
Berwick Policing Report



**September -
December 2024
Kings District RCMP**

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Kings District Employees

Inspector Robert Jodrey, OIC Kings District RCMP.

Approximately forty-four (44) general duty constables police Kings District as first responders. These officers are supervised by eight corporals, two sergeants, and one staff sergeant.

Our General Investigation Section (GIS) members are, Supervisor Cpl. Glenn O'Halloran, Cst. Kelly McPherson and Cst. Meghan Bremner. Our local Street Crime Enforcement Unit (SCEU) is an integrated unit, partnered with Kentville Police Service (KPS). The unit is comprised of two RCMP members, Cst. Layla Fish and Cst. Andrew Renwick, along with one KPS member Cst. Chelsey Hutley.

Our Community Policing Officer position is currently vacant, while our Domestic Violence/Victim Services position is temporarily assigned to Cst. Neil Edwards.

Kings District RCMP has ten Detachment Services Assistants (DSA's) who perform administrative functions at the three District Offices (Kingston, New Minas and Wolfville).



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School Safety Resource Officers

School Safety Resource Officers work as a resource to our local schools. Members provide presentations to every grade level from P-12 on current topics such as human trafficking, fentanyl, cybercrime, bullying, drug awareness and appropriate use of social media. Schools often request other presentations, which are customized to meet their needs. SSROs update the National Safe Plan every year for each Kings County School. SSROs do the initial investigation in cases that stem from schools. SSROs also provide support for school events that occur after traditional school hours.

Our School Safety Resource Officers are Cst. Jeff Wilson and Cst. Jennifer Britton. Cst. Wilson's service area stretches from the Annapolis County line to the Coldbrook and District School, encompassing a total of 12 schools. Cst. Britton's service area ranges from Aldershot Elementary to LE Shaw Elementary, encompassing a total of 11 schools. Currently, Cst. Britton is operating as the lone SSRO for all schools within our jurisdiction.

Distracted driving presentations, human trafficking awareness presentations, and lock down safety drills have been ongoing at several schools throughout the reporting period. SSRO's work closely with the schools within the entire district. Cst. Britton remains heavily involved in the delivery of the mandated objectives while assisting other investigations that require her skills and experience with youth.

2024 saw significant rise in fatal road collisions

Fatal Collisions																				
	HALIFAX	ANNAPOLIS	DIGBY	KINGS	LUNENBURG	QUEENS	SHELBURNE	WEST HANTS	YARMOUTH	ANTIGONISH	CAPE BRETON	COLCHESTER	CUMBERLAND	EAST HANTS	GUYSBOROUGH	INVERNESS	PICTOU	RICHMOND	VICTORIA	Annual Total
2020	5	3	3	7	5	1	0	2	2	2	3	7	0	3	1	2	1	0	5	52
2021	8	1	3	7	7	1	2	5	5	3	1	4	2	2	2	5	0	0	1	59
2022	7	3	2	2	9	2	2	3	2	1	1	5	5	1	2	1	2	0	1	51
2023	5	3	4	4	6	0	1	2	1	3	2	4	2	1	2	1	4	0	0	45
2024	7	2	5	10	5	4	2	1	2	5	2	3	6	8	1	4	6	2	2	77
Total	32	12	17	30	32	8	7	13	12	14	9	23	15	15	8	13	13	2	9	284

Serious Injury Collisions																				
	HALIFAX	ANNAPOLIS	DIGBY	KINGS	LUNENBURG	QUEENS	SHELBURNE	WEST HANTS	YARMOUTH	ANTIGONISH	CAPE BRETON	COLCHESTER	CUMBERLAND	EAST HANTS	GUYSBOROUGH	INVERNESS	PICTOU	RICHMOND	VICTORIA	Annual Total
2020	31	6	3	16	12	3	3	13	6	6	1	10	5	6	4	4	14	2	2	147
2021	26	3	7	12	11	4	2	5	10	5	4	16	10	8	3	4	10	7	1	148
2022	43	6	6	19	15	1	4	11	4	9	4	15	19	8	2	7	15	3	3	194
2023	50	10	7	18	12	3	3	5	3	5	2	9	12	4	4	7	12	7	4	177
2024	57	7	8	11	13	3	5	6	4	6	3	14	6	13	2	7	8	2	5	180
Total	207	32	31	76	63	14	17	40	27	31	14	64	52	39	15	29	59	21	15	846

The Nova Scotia RCMP responded to 77 fatal vehicle collisions and crashes in 2024.

