

Elgin County OPP 2022 Annual Report



"Committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities"



Governance and Accountability



Elgin Group Police Services Board

Chair: Sally Martyn
Ida McCallum
Trudy Kanellis
Dan Froese
Dave Jenkins
CAO: Julie Gonyou

Our Elgin Group Police Services Board is extremely appreciative of how responsive our members have been responding to traffic complaints and all of the diverse calls for service within Elgin County during this busy year. Chair Sally Martyn transitioned out of her role as chair of the Police Services Board at the end of 2022, and we wish to thank her for the support and dedication she demonstrated towards enhancing community safety in Elgin County.

Detachment Commander



Inspector Mark Loucas

I am very pleased to be your Detachment Commander and on behalf of each of you, the dedicated officers and staff of the Elgin County OPP Detachment, it gives me great pleasure to present the 2022 Annual Report. This report will showcase the high level of commitment that the Elgin County OPP has brought to all municipalities within Elgin County.

Elgin officers and administrative staff have worked in partnership with numerous stakeholders, partners, community groups, and services throughout the year to help us achieve our organizational commitments. Several significant, provincial protests created unique and unprecedented challenges which caused us to reflect and adjust how we conducted daily operations. Additionally, the completion of the amalgamation between the Chatham-Kent and Elgin Detachments has further strengthened our operational capacity and has significantly improved the availability of resources and equipment.

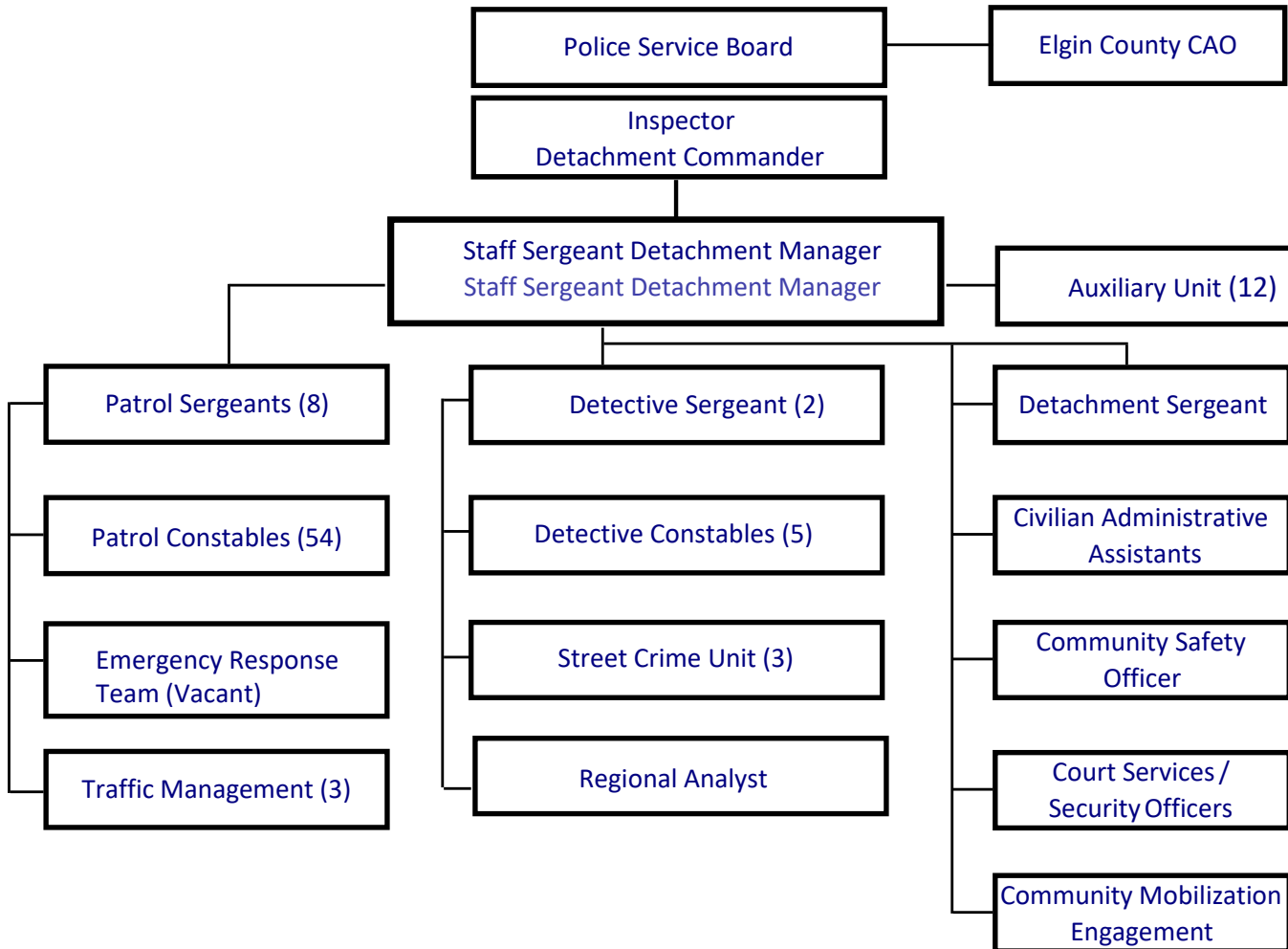
In 2022, our policing priorities were focused on achieving the key commitments from our 2020-2022 Detachment Action Plan, which included crime prevention, increased traffic and public safety on our roadways, waterways, and trails, and enhanced relationships with our municipalities, policing partners, and local community supports/resources. As we prepare our 2023 Detachment Action Plan, we will build upon our past successes while incorporating organizational commitments with local community priorities to reflect a responsive and inclusive service delivery model.



