Year	SICK/STD			WSIB		
	Number of Fulltime Members	Total Number of Shifts (complete and partial)	Total Number of Hours	Number of Fulltime Members	Total Number of Shifts (complete and partial)	Total Number of Hours
May 2026	10	39	372(-11%)	1	22	176
April 2026	12	44	418	2	35	257.5
YTD 2026	33	172	1,628.5(+64%)	3	144	846.5
YTD 2025	32	101	1,017	2	216	1,728

- There was a 11% decrease in lost hours due to member sick leave in May compared to April 2026.
- There was a 64% increase in YTD lost hours due to member sick leave in 2026 compared to 2025, much of this is attributed to two longer term sick leaves.

WSIB Update:

There is an ongoing WSIB case involving a full-time member pending final resolution however the member is not receiving top-up amount or benefits.

FINANCIAL/RISK IMPLICATION(S):

The loss of scheduled work hours is a potential financial risk and is monitored to ensure a balance with members' physical and mental wellbeing. Financial resources are required to provide ongoing member training, which is an essential to updating qualifications, knowledge, and ultimately organizational risk mitigation.

ATTACHMENT(S):

None

SUBMITTED BY:

Wendy Pratt, Human Resources Manager

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD



SUBJECT: Building and Health and Safety Monthly Update Report
TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board
DATE: June 19th, 2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The [contents of this report] contributes to the positive outcomes within the following Strategic Priorities, set by the Board in the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan:

- ☐ Community Safety
- ☐ Community Wellbeing
- ☒ Our Members
- ☒ Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

Below is a list of facility related matters and updates scheduled for 2026:

Brickwork

Facilities are aware of the deteriorating brick on the exterior building walls that will require the installation of a waterproof membrane and metal cladding to prevent moisture and further deterioration. This remains outstanding and is not scheduled for 2026. This will remain on the updates in order to maintain awareness. **No Change**

Water Leaks- The two water leaks identified in April 2026 were addressed by City staff. There was no update received on the cause or solution, however the leaks have not recurred. **No Change.**

Cleaning Services

The current provider continues to do an excellent job without a current contract **No Change**

Routine Maintenance and Repairs- Having a facilities team member on-site at least two days per week to support ongoing maintenance and repairs has resulted in a big improvement.

Elevator - The elevator still needs to be locked out manually in the evening and daytime to prevent unwanted access to the upstairs. **No Change**

Front Lobby Washroom – the door lock is to be changed to keyed access so members of the public will need to request access from front desk personnel. This will ensure the washroom remains locked when not in use and staff are aware when a member of the public is inside, with a spare key at the front desk for emergency access. **City Facilities staff indicate this is awaiting scheduling by a locksmith. No Change**

AODA Compliance – Long term will need to be included in a facility assessment and needs review. There is no planned Capital expenditure to meet these needs.

HVAC- HVAC balancing and recalibration occurred over several days in May with an outside contractor, and it is hoped this will assist with temperature imbalances and condensation leaks during the spring/summer cooling season. **No significant weather extremes to determine effectiveness**

Interior Paint- Painting of the main floor hallways and some office spaces was completed over approximately a week in early May. **No further painting scheduled at this time.**

Parking Lot Storm Drains

This winter one of the parking lot water drains was plugged causing flooding in the parking lot. Public works attended and vacuumed out the blockage. Facilities will request routine maintenance of the water drains to prevent this from reoccurring. During the heavy rains this Spring there was a repeat issue and this will be examined further in the Spring. **No Change**

Main Floor Staff Washroom Renovation

A contractor has been secured, and the renovations are expected to take place starting in June 2026. **The contractor started demolition of the washrooms this week (June 15th to 20th) and work will continue for several weeks until completed.**

SUBMITTED BY:

Chief C Ambrose



REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICES BOARD

SUBJECT: Chiefs Activity Report – May 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Services Board

DATE: June 19, 2026

-
- Days Off/Annual Leave – 3 days
 - NICHE Executive Advisory Board Meeting Niagara Falls – 1 day
 - NICHE User Group Conference Niagara Falls – 2 days
 - Grey Bruce Police Leaders Meeting – 1 hour
 - CACP Information Communication & Technology Spring Virtual Meetings – 10 hours
 - Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy Leadership Group – 1.5 hours
 - Situation Table Bruce Grey Executive Leads Biannual Meeting – 1 hour
 - Dispatch Meetings – 8 hours
 - Cobourg Chief Retirement Gathering – 2 hours
 - Governor General Investiture Ceremony for Member Order of Merit – 1 day
 - Hiring HR Interviews – 7 hours
 - Meeting with MPP Vickers – 1 hour
 - City Meetings – 3.5 hours
 - CISO Governing Body & Executive Meetings – 12 hours
 - MARAM High Risk Domestic Table Meeting – 2 hours
 - Meeting with Grey County – Update Re: Court Security – 2 hours

SUBMITTED BY:

Craig Ambrose, Chief of Police

The Corporation of the City of Guelph

By-law Number (2024) – 20990

A by-law to regulate the use of certain public property within the City of Guelph for the protection of persons and property and to promote safe use and enjoyment.

Whereas:

- A. The *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended (the "*Municipal Act*"), provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers, and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority and that it may do so by by-law;
- B. Section 10(2) of the *Municipal Act* provides that the City may pass by-laws respecting, among other things, the health, safety and well-being of persons and the protection of persons and property;
- C. Section 8(1) of the *Municipal Act* provides that the power of the City shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on the City to enhance the City's ability to respond to municipal issues;
- D. Section 8(3) of the *Municipal Act* provides that a by-law may regulate or prohibit and may require persons to do things respecting the matter;
- E. Section 125 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality may regulate the use and installation of heating and cooking appliances and the storage of fuel for use in heating and cooking appliances;
- F. Section 127 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality may prohibit the depositing of refuse or debris on land without consent of the owner or occupant of the lands, and may define "refuse" for such purpose;
- G. Section 128 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality may prohibit and regulate with respect to public nuisances, including matters that, in the opinion of its council, are or could become or cause public nuisances, and further that the municipal council's determination of what constitutes a public nuisance is not subject to review;
- H. Section 425 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality may pass by-laws providing that a person who contravenes a by-law of the municipality passed under the *Municipal Act* is guilty of an offence; and
- I. Section 444 of the *Municipal Act* provides that, if a municipality is satisfied that a contravention of a by-law of the municipality has occurred, the municipality may make an order requiring the person who contravened the by-law, or who caused or permitted the contravention, to discontinue the contravening activity.

