

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Chief's Message

"Serving our community since 1863"

The Gananoque Police Service completed its 158th year of service to the Town of Gananoque in 2021, I am proud to share the 2021 Annual Report on behalf of all members of the Gananoque Police Service.

In 2021 Chief of Police Garry Hull retired after dedicating a total of 36 years in Ontario to municipal policing. Chief Hull served the Gananoque community for 8 years with dedicated service.



The report will highlight many of the successes of the Service over the year. All these successes would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of all members of the service during a year of so much change and unknowns.

2021 was a year of uncertainty for the world, and this was also experienced within the Gananoque community. The Covid-19 pandemic created many challenges and firsts. The Gananoque Police Service worked within our community during these challenging times and officers engaged with a common-sense approach and continued to engage, explain, educate, and where appropriate enforce the provincial and national Covid-19 regulations and laws.

Despite these challenges and challenging times, we continued our efforts against traffic related issues, youth crime and drug related issues. Homelessness, substance abuse was ever so evident during the pandemic. With the help of our community partners the citizens and visitors to Gananoque were provided supports in a manner that displayed empathy and compassion.

We continue to utilize our partners for their expertise in fields such as mental health and social housing. As police officers, we are unable to solve all of the communities' problems. Working together provides increased resources in order to tackle each facet affecting the community.

2021 was a difficult year for members of the service. On May 15, 2021, 911-communicator Mary Jess #127 suddenly passed away. Mary dedicated 21 years of service to the community and will be greatly missed by all her coworkers. Mary was the face behind our social media accounts and held many extra duties.

We are extremely proud of those who came to work each day not knowing what they would face in 2021. Our front-line officers are supported by Communicators and Administrative Staff, all of which are integral to the operation of the Police Service.

Thank you for taking the time to review the following pages which constitute our 2021 Annual Report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garry Hull', written in a cursive style.

Chief of Police

Police Services Board

I think that it is fair to say that 2021 has been a year that most of us will remember. The pandemic has defined our actions and presented us with unusual challenges. While we have all had to cope, the Gananoque Police Service along with all other first responders have risen to the occasion and continued to provide the citizens of Gananoque with first class safety and security. The spring saw the departure of long serving Chief Garry Hull and the welcoming of our new Chief Scott Gee. Chief Hull had provided the police with strong and steady leadership throughout his tenure and he will be missed. Bon voyage Garry and a hearty thank you.



We were delighted to then appoint Scott Gee as the new chief. He has come up through the ranks and proven himself worthy at every level. It is always good to be able to promote from within and this is no exception. The Board has every expectation that the confidence that we have placed in him is well justified. Since his appointment he has proven to be a good choice for the Gananoque Police Service and the citizens of Gananoque.

At the end of the year I turned over the chair to fellow Board member Adrian Haird. It has been my honour to serve as a member and chair of the Police Services Board.