Organization



ELGIN COUNTY OPP



Elgin County OPP Detachment staffing numbers increased in 2022 as a result of an amalgamation with the Chatham-Kent OPP Detachment. Further, the anticipated results from the Provincial Service Delivery Model are extremely positive and will result in increased staffing for our detachment. The final results will be shared once they are officially released.



Elgin County Auxiliary Unit 2022 Year in Review

The Elgin Auxiliary Unit has an operational capacity of 14 members. Since March 16, 2020, the majority of members within the OPP Auxiliary Program were stood down from active duty, while the organization addressed COVID-19 restrictions. On June 8, 2020, the Auxiliary program began implementing a three-phased approach for its members to begin returning to active duty. Due to the resurgence of COVID 19 member's attendance and assistance was limited. Several members were successful in achieving full-time status and others departed the program for personal reasons. A plan to actively recruit members to the unit commenced in late December and will continue into the new year.



PC Alexandria CULLEN was presented with the Keirstead Award for Outstanding contributions to the OPP Auxiliary Program. (Pictured with Insp LOUCAS and PC WIEBE)



Business Planning



2020 - 2022 Action Plan

Our Annual Business Plan has been changed to a three-year Action Plan to coincide with the new OPP three-year Strategic Plan. Our 2020 - 2022 Action Plan priorities as identified with community and Police Service Board consultation are:

1. Crime

- To prevent and investigate property crime.
- Continued support and engagement in the intelligence-led policing-crime abatement strategy. (ILP-CAS).
- Work in collaboration with local community resources/groups to facilitate a trusted and victim-centered approach in our processes, policies, and programs.

2. Traffic

- Concentrating on “The Big Four” causal factors of fatal, personal injury, and property damage collisions which include: impaired driving, speeding/aggressive driving, inattentive/distracted driving, and seat belt use.
- To sustain a continuous and year-round focus on the causal factors of motorized vehicle collisions on our roadways, waterways, and trails.

3. Other

- Streamline collision reporting through the implementation of a Detachment Collision Reporting Centre (CRC).
- Identify and implement co-response options such as our Mental Crisis Response Team (MCRT) for non-police-related demands for service.
- Develop and finalize a transfer of care protocol with the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH).

Crime Management Plan

Elgin County Detachment has a comprehensive Crime Management Plan that is administered through the leadership of Regional Detective Sergeant Victoria Loucks. The Crime Unit includes five detectives assigned to major case investigations and three detectives assigned to the Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU). The CSCU is responsible for investigating property crimes and drug investigations. The Domestic Violence Investigator position was vacated in 2022 and a process is being established to replace this member.

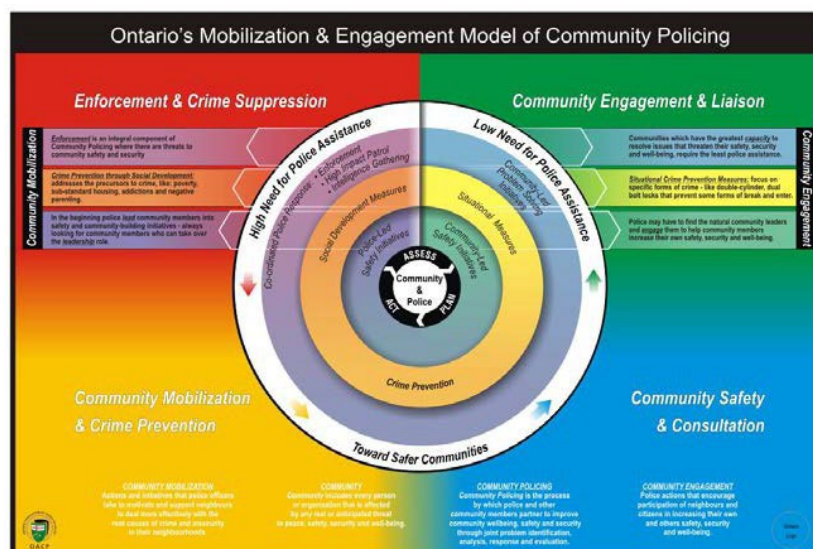
The Crime Unit is responsible for oversight and investigation of all serious crimes that occur in our detachment area. The foundation of the plan supports the OPP Results Driven Policing methodology and focuses on public safety through crime prevention and investigative excellence.