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Guelph enacts as follows:

Part 1: Interpretation

1.1 In addition to the terms defined parenthetically herein, in this by-law:

- a) **"Appurtenances"** means all structures, surfaces, equipment and other objects affixed to or an integral physical feature of a particular public property or space;
- b) **"Approved Propane Appliance"** means any propane fixture, appliance, apparatus or device that consumes or is intended to consume propane as a source of fuel for heat or cooking and is:
 - i) a Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Underwriters Lab (UL) listed fixture, appliance, apparatus, or device;
 - ii) assembled, installed and operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and in accordance with the requirements of the *Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000* and Ontario Regulation 211/01 Propane Storage and Handling;
 - iii) is in safe operating condition and equipped with an on/off valve that it is fully functional and can be easily operated; and
 - iv) not modified or used for anything other than for the purpose recommended by the manufacturer;
- c) **"City"** means The Corporation of the City of Guelph and any of its designated representatives;
- d) **"Council"** means the municipal council of The Corporation of the City of Guelph;
- e) **"Designated Area"** is defined in section 3.6;
- f) **"General Public Space"** is defined in section 3.2;
- g) **"Noxious Materials"** includes tires, plastics, rubber products, drywall, demolition waste, construction waste, paint, animal organic waste, vegetable waste, food waste, biomedical waste, tar, asphalt products, battery boxes, pressure-treated wood, creosote-treated wood, and painted wood;
- h) **"Nuisance"** when used in relation to a heating or incinerating device means any circumstance or impact that poses a health or life safety risk to any person or that disturbs or prevents any person from the safe use and enjoyment of a public space, such as excessive smoke, foul odour, airborne sparks or embers, or particulates;

- i) **"Officer"** means a municipal law enforcement officer while in the course of such officer's duties;
- j) **"Park"** is defined in section 3.3;
- k) **"Public Space"** means all General Areas, Designated Areas, Parks, Reservable Public Spaces, and Sensitive Public Spaces;
- l) **"Refuse"** means waste which appears to have been abandoned;
- m) **"Reservable Public Space"** defined in section 3.4;
- n) **"Sensitive Public Space"** is defined in section 3.5.

Part 2: Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this By-law is to regulate the use of specified public spaces within the jurisdiction of the City of Guelph to ensure the protection of persons and property and promote safe use and enjoyment.

Part 3: Restrictions on Use of Public Spaces

3.1 General Restrictions

- (1) A person must not do any of the following activities in any Public Space:
- (a) in any way destroy, damage, foul, injure or impair any feature of the natural environment, real property, personal property, or any Appurtenance;
 - (b) erect, or cause to be erected, or occupy any unauthorized structure or shelter that is affixed to the land or any Appurtenance, or is permanent or immovable in nature;
 - (c) gather, accumulate, or store household, yard, or commercial goods, building supplies, waste or refuse, except on or within a temporary structure or shelter not prohibited by this By-law, and in compliance with applicable laws;
 - (d) dispose of or dump household, yard, or commercial goods, building supplies, waste or refuse, except if deposited into receptacles provided by the City for such purpose and in compliance with applicable laws;
 - (e) make unauthorized use of utilities, including, but not limited to electrical, gas, or water, or obstruct any utility owner from access and use;
 - (f) obstruct ingress or egress to any property;
 - (g) in any way obstruct the City or its employees, contractors, agents and representatives from access and use of any Public Space;
 - (h) burn any Noxious Materials;

- (i) store propane cylinder in an enclosed space, in direct sunlight, or near a heat source;
 - (j) use any propane fixture, appliance, apparatus or other device that uses propane as a source of fuel other than an Approved Propane Appliance that is monitored by a person capable of safe assembly and use of such appliance and capable of performing the necessary actions to control a fire and prevent unwanted spread;
 - (k) use any fixture, appliance, apparatus or other heating, cooking or incineration device, including an Approved Propane Appliance, in any manner that creates a Nuisance.
- (2) In any Public Space where temporary structures or shelters are not prohibited by this By-law, a person must not erect, or cause to be erected, or occupy any structure or shelter:
- (a) in a cluster or group of more than five (5) structures or shelters;
 - (b) within a group of structures or shelters with less than 10 metres of separation between each cluster or grouping of structures or shelters;
 - (c) within 10 metres of the boundary/periphery of a school or childcare centre.

3.2 General Public Space

- (1) In this By-law, "General Public Space" means outdoor open space lands and facilities owned by, leased by, licensed to, or under the management of the City that are publicly accessible and intended for general public access and use, and all Appurtenances, and includes but is not limited to public squares, outdoor waiting areas, building perimeters, but *excluding* Parks, Sensitive Public Spaces and Designated Areas.
- (2) In addition to the general restrictions in section 3.1, a person must not do any of the following activities in a General Public Space:
- (a) erect, or cause to be erected, or occupy any unauthorized structure or shelter, including of a temporary movable nature, beginning one (1) hour after sunrise and ending one (1) hour before sunset.
- (3) If a General Public Space is also a Reservable Public Space, or contains a Reservable Public Space, the provisions of section 3.4 apply to such Reservable Public Space.

3.3 Parks

- (1) In this By-law, "Park" means any park, woodland, field, trail, green space owned by, leased by, licensed to, or under the management of the City that is available for non-exclusive public recreational use, and all Appurtenances, but *excluding* Reservable Public Spaces, Sensitive Public Spaces and Designated Areas.

- (2) In addition to the general restrictions in section 3.1, a person must not do any of the following activities in a Park:

- (a) obstruct the safe use and enjoyment of the Park by another person.

3.4 Reservable Public Spaces

- (1) In this By-law, "Reservable Public Space" means outdoor open space, lands and facilities owned by, leased by, licensed to, or under the management of the City that are available for exclusive use on a one-time or occasional basis by rental, reservation, or booking, and which, when not rented, reserved, or booked for exclusive use, are available for non-exclusive public recreational use, and all Appurtenances, and includes but is not limited to, reservable outdoor sports facilities, event facilities, and picnic shelters.
- (2) In addition to the general restrictions in section 3.1, a person must not do any of the following activities in or on a Reservable Public Space:
 - (a) at any time while the Reservable Space is rented, reserved, or booked by another person, erect, or cause to be erected, or occupy any structure or shelter, including of a temporary movable nature;
 - (b) at any time while the Reservable Public Space is available for non-exclusive public recreational use, obstruct the safe use and enjoyment of the Reservable Public Space by another person except by obtaining a valid rental, reservation or booking.
- (3) If a Reservable Public Space is also a Sensitive Public Space, or contains a Sensitive Public Space, the provisions of section 3.5 of this By-law apply to such Sensitive Public Space.

3.5 Sensitive Public Spaces

- (1) In this By-law, "Sensitive Public Space" means outdoor open space, lands and facilities owned by, leased by, licensed to, or under the management of the City and intended for a sensitive public recreational or personal use, including areas intended for use by children, pets, or for mobility of the public, or with heightened safety requirements, or attracting a heightened expectation of quiet use and enjoyment, and includes but is not limited to, playgrounds, waterparks and splash pads, wading pools, fenced off-leash dog areas, sidewalks, pathways or recreational trails, accessibility routes and ramps, entrances, exits, or doorways, municipal cemeteries, community gardens and fountains.
- (2) In addition to the general restrictions in section 3.1, a person must not do any of the following activities within a Sensitive Public Space:
 - (a) erect, or cause to be erected, or occupy any unauthorized structure or shelter, including of a temporary movable nature;
 - (b) obstruct the safe use and enjoyment of the Sensitive Public Space by another person;

(c) in any way obstruct the City or its employees, contractors, agents and representatives from access and use.