Thomas Haney

Gananoque Police Services Board Members



Tom Haney
Chair



Adrian Haird
Vice Chair



Alfred Read
Board Member



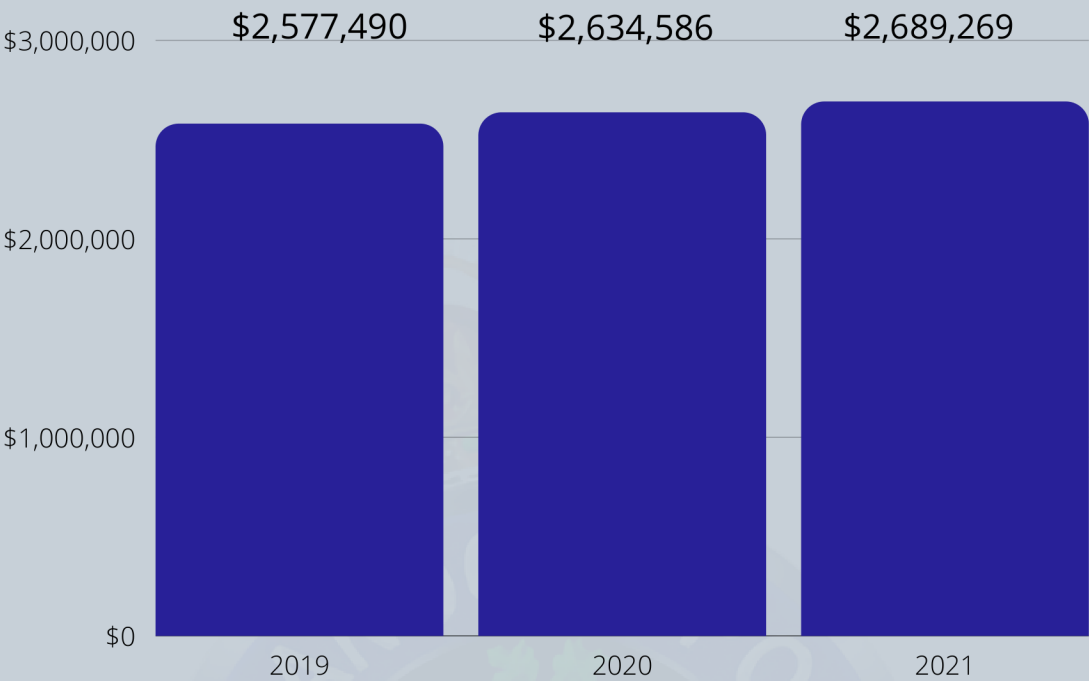
David Anderson
Board Member



Rob Bickerton
Board Member

Budget

Net Budget - Last 3 years



Staff

Full Time Staff

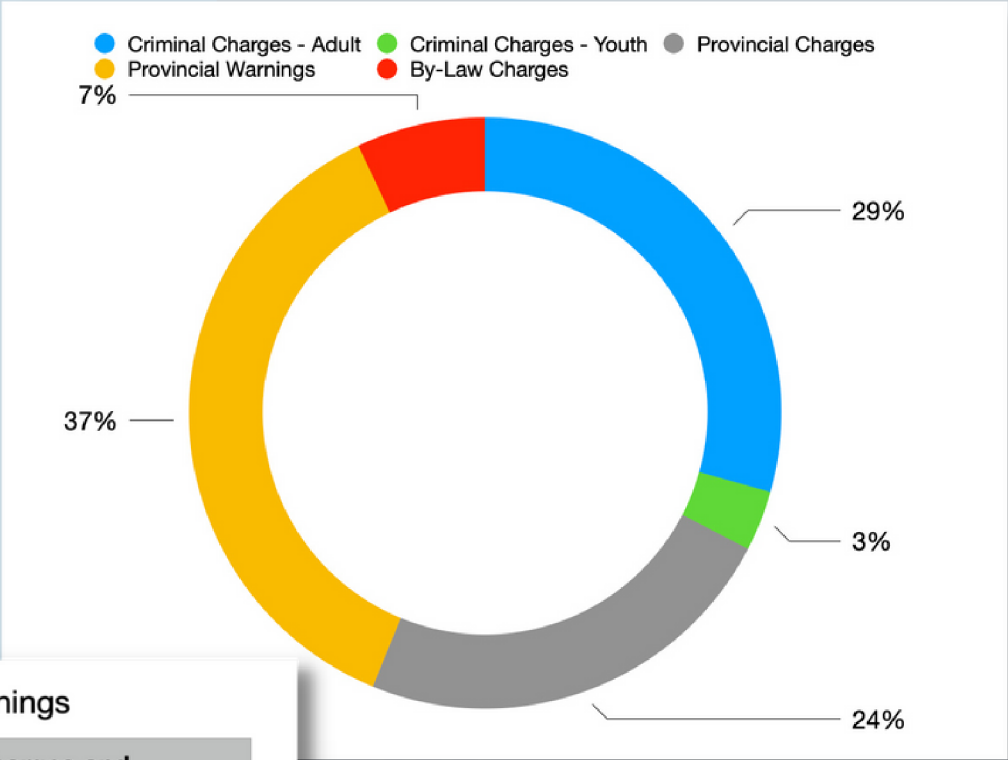
Chief of Police: 1
Sergeants: 4
Administrative Assistant: 1
Police Constables: 8
Police Communicators: 5

Part-time Staff

Police Constables: 1
Special Constables: 5
Police Communicators: 4
Backcheck Clerks: 2
Cell Monitors: 2



