

# 2023 Annual Report



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**POLICE**  
CITY OF BELLEVILLE  
ESTD - 1836



## **Mission**

In partnership with our community, our members are dedicated to serve and protect. Through education, inclusivity, best practices and enforcement, we will be proactive in enhancing the quality of life, safety and security for all citizens.





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# INSPECTOR OF OPERATIONS MESSAGE



As reflected in last year's Annual Report and message from the Deputy Chief, we have continued to build upon community trust and engagement post pandemic as our community rebuilds. We focused on our Strategic Safety Plan objectives in all areas of our service and made great strides in achieving many of the objectives for Collaborative Community Safety, Organizational Excellence and a Professional and Supportive Workplace.

Our service continued to adapt and respond to an increase in calls for service, while proactively engaging with the public about road safety education and enforcement. Several projects highlighted an evidence-based policing response to the public's primary traffic concerns in all areas of the city.

Moreover, we continued to collaborate with many community agencies to focus on assisting and supporting vulnerable community members facing homelessness, mental health and addiction issues. The IMPACT (Integrated Mobile and Police Co-Response Team) in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association has been instrumental in assisting individuals in crisis and is an excellent example that community relationships support our service in creating a safer community: we cannot do this alone.

A special thank you to our members, volunteers, and community for your ongoing support and trust in our police service as we strive to progress and build on our 186-year legacy.

# INSPECTOR OF SUPPORT SERVICES MESSAGE

The importance of attracting and retaining the best candidates who reflect our community, with a particular focus on women, has remained a focus of the service over the last year. This is the second area of focus in our strategic plan – Professional and Supportive Workplace. As the city continues to grow, so must the police service in all areas including civilian and sworn members. With the support of the Belleville Police Services Board and City Council, an increase in staffing has been authorized to help achieve this objective.

Policing is not immune to the challenges most sectors are facing in filling vacancies. Our recruitment teams have continued with outreach and have enhanced their recruiting strategies to include in-person job fairs outside our local area and through various social media platforms. The Service has continued with our Women in Policing Events and expanded to include another open house-style recruiting event. We have more than doubled the job fairs our Human Resources and Recruitment Team members have attended. This has increased the number of overall applications we have received for all positions.

We will continue to search for and hire the most qualified candidates with a lens to Equity Diversity and Inclusion in all roles within the Service to meet the needs of our community. We continue to work towards reducing the number of workplace stress injuries and offer enhanced training, as well as internal and external support for our members who work in a very challenging profession.





# Progress on Strategic Safety Plan

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

In 2023, the Belleville Police Service continued to prioritize community safety through innovative technology, community engagement, and proactive enforcement strategies. Building on the advancements made in 2022, we have further enhanced our capabilities to ensure the safety and well-being of Belleville residents.

This year, we expanded the use of our mobile dashboard, which has become an integral tool for our officers. The dashboard now incorporates additional data sources, allowing for even more comprehensive analysis. Our members have become adept at using this tool to transform observations into actionable intelligence, resulting in increased investigations supported by data analytics.



The integration of body-worn cameras and GPS telematics in our vehicles has further improved our response times and accountability. Body-worn cameras have become standard equipment for our officers, capturing interactions with the public to ensure transparency and resolve public complaints. These cameras have played a crucial role in evidence collection, enhancing officer safety during critical incidents, and fostering community trust.

In addition to body-worn cameras, we implemented in-car camera systems by Axon. These systems provide continuous recording of the vehicle's interior and exterior, significantly improving transparency and the safety of those in custody. The front-facing cameras capture detailed footage of traffic stops and other interactions, while the in-car custody cameras monitor the treatment and well-being

of individuals in the back seat. This dual-camera approach ensures comprehensive documentation of events, providing valuable evidence in investigations and reinforcing accountability.

These technological advancements have not only enhanced officer safety but also increased transparency with the community, ensuring that interactions are recorded accurately and can be reviewed if needed. The combination of body-worn and in-car cameras supports our commitment to maintaining public trust and delivering fair, effective policing.

Road safety remains a top priority for our community, as outlined in numerous public meetings and feedback received by the city and our police service.

