



WEST GREY POLICE SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Table of Contents

Message from the Chair of the Police Services Board	1
Message from the Chief of Police	2
Mission & Vision Statements	3
About the West Grey Police Service	4
Organizational Chart	7
Operational Highlights	8
Highlights	
Criminal Enforcement Data	12
Motor Vehicle Collisions	12
Stolen & Recovered Property	13
Foot Patrols	13
Top 10 Occurrences	13
Provincial Offences Notices / Municipal By-Law	13
Trends	14
Statistics	
Calls for Service	15
Use of Force	18
Public Complaints	18
2023 Police Budget	19
Personnel	
Training & Development	19
New Hires and Promotions	20
Community Support	21
Contact Information	24

Message from the Chair of the Police Services Board



It is a privilege to once again serve as Chair of the West Grey Police Services Board.

The Board is currently short one provincial appointee, however we as a Board continue to provide the governance necessary to ensure the provision of adequate and effective policing within our community and look forward to the Ministry bringing our Board to full complement.

Recent years have presented unexpected situations such as dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and a police review/costing. The professional character of our Police Service and its

staff performed true to form and even under these added distractions served our community extraordinarily well.

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your service and dedication.

Delays in the construction of a new administration building for our police is no longer an option and during this business cycle we/you will see progress on the new station in the west end of Durham.

Our community is growing and we have welcomed many newcomers to West Grey from larger centres who I hope will enjoy the experience of living in a smaller, safe community due in large part to the highly skilled and community oriented police service that the Municipality of West Grey deploys on a 24/7 basis.

We are all well aware of the tragic events that have touched the policing community province wide and in closing I would encourage the community at large, if the opportunity arises, to express your thanks to our officers who stand in harms way so that no harm comes to us.



Kevin Eccles
Chair West Grey Police Services Board

Message from the Chief of Police



On behalf of all West Grey Police Service members, both civilian and sworn, I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report to our community.

In the following pages you will read about our members' continued efforts to address criminal activity, road safety and additional information and insights regarding our calls for service, types of occurrences and reported crimes. The annual report also speaks to our work with our many partners addressing concerns raised by our town. We believe strongly in proactive policing and maintain high visibility in our communities through focused foot patrols, community engagements, school programs and more.

The members of this police service met the challenges of this year head on and continued to serve our community safely and with the respect and compassion needed. Throughout 2023, our police officers, civilian staff and volunteers worked diligently to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our community. This service is motivated to meet the needs of our municipality by providing quality service delivery, ensuring fiscal responsibility and continually engaging with our community. We will always strive to show our residents and partner agencies our commitment to community focused activities.

I would like to recognize and thank our community partners, other first responders and community organizations, businesses and members of the public for their assistance in keeping our community safe. I would also like to thank the West Grey Police Association for their continuous assistance in ensuring the safety of our citizens and well-being of our staff. Our collective goal is to make the West Grey Police Service a great place to work and the Municipality of West Grey a safe community in which to live, work and play.

Sincerely,



Robert Martin
Chief of Police



MISSION STATEMENT

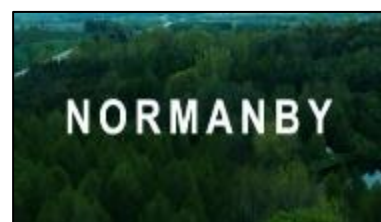
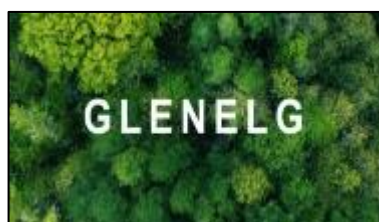
The West Grey Police Service will endeavour to create a safe environment in which to live, work and play.

VISION STATEMENT

Members of the West Grey Police Service are committed to working with the citizens of the Municipality of West Grey to understand their policing needs, enforce laws, and develop proactive solutions that will improve the service we provide and continue to be one of the best community-oriented police services in the Province of Ontario.



The West Grey Police Service is responsible for policing the Municipality of West Grey. Located in Southwestern Ontario, West Grey is an amalgamated municipality, consisting of the former Townships of Bentinck, Glenelg and Normanby, the former Village of Neustadt, the former Village of Ayton, and the former Town of Durham.



West Grey is the largest municipality in the County of Grey in terms of geographical area, and has a population of approximately 13,000. Provincial Highway 6 and Grey County Roads 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 23 and 25 all run through the municipality with a total of 780 kms of roadway which the West Grey Police Service patrols.