Charges and Warnings



Charges and Warnings

	Charges and Warnings
Criminal Charges - Adult	446
Criminal Charges - Youth	50
Provincial Charges	358
Provincial Warnings	559
By-Law Charges	107



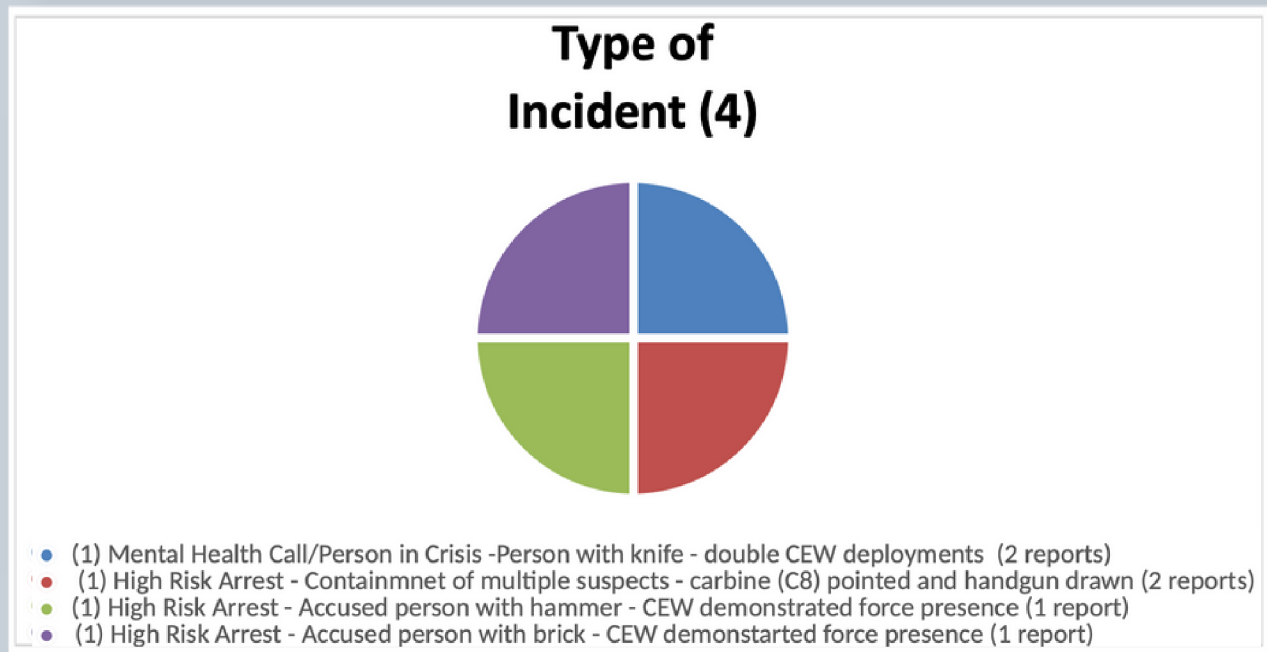
Criminal Incidents and Clearance Rates

	2021	Clearance Rate	2020	Clearance Rate	2019	Clearance Rate
Violent Crime	109	75.2%	95	85.3%	93	84.9%
Property Crime	163	25.2%	183	27.9%	228	24.6%
Drug Crime	11	100%	15	100%	10	90%
Traffic Crime	19	89.5%	17	88.2%	17	100%



Use of Force

There were 4 use of force reports generated in 2021.