Despite facing significant challenges in front-line resources, our police service has continued to prioritize directed enforcement efforts.

As pandemic restrictions have eased, we have doubled our efforts to engage with the community both online and in-person. Our social media platforms have become vibrant channels for communication, enabling us to reach a wider audience and gather valuable feedback.

Our officers have increased participation in voluntary community committees and events, fostering stronger partnerships with local organizations. Our officers regularly attend neighborhood meetings, school events, and public speaking engagements to build trust within the community and address concerns directly.



Re-establishing our presence in schools has been a significant focus this year. The reintroduction of the Community Resource Officer position in the Children's Safety Village has been well-received. These officers play a crucial role in building positive relationships with students, providing mentorship, and early intervention when needed.

We have also enhanced programs aimed at youth which included a revival of the Youth In Policing Initiative (YIPI) after a COVID hiatus. The YIPI program is provincially funded and allows for the service to hire youth to provide hands-on learning experiences that emphasize the importance of leadership, teamwork, and community engagement.

Through the YIPI Program, students can build self-confidence allowing them to make a difference within themselves and extending to their communities with the aim to collectively make a ripple effect of positive change.

Our crime prevention initiatives have continued to grow, focusing on education and community involvement. Programs like "Lock it or Lose it" for automobile safety and "Hallowe'en Safe Streets" have been expanded and had tremendous impact on the community.

This year, we enhanced the role of our Auxiliary Officers and Community Policing Volunteers through the adoption of a new scheduling and coordination application. This technology has significantly improved the efficiency of their deployment by streamlining communication, simplifying scheduling processes, and enhancing overall coordination. As a result, these volunteers have been more effectively integrated into our community policing efforts, contributing significantly to our outreach and educational initiatives.



The Belleville Police Service remains committed to enhancing community safety through innovation, engagement, and proactive strategies. The progress made in 2023 sets a strong foundation for the coming years, ensuring that Belleville continues to be a safe and vibrant community for all its residents.



# WORKPLACE



Despite facing a significantly challenging recruiting environment during 2023, the Belleville Police Service made strides to attract and support our workforce, focusing on inclusivity, professional development, and overall well-being.

In 2023, we intensified our recruitment efforts by participating in job fairs at college campuses, special job fair events and hosting our annual Women in Policing event. These initiatives have been instrumental in attracting new talent. As a result, we successfully hired eight new Constables, four Special Constables, nine Auxiliary Officers and a total of 12 full and part-time civilian staff members

Thanks to our efforts, the percentage of sworn officers who identify as women rose to 23%, while the overall percentage, including civilian members, increased slightly to 38%. Recruitment remains a top priority as we continue to seek candidates who represent the diversity of our community.

Policing is inherently demanding, often involving unpredictable and high-stress situations. Recognizing the importance of mental health and well-being, we have continued to enhance our support services for members.

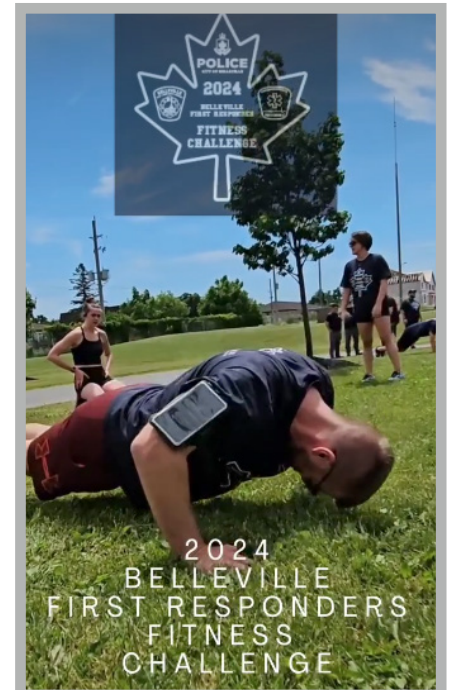
The Belleville Police Service in collaboration with the Belleville Police Association also embarked on a new partnership with Life Support Mental Health Inc., a leading technology company specializing in the development of tools to assess and triage mental wellness, to introduce the Mental Health Check program.