West Grey is a popular destination for seasonal homeowners, campers, hikers and others wishing to enjoy the natural beauty of the area. There are 12 local campgrounds with seasonal and transient sites, both serviced and un-serviced. There

are many unique stores and businesses in West Grey and a strong arts community. The area has seen an influx of new residents from the more urban areas of the province as new home construction is booming.

The Municipality is divided into three zones with officers assigned to each zone on a long-term basis. Officers are responsible for making contacts in their zone, keeping abreast of crime trends and special problems in the zone, and developing strategies with the community to help solve these problems. The zones are:

Zone 1 - the former Bentinck Township and Elmwood

Zone 2 - the former Normanby Township, Ayton and Neustadt

Zone 3 - the former Town of Durham and the former Glenelg Township.

A sub-station for Zone 2 is located in Ayton and officers assigned to Zone 2 complete their reports at the Ayton Office rather than returning to Durham. This sub-station is also a place to meet with residents regarding complaints, investigations and community issues.

Another initiative is increased foot patrol in the communities we serve and officers are required to complete a certain level of foot patrol in their zone. They are also required to conduct door checks of businesses after they have closed to ensure they are secure, as well as attend sports functions such as local clubs' hockey, soccer and baseball games that are happening in their patrol zone.

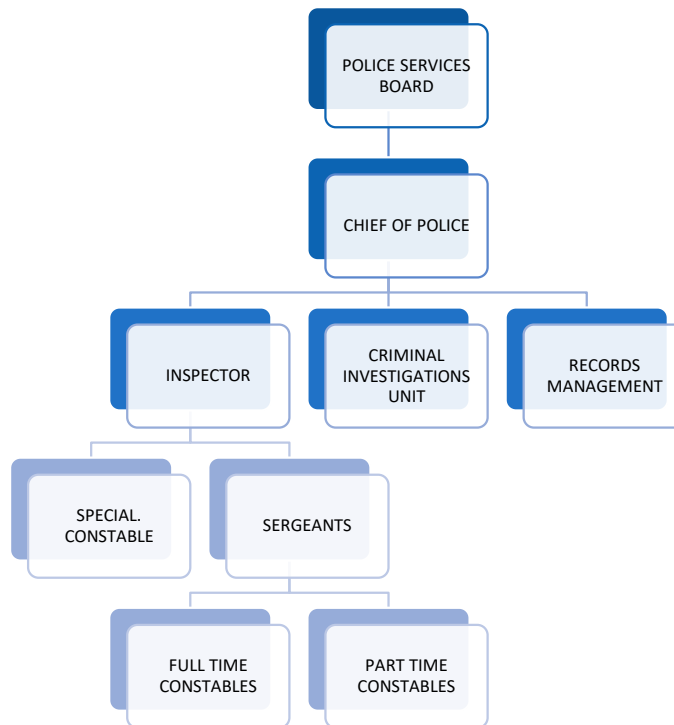


The West Grey Police Service prides itself in a community policing approach which seeks to integrate officers into the local community to reduce crime and foster good community relations. Law enforcement is no longer a reactionary service, with officers responding to calls and seen only momentarily as they pass in their patrol vehicles.

The West Grey Police Service has a Chief of Police, an Inspector and 20 full-time sworn officers, three part-time sworn officers, six auxiliary officers and two civilian staff members. The Service uses a number of strategies to deliver its Community Oriented Policing Program.

Finally, it is important to mention that Community Oriented Policing is also the responsibility of the citizens of the community. Community Oriented Policing is a collaborative effort between the police and the community that identifies problems and involves all elements of the community in the search for solutions to these problems.

Organizational Chart



Police Services Board Members

Kevin Eccles, Mayor & Board Chair
Joyce Nuhn

David Fawcett
Helen-Claire Tingling

Uniformed Members

Robert Martin, Chief of Police
Jeremy White, Inspector
Mark McComb, Sergeant
Greg Robinson, Sergeant
Ken Iles, Detective Sergeant
Michael Boyko, Constable
Chad Brown, Constable
Jesse Buckland, Constable
Devon Burke, Constable
Michael Donnelly, Constable
Michelle Duffy, Constable
Dylan Fremlin, Constable
Steven Germann, Constable

Rod Hilton, Constable
Allyson Iles, Constable
Scott Koeslag, Constable
Rob LeMaitre, Constable
Shawn Lubjenka, Constable
Nancy MacMillan, Constable
Ben Meyer, Constable
Tom Morrison, Constable
Rob Nixon, Constable
Marino Romito, Constable
Mitch Roulston, Constable
Ian Sanderson, Constable
A.J Smith, Constable
Dave Van Allen, Constable

Civilian Members

Rhonda Lantz, Records Manager

Tracy Donnelly, Special Constable



Attempted Murder – Arrest

On January 19th, 2023 West Grey Police Service received a report of an attempted murder through the administration of a noxious substance (poisoning). A 57-year-old female from West Grey was arrested and charged with:

- Adult – Administer Noxious Substance
- Adult – Attempt to Commit Murder

The female was later released on conditions and another court date.