"2024 saw a significant increase in fatal collisions and crashes on our roadways, with multiple drivers and passengers losing their lives on roads across the province," says Sgt. John White, who led the Nova Scotia RCMP's Collision and Reconstruction Section. "RCMP officers also responded to 180 serious injury collisions in our jurisdiction."

These numbers don't include medical events experienced by people behind the wheel, nor do they include off-highway vehicle incidents that occurred off provincial roadways.

There are four primary causal factors for fatal and serious injury collisions, including impaired driving, distracted driving, aggressive driving (primarily speeding), and failure to use a seatbelt.

"A significant number of the fatal collisions I've attended wouldn't have been fatal if the occupants of the vehicles had been wearing their seatbelts," says Sgt. White. "The physics involved in a motor vehicle collision are extreme; when people don't have a seatbelt on, they're often ejected from their vehicles and don't survive."

The Nova Scotia RCMP is asking motorists to do their part to protect themselves and others by buckling up every time they get into a vehicle.

"Making sure you and your passengers wear seatbelts properly is the simplest and most effective way to protect everyone in the event of a collision," says Sgt. White. "These collisions happen in the blink of an eye, and having your seatbelt on can literally mean the difference between life and death."

Between 2020 and 2023, there were, on average, 52 fatal incidents on roads policed by the Nova Scotia RCMP.

RCMP warns Retailers of increased credit card scams

Nova Scotia RCMP's Commercial Crime Section is reminding retailers that a province-wide trend continues where scammers are using stolen or compromised credit cards to pay for high-volume or expensive orders.

Retailers should exercise extra caution when conducting sales over the phone, particularly in accepting credit card payments without the cardholder present. Recent incidents have included the fraudulent purchase of furniture, ATVs, tires, and other high-value items.

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Many credit card vendor agreements make the retailer responsible for purchases where it is determined the credit card was used without authorization from the true cardholder, even in cases of fraud. A charge-back dispute can be made against the vendor by the credit card company for such fraudulent transactions, in some cases after the product has already been shipped. This results in retailers losing both the product that was purchased fraudulently and the fraudulent payment.

For more information on this, and other common scams, visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre online at <https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm>.

Anyone who suspects they have been targeted by a scam is encouraged to contact their local police. Should you wish to remain anonymous, call Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), submit a secure web tip at www.crimestoppers.ns.ca, or use the P3 Tips App.

RCMP Warning Public About Threatening Solicitation Scams

The Nova Scotia RCMP is warning the public about a number of threatening phone and computer scams being reported throughout the province.