(3) Without limiting the generality of (2)(a) above prohibiting unauthorized structures and shelters within a Sensitive Public Area, a person must not erect, or cause to be erected, or occupy any structure or shelter, including of a temporary movable nature, within the following distances of specified Sensitive Public Areas:

(a) 10 metres of the boundary/periphery of a playground, waterpark, splash pad, or wading pool;

(c) 10 metres of any area prescribed by the City as a Sensitive Public Area and listed in Schedule A of this By-law.

3.6 Designated Areas

(1) In this By-law, "Designated Area" means outdoor open space, lands and facilities owned by, leased by, licensed to, or under the management of the City defined, constructed or utilized for a special purpose or sensitive land use, and includes but is not limited to, highways, fire routes or areas surrounding a fire hydrant, storm water management facilities and infrastructure, municipal easements, wetlands, wellhead protection areas, municipal wells and water collection areas, watercourses, potable water sources, areas susceptible to erosion or flooding, environmentally sensitive areas, and all Appurtenances.

(2) A person must not do any of the following activities in a Designated Area:

(a) erect, or cause to be erected, or occupy any unauthorized structure or shelter, including of a temporary movable nature;

(b) in any way obstruct the City or any authority having jurisdiction or their respective employees, contractors, agents and representatives from access and use.

(3) Without limiting the generality of (2)(a) above prohibiting unauthorized structures and shelters within a Designated Area, a person must not erect, or cause to be erected, or occupy any structure or shelter, including of a temporary movable nature, within the following distances of specified Designated Areas:

(a) 10 metres of the boundary/periphery of a lake, river, pond or other watercourse;

(b) 30 metres of any railway or railroad infrastructure;

(c) 10 metres of any area prescribed by the City as a Designated Area and listed in Schedule B of this By-law.

Part 4: Enforcement and Penalty Provisions

4.1 The enforcement of this By-Law shall be conducted by an Officer.

- 4.2 An Officer may enter on land at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection to determine whether or not the By-law is complied with.
- 4.3 No person shall hinder or obstruct, or attempt to hinder or obstruct, any Officer exercising a power or performing a duty under this By-Law.
- 4.4 Every person who is alleged to have contravened any of the provisions of this By-law, shall identify themselves to an Officer upon request, failure to do so shall be deemed to have hindered or obstructed an Officer in the execution of such Officer's duties.
- 4.5 An Officer may issue an order to any person in contravention of this By-law.
- 4.6 An Officer may order that person to dismantle and remove any building or structure erected or improvement made in contravention of this By-law within such time as specified in the order.
- 4.7 Every person who contravenes any provision of this By-law, including failing to comply with an order made under this By-law, is guilty of an offence and is liable to such penalties as provided for in the *Provincial Offences Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.33, as amended (the "*Provincial Offences Act*") and the *Municipal Act*.
- 4.8 A director or officer of a corporation who knowingly concurs in the contravention of this By-law by the corporation, including failing to comply with an order made under this By-law, is guilty of an offence and is liable to such penalties as provided for in the *Provincial Offences Act* and the *Municipal Act*.
- 4.9 A person who is required to vacate a Public Space for contravention with this By-law shall remove from the lands, at the person's own expense, any building, structure or thing that the person erected or placed on the lands or that the person was using on the lands on or before the date on which the person is required to vacate the lands. If the person subject to the order fails to comply with the order, the City may cause the building, structure, structure or thing to be dismantled and removed and any cost or expense incurred thereby is a debt due to the City and may be recovered by the City in a court of competent jurisdiction in an action against the person.
- 4.10 A person who has not been authorized by the City shall not cause a building, structure or thing to be dismantled and removed from any Public Space.
- 4.11 If a person is convicted of an offence under this By-law, the court in which the conviction has been entered and any court of competent jurisdiction may, in addition to any other remedy and to any penalty imposed, make an order prohibiting the continuation or repetition of the offence by the person convicted.

Part 5: General

- 5.1 This by-law shall be referred to and may be cited as the "Public Space Use By-law".
- 5.2 If any provision or part of a provision of this By-law is declared by any court or tribunal or any provincial or federal legislation or regulation to be illegal or

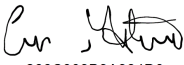
inoperative, in whole or in part, or inoperative in particular circumstances, the balance of the by-law or its application in any other circumstance shall not be affected and shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Part 6: Effective Date:

6.1 This By-law shall come into force and take effect on October 1, 2024.
DS

Passed this tenth day of September, 2024

DocuSigned by:


266C903B3A384D0...

Cam Guthrie, Mayor

DocuSigned by:


2FD9B8765936433...

Garrett Meades, Acting Deputy Clerk



This by-law was approved by Guelph City Council on September 10, 2024. Written approval of the by-law was given by Mayoral Decision 2024-A37 dated September 10, 2024.