Traffic Management Strategy

Elgin County Detachment has developed a Traffic Management Strategy with a goal of reducing motor vehicle collisions, specifically those that result in injury and death. Our focus in 2022 continued to be enforcement and education around aggressive driving, impaired driving, seat belt use, and distracted driving. These four driving habits are within complete control of the driver and together can have the largest impact on road safety. Elgin County Detachment continues to employ a Traffic Management Unit (TMU) responsible for enhanced traffic enforcement within Elgin County. Our TMU is dedicated to responding to community-identified traffic issues as well as issues identified through analysis by our Regional Analyst and the Focused Patrol Program. The unit continues to utilize speed measuring devices to capture data and coordinate responses to traffic concerns.

Community Policing Committees

Elgin County OPP is very fortunate to have a strong, well-established network of Community Policing Committees to represent the municipalities we serve. We work in partnership with our committees to identify and resolve issues of crime and traffic concerns that are identified by the community. Additionally, our committee members volunteer countless hours of their time to support many community initiatives; particularly those that assist children, the elderly, and vulnerable groups. Elgin County has Community Policing Committees located in West Elgin, Southwold, Dutton- Dunwich, Port Stanley, Belmont, Malahide, and Bayham. Elgin County OPP is very appreciative of the hard work all of our committees do to support their community and the OPP. Although hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to liaise with our committees using the Ontario Mobilization & Engagement Model of Community Policing. Additionally, all of our committees are now using the model as a guide to assist them in setting priorities and objectives.



Community Mobilization and Engagement

What is Community Mobilization and Engagement?

Elgin County OPP follows Ontario's Community Mobilization and Engagement Model of Community Policing. Prevention and early intervention by collaboratively working with community partners have proven effective in providing the greatest impact and lasting solutions for crime reduction and preventing victimization. Building strong relationships with community residents and stakeholders remains an effective and efficient method of preventing crime and increasing the quality of life for the residents of Elgin County.

This approach allows for more flexibility in addressing policing needs and priorities at the local level, by involving community residents in efforts to improve the overall quality of life in their communities. Community mobilization and engagement also allows for a fundamental shift in police work from the traditional response to calls for service towards a more holistic approach that builds upon localized community capacity to address the risk factors associated with crime and victimization. The goal of engaging the community is to move from police-led initiatives to community-led initiatives that contribute to the safety of all.

The following Community Mobilization Projects remain a priority for Elgin County OPP:

- Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy Development
- Elder Abuse Prevention
- Mental Health and Crisis Response Team
- Police and Hospital Transition Framework
- Senior Frauds/Scams
- Rapid Response Working Group – Alzheimer's Society

Elgin County Drug and Alcohol Strategy

Based on community concerns, in 2018 the Elgin Situation Table identified a need for a comprehensive drug and alcohol strategy within our community. A dedicated workgroup/task force was formed with the primary focus of developing a collaborative plan based on a “Four Pillars” approach of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and justice. **The mission:** Create, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive drug and alcohol strategy that meets the needs of our community based on the pillars of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and justice. **The vision:** A safe and healthy Community in Elgin County without the negative impacts of drugs and alcohol.

The workgroup has worked hard to continue to develop a community-based Drug and Alcohol Strategy, while navigating the challenges of the pandemic.



Community Safety Officer / Media Officer

Constable Brett PHAIR was identified as our Community Safety Officer (CSO) and media officer in 2022 and has continued to achieve successes with strengthening connections with community stakeholders, schools, and media partners.



MEDIA

P/C PHAIR continued to work with our media partners within the County and surrounding area which has facilitated greater messaging for our communities regarding public safety, crime trends, and traffic issues.

P/C PHAIR often provides reporting on regional issues for mainstream media at the request of West Region Headquarters.

Social media continues to be a priority for P/C PHAIR which enables our communities to be instantly connected to investigations and police activities within their specific communities.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

ATV Patrols



Marine Patrols



Enhanced visibility on our roadways, waterways, and trails remains a priority for Elgin County OPP members.

ATV Patrols

In recent years, Elgin County has experienced growth in rural trail usage with the establishment of the Talbot Trail ATV Club (TTAC). The TTAC have worked with several private property owners to establish over 100 kms of well-maintained ATV trails within Elgin County. As a result, ATV patrols along our county trails in response to community concerns has resulted in positive, community feedback regarding the enhanced OPP visibility and enforcement along our county trails. In 2022, Elgin County OPP received support in the acquisition of 2 ATV's dedicated to patrol the trails and be utilized during community events.