CIICC

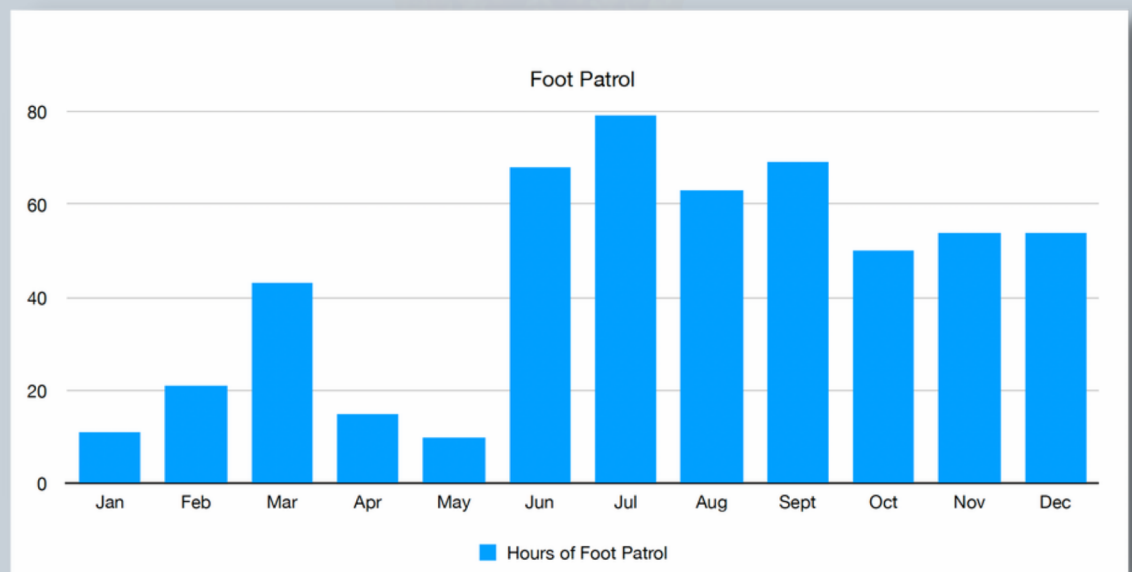
In January 2017, Ontario Regulation 58/16 came in to effect. The Collection of Identifying Information in Certain Circumstances replaced former Street Checks. The Gananoque Police Service did not conduct any CIICC occurrences in 2021.



Community Policing

Foot Patrol / School Zone Patrol

As a result of overall commitment to community policing on June 1, 2021 officers were specifically assigned to participate in directed foot patrol with a focus of our main business core and waterfront area pending emergency calls for service. Further, mobile school zone patrols were also a main priority area. An overall increase during the first 5 months of 2021 the Gananoque police service averaged 20 community service events. In the preceding 7 months the monthly average was 62. There is a 210% increase since the initiative was launched.



F.O.I & Public Complaints

The Gananoque police service received no public complaints in 2021. We received 23 Freedom of Information requests.



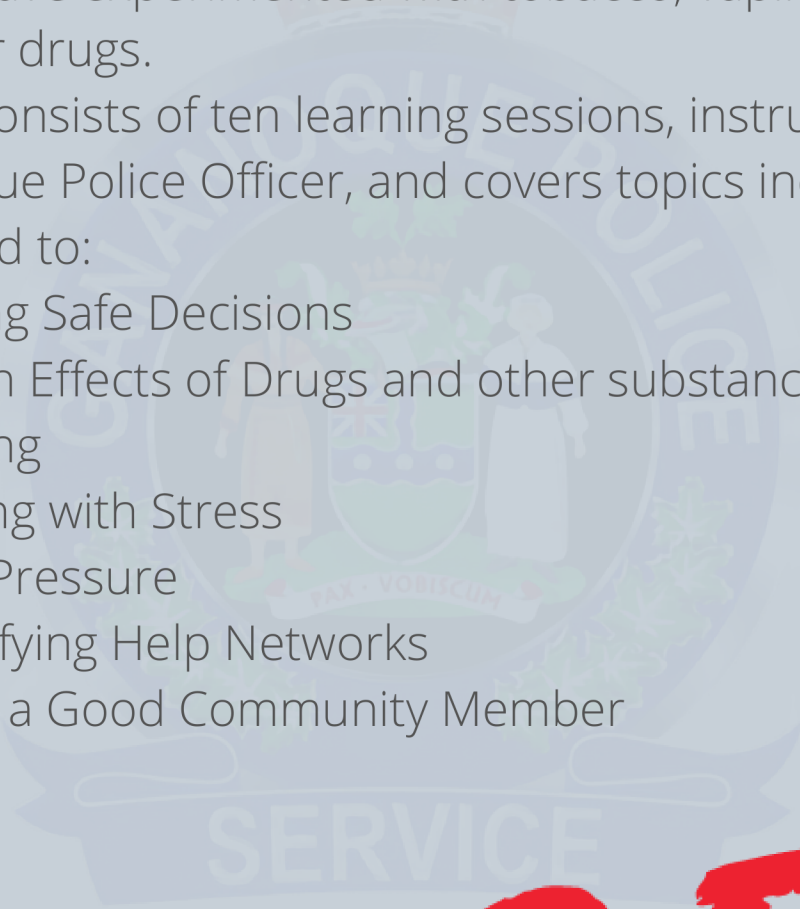
D.A.R.E.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.):