The first responder community faces unique challenges when it comes to mental health and well-being. Recognizing this, the service engaged in an innovative product solution tailored specifically for law enforcement organizations. This initiative incorporates several psychological tools to screen for a range of common mental health challenges and effectively address any issues or concerns with support from mental health professionals.

This tool will enable members both sworn and civilian to receive further assistance and support from qualified mental health professionals in addition to making mental wellness a priority and further reducing the stigma internally.

To promote a healthy and engaging workplace environment, we organized several events throughout the year, including:

- Wellness Events: Our Health and Wellness Committee hosted multiple BBQs and pancake breakfasts for current members;
- Community Engagement: The Polar Plunge and the Belleville First Responder's Fitness Challenge in support of the Sylvian Routhier Memorial Foundation were significant successes, raising funds for Special Olympic programs and promoting physical and mental fitness among our members;
- Fitness Initiatives: Free yoga and fitness classes taught by our members for our members were continued to be offered, emphasizing the importance of physical health in our demanding profession.







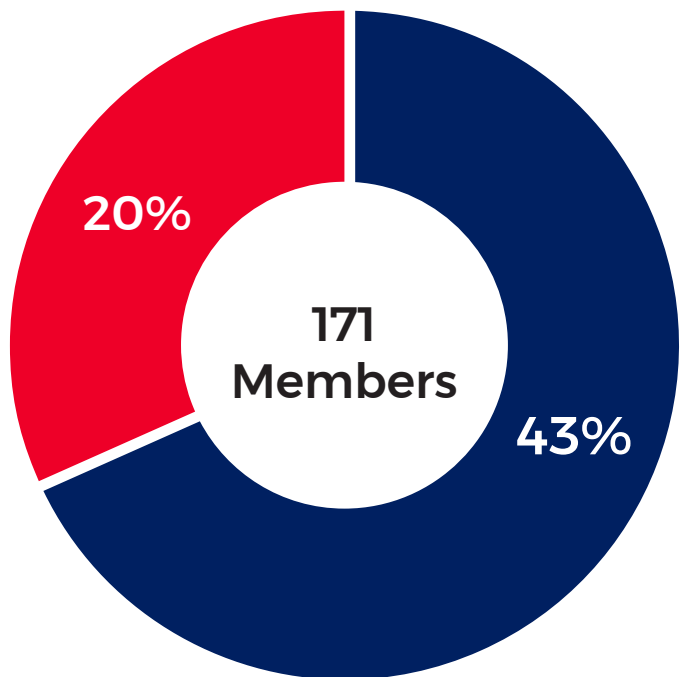
Training is a cornerstone of our commitment to professional development, and we continued this commitment in 2023. Many of the training courses and opportunities for our members included continued provincial and federal mandated training covering Use of Force, First Aid, Defibrillator, Coach Officer and Basic Recruit Training.

As well, specialized training was offered which covered topics such as Complex Criminal Investigations, Investigative Interviewing, Search Warrant procedures and Incident Command training.

Courses - 74 (43%) members attended one course and 34 (20%) members attended two or more courses.

The Belleville Police Service remains committed to fostering a supportive and professional workplace. By prioritizing recruitment, enhancing wellness programs, and investing in comprehensive training, we aim to ensure that our members are well-equipped to serve the community effectively and sustainably. The progress made in 2023 sets a strong foundation for continued growth and excellence in the years ahead.

## 2023 Courses for Members



- One Course
- Two or more Courses





## ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

In 2023, the Belleville Police Service continued to strengthen our collaboration with Victim Services, ensuring comprehensive support for victims of crime. Our victim-centered initiatives are designed to provide immediate assistance and long-term support, which are enhanced through a partnership that establishes a dedicated Victim Service worker inside the patrol work area of the Belleville Police Service.

We have continued the St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dog Program. This program, which includes bi-weekly visits from therapy dogs, has been a success and provides support to our officers on numerous levels.