Schedule A

Sensitive Public Areas

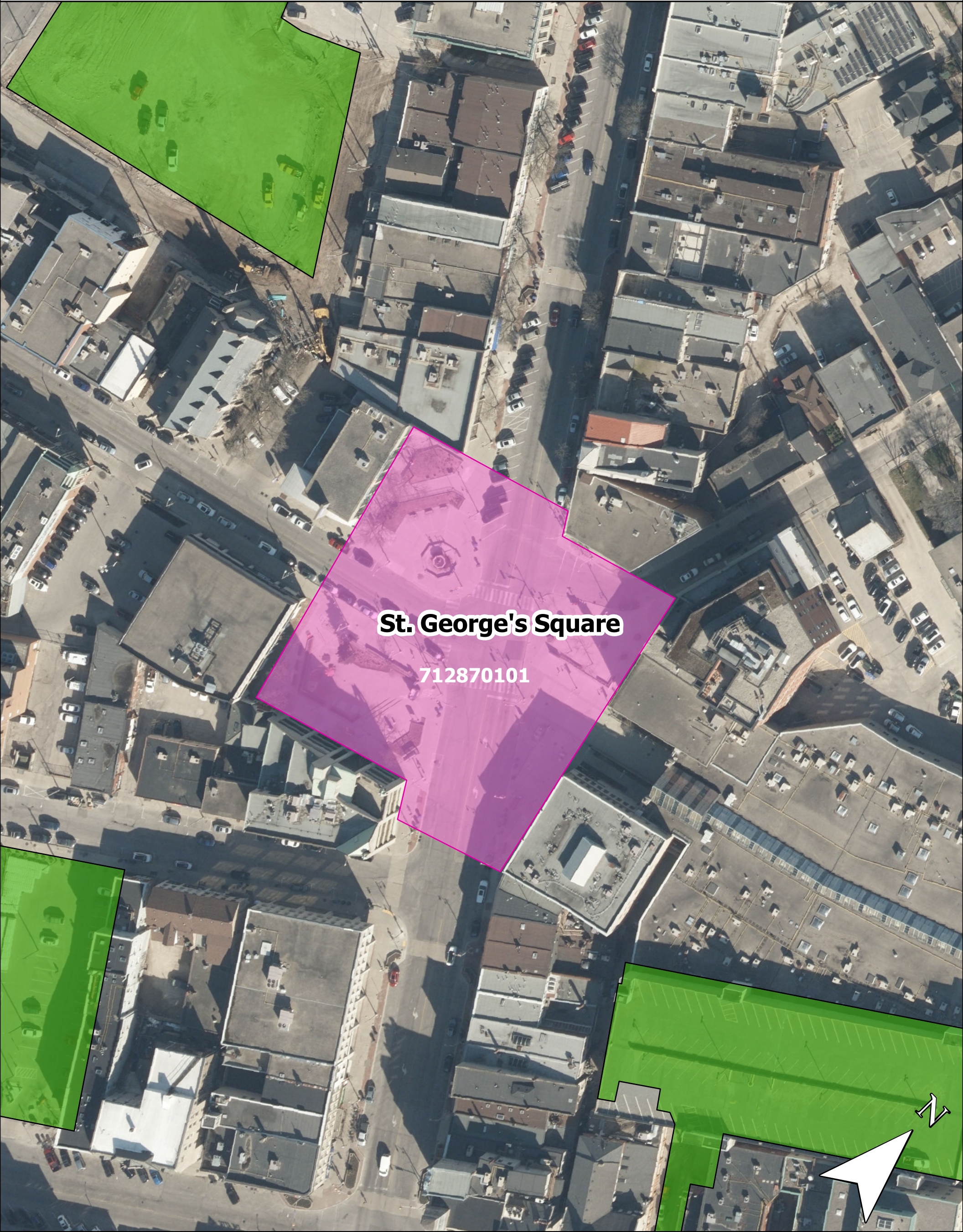
1. St. George's Square

St. Georges Square, Plan 8, (Formerly Unnamed Street Plan 8, Surrounding St. Georges Church & St. Georges Church Plan 8) Lying South of Douglas Street, Save and Except ROS635822, ROS525863 & ROS141689; Pt St. Georges Square; St. Georges Church, Plan 8, AS IN CS62529; St. Georges Church, Plan 8, AS IN CS62528; Guelph (PIN 71287-0101)

2. Market Square

Pt Market Sq, Plan 8, AS IN CS12629; Guelph (PIN 71284-0027)

City of Guelph St. George's Square Sensitive Public Space



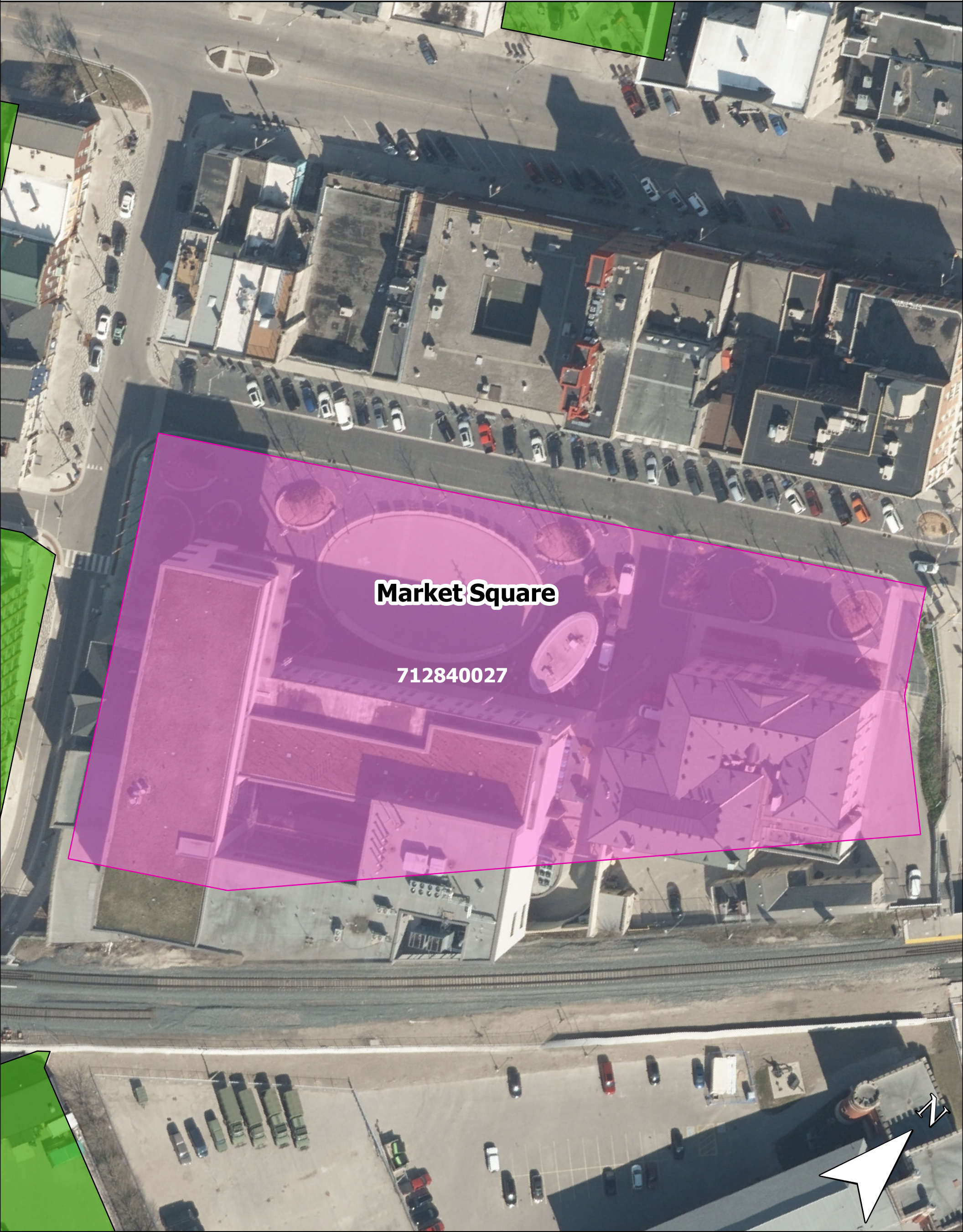
Legend

- City Of Guelph Owned Property
- Sensitive Public Space

0 20 40
Meters 10

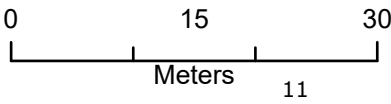
Author: City Of Guelph GIS Team
Date Created: 09/2024