Marine Unit

Elgin County OPP marine members recorded over 156 hours of patrol during the 2022 season while responding to 65 calls for service. The marine unit is responsible for approximately 450 square kilometers of Lake Erie and covers approximately 220 kms of shoreline along the north shore of the Lake. Enhanced visibility along Lake Erie remains a priority for our marine operators to ensure the safety of community residents, swimmers, and boaters who enjoy our popular beaches including Port Glasgow, Port Stanley, Port Bruce, and Port Burwell along with Rondeau and Erieanu.

Through amalgamation, Elgin County OPP further conducts patrols and responds to calls for service along the shore of Lake Erie through to Essex County as well as Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River.



Community Street Crimes Unit

The Elgin/Middlesex Community Street Crimes Unit (CSCU) have been extremely successful in 2022. The CSCU investigated 146 occurrences, executed 133 judicial warrants, charged 104 persons, and laid 675 charges. CSCU investigations required countless hours of investigative expertise from our members to maintain the safety and security of our community residents and business owners.

Possess Stolen Property, Weapons – Number of charges: 16

Seized Items:

- 2022 GMC Sierra Denali pickup
- Polaris side by side
- 5 Assorted Milwaukee hand tools (impact driver, reciprocating saw, angle grinder, circular saw, work light)
- 2 Stolen licence plates
- 12ga pump action shotgun
- 4 Windows from an unknown job site
- 2 Apple iPhones

Oxford CSCU began investigating a suspect for the theft of multiple high end motor vehicles valued at over half a million dollars. On April 19, 2022, a pickup truck, that was later determined to be stolen, attended a gas station, filled up and drove off. The Elgin/Middlesex CSCU located the vehicle and the suspect was positively identified. After multiple attempts, the suspect was located and arrested. A subsequent search of the stolen vehicle yielded a black 12ga pump action shotgun as well as the keys to the stolen Polaris side-by-side and the tools stolen from the Oxford B&E (total value \$93,900).

Shoplifting: Number of charges: 11

Seized Items:•75 grams Cocaine

- 3 vials Hydromorphone (2 microgram injection vials)
- Remington 12ga pump action shotgun (barrel cut down)
- x4 12ga shotgun shells from above gun (loaded in magazine tube)
- .762 rifle round
- 1 pill Dilaudid – 8mg
- Guns parts (sawed off barrel, stock, handle)
- x6 Spent/used 12ga shotgun shells
- Drug packaging material

On September 23, 2022, Huron OPP responded to a shoplifting/theft call. A male, later identified, stole a .22 cal Savage magazine from the store. Prior to the theft, the male had a conversation with store staff and made comments about having an SKS rifle and a large amount of ammunition. Huron OPP investigated and subsequently put out an officer safety BOLO. On September 26, 2022, the male returned to the store and staff contacted the OPP. The male was arrested and charged. Elgin/Middlesex CSCU and Huron/Perth CSCU became involved and authored a Section 487.1 Telewarrant to Search. On September 26, 2022, members of the Elgin/Middlesex CSCU and Huron/Perth CSCU executed the search warrant. Police located a loaded, sawed off 12ga shotgun, with four shells in the magazine tube and serial number obliterated. Spent shells, other gun parts were also located. Police seized 75gms of cocaine along with other indicia of drug trafficking (total value \$8,764).



Possess Stolen Property: Number of charges: 4

Seized Items:

- 2019 Hyundai Tucson
- 28 Vicodin (Hydrocodone)
- 6gms Fentanyl
- 5.6gms Methamphetamine
- Makita 2 Tool Driver Set
- Milwaukee ½" Drill
- Segway Ninebot (battery powered scooters)
- Ryobi 18V Battery
- Milwaukee Shockwave Bit Set
- Dewalt 20V Battery/Charger
- Nike Air Jordan Shoes
- Break and Enter Tools

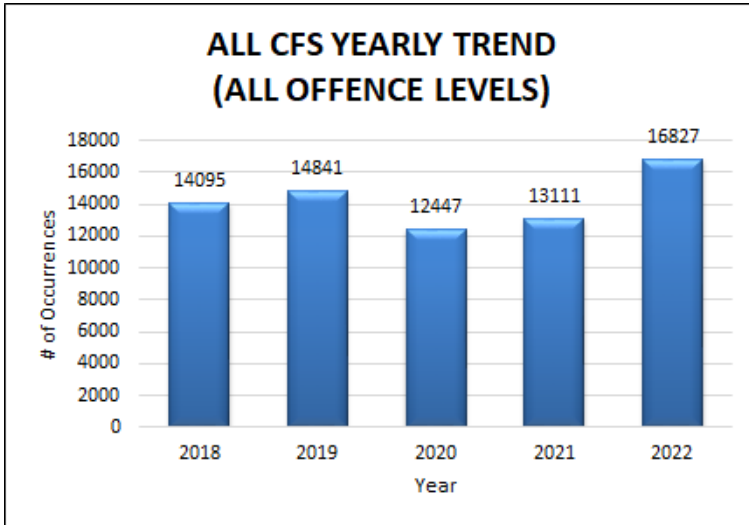
Elgin and Middlesex Counties experienced a surge in Break and Enters to car dealerships and auto service stations in 2022. On August 30, 2022, CSCU members located a stolen vehicle that was involved in previous break and enters. The suspect and another male were observed leaving the property and walking towards the stolen vehicle. CSCU intercepted both males and arrested them. The second male turned out to be the individual who was the subject of a previous search warrant executed by CSCU. Quantities of fentanyl and methamphetamine were located on the suspect along with the keys to the stolen vehicle. Members of Elgin/Middlesex CSCU and Oxford CSCU executed the search warrant resulting in police locating stolen property that assisted in solving thefts and break and enters in the area (approx. value \$33,195).