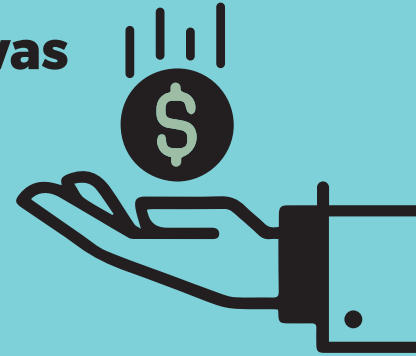
The Belleville Police Service continued with an additional partnership with a local agency to provide a trained mental health worker to respond with officers to calls involving parties requiring specific assistance. The IMPACT (Integrated Mobile Police and Co-Response Team) members are employees of the Canadian Mental Health Association who also work out of the patrol area within the service.



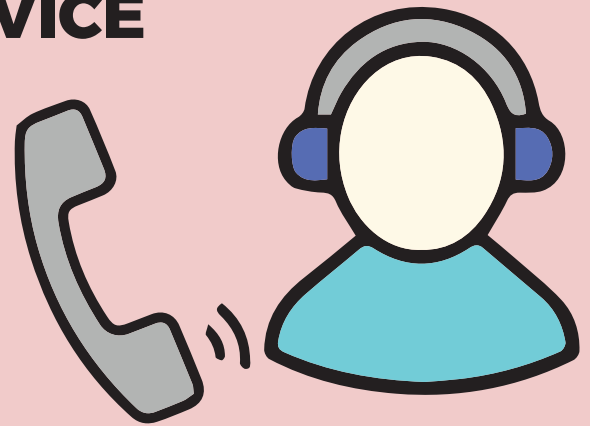
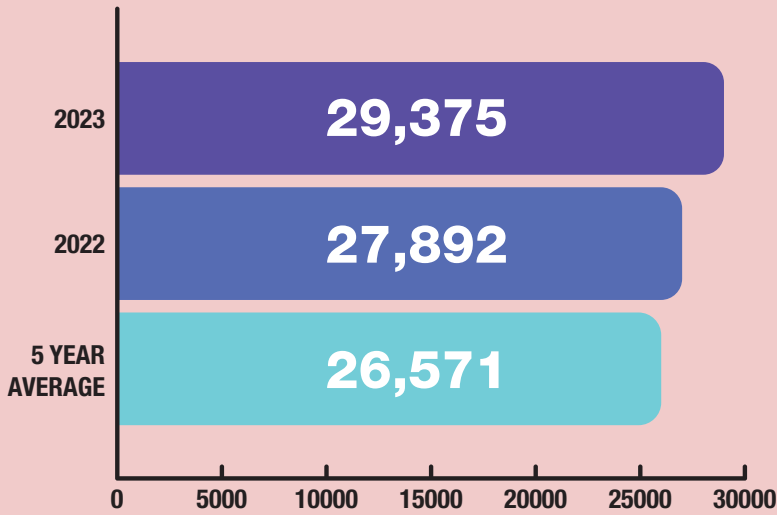
# Statistical Highlights



Our total budget for the year was  
**\$24,868,840**  
versus  
**\$21,888,900**  
in 2022.

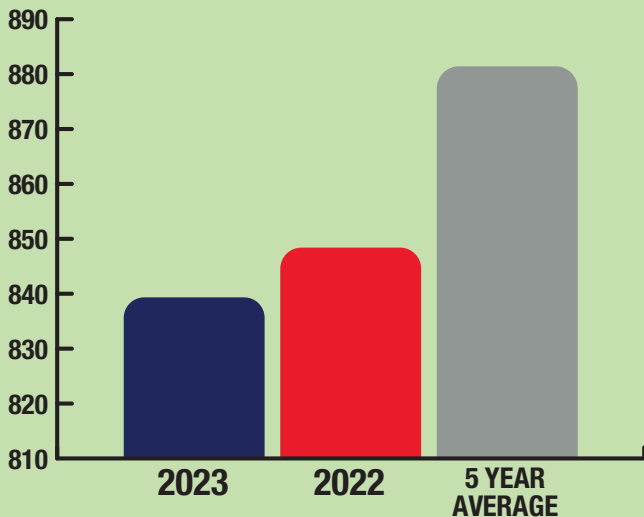


## CALLS FOR SERVICE

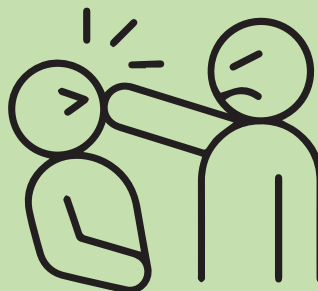


There were 29,375 calls for service received in 2023 versus 27,892 in 2022. The five-year average is 26,571 each year.