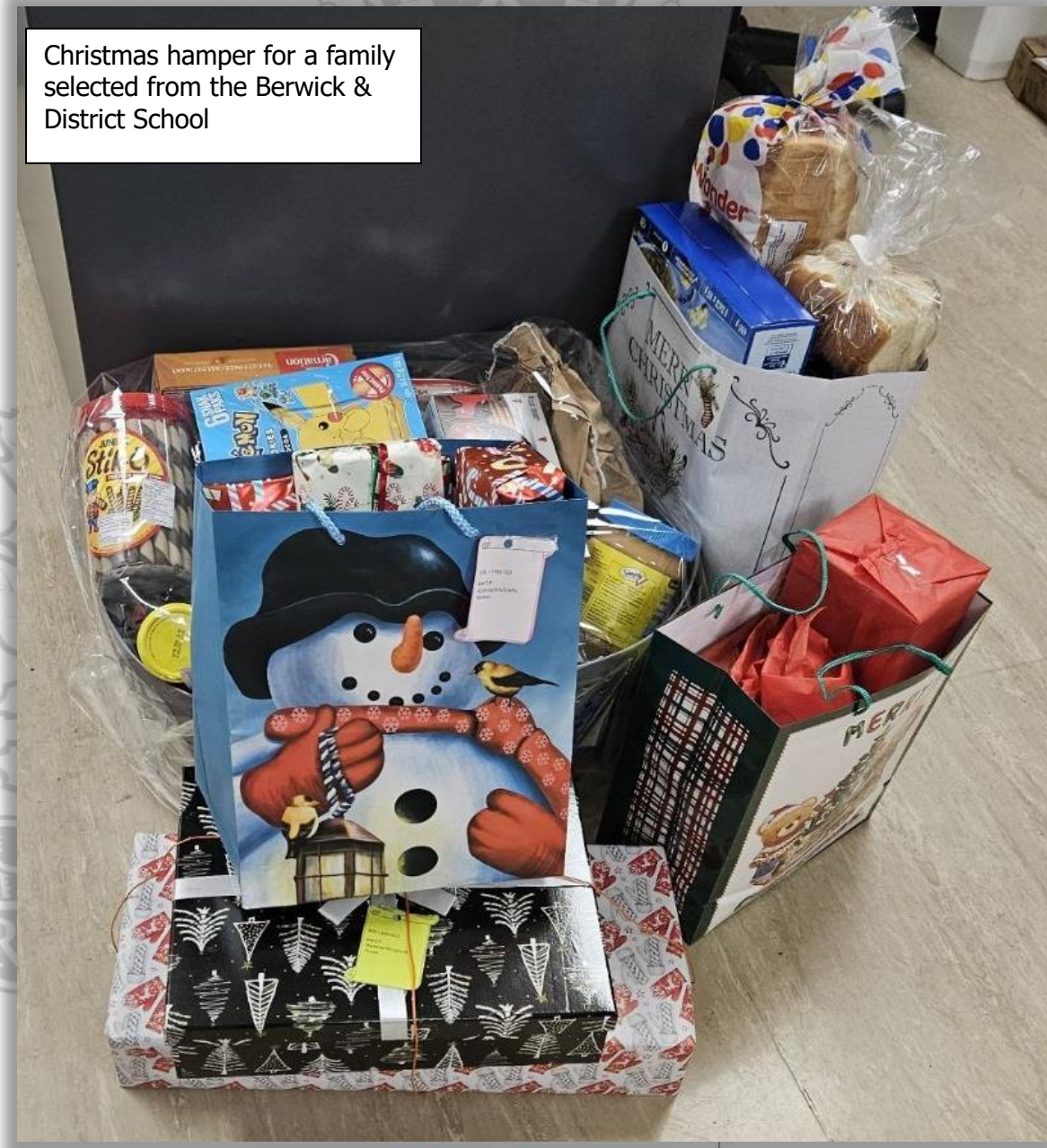
There are many types of scams on the rise in the province and the most recent one involves callers falsely representing an organization, such as police or government agency. The caller will then threaten to arrest the individual or suspend their travel visa or tax account if immediate payment is not made. Police want to remind the public that legitimate organizations do not conduct business this way.

"If someone portrays themselves as representing a government institution or another organization, and are threatening you with arrest unless you send immediate payment, regardless of reason, it's a scam," says Cpl. Laurie Haines of the Nova Scotia RCMP Commercial Crime Section. "These scams are very convincing because the caller ID or spoofed email address appear associated to the police or government institution in question," he further adds.

Recipients of these calls are asked to hang up and not continue with the calls. Anyone who suspects they have been targeted in a phone or computer scam is encouraged to contact their local police, and also the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or online at <https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm>.

Holiday Spirit

Christmas hamper for a family selected from the Berwick & District School



This year, employees from the Kingston RCMP Detachment once again sponsored three Christmas families. With the help of some local sponsors - Kingston Superstore, Kingston Sobeys and the Greenwood Wal Mart, we were able to provide the three needy families with presents and a complete Christmas dinner. The three families were identified by staff from our local schools, with one of the families being from the Berwick and District School.

Annual Performance Plan

The Kings District Annual Performance Plan runs from April 1st, 2024 to March 31st, 2025. Objectives of Annual Performance Plan include:

- **Safe Roads and Safe Highways in Nova Scotia**
Since April 1, Kings West members have charged 11 people with impaired driving, issued 5 roadside suspensions for alcohol use, issued 127 traffic enforcement charges, and conducted 4 check stops.
- **Crime Prevention – Property Crime**
Kings District senior managers are holding and/or attending public meetings in several County communities to hear and address residents' concerns about thefts and vandalism. Members continue to conduct physical checks on offenders/accused parties who are on court ordered curfews or house arrest, with the goal of preventing recidivism.
- **Community Engagement – Municipal/Indigenous Governments & Stakeholder Groups**
Kings District's dedicated First Nations Policing officer continues to build relationships and mutual trust and understanding in local communities. As noted above, Kings district senior managers have committed to meeting and engaging personally with concerned community and stakeholder groups to address issues.
- **Intelligence-Led Policing**
As this is a National Policing Strategic priority, Kings District officers continue to advance challenging investigations by cultivating and managing confidential human sources.