City Of Guelph Market Square Sensitive Public Space



Legend

- City Of Guelph Owned Property
- Sensitive Public Space



Schedule B

Designated Areas

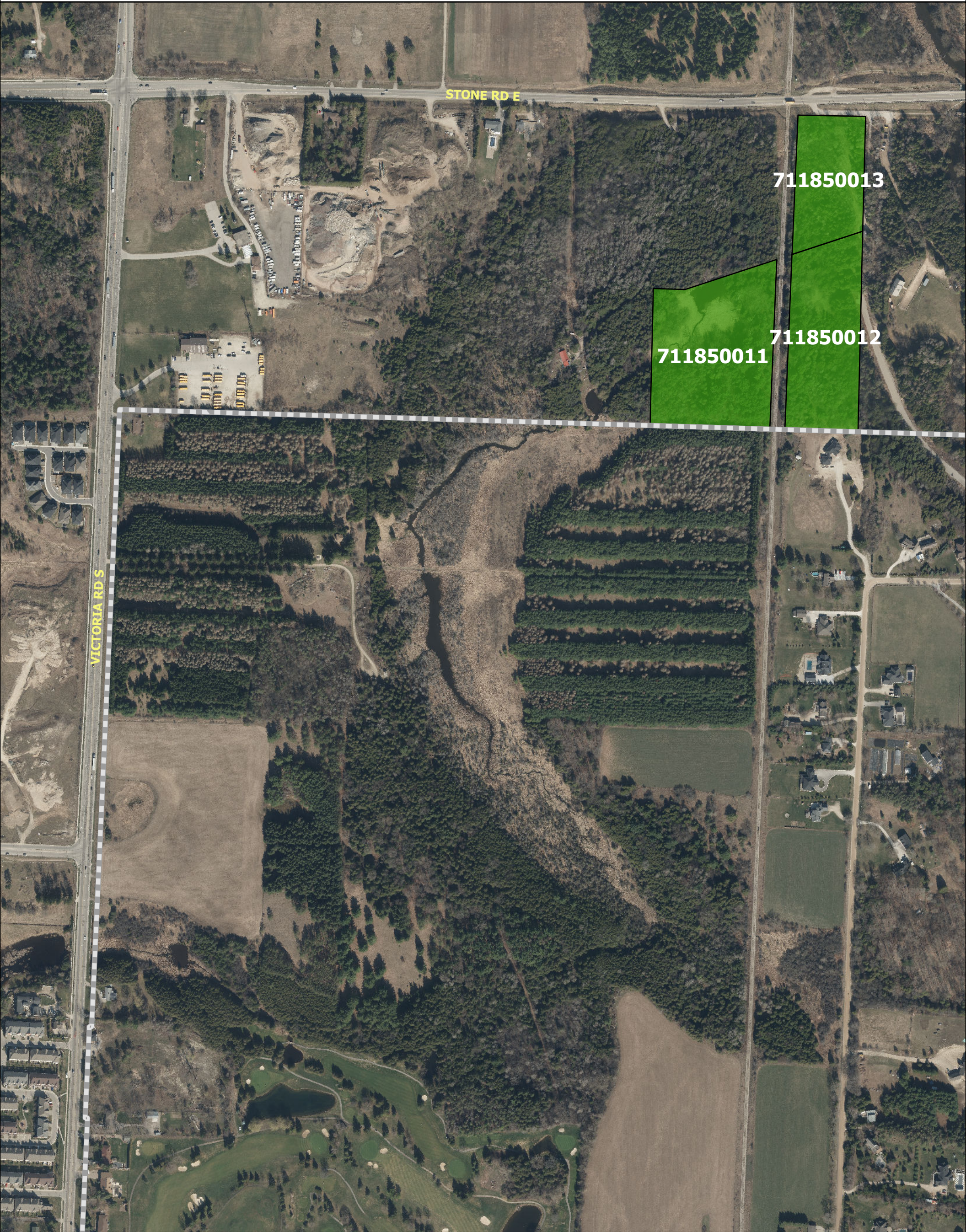
1. Carter Lands:

1stly: Part Lot 1, West of the Blind Line, Plan 131 , as in IS9032, South West of the Railway, City of Guelph (PIN 71185-0011); **2ndly:** Part Lot 1, West of the Blind Line, PLAN 131, as in IS9032, North East of the Railway, City of Guelph (PIN 71185-0012); **3rdly:** Part Lot 1, West of the Blind Line, Plan 131, as in ROS534101; S/T ROS154382, ROS590118, City of Guelph (PIN 71185-0013)

2. Clythe Lands:

1stly: Part Lot 6, Concession 3, Div C, formerly Township of Guelph, designated as Part 1, 61R21370, City of Guelph (PIN 71356-1386), **2ndly:** Part Lot 5, CON 3, DIV C, Formerly Township of Guelph, PT 3 61R9256; City of Guelph (PIN 71493-1822), **3rdly:** Part Lot 5, CONCESSION 3, DIVISION C, formerly Township of Guelph, PT 1 61R1342; City of Guelph (PIN 71493-0769)