Though COVID-19 restrictions prevented our D.A.R.E. program from happening in 2020, this current school year saw its much-anticipated return to the grade 6 classes of St. Joseph Catholic School and Linklater Public School. The primary goal of the D.A.R.E. program is to prevent substance abuse among school age children. The D.A.R.E. program targets children at an age when they are most receptive to drug prevention education and before they are likely to have experimented with tobacco, vaping, alcohol, and other drugs.

D.A.R.E. consists of ten learning sessions, instructed by a Gananoque Police Officer, and covers topics including but not limited to:

- Making Safe Decisions
- Health Effects of Drugs and other substances
- Bullying
- Dealing with Stress
- Peer Pressure
- Identifying Help Networks
- Being a Good Community Member



D.A.R.E.[®]
**TEACHING STUDENTS DECISION MAKING
FOR SAFE & HEALTHY LIVING**

Digital Evidence Management



In 2019, the Gananoque Police Service purchased and began using Axon Evidence Management. This was the first major step into utilizing digital storage for the evidence in our case files. As of this year, the Solicitor General has begun the process of creating a "Best Practices" in collaboration with Axon, all Police Services within Ontario, as well as the Ministry of the Attorney General, other Investigative Agencies and Crown Prosecutors, as DEM will become a standard practice for all of Ontario.

The Gananoque Police Service has been using Axon Evidence for the following:

FILE SUPPORT

Manage all types of data, interview room video, surveillance video, digital photographs, audio files, and any other digital documents

AUTOMATED REDACTION

Redaction Assistant speeds up your redaction times by using AI to detect and mask common objects, such as license plates, screens and faces

AUDIT TRAILS

Prove chain of custody on evidence and review actions taken by users across Axon Evidence

PROSECUTOR AND PUBLIC DEFENDER EDITIONS

Seamlessly share evidence using the industry's only scalable solution for justice system collaborators.

TRANSCRIPTION

Streamline the process of providing video and audio transcriptions for court use and report-writing. Select files and receive transcripts within 24 hours

EVIDENCE SYNC DESKTOP TRANSFER APP

Upload evidence in any format from your desktop. Hard drives and desktop folders can be scheduled to sync automatically and continue to upload even after you log out.

EVIDENCE LITE FOR CEW PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Evidence Lite is a complimentary app that helps our police service maintain our TASER devices in a centralized location. Assign or remove weapons, instantly install the latest software to your weapons and manage weapon data from the cloud

MOBILE INTEGRATION

Store and manage files captured with mobile devices in the field. This has become integral for our police service as patrol officers can use a mobile device to take witness statements, photos and video of a scene with all files saved securely into the Axon cloud.

ANALYTICS AND AUDIT TOOLS

Monitor system usage, from total videos uploaded to who has reviewed, shared and deleted files

DATA ENCRYPTION

All information is fully encrypted in transit and at rest.

Cram A Cruiser

In December, officers and volunteers with the Gananoque Police Service, park cruisers outside of No Frills and Metro in hopes of receiving non-perishable food items to donate to the local Food Bank. This year, our community was extremely generous and helped contribute over \$1900 dollars and 7 full cruisers of items which was delivered to the Food Bank. This is yet another testament of how wonderfully kind and supportive our community can be especially during the holiday season.



Special Constables

Special Constables are appointed and sworn members who play an integral part of day-to-day operations; assisting officers with prisoner care and transport to court, custodial facilities, and hospitals. They facilitate bail hearings, complete court intake including swearing of informations and warrants, document service, and provide scene security. They are also responsible for fingerprinting accused persons and executing orders to obtain DNA. The Gananoque Police Service has an agreement with Brockville Police Service to share Special Constables for these tasks.