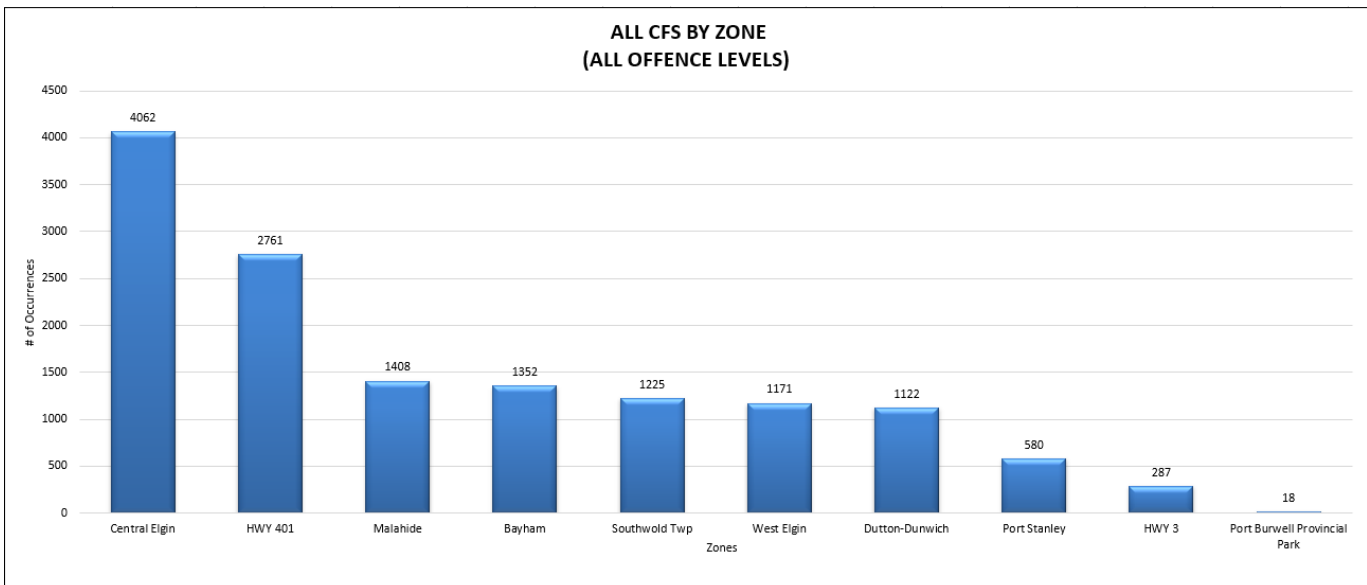
Detachment Statistics



All Calls for Service 2018-2022



All Calls for Service by Zone - 2022



Traffic Safety



The safety of motorists on Elgin County roads has always remained a priority for Elgin Detachment. Our Traffic Management Team (TMU) is dedicated to enforcement and response to traffic complaints within the County.

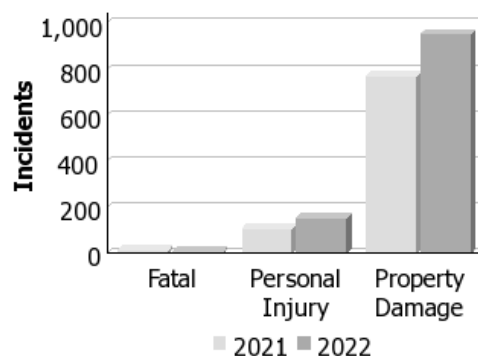
Elgin County OPP Officers conducted 690 static RIDE checks in 2022, including RIDE initiatives performed and funded through our RIDE Grant Funding Stream. For 2022, Elgin County was awarded \$14,900 for RIDE checks, with all of the funds used to support RIDE checks throughout Elgin County.

We have seen a significant increase in motor vehicle collisions in Elgin County in 2022 with a total of 1111. In 2021, our total collisions amounted to 887 for the year. The single largest causal factor increase during 2022 was animal related. Another factor for the increase was the implementation of a Collision Reporting Centre which permits drivers from out of jurisdiction to report collisions to the Elgin County Detachment. We will continue to use statistical analysis and focus on targeted enforcement of Impaired Driving, Aggressive Driving, Seat Belt Use, and Distracted Driving to attempt to bring the total crashes down.