City Of Guelph Owned Property at the Carter Lands





By-law Number (2024) - 20990

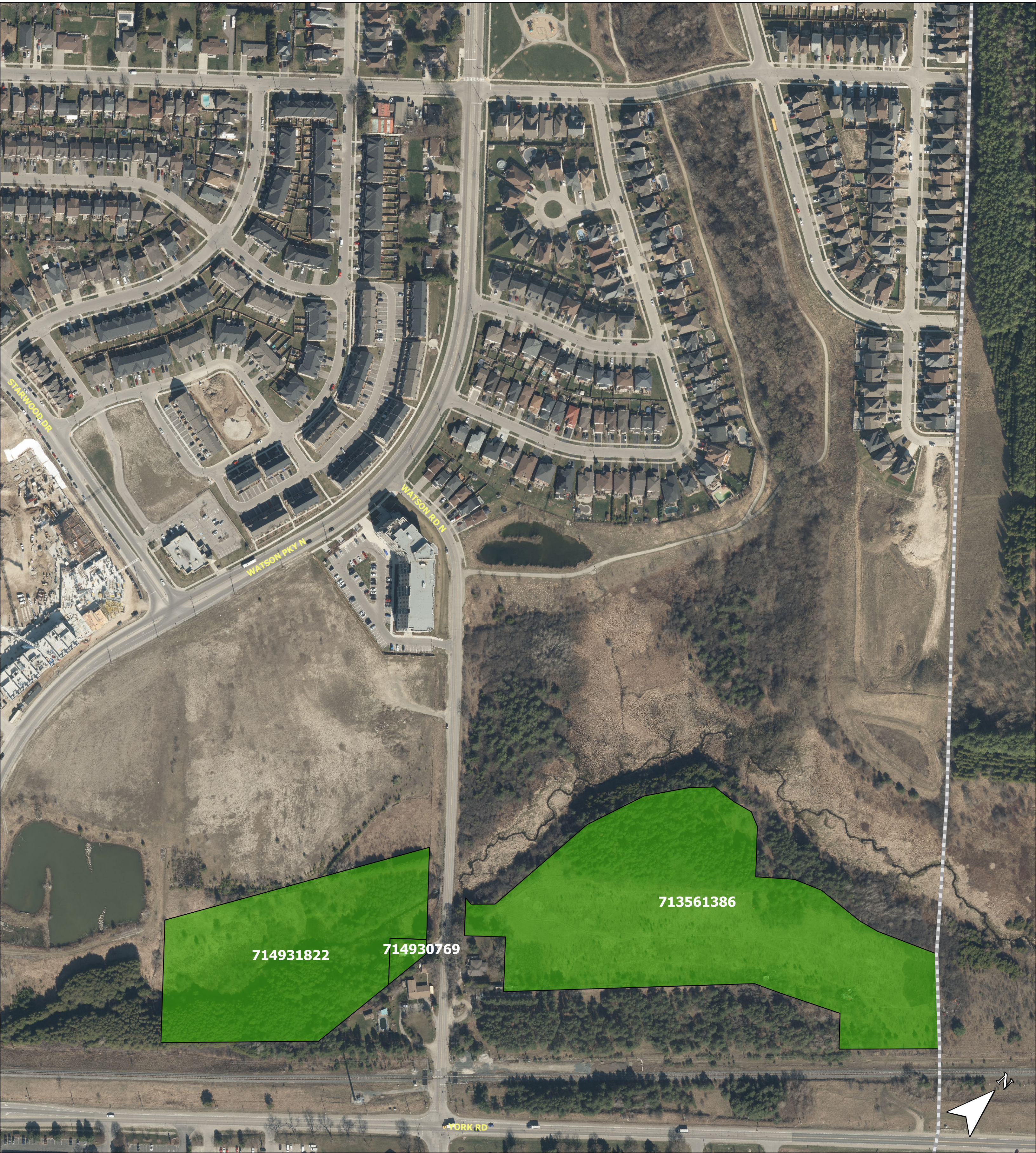
Legend

-  City Of Guelph Owned Property
-  City Boundary

0 100 200
Meters

Author: City Of Guelph GIS Team
Date Created: 09/2024

City Of Guelph Owned Properties at the Clythe Lands



Legend

- City Of Guelph Owned Property
- City Boundary

0 100 200
Meters

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD



SUBJECT: Expanding Personal-Issued Phones to all Sworn Officers
TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board
DATE: June 24, 2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Expanding personal-issued phones to all sworn officers at OSPS will contribute to positive outcomes within the following Strategic Priorities, set by the Board in the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan:

- ☒ Community Safety
- ☐ Community Wellbeing
- ☒ Our Members
- ☒ Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Decision

REPORT:

OSPS cell phones are issued individually to Senior Leaders, Detectives (including CORE and BCWA), and to members in specialized positions such as Forensic Identification, Information Technology (IT), and Community Services. The four patrol Sergeants were recently issued their own phone in May 2026. Service-wide, there are currently 17 personal-issued phones. Front-line Patrol Constables share cell phones, which are generally paired with a specific cruiser. At the start of each shift, any standard equipment that is not personally issued to a specific sworn officer must be logged into a daily roster at the start of each shift, including for example: vehicle, cell phone, portable radio, carbine, Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW), and Alcohol Screening Device (ASD).

This report provides a business case to expand personal-issued phones to all sworn officers to meet modern security requirements, leverage new and future tools, improve efficiency and effectiveness, and enable a connected platform for quick and mobile access to information and resources.

Modern Security Requirements:

As of January 2027, Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) will be mandatory for every officer to connect to most systems such as the provincial Bail Compliance Dashboard, Windows operating system, Microsoft 365 (M365), Axon Evidence, and more. MFA is a security process that requires users to provide two or more independent forms of verification to confirm their identity, adding a layer of protection beyond a password. The current approach to shared phones in the patrol cruisers does not allow for MFA and prevents officers accessing many resources while on duty in the community. Currently, patrol officers must log into a desktop in the station to access many such resources.

Leverage New and Future Tools:

OSPS is eager to advance the provincial Bail Compliance Dashboard, which was implemented at OSPS in January 2026 and helps police monitor, consolidate and share critical information related to individuals on bail in communities across Ontario. The initial focus of this new tool was solely on violent firearm offenders. Now that most police services across the province have onboarded, in April the Bail Compliance Dashboard expanded to offenders on bail for homicide, attempt murder, robbery, and sexual offences (with plans for continued expansion). Currently, due to MFA requirements, only the dedicated BCWA officer in CIB and a civilian Records Clerk have access, although the dashboard is designed for any officer, anywhere, to quickly monitor and proactively verify if high-risk and repeat offenders are complying with their bail conditions.

Axon Evidence is another key OSPS digital tool with operational and evidentiary risks created by shared phones. Axon Evidence is a connected platform that allows users to capture, review, and disclose digital evidence, reducing administrative work, preserving the chain of custody, and improving case file management. With shared phones, the last user may still be logged into Axon and then digital evidence is linked to the wrong investigator, or if digital evidence is collected by one officer and not fully uploaded into Axon it may be viewed by the next officer using the phone, disrupting the chain of custody or potentially deleting or losing evidence. Individually assigned phones for patrol officers will ensure each officer is strictly responsible for the continuity of their multimedia evidence and mitigate potential issues with continuity of evidence on a shared device.

OSPS has invested significant resources implementing M365, a modern platform that connects applications, cloud storage, advanced security, and information management. Accessing M365 applications such as Outlook email, Teams channels and chats, and files in OneDrive requires individual logins from an OSPS device. Security requirements prevent access to these resources on personal phones. Individually assigned OSPS phones for all sworn officers will leverage the M365 features OSPS has invested in, and allow mobile and remote access to emails, calendars, and information resources such as officer safety alerts, missing persons, and BOLOs.

Most new police systems are being designed for mobile use, and cell phones are becoming a standard piece of issued equipment to access basic police resources, such as the Records Management System (RMS). For example, Niche RMS has recently implemented a new Universal Application (UA) specifically designed for a mobile device and remote access.

With Niche UA, most police services are moving to Electronic Notebooks (ENotes), which are developed specifically for Niche and Axon to facilitate the electronic submission of officer notes and case files directly into RMS from a mobile device. Although ENotes is available, OSPS has not yet implemented this tool because it requires individually assigned phones to meet the strict, legislated security requirements to remotely access a police RMS system.

Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness:

The efficiency and effectiveness of following up with victims, witnesses, and complainants will be greatly improved with individually assigned phones. Currently, it is difficult for someone to reach a patrol officer for follow up, as the shared phone number for an officer is not always the same on each shift. Often, patrol officers receive calls on the shared phone for another officer that is off duty, for an investigation

they may not know anything about. Having their own assigned phones will prevent confusion for both officers and community members trying to reach each other for follow up and ensure messages left are received by the investigating officer.

Shared phones also create concerns with incoming and outgoing text messages. While text messaging is a common communication method, shared devices make it difficult to reliably link a message to a specific officer or investigation. Individually assigned phones would improve communication tracking and support evidentiary continuity if text messages later become relevant in a criminal trial, SIU investigation, or LECA complaint.

Individually assigned cell phones will also improve court-related communication and victim management. Because patrol officers work rotating 12-hour shifts, they are often off duty when a criminal trial is scheduled. A direct phone number would make it easier for the Crown to reach the investigating officer for last-minute requests and would allow officers to contact witnesses or victims promptly on the day of trial when needed.

Individually assigned phones will allow patrol officers to organize mobile resources in a way that supports their day-to-day work. Each officer could maintain their own contacts, application layout, settings, font size, and other accessibility preferences. This personalization would reduce setup time, improve ease of use, and help officers access information more quickly and efficiently while on duty.

Connected Platform for a Tech Savvy Workforce:

According to Ontario's Inspectorate of Policing (IOP) Police Services Dashboard, a personal-issued phone was a standard piece of issued equipment for 57% of municipal police services in Ontario as of January 1, 2024. This percentage has increased since and will continue to increase with the legislated security requirements and new intelligence-led tools that are available for policing.