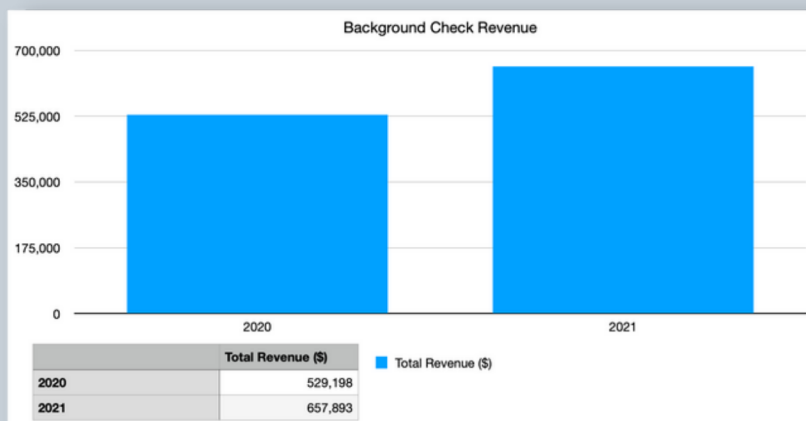


Special Constables Sims and Shultz pictured with Constables Darlington and Dickson

The Service continues to run the Gananoque Police Community Volunteer Program that was implemented in 2018. The program is overseen by a uniform supervisor, who deploys five volunteers. The volunteers are active with community events, police specific activities and training, as well as, helping with various endeavours with our community and justice partners. The program cannot be successful if not for the hours spent by our volunteers.



The Gananoque Police Service provides criminal background checks for companies under an agreement with a third-party organization, named Sterling Talent Solutions. This partnership results in significant revenue for the Service that has year-over-year eased the burden of the taxpayer. The Service currently has five part-time clerks that work a dedicated schedule to address the incoming checks. Additionally, the Services' communication staff complete checks during their regular tour of duty as time permits. Revenue increased by \$128,695 in 2021.



HealthIM

HealthIM is a Digital Risk Screener used by officers when responding to individuals with unmanaged mental health challenges. HealthIM has been utilized by the Gananoque Police since 2017 and currently operates on a strictly mobile platform using service issued cellular devices. Highlights of the program are - it allows officers to quickly evaluate the potential risk of harm for an individual in crisis, connects wirelessly to our Health partners and Community Outreach, synchronizes the completed report to the Services' Records Management System (RMS) and provides valuable analytics relating to Hospital wait times, duration of call and previous involvement with the individual. The licencing costs for the program are currently covered in whole by a grant provided by Enbridge under their Safe Community First Responder Grant Program.



Community Outreach Program



Gananoque Police Service continues to work in partnership with Lanark Leeds and Grenville Addictions and Mental Health in providing a Community Outreach Program. The program was first established in 2018 and has been funded by a provincial grant allowing for a Mental Health & Addictions counsellor to work with police officers 2 days per week. Over the past calendar year the program was able to connect with 54 individuals as a result of officers responding to mental health related calls.

The goal of the program is to assist community members struggling with issues such as addictions, counselling, mental health support, housing support and hoarding solutions. It should be noted that the help offered is not limited to the person experiencing the issue and can be extended to family members, friends, neighbours that may be affected as well. The Community Outreach Program has been well received by clients. It has allowed police to bridge a gap in service when dealing with these types of calls.

Not for profit organization offering a variety of programs for children, youth, and their families. Focusing on prevention and early intervention services, as well as helping youth overcome challenges such as addictions, mental health, and involvement with the Criminal Justice system.

RNJ Youth Services works in partnership with local Police agencies and the Courts to best assist our at-risk youth.

Programming available:

Intersections - early intervention program for youth at risk, including those struggling with mental health, developmental disabilities, and/or substance use issues.

Extrajudicial Measures, pre-charge diversion program. Connects youth with a case worker to establish individualized plan.

Restorative program that brings together the accused, victim, and other members of the community to hold youth accountable.

Extrajudicial Sanctions - youth in conflict with the law are referred by the Crown after a charge has been laid. Sanctions are negotiated with the youth and parents to determine an appropriate way to make amends. Successful completion allows the youth to avoid a criminal record.