Joint Investigation – Warrants, Drugs, Weapons

The West Grey Police Criminal Investigation Bureau (C.I.B.) and Uniformed officers in Partnership with the Ontario Provincial Police - West Region - Huron-Perth OPP Community Street Crimes Unit (C.S.C.U) executed multiple Search Warrants in an ongoing Drug Investigation.

A 42-year-old resident of West Grey and a 38-year-old resident of South Bruce were arrested and have been charged with Drug and Weapons offences. Officers took a large quantity of Fentanyl, Meth, and Cocaine off our streets.

Possession Stolen Property

On Tuesday April 4th, 2023 West Grey Police executed an arrest warrant in relation to the possession of stolen Canadian Armed Forces service medals and military regalia.

A 32-year-old from Mount Forest was arrested and has been charged with:

- Adult – Possession of Property Obtained by Crime

The accused was already in custody after being arrested in possession of a stolen vehicle, and remains in custody.

Theft / Fraud

In June of 2023 West Grey Police began an investigation after a local business noticed money missing from their accounts.

Police interviewed dozens of witnesses and learned that money was paid to the managers of the business, but those payments were diverted to their own personal accounts.

The married couple, both from Collingwood are each charged with:

- Adult – Theft Over \$ 5,000
- Adult – Fraud Over \$ 5,000

Both persons were processed and later released. They will appear in the Ontario Court of Justice – Walkerton at a later date.

Arson /Threats / Fail to Comply with Probation

On Sunday June 18th, 2023 West Grey Police and West Grey Fire Department were called to an Allen Park Road address after a person set property on fire at the residence.

The suspect fled on foot when police arrived and an extensive search was conducted.

Arrest Warrants have been issued for a 39-year-old male of no fixed address for:

- Adult – Arson – Damage to Property
- Adult – Uttering Threats – Cause Death or Bodily Harm
- Adult – Uttering Threats – Property Damage
- Adult – Fail to Comply – Probation

Domestic Dispute / Bail Violation

On Sunday July 16th, 2023 West Grey Police were called to an ongoing domestic dispute.

As a result of the investigation a 42-year-old from West Grey was arrested and is charged with:

- Adult – Assault (X3)
- Adult – Utter Threats (X4)
- Adult – Assault Bodily Harm

The accused was held in custody for a Bail Hearing, but was later released by the Ontario Court of Justice on a Recognizance.

On Tuesday July 18th, 2023 the accused violated the release order and was charged with:

- Adult – Fail to Comply with release order.

Fatal Motor Vehicle Collision

On Wednesday August 2nd, 2023 at approximately 7:20pm members of the West Grey Police Service along with the West Grey Fire Department and Grey County Paramedics responded to a single motor vehicle collision that occurred on Concession 2 SDR in the Municipality of West Grey.

The driver of the vehicle, a 59-year-old male from West Grey was pronounced dead at the scene.

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police Technical Traffic Investigations Team attended and assisted the West Grey Police with the investigation.

Cause Disturbance/ Assault Police / Resist Arrest

On Sunday August 27th, 2023 police were called to Ayton, Ontario in response to a disturbance.

On police arrival officers located a male who was yelling and swearing on the street directly across from a park where children and families were playing.

When the 56-year-old male was arrested for Causing a Disturbance, he pushed an officer then continued to resist arrest.

The West Grey resident was arrested and is charged with:

- Adult – Cause Disturbance
- Adult – Assault a Peace Officer
- Adult – Disobeying Order of Court
- Adult – Resist Peace Officer

The accused was processed, then released on an Undertaking to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice – Walkerton.

On Tuesday, September 5, 2023 the same person was arrested in relation to an unrelated matter from August 2023 and is charged with:

- Adult – Criminal Harassment – beset and watch complainant
- Adult – Common Nuisance – endanger life
- Adult – Breach of Recognizance

The accused was released on an Undertaking with further conditions and will appear before the Ontario Court of Justice – Walkerton.