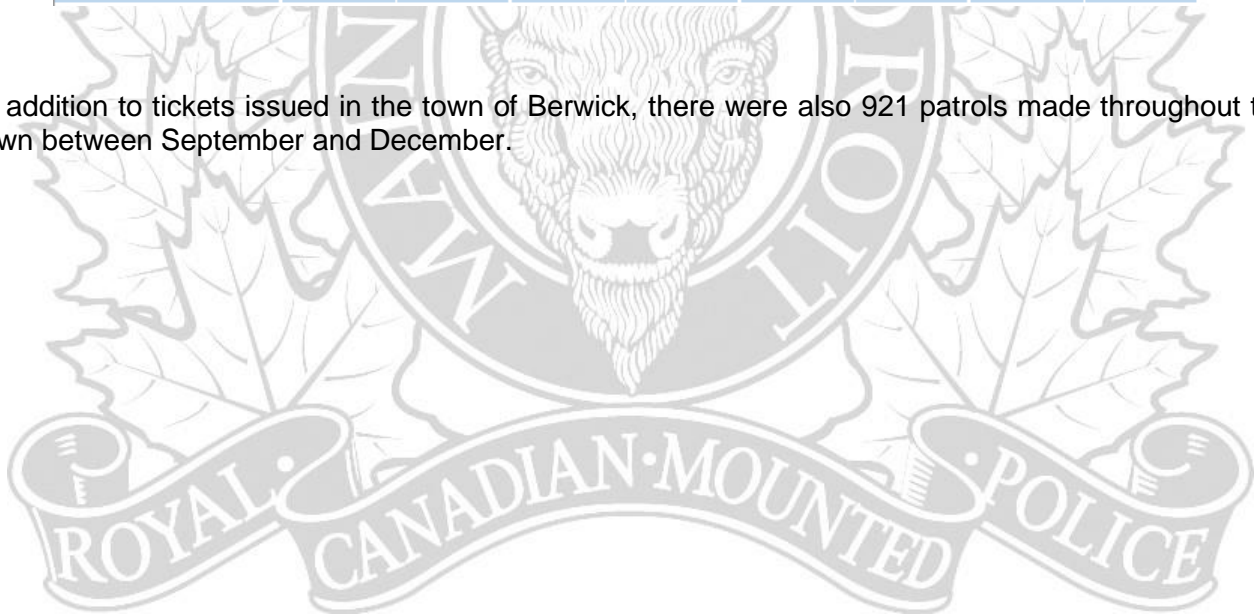
Traffic Enforcement and Proactive Patrols Update

Tickets in Berwick were issued on the 101 Highway, 1 Highway, Commercial Street, Cottage Street, Orchard Street, Pleasant Valley Road. The tickets issued consisted of:

- Speeding;
- Failing to display number plates for current year;
- Displaying number plate issued for another vehicle;
- Driving while license is suspended or revoked;
- Driving without liability policy;
- Operating an unregistered vehicle; and
- Fail to stop at a stop sign

	Sept		October		November		December	
	Berwick	Kingston	Berwick	Kingston	Berwick	Kingston	Berwick	Kingston
Hwy 101	8	11	11	10	11	9	7	3
Hwy 1	1	0	3	4	3	6	4	3
Tickets	35	5	3	18	9	7	9	13
ATV Calls	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Impaired/ Refusal	2	0	0	1	1	0	2	0
Check stops	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Patrols	214		197		259		251	
Foot Patrols	0		0		0		0	

In addition to tickets issued in the town of Berwick, there were also 921 patrols made throughout the town between September and December.



Calls for Service

Between September 1st and December 31st, 2024, Kingston RCMP responded to over 1,300 service calls for service with approximately 300+ of those calls being in the Town of Berwick. See the attached chart for a breakdown of those service calls compared to the same for the rest of the Kingston area.