These four factors can often be the difference between a minor crash with no injuries and a major crash resulting in injuries or death. Below are the comparison tables outlining collision statistics in Elgin County between 2021 – 2022.

Motor Vehicle Collisions by Type

Incidents	January to December			Year to Date - December		
	2021	2022	% Change	2021	2022	% Change
Fatal	10	5	-50.0%	10	5	-50.0%
Personal Injury	107	153	43.0%	107	153	43.0%
Property Damage	768	953	24.1%	768	953	24.1%
Total	885	1,111	25.5%	885	1,111	25.5%



Fatalities in Detachment Area:

Fatalities in Detachment Area							
Incidents		January to December			Year to Date - December		
		2021	2022	% Change	2021	2022	% Change
Motor Vehicle Collision	Fatal Incidents	10	5	-50.0%	10	5	-50.0%
	Alcohol Related	1	0	-100.0%	1	0	-100.0%
Off-Road Vehicle	Fatal Incidents	0	0	--	0	0	--
	Alcohol Related	0	0	--	0	0	--
Motorized Snow Vehicle	Fatal Incidents	0	0	--	0	0	--
	Alcohol Related	0	0	--	0	0	--
Persons Killed		January to December			Year to Date - December		
		2021	2022	% Change	2021	2022	% Change
Motor Vehicle Collision		11	5	-54.5%	11	5	-54.5%
Off-Road Vehicle		0	0	--	0	0	--
Motorized Snow Vehicle		0	0	--	0	0	--

Total Collisions by Month

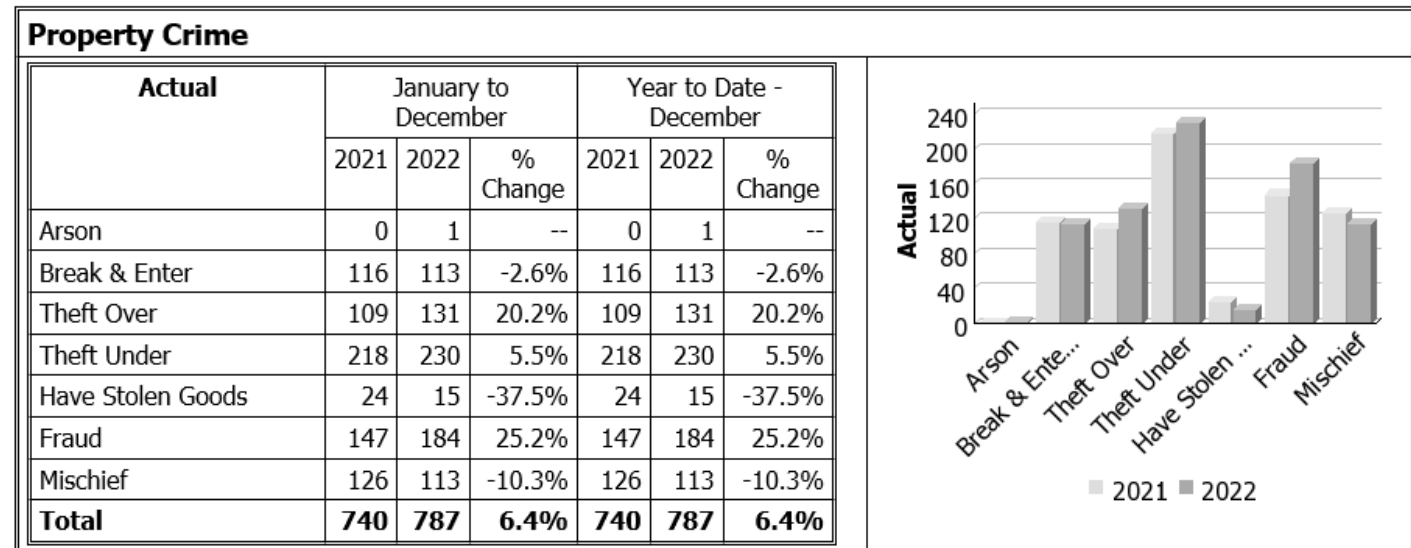
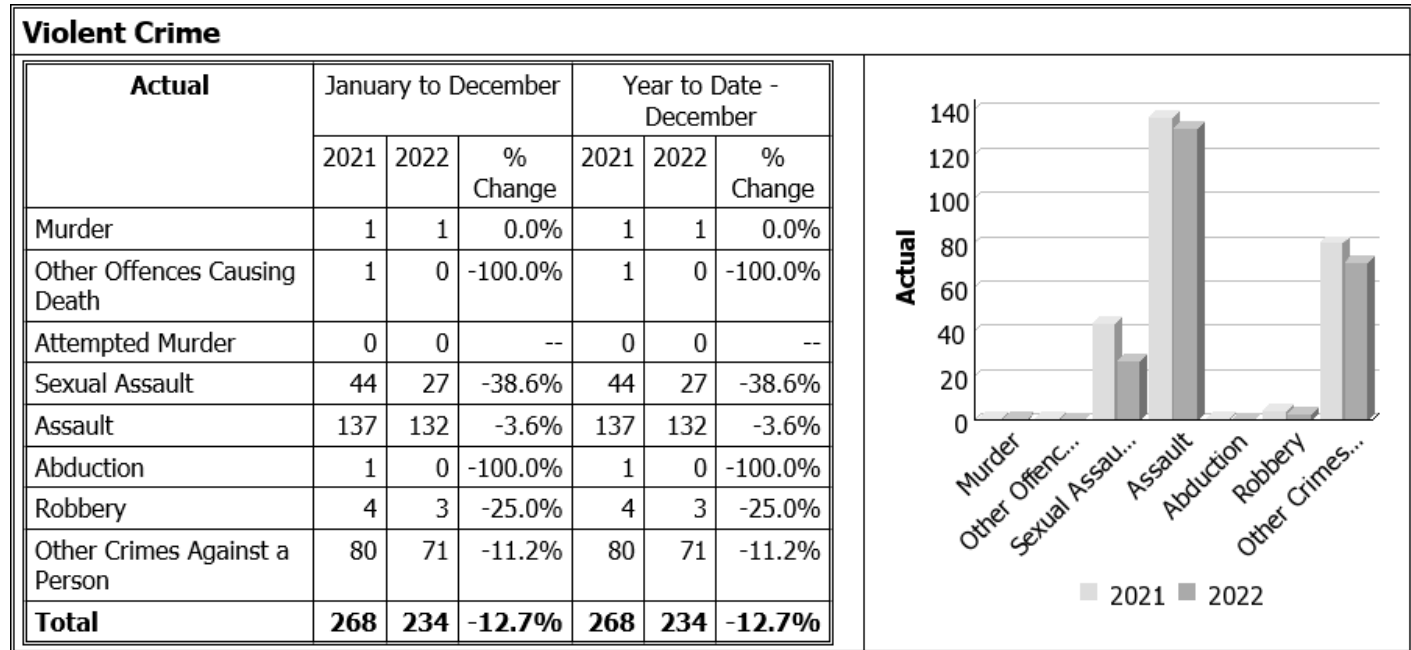
2022 Total Collisions by Month													
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	All Months	
86	90	73	65	82	105	85	66	78	128	135	118	1,111	