Impaired Operation – Arrest

On Friday September 8, 2023 West Grey officers received a “B.O.L.O.” (Be on the lookout) request from Ontario Provincial Police for an erratic driver southbound on Highway 6.

West Grey officer located the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. As a result of the investigation and traffic stop a 47-year-old female from Georgian Bluffs was arrested and charged with:

- Adult – Operation while impaired – alcohol or drug
- Adult – Failure or refusal to comply with demand
- Adult – Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance – Other Drugs (Crack)
- Adult – Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance – Opioid (other than heroin) – Fentanyl
- Adult – Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance – Opioid (other than heroin) – Hydromorphone

The accused was processed and later released on an Undertaking to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice – Walkerton.

Traffic Stop, Cannabis Control Act – Arrest

On November 19, 2023 West Grey officers conducted a traffic stop on Garafraxa St S in Durham. A bag with suspected cannabis was observed within reach of the driver which is an offence under the Cannabis Control Act, a subsequent search of the vehicle uncovered suspected Schedule 1 drugs.

Both the driver and the passenger in the vehicle were arrested. Both were charged with possession of a Schedule I substance under the Controlled Drug and Substances Act and having cannabis readily available under the Cannabis Control Act.

The driver was also charged with one count of breaching an existing probation order. Both parties were released on conditions and will attend court at a future date.

Warrants, Impaired Operation – Arrest

On Friday December 15, 2023 West Grey officers were conducting RIDE in the village of Neustadt. A 44-year-old male who was known to have warrants entered the RIDE program. He was informed of the warrant and that he was being placed under arrest.

When he exited the vehicle an open case of beer was observed on the front passenger seat and the odour of alcohol was detected on the male's breath.

The suspect refused to provide a breath sample and was arrested for that offence in addition to the fail to comply with a recognizance charge related to the warrant.



Criminal Enforcement Data

In 2023 West Grey Police Officers made 248 arrests and laid 309 criminal charges.

Charge / Act	Number of Charges
Property Related Offences	59
Crimes Against Persons	122
Controlled Drugs and Substances Act	13
Administration of Justice	51
Other Criminal Code Offences	37
Criminal Code Driving Offences	27
Total	309

Motor Vehicle Collisions

In 2023, the West Grey Police Service investigated 291 motor vehicle collisions, a decrease of 2 collisions compared to 2022. A total of 25 people were injured as a result of these collisions compared to 41 in the previous year. Three collisions resulted in fatalities. We, along with the families and friends of the deceased, mourn the lives lost.

West Grey Police conducted numerous RIDE checks in 2023 and participated in both National and Provincial Road Safety initiatives, keeping our roads and community members safe.

Stolen & Recovered Property

In 2023, the total value of reported stolen property was \$287,498.00 compared to \$445,580.00 in 2022. A total of \$234,085.00 in stolen property was recovered in 2022 compared to \$330,585.00 in 2021.

Foot Patrols

In 2023, West Grey Police officers found 10 different businesses to be insecure during foot patrol at night and these businesses were secured by police pro-actively contacting the appropriate key holders. A total of 792 hours of foot patrol across the municipality was conducted.

Top 10 Occurrences

The West Grey Police Service responds to a wide variety of calls over the course of a year. In 2023, the top 10 most common occurrences were:

1. Police Assistance
2. Traffic Complaints
3. Unknown 911 Calls / 911 Hang Ups
4. Police Information
5. RIDE Checks
6. Mental Health Act
7. Thefts
8. Property Related / Property Recovered
9. Suspicious Person
10. Warrants Executed

Provincial Offences Notices / Municipal By-Law

Act / Section	Number of Offence Notices
Highway Traffic Act – Speeding	790
Highway Traffic Act – Seatbelt	0
Highway Traffic Act – Other	204
Liquor Licence Act	11
Compulsory Automobile Insurance	89
Municipal By-Law	77
Other Provincial Acts	25
Total	1196

Trends

Over time, trends develop in policing. In 2023, the West Grey Police Service received 5,013 calls for service. This was a decrease of 1.03% compared to 2022 when there were 5,065 calls for service.

In 2023, the West Grey Police Service received 113 calls for service regarding violence, which includes homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, robbery, criminal harassment, and uttering threats. This is an increase of 25% over 2022. There were 440 non-violent and property crime related calls related to residential break and enters, and thefts.