Type of Crime & Occurrence Type	Sept Berwick	Sept Kingston	Oct Berwick	Oct Kingston	Nov Berwick	Nov Kingston	Dec Berwick	Dec Kingston
Crimes Against Persons								
Offences Related to Death	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Offences	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0
Assault	6	2	4	5	2	1	3	4
Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Extortion / Intimidation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal Harassment	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Indecent Harassing Comm.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttering Threats	1	1	1	2	1	0	3	1
Property Crime								
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Break and Enter	1	0	2	3	0	3	1	2
Unlawfully in a Dwelling House	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Theft Over	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Theft of Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theft of Other MV / Motorcycle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Take MV w/o Consent	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Theft Under	5	1	6	0	7	3	7	1
Shoplifting	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1
Theft (mail, bicycle, et al)	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Possession of Stolen Goods	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Fraud	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	0
Identity Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mischief	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	6
Drug Enforcement								
Possession	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trafficking	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Import/Export	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0





Traffic								
Dangerous Op of MV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impaired by Alcohol	2	0	3	2	1	1	1	1
Impaired by Drug	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failure/Refusal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Driving while Disqualified	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Fail to Stop or Remain	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Seatbelt Violation	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Intersection Violation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Speeding Violation	4	6	1	7	7	3	3	2
Insurance Violation	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Road Side Suspension (Alcohol)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Road Side Suspension (Drug)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collision - Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collision - Non - Fatal Injury	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Collision - Reportable	1	6	2	2	4	2	2	1
Collision - Non Reportable	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1
Off-Road Vehicle Collision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Municipal By-laws	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other Traffic Offence/Violation	17	7	9	14	1	10	6	7
Other Traffic Related Duties	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Checkstop	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Other								
911 Call	6	2	1	1	10	2	6	2
Breach of Court Order	0	2	3	0	0	4	1	1
Liquor Act	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1
Mental Health Act	3	1	4	0	8	5	3	1
Missing Person	1	4	0	0	0	0	2	1
Municipal Bylaw - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	13	21	13	22	8	10	14	9
Suspicious P V P	2	8	6	2	2	4	3	2
Trespass At Night	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wellbeing Check	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Founded & SUI Occurrences	82	81	65	86	67	64	73	60
Total Occurrences*	88	84	69	86	71	68	76	65



Significant Investigations

Members have been busy responding to various types of calls yet continue to be proactive with traffic enforcement and other self-generated work. The following are a couple of the significant investigations we've undertaken between September and December 2024:

Domestic Assault File 20241373670

On September 17th, 2024, Kingston RCMP responded to a 911 call of domestic assault in progress on Foster St., in Berwick. Officers arrived on scene and arrested a 36-year-old male for assault and uttering threats.

He was originally released on an Undertaking to appear in Kentville Provincial Court on November 5th, 2024. The matter is currently still before the courts with a new court date of January 22nd, 2025.

Operation While Impaired File 20241658186

On November 10th, 2024, Kingston RCMP responded to a complaint of motor vehicle collision near Berwick. Officers arrived on scene and arrested a 19-year-old female for Operation while impaired and Operation while over 80mg%.

She was released on an Appearance Notice to appear in Kentville Provincial Court on January 14th, 2025.

Operation While Impaired File 20241658186

On December 2nd, 2024 Kingston RCMP responded to a complaint of a suspicious motor vehicle in Berwick. Officers arrived on scene and located two males inside a stolen motor vehicle from Hants County. Officers arrested a 51-year-old male and a 43-year-old male on scene and seized the stolen motor vehicle.

Both males were held in custody and initially appeared in Kentville Provincial Court on December 3rd, to answer to an eight (8) count information for charges

ranging from possession of stolen property, theft over \$5000, Impaired Operation and failing to comply with a court order.

The matter was set-over until December 13th, 2024, for a “Show Cause Hearing” in Kentville Provincial Court. At this time the 43-year-old male was released with a new court date of January 22nd, 2025.

The 51-year-old male remains in custody pending his next court appearance.

Driving While Disqualified or Suspended File 20241810718

On December 13th, 2024, Kingston RCMP stopped a vehicle for speeding on Hwy 101 near Berwick. During the investigation, members also learned the driver had their license suspended.

The male driver was charged with one count of speeding 16 – 30km/h over and one count of driving while license suspended. The speeding fine amounts to a fine of \$295 and a court appearance for February 2025, was issued for the suspended driving charge under the MV Act.

Domestic Assault File 2024187662

On December 28th, 2024, Kingston RCMP responded to a 911 call of domestic assault in progress on Commercial St., in Berwick. Officers arrived on scene and arrested a 38-year-old female for assault.

She was released on an Undertaking to appear in Kentville Provincial Court on February 25th, 2025.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this report or any other community matters, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

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