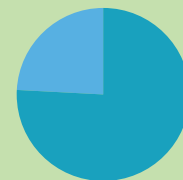
## CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS



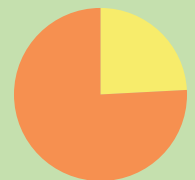
Total number of reported crimes against persons was 838 in 2023 versus 848 in 2022. The five-year average is 881. The clearance rate was 76% in 2023 versus the five-year average of 77%.



### Clearance Rate



2023 - 76%

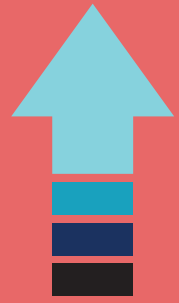
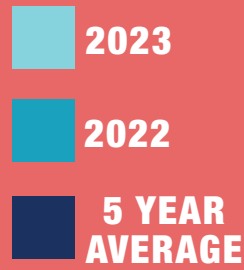
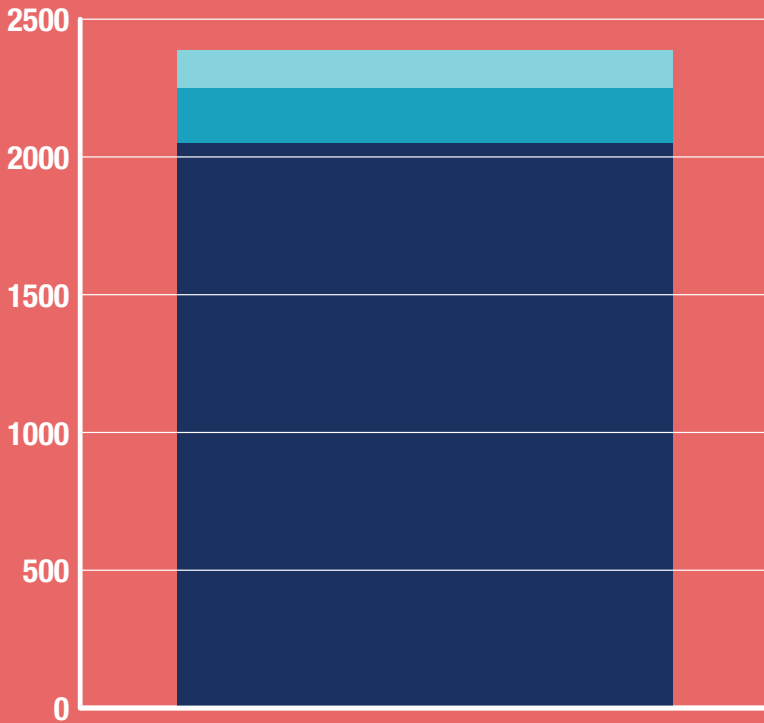


5 YEAR AVERAGE - 77%



# PROPERTY CRIMES

Total number of property crimes reported in 2023 was 2,331 versus 2,198 in 2022. The five-year average for property crimes is 2,025. The clearance rate was 26% in 2023 versus the five-year average of 25%.