Connections- assistance to youth disengaging from the school system as seen through suspensions, progression toward suspensions or difficulty participating in school programming and with at-risk youth who have had or are moving toward contact with the criminal justice system.

Mental Health Court Support - various levels of support available for youth who are identified with mental health needs, illness, or disorder, and are currently before the courts.



Victim Services



Victim Services
Leeds & Grenville

Community based program working in partnership with Police and other emergency services that provides 24/7 confidential short-term crisis intervention services, information, referrals, or emotional support to persons affected by crime, tragedy and/or disaster.

Victim Services is comprised of highly trained staff and volunteers that are committed to providing tailored crisis assistance services based on individual needs. Staff and volunteers are equipped to assist with a wide range of incidents including but not limited to, sudden deaths, suicides, homicides, motor vehicle collisions, domestic assaults, sexual assaults, human trafficking, hate crimes, and other tragic circumstances.

The organization offers a variety of programming in addition to immediate crisis support.

Family Court Support Program- provide supports for victims of domestic violence who are involved or considering becoming involved in the family court process. Safety planning to reduce the risk of future violence and increase the victims access to services and supports.

Internet Child Exploitation Program- unique program to assist in accessing specialized counselling for victims of sexual exploitation on the internet and child pornography.

Safety Planning,

Mobile tracking system- a high-risk safety program designed as an intervention strategy to enhance the safety of individuals at risk of domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, and/or criminal harassment. GPS enabled tracking devices along with safety planning and support programs designed to assist individuals in keeping themselves safe in high-risk situations.

Victim Quick Response Program- provides financial assistance to victims for emergency counselling, safety measures such as lock changes, emergency transportation or accommodations, and crime scene clean-up. There is a set criteria that must be met for a victim and/or their family to qualify including time constraints.

Beginning in June of 2021 an initiative between GPS and Victim services has one of their employees working alongside GPS once a week. Since this initiative began, referrals to Victim Services have doubled, proving it a very successful initiative.

Constable Darlington is the liaison for both RNJ Youth Services and Victim Services. Additionally, Constable Darlington is on the Board of Directors for Victim Services.

The Gananoque Police service work in close partnership with both organizations to best serve our community. Referrals to these organizations can happen at the time of the call or during follow up with individuals or families who have had contact with Police.



Municipal Drug Strategy

The Gananoque Police Service is one of the founding members of the local Municipal Drug Strategy. Through a comprehensive and collaborative multi--sector approach that reflects the strengths and the needs of the Town of Gananoque, The Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands (TLTI), and The Township of Rideau Lakes we will use a 4 pillar approach (prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and enforcement) to address substance misuse.

As a result of the ongoing work of the MDS, In 2021 we were able to provide creditable data in regards to the demand and need for a youth hub in Gananoque. Overall, we were able to expand the health and wellbeing of all citizens by furthering the co-ordination of local available supports that ensure the reduction of social, health and economic harms of substance misuse.

As a result of this strong connection with the MDS The Gananoque Police Service contributes to the following initiatives with the 4-pillar approach at the forefront.

- Drug Enforcement Initiatives
- Timely media releases for toxic drug supply
- In-Service Training / Naloxone
- Naloxone Deployment Program
- Provide Outreach Training
- Opioid Data Collection Plan
- Overdose Response Plan
- Public Education
- Continued Partnerships – MDS/outside agencies not involved in MDS

Harm Reduction

Prevention

Enforcement

Treatment

MUNICIPAL DRUG STRATEGY

Berm-Out

In response to the voices of local youth and following the success of the teen program in operation at the Brockville YMCA, the YMCA of Eastern Ontario is collaborating with the Town of Gananoque, the United Way, the Gananoque Police and RNJ Youth Services to deliver a drop-in program for teens in Gananoque over the summer.

"We are focused on addressing gaps in services across our region and are excited about partnering with like-minded agencies to help people in our communities," said Rob Adams, CEO, YMCA of Eastern Ontario. "We are pleased to be working alongside RNJ Youth Services and Gananoque Police and to have funding from the United Way Gananoque town council who see the value in supporting local youth."