Calls related to mental health have been steadily increasing since 2020. West Grey Police Service responded to 162 calls for service where someone was in mental distress. 2023 also saw West Grey Police Service introduce MMHART (Mobile Mental Health and Addictions Response Team) workers in our station. This program provides mobile crisis support throughout Grey and Bruce counties. The team responds to calls from first responders (Police, EMS or Emergency Rooms) and provides on-site crisis intervention and assessment, as well as follow-up services to ensure appropriate resources are in place. MMHART staff work out of CMHA offices across the region, as well as embedded spaces within police stations across Grey and Bruce (West Grey Police Services, Owen Sound Police Services, Hanover Police Services, Saugeen Shores Police Services).



Calls for Service

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Property Damage Only	334	278	236	261	260
Personal Injury Accidents	29	35	23	32	31
Persons Injured	35	53	29	41	25
Fatal Accidents	1	2	1	1	3
Persons Killed	1	2	1	1	3
911 Hang Up	155	169	213	174	277
Abduction	0	0	0	0	0
Airplane Crash	0	0	0	0	0
Alarm	75	59	56	62	58
Animal Complaint	90	82	58	87	70
Arson	4	2	1	3	2
Assault	53	31	36	36	42
Attempt Murder	0	1	0	0	1
Attempt Suicide	30	22	20	18	24
Bail Violations	13	13	34	22	34
Break and Enters	55	58	33	55	46
Breach Probation	5	6	18	6	8
Counterfeit	1	2	0	0	3
Court Order	14	6	5	14	5
Dangerous Condition	20	21	7	31	5
Disturb the Peace	21	13	4	20	25

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Domestic Dispute	41	59	68	85	66
Drug Offences	15	10	28	8	10
Escape Custody	0	0	0	0	0
Prisoner Escorts	39	17	21	11	19
Family Dispute	73	55	48	70	91
Fire	19	15	11	39	19
Fraud	33	38	24	30	53
Gaming and Betting	0	0	0	0	0
Gang	0	0	0	0	0
Harassment	30	25	8	30	35
Homicide	0	0	0	1	0
Hostage Taking	0	0	0	0	0
Hydro Wires Down	1	1	2	2	0
Impaired/Over 80 mgs	31	37	26	29	29
Indecent Acts	2	4	1	1	1
Insecure Premises	17	8	5	8	10
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	0
Landlord/Tenant Dispute	24	26	43	46	35
Liquor Licence Act	27	7	11	14	8
Mental Health Act	134	162	212	179	166
Mischief	80	65	46	46	52
Missing Persons	0	1	13	13	1
Missing Persons Located	19	16	11	13	21
Municipal By-Laws	37	38	35	44	25
Motor Vehicle - Abandoned	17	18	27	27	23
Motor Vehicle - Recovered	16	27	24	26	21
Neighbour Dispute	34	41	48	57	58
Noise Complaints	49	93	85	58	58
Non-Police Matter	71	58	21	63	79
Non-Traffic Accident	2	1	0	2	0
Obstruct Police	0	0	1	3	1
Other Criminal Code	31	7	8	11	5
Other Federal Statute	1	1	1	0	0
Other Provincial Statute	10	8	7	10	9

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Persons Reporting In	26	18	15	12	19
Phone Calls	17	20	38	37	31
Police Assistance	317	378	64	190	369
Police Information	305	436	323	174	197
Police Pursuits	11	11	7	20	9
Possession Stolen Property	6	3	5	3	5
Prevent Breach of Peace	53	33	33	58	58
Property Checks	6	6	6	4	4
Property Damage	5	9	7	5	7
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0
Property Related	108	86	96	102	112
R.I.D.E. Checks Conducted	186	108	136	159	159
Robbery	0	0	1	1	2
Routine Traffic Stop	1	5	1	1	5
Sexual Assault	10	16	23	6	14
Shoplifting	2	4	6	4	4
Stolen Vehicle	39	50	32	26	27
Strikes	0	0	0	0	0
Sudden Death	14	16	22	28	22
Suspicious Person	115	171	127	161	112
Suspicious Vehicle	104	119	112	103	96
Thefts	112	107	120	99	117
Threats	23	15	12	16	19
Towed Vehicles	3	4	9	4	1
Traffic Complaint	248	200	173	300	286
Traffic Control	8	8	5	2	2
Traffic Enforcement HTA	60	81	69	54	84
Traffic Enforcement Other	0	0	3	2	6
Traffic Hazard	51	53	73	78	81
Trespass By Night	1	6	4	2	2
Trespass To Property Act	33	41	50	43	46
Trouble With Youth	38	27	29	31	40
Unwanted Person	49	40	47	35	42
Warrants Executed	56	41	73	82	97
Weapons	9	11	10	8	2

Use of Force

The table below shows the number of times use of force reports were submitted by West Grey officers as a result of the use of force in carrying out their duties.