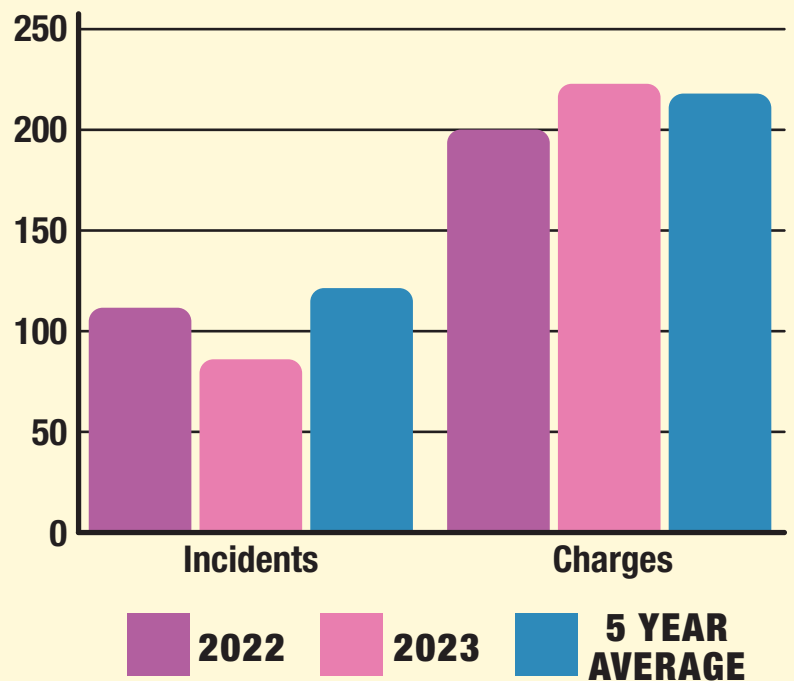


# CONTROLLED DRUG & SUBSTANCE INCIDENTS & CHARGES

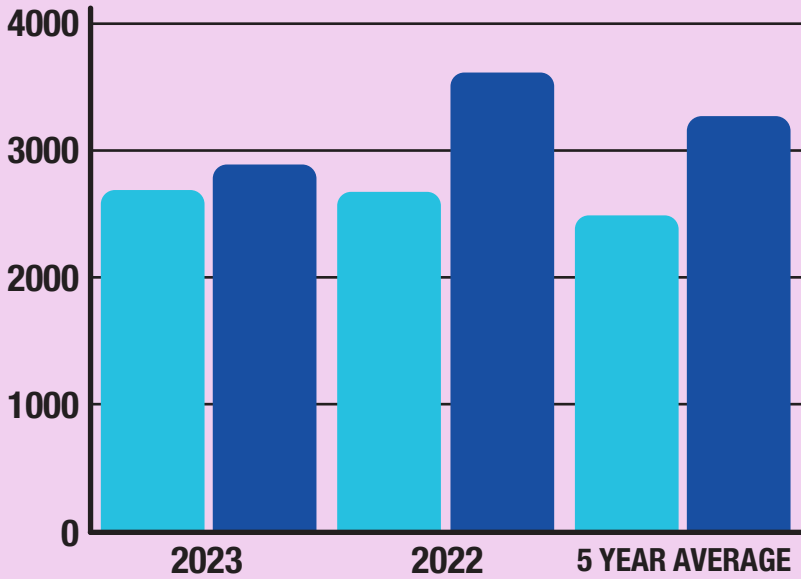
There were 87 actual Controlled Drug and Substance Act incidents in 2023 versus 111 in 2022. The five-year average is 122. The clearance rate was 94% in 2023 versus the five-year average of 92%.



There were 224 Controlled Drug and Substance Act charges in 2023 versus 200 in 2022. The five-year average is 219.