Personal-issued cell phones provide the foundation for a modern, connected, and secure mobile platform. They give officers flexible and direct access to key resources, support reliable communication, and improve the timely availability of critical information. Together, these benefits would strengthen officer safety, improve service delivery, and support community safety.

As OSPS continues to attract and support a more technology-savvy workforce, mobile devices are becoming a standard tool in a modern, information-rich policing environment. Providing members with personal-issued phones will help ensure they have the equipment needed to work effectively, meet operational expectations, and provide timely service to the community.

Resources Required to Expand Personal-Issued Phones to all Sworn Officers:

For patrol officers, the Samsung S series phone provides the most suitable feature set for their needs. While the A series is priced lower, their build quality uses less robust material, mainly plastic, while the S series uses aluminum and glass, is water resistant, and would lead to a lower chance of damage and replacement. The camera on the S series also outperforms the A series across most models, allowing for better pictures and implementation with Axon Evidence.

Expanding personal-issued phones to all sworn officers will require an additional **30** cell phones, for full-time Constables across 4 platoons, the training officer, and part-time officers. An anticipated replacement percentage of 20% per year is factored into long-term financial requirements.

Year-over-year Samsung has kept its latest S series mobile phone price stable. Estimated financial costs are listed below based on outright standalone purchase along with a two-year term. Pricing for hardware for year two is more as the phones would still be under a plan and not eligible for replacement. Year three becomes more cost efficient as it renews the two-year plan.

	Per Phone Cost – Samsung S26 with basic accessories	Plan Cost Per Month	Number of Phones New/Replacement Phones	Total Phones	Total Cost with Tax
Year 1	\$1,600.00	\$17.99	30	47	\$58,146.36
Year 2	\$1,600.00	\$17.99	10	47	\$26,146.36
Year 3	\$1,600.00	\$17.99	10	47	\$26,146.36
Total Cost over 3 Years					\$110,439.08

	Per Phone Cost – Samsung S26 with basic accessories UNDER 2 YEAR PLAN LOCK-IN	Plan Cost Per Month	Number of Phones New/Replacement Phones	Total Phones	Total Cost with Tax
Year 1	\$1,050.00	\$17.99	30	47	\$41,646.36
Year 2	\$1,600.00	\$17.99	10	47	\$26,146.36
Year 3	\$1,050.00	\$17.99	10	47	\$20,646.36
Total Cost over 3 Years					\$88,439.08

FINANCIAL/RISK IMPLICATION(S):

Expanding personal-issued phones to all sworn officers will have an impact on the annual operating budget. However, without secure, reliable, and flexible mobile access to police information, potential risk implications include:

- reduced access to critical systems while officers are on patrol;
- increased risk of non-compliance with security requirements;
- delays in accessing information needed for officer and community safety; and
- continued reliance on shared devices that do not support modern authentication and accountability requirements.

Issuing phones to each sworn officer mitigates these risks by providing a secure, accountable, and consistent platform for accessing operational information in the field.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Nil

SUBMITTED BY:

Craig Ambrose, Chief of Police

OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE (OSPS): Dispatched Events (Calls) in RIVER DISTRICT

Summary of CAD Event Counts: All of OSPS and Within River District

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Total OSPS CAD Event Count - Full Year	18,738	18,886	18,974	n/a
River District CAD Events (filtered with Lat&Long) - full year	5,246	5,432	5,034	
% of Total OSPS CAD events	28%	29%	27%	
% change in volume of River District calls to previous year		4%	-7%	
Total OSPS CAD Event Count - First 5 Months to end of May	7,688	6,893	7,449	7,847
River District CAD Events (filtered with Lat&Long) - first 5 months	2,114	1,961	2,000	2,330
% of Total OSPS CAD events	27%	28%	27%	30%
% change in volume of River District calls to previous year		-7%	2%	17%
River District PROACTIVE CAD Events (filtered with Lat&Long) - first 5 months	789	615	391	460
% of all River District CAD events	37%	31%	20%	20%
% change in volume of River District Proactive calls to previous year		-22%	-36%	18%
River District REACTIVE CAD Events (filtered with Lat&Long) - first 5 months	1,325	1,346	1,609	1,870
% of all River District CAD events	63%	69%	80%	80%
% change in volume of River District Reactive calls to previous year		2%	20%	16%

- Between 2023 and 2025, OSPS calls within River District accounted for approximately 27-29% of total OSPS calls across the City of Owen Sound jurisdiction.
- In the first five months of 2026 (Jan-May), calls in the River District have accounted for 30% of all OSPS calls, representing a 17% increase in volume compared to the same time last year.
- The proportion of Proactive OSPS calls (Community Service, Traffic Enforcement, Bar Checks) has declined from a high of 37% in the first 5 months of 2023 in the River District, down to 20% in both 2025 and 2026.
- The top 12 most frequent reactive call types in the River District, listed below, account for 67% of the calls.
- In the first 5 months of the year, “Weapons” calls increased 320% (from 5 in 2025 to 21 in 2026); “Attempt Suicide” calls in the same period increased 200% (from 7 in 2025 to 21 in 2026).

Top Most Frequent Reactive Call Types in River District, 2026 (in first 5 months)

Call Type	Portion of Calls in River District
1. UNWANTED PERSON	11%
2. POLICE ASSISTANCE	9%
3. 911CALL	9%
4. PERSON WELFARE CHECK	7%
5. SUSPICIOUS PERSON	6%
6. THEFT	5%
7. TRESPASS TO PROPERTY ACT	5%
8. DISTURB THE PEACE	4%
9. EXECUTE WARRANTS	4%
10. MENTAL HEALTH ACT	3%
11. DRUG OFFENCES	3%
12. ASSAULT	3%

Most Significant Change in Reactive Call Type Volumes in River District, 2025 – 2026 (in first 5 months)

Call Type	Percent Change
WEAPONS	320%
ATTEMPT SUICIDE/THREAT OF SUICIDE	200%
ASSAULT	133%
STOLEN VEHICLE	133%
IMPAIRED DRIVING	117%
MENTAL HEALTH ACT	107%
THREATS	100%
DOMESTIC DISPUTE	72%
FRAUD	50%
INDECENT ACTS	50%
INSECURE PREMISE	50%
NEIGHBOUR DISPUTE	50%
PERSON WELFARE CHECK	49%
TRESPASS TO PROPERTY ACT	44%
SHOPLIFT	42%
DRUG OFFENCES	38%
DISTURB THE PEACE	33%
THEFT	27%

Source: Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) events from Optic’s OnCallAnalytics (Custom Reports: Events by Type by Location with Date Selector); 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 to May31; with Latitude and Longitude filters 44.570800, -80.944700, and 44.561100, -80.93800. June 4, 2026.

Source: Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) events from Optic's OnCallAnalytics (Custom Reports: Events by Type by Location with Date Selector); 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 to May31; with Latitude and Longitude filters 44.570800, -80.944700, and 44.561100, -80.93800. June 4, 2026.