Total Collisions by Primary Cause

2022 Total Collisions by Primary Cause																							
Speed-excessive	Speed-Too Fast for conditions	Speed-too slow	Following too closely	Ability Impaired- Alcohol	Ability Impaired-Drugs	Pedestrian	Animal- Wild or domestic	Driver fatigue	Inattentive driver	Medical/Physical Disability for Driver	Disobeyed traffic control	Failed to yield right of way	Imp over turn	Imp over passing	Imp over lane change	Fall to share	Lost control	Debris on roadway	Mechanical failure	Other	All Incident Contributing Factors		
8	67	3	47	22	2	2	472	20	147	7	12	79	22	11	9	10	90	18	17	46	1,111		

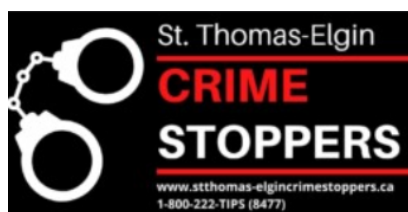
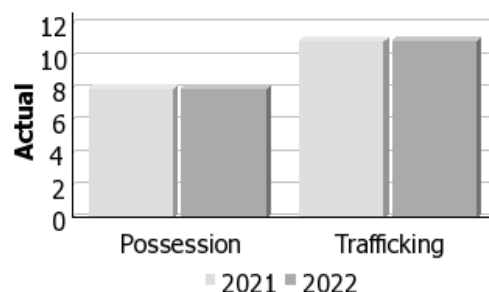
Crime Prevention

Throughout 2022, Elgin County Detachment continued our commitment to crime prevention. A large component of this goal is the pro-active education provided through media outlets, increased officer visibility, and adherence to the principles of Intelligence Led Policing. Using analytics from the Regional Analyst we identify areas of concern and assign officers to specific focused patrols related to crime and traffic trends. The creation of our Community Street Crimes Unit in conjunction with the expertise provided by our Crime Unit has increased the effectiveness of our investigations and provided targeted enforcement.



Drug Crime

Actual	January to December			Year to Date - December		
	2021	2022	% Change	2021	2022	% Change
Possession	8	8	0.0%	8	8	0.0%
Trafficking	11	11	0.0%	11	11	0.0%
Importation and Production	0	0	--	0	0	--
Total	19	19	0.0%	19	19	0.0%



St. Thomas-Elgin Crime Stoppers

Elgin County OPP continues to support the London-Elgin-Middlesex Crime Stoppers Program.