# CRIMINAL CODE & HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT CHARGES

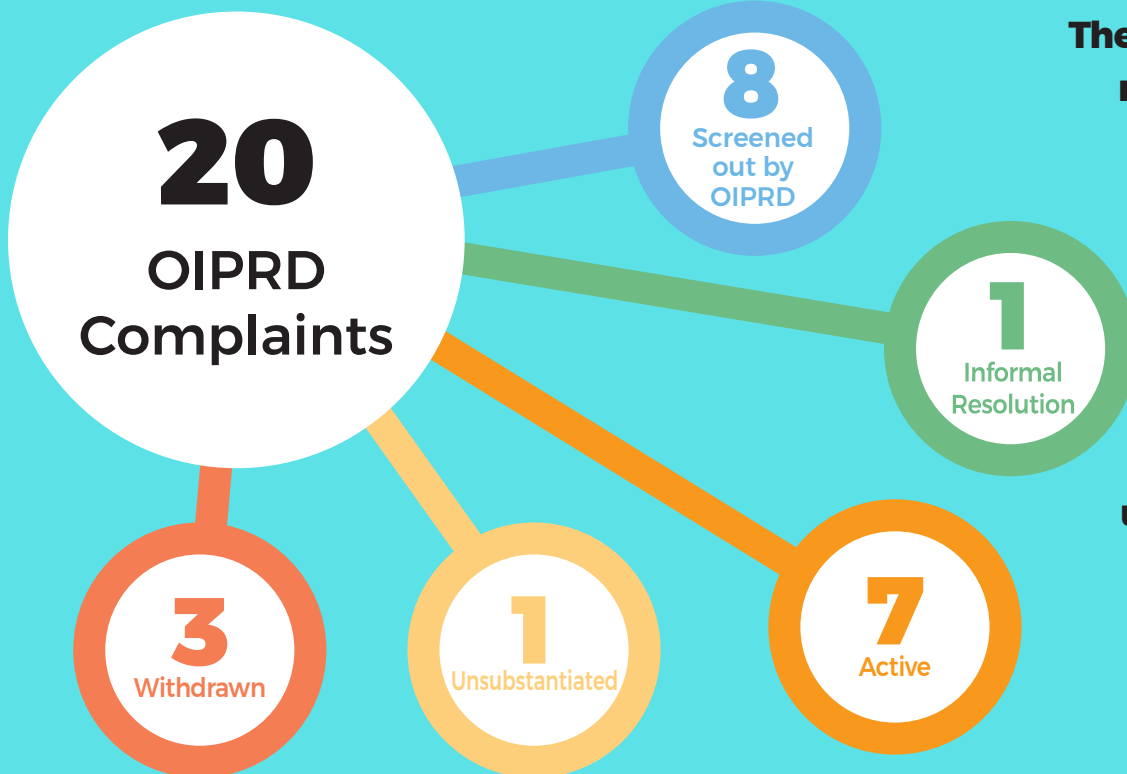
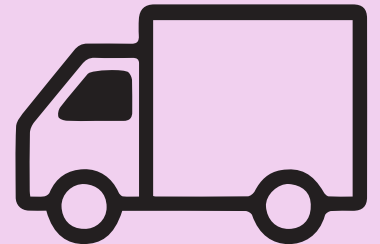


**Criminal Code Charges**  
**Highway Traffic Act Charges**

**There was a total of 2,603 Criminal Code charges in 2023 versus 2,590 in 2022. The five-year average is 2,363.**



**There were 2,864 Highway Traffic Act charges laid in 2023 versus 3,511 in 2022. The five-year average is 3,211.**



**There were 20 complaints received in 2023 versus 22 in 2022. Of those, 8 were screened out by the OIPRD, 1 was resolved by way of informal resolution, 3 were withdrawn, 1 was deemed unsubstantiated, and 7 remain active.**



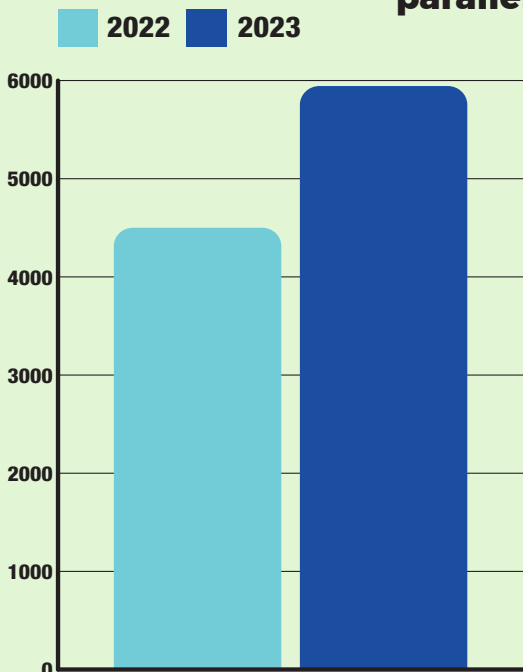
# Crime Trends

In 2023, Belleville Police observed a 10% rise in fraud-related calls for service compared to 2022, with 335 reported incidents versus 305 the previous year. Common types of fraud reported include cryptocurrency investment scams, and email, text, and phone call scams targeting personal information or payment through gift cards.