Most Significant Change in Reactive Call Volumes in River District 2025 – 2026 (in first 5 months)

Call Type	Percent Change
WEAPONS	320%
ATTEMPT SUICIDE/THREAT OF SUICIDE	200%
ASSAULT	133%
STOLEN VEHICLE	133%
IMPAIRED DRIVING	117%
MENTAL HEALTH ACT	107%
THREATS	100%
DOMESTIC DISPUTE	72%
FRAUD	50%
INDECENT ACTS	50%
INSECURE PREMISE	50%
NEIGHBOUR DISPUTE	50%
PERSON WELFARE CHECK	49%
TRESPASS TO PROPERTY ACT	44%
SHOPLIFT	42%
DRUG OFFENCES	38%
DISTURB THE PEACE	33%
THEFT	27%

Top Most Frequent Reactive Call Types in River District, 2026 (in first 5 months)

Call Type	Portion of Calls in River District
13. UNWANTED PERSON	11%
14. POLICE ASSISTANCE	9%
15. 911CALL	9%
16. PERSON WELFARE CHECK	7%
17. SUSPICIOUS PERSON	6%
18. THEFT	5%
19. TRESPASS TO PROPERTY ACT	5%
20. DISTURB THE PEACE	4%
21. EXECUTE WARRANTS	4%
22. MENTAL HEALTH ACT	3%
23. DRUG OFFENCES	3%
24. ASSAULT	3%

Source: Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) events from Optic's OnCallAnalytics (Custom Reports: Events by Type by Location with Date Selector); 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 to May31; with Latitude and Longitude filters 44.570800, -80.944700, and 44.561100, -80.93800. June 4, 2026.

OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE (OSPS): Dispatched Events (Calls) in RIVER DISTRICT

Summary of CAD Event Counts: All of OSPS and Within River District

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Total OSPS CAD Event Count - Full Year	18,738	18,886	18,974	n/a
River District CAD Events (filtered with Lat&Long) - full year	5,246	5,432	5,034	
% of Total OSPS CAD events	28%	29%	27%	
% change in volume of River District calls to previous year		4%	-7%	
Total OSPS CAD Event Count - First 5 Months to end of May	7,688	6,893	7,449	7,847
River District CAD Events (filtered with Lat&Long) - first 5 months	2,114	1,961	2,000	2,330
% of Total OSPS CAD events	27%	28%	27%	30%
% change in volume of River District calls to previous year		-7%	2%	17%
River District PROACTIVE CAD Events (filtered with Lat&Long) - first 5 months	789	615	391	460
% of all River District CAD events	37%	31%	20%	20%
% change in volume of River District Proactive calls to previous year		-22%	-36%	18%
River District REACTIVE CAD Events (filtered with Lat&Long) - first 5 months	1,325	1,346	1,609	1,870
% of all River District CAD events	63%	69%	80%	80%
% change in volume of River District Reactive calls to previous year		2%	20%	16%

- Between 2023 and 2025, OSPS calls within River District accounted for approximately 27-29% of total OSPS calls across the City of Owen Sound jurisdiction.
- In the first five months of 2026 (Jan-May), calls in the River District have accounted for 30% of all OSPS calls, representing a 17% increase in volume compared to the same time last year.
- The proportion of Proactive OSPS calls (Community Service, Traffic Enforcement, Bar Checks) has declined from a high of 37% in the first 5 months of 2023 in the River District, down to 20% in both 2025 and 2026.
- The top 12 most frequent reactive call types in the River District, listed below, account for 67% of the calls.
- In the first 5 months of the year, “Weapons” calls increased 320% (from 5 in 2025 to 21 in 2026); “Attempt Suicide” calls in the same period increased 200% (from 7 in 2025 to 21 in 2026).

Top Most Frequent Reactive Call Types in River District, 2026 (in first 5 months)

Call Type	Portion of Calls in River District
1. UNWANTED PERSON	11%
2. POLICE ASSISTANCE	9%
3. 911CALL	9%
4. PERSON WELFARE CHECK	7%
5. SUSPICIOUS PERSON	6%
6. THEFT	5%
7. TRESPASS TO PROPERTY ACT	5%
8. DISTURB THE PEACE	4%
9. EXECUTE WARRANTS	4%
10. MENTAL HEALTH ACT	3%
11. DRUG OFFENCES	3%
12. ASSAULT	3%

Most Significant Change in Reactive Call Type Volumes in River District, 2025 – 2026 (in first 5 months)

Call Type	Percent Change
WEAPONS	320%
ATTEMPT SUICIDE/THREAT OF SUICIDE	200%
ASSAULT	133%
STOLEN VEHICLE	133%
IMPAIRED DRIVING	117%
MENTAL HEALTH ACT	107%
THREATS	100%
DOMESTIC DISPUTE	72%
FRAUD	50%
INDECENT ACTS	50%
INSECURE PREMISE	50%
NEIGHBOUR DISPUTE	50%
PERSON WELFARE CHECK	49%
TRESPASS TO PROPERTY ACT	44%
SHOPLIFT	42%
DRUG OFFENCES	38%
DISTURB THE PEACE	33%
THEFT	27%

Source: Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) events from Optic’s OnCallAnalytics (Custom Reports: Events by Type by Location with Date Selector); 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 to May31; with Latitude and Longitude filters 44.570800, -80.944700, and 44.561100, -80.93800. June 4, 2026.

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD



SUBJECT: Proposed Change to Shoulder Flash Design

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: June 24, 2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The [contents of this report] contributes to the positive outcomes within the following Strategic Priorities, set by the Board in the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan:

- ☐ Community Safety
- ☐ Community Wellbeing
- ☐ Our Members
- ☐ Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Decision

That the Police Services Board approve the transition to a new shoulder flash design based on the Owen Sound Police Service crest, to be introduced through a phased approach as uniforms are replaced.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request approval to update the current shoulder flash design, so it reflects the Owen Sound Police Service crest.

Background

The shoulder flash currently used on uniforms features the City of Owen Sound Coat of Arms. While this has been appropriate historically, it no longer aligns with the Service's established crest or overall branding.

Many police services across Ontario have moved away from municipal symbols in favour of their own crests. This creates a more consistent and recognizable identity across uniforms and other materials.

Discussion

The Service has recently secured a new uniform supplier that offers in-house embroidery of shoulder flashes directly onto uniform shirts.

With this change already underway, there is a practical opportunity to introduce an updated shoulder flash design without adding significant cost.

A revised design has been developed that reflects the official police crest and supports a consistent visual identity.

It is recommended that the new design be phased in:

- New or replacement uniforms would include the updated shoulder flash.
- Some longer wear items will have the flashes replaced
- Existing uniforms would remain in use until they are replaced in the normal course.

This approach minimizes the expense while allowing the Service to update its uniforms over time.

Financial/Risk Implication(s):

The financial impact is expected to be minimal:

- There is no need to replace existing shoulder flashes all at once.
- Costs will be managed within the current uniform replacement budget.
- Embroidery is included in the supplier agreement.

There are no significant risks associated with this change.

ATTACHMENT(S):



SUBMITTED BY:

Amy Gaviller
Executive Assistant