Financial Reports



Elgin Group Annual Billing Report

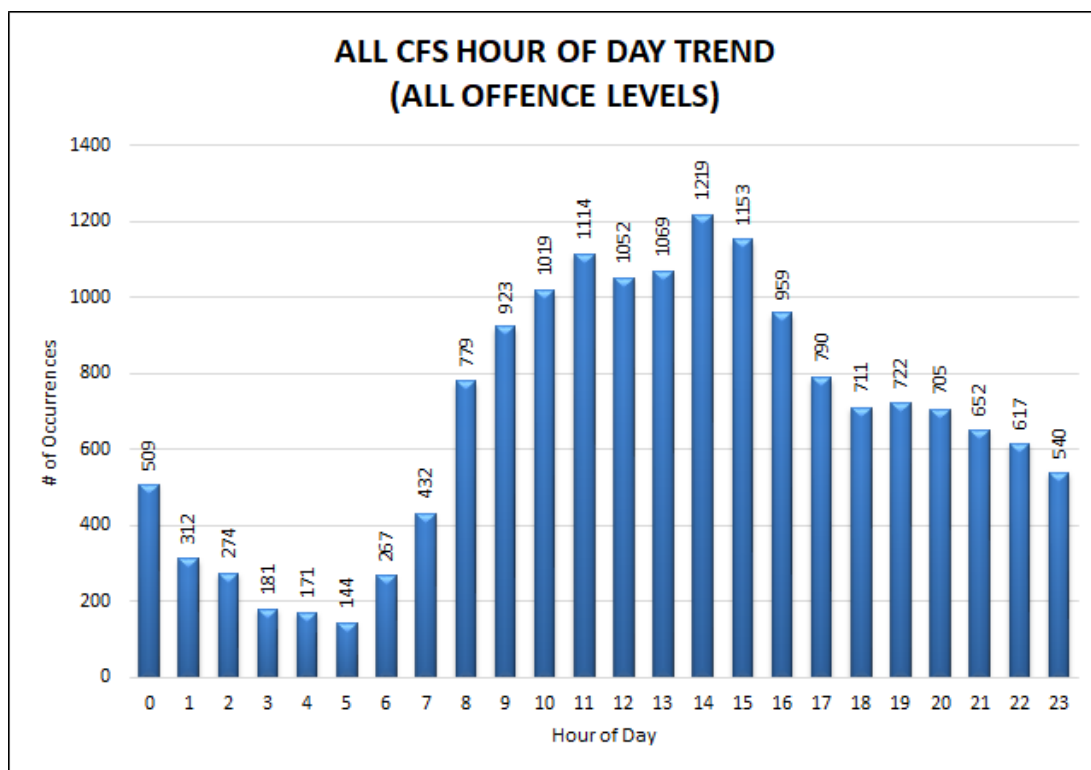
The average 2022 municipal policing cost per property (for municipalities billed applying the OPP Billing Model) across the province (including the cost of all contract enhancements) is \$354.80, a decrease of \$0.26. The total estimated cost recovery is up by \$5.9M or 1.4%.

The 2022 Estimate of Base Services cost per property is a record low at \$172.07. The trend of year over year increased Calls for Service workload allocation continues. The 2022 Base Services vs. Calls for Service workload allocation split is 51.3% : 48.7% (2021 - 53.1% : 46.9%).

The total 2020 reconciled costs recovered under the billing model were slightly lower than estimated, a 0.2% reduction, while the total 2020 reconciled Base and Calls for Service costs were slightly higher than estimated, up 0.8% due to cost increases in benefits (WSIB, pensions, and termination pay). Overall, overtime cost increased slightly compared to estimated, up 0.6%. Court security and prisoner transportation costs were less than estimated by 20% and 37% respectively. Contract enhancements were 13% less than estimated.

Elgin County OPP remain committed to the efficient implementation of cost effective policing and have implemented a number of strategies to reduce the use of overtime, including the creation of overlap shifts from 2:00 pm to 2:00 am, and noon to midnight shifts to match peak time frames for calls for service. In addition, there are target staffing policies that govern when officers are called in to work on overtime.

All Calls for Service by Hour of Day - 2022



Elgin Group Revenue Report - Criminal Record Checks

In 2022, Criminal Record Check completion transitioned to an online application and are no longer completed at the local detachment level.

R.I.D.E. Grant

Each year, Elgin County OPP completes an application for a RIDE Grant through Mothers Against Drinking and Driving. In 2022, Elgin OPP received \$14,800 to fund police officers at RIDE checks throughout the County, with the bulk of those checks occurring during the Festive RIDE Season. We are very proud and appreciative to be partners with Mothers Against Drinking and Driving in the fight to keep impaired drivers off our roadways.



*Elgin County OPP Supports our Members and the Communities We
Police*



2022 Childhood Flag Raising Ceremony



Operation Freeze 2022