In response to the increase in fraud incidents, the Belleville Police Service enhanced training within the criminal investigations Unit on fraud investigations in 2023. Looking ahead, we plan to expand our proactive approach with additional fraud prevention seminars in our community in the coming year. For current fraud trends and information on reporting and protection, visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

Hang up calls to 911 increased by 20% from 4,476 in 2022 to 5,931 in 2023. This increase parallels the overall rise in calls for service.



Reasons for these hangs ups often include improperly secured phones, children playing with mobile devices, and accidental emergency SOS activations on smart phones, features that users may not be familiar with. Each hang up call necessitates a response to ensure the safety of the caller, diverting resources from other priorities. In 2023, Belleville Police conducted public service announcements to educate the public on the impacts of accidental emergency calls and will continue efforts to raise awareness.



# CAMSafe

In 2021, the Belleville Police Service developed and launched CAMSafe (camsafe.ca), which is a volunteer registry of static video camera locations throughout the municipality. The purpose of the program is to empower the public to partner with police by registering through CAMSafe the contact information of owners of static cameras (CCTV cameras, doorbell cams, etc.) as well as the device locations.

On the law enforcement side of the CAMSafe tool, officers log in and view an interactive map-based view of the camera locations and contact information. If an incident occurs near a camera location, an officer logging into CAMSafe can reach out directly to the owner of the device and request footage.



This voluntary program was quickly supported by residents, businesses, industry and local government agencies not only in Belleville, but surrounding municipalities to partner with police to solve crime.

Many policing agencies – including the Ontario Provincial Police – realized the benefits of the initiative and came on board as partners in the project. As of the end of 2023, in addition to the OPP, this program now has upwards of a dozen municipal policing agencies and their associated communities participating in CAMSafe.

CAMSafe continues to grow, and the Belleville Police Service is committed to developing this provincial program with future partners within the criminal justice field.



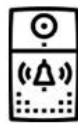
## CAMSAFE

### Register Your Security Cameras in Two Easy Steps

Join us in creating a safer community by going to CAMSafe.ca, a voluntary registry of security cameras, CCTV systems and doorbell cameras.



Register



Add



Protect

Find out more at [camsafe.ca](https://camsafe.ca)



# MODERNIZING POLICING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

In 2023, the Information Technology Services Unit of the Belleville Police Service achieved several significant milestones, enhancing both our operational capabilities and the safety of our officers and community.

## NG911 Upgrades

Provincial Grant Funding: Belleville Police Service secured over \$1 million in Provincial Grant money for infrastructure related to NG911 upgrades, ensuring advanced emergency response capabilities.

Call Recording Solution: A new call recording solution was selected to enhance call documentation and accountability which is set for implementation in Fall of 2024.

## Axon Officer Safety Plan

Body-Worn Cameras (BWC): The rollout of Axon body-worn cameras continued in 2023 for their second year, providing transparency and safety for both officers and the community.

Individually Assigned Tasers: New individually assigned tasers were introduced for all officers as part of the Officer Safety Plan, enhancing officer safety and effectiveness in the field.

## Axon Fleet 3

Vehicle Camera Systems: Axon Fleet 3 camera systems were installed in 11 frontline vehicles. This pilot project, launched in Fall 2023, positions Belleville Police Service as the first in Canada to utilize these systems with Samsung mobile devices, improving vehicle-based incident recording and analysis.



## Axon Enotes Project

Electronic Notes: Belleville Police Service commenced a partnership with Axon to review and implement an electronic notes (eNotes) project. Belleville Police Service is the first Canadian agency to partner with Axon on this innovative project, aimed at streamlining documentation processes for officers.

## Downtown CCTV

Camera Replacement: All downtown CCTV cameras were replaced and upgraded. This upgrade, partially funded by a provincial grant covering 50% of costs, enhances public safety in key areas.

## Electronic Ticketing

In-Vehicle Ticketing: Electronic ticketing capabilities in vehicles was implemented, allowing officers to issue warnings, Provincial Offences Notices (PONs), and Part III tickets directly from their patrol units, streamlining the enforcement process.





# “Partners with the Community”