Gananoque Police see the new program as a positive response to what they have been hearing from youth. Police Chief Scott Gee said, "Through numerous consultations, youth have told us that they want a safe space to gather and that is what this initiative provides. We are pleased that the Town has recognized the voices of our teens and is playing an important role in making this a reality."

The mobile teen drop-in would provide teens with access to free wi-fi, a safe space and good food – things that teens have said are very important to them.

"We are happy to be partnering on this initiative," said Sue Poldervaart, executive director of RNJ Youth Services. "This is a great thing for our youth and brings them much needed services. We're looking forward to an exciting summer."

The United Way is providing \$10,000 to this initiative and the Town of Gananoque is matching this contribution. Gananoque police and fire services are donating use of the mobile command trailer to use as the drop-in space. The YMCA is covering the remaining budget of \$5,000 as a demonstration of its strong commitment to supporting teens with opportunities for healthy activities and positive social connections.

United Way Leeds & Grenville is thrilled to support the youth in Gananoque. We have worked diligently with a number of stakeholders over the past several months to understand the needs of the youth in the community. Thank you to the YMCA Eastern Ontario for taking the lead on this important first step," said Trish Buote, executive director, United Way Leeds & Grenville.



Ride for Mental Health

In August 2021, Gananoque Police proudly took part in “The Ride for Mental Health” organized by Wounded Warriors Canada. Traditionally, the ride takes place in Ottawa as a large event. Once again, due to the impact of Covid 19, the event was regionalized to reduce numbers. Members of Kingston, Brockville and Gananoque Police raised money and a small group of participants rode approximately 70 kilometres locally in honour of Peace Officers affected by Operational Stress Injuries and Mental Illness. In Policing and other front line services, sworn and civilian staff continue to be challenged by these issues and are familiar with the significant impact they have on not only the individual, but also their family, friends and co-workers. Gananoque Police Service continues to offer support to its staff and their families.

Ride to Remember

In September, 2 members of the Gananoque Police Service once again participated in the annual Ride To Remember in which riders / participants pay tribute to Peace Officers that have fallen in the line of duty. This event originated over 20 years ago when 3 founding Police Officers made the trek from southern Ontario to Ottawa to march in the National Peace Officer Memorial on Parliament Hill. Prior to the pandemic, the event had grown to almost 200 riders, along with an impressive compliment of support staff. In 2021, Covid 19 impacted the logistics of this event and it was downsized to several small regional events, as opposed to the much larger week-long event it had been in the past.

A small group of riders from several local Police Services rode 170 kilometres from Belleville to Brockville in honour of their fallen brothers and sisters.

Also worth noting related to this event, numerous local businesses showed their support by making a financial donation to the Memorial Fund, and donating bicycles to families in need.



Positive Ticket Program

Cst. Mike Gomulkiewicz is being credited with getting the Gananoque police's positive ticket program up and running.

Gomulkiewicz says other police forces have been using similar programs and he had first hand experience with it when he served as a police officer in Owen Sound.

"It's about community safety, road safety for youths." said Gomulkiewicz. "Bicycles, skateboards, scooters, roller blades all means of convenience for kids."

Gomulkiewicz says when officers are on foot patrol, they will be looking for children following safety rules.

"We like to see kids wearing helmets, we like to see lights on bikes in darker hours, and as well some good behaviour out of children right so we want to see good manners, like kids holding doors open." said Gomulkiewicz.

Story and photo by: Darryn Davis- Global News



Communications

The Gananoque Police Communications Centre is a 9-1-1 Call Centre for the Gananoque area. The Communicators also handle radio dispatch for the Town's Police, Fire, Board of Works and Public Works. There are 5 Full-time and 5 Part-Time Communications staff who are responsible for handling all telephone and front counter traffic for the Emergency Services Building. They also handle all radio communications, building surveillance, initial report generation and data management of various computer systems.

In 2021, the Communications Centre generated 5555 calls-for-service for the Town of Gananoque. These consisted of 2520 non-emergency calls and 3025 emergency calls. Of the 3025 emergency calls, the communication centre processed 1651 incidents stemming from 9-1-1 calls.



Social Media



@gananoquepoliceservice

Gananoque Police Service is active on social media, keeping the community engaged and informed of what's going on in town. Last year the Gananoque Police facebook page had a peak page reach of 670,007.