Use of Force	2021	2022	2023
Dispatch Animal	0	3	9
Handgun Drawn	5	9	5
CEW* Drawn, not used	0	4	5
CEW* Used	15	10	1
Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (Pepper Spray)	0	0	0
Hard Impact Weapon	3	2	0
Hands On Technique	0	0	4
Total	23	25	24

* Conducted Energy Weapon (Taser)

Public Complaints

In 2023, the West Grey Police received no public complaints from the Office of Independent Police Review Directorate.

2023 Police Budget

The 2023 budget for the West Grey Police was set at \$4,101,203.00. Actual policing costs for the year were \$4,005,012.13, resulting in a surplus of \$ 96,190.13.



Training & Development

The West Grey Police Service is committed to ensuring that its officers receive the training that will enable them to carry out all aspects of their duties. Having officers with specialized training and qualifications enhances our service and keeps our community and its members safe.

In 2023, training included annual re-qualification in use of force tactics - firearms training, night shooting and first aid. In addition, West Grey members participated in the following training and development opportunities:

Training & Development	Officer Attending
Active Shooter Instructor Training	D/Constable Sanderson
Breath Technician / Intoxilyzer Requalification	Constable Boyko, Constable Morrison
Death Investigator Training	Constable Romito
Elder Abuse Training	Constable Boyko, Constable Romito
Human Trafficking	Constable Brown
Incident Command 200	Sergeant McComb, D/Sgt Iles
Investigative Interviewing Course	Constable Burke
Media Relations Officer Training	Constable Hilton
Scenes of Crime Officer (SOCO) Requalification	Constable Burke, Constable Donnelly, Constable Koeslag, Constable Lubjenka, Constable Romito, D/Constable Sanderson
Trauma Informed Interviewing	Constable Boyko, Constable Donnelly, Constable Meyer, Constable Romito, D/Constable Sanderson, D/Sgt Iles
Warrant Entry	Constable Burke, Constable Duffy, Constable Meyer, D/Constable Sanderson, D/Sgt Iles

Retirements, New Hires and Promotions

In 2023, the following staffing changes took place within the West Grey Police Service:

Retirements

Constable Steve Germann

Constable Rod Hilton

Constable Dave Van Allen

New Hires

Constable Dylan Fremlin

Constable Rob LeMaitre



In previous years, the West Grey Police Service has participated in many events as a show of support for our community and its various groups. The West Grey Police Service prides themselves in finding ways to connect with our community, provide support, and contribute to our community partners and non-profit organizations in an effort to build a stronger West Grey, all the while ensuring that events could be celebrated safely.

See below for a collection of community events our officers were involved in in 2022.

Junior Constables

Throughout the year officers have many interactions with West Grey's "Junior Constables!" Our officers love spending time with these awesome community members!



Halloween Night Candy Handouts

Officers patrolled the streets of West Grey on Halloween Night, handing out candy to trick-or-treaters!



Annual Christmas Toy Drive

Thank you to everyone who assisted the WGPS with their 2023 Toy Drive! It was a great success, providing Christmas gifts for over 200 local children.



Annual Polar Plunge

Thank you to everyone who sponsored members of the community and WGPS as they were #FreezinForARReason in support of Special Olympics Ontario. Together West Grey raised over \$7,000.



Lion's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

WGPS officers were excited to join the Lion's easter egg hunt this year! Over 500 eggs found and enjoyed in under 5 minutes!



R.I.D.E Programs

West Grey Police were proud to be part of the 2023 Joint Force Traffic Initiative with Owen Sound Police, Saugeen Shores Police, Ontario Provincial Police Services and Hanover Police.



Co-Op Student Placements

After a break in regular co-op programming due to COVID-19, WGPS is pleased to again offer the opportunity for local secondary school students to co-op with the police service.





IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 9-1-1

24 HOUR DISPATCH

Tel: 519-371-6911

Toll Free: 1-855-234-8224

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Open Monday – Friday

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

(Closed between 12:00pm and 1:00pm)

Tel: 519-369-3046

Fax: 519-369-5474

CONNECT ONLINE

www.westgreypolice.ca

