



## Kingston Police

### Public Agenda Information Report

To: Kingston Police Service Board  
From: Scott Gee, Deputy Chief  
Subject: St. Patrick's Day 2025  
Date: May 8, 2025

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#### Recommendation:

**That** the St. Patrick's Day 2025, Report Number 25-27 is for information only.

#### 2024 in Review

The 2024 St. Patrick's Day festivities were much different than 2023. Those in attendance were much better behaved than years past. There were no major incidents or injuries and officers experienced a much more respectful and educated crowd. This noticeable change from last year is being attributed to strides made by positive outreach by our Police Liaison Team, effective messaging through social and traditional media, as well as the impact of a strict and consistent enforcement strategy. Enforcement interactions with the crowd were dramatically reduced in 2024. Over the two days, there were a total of 100 charges laid: 98 *Liquor License Control Act* related, and 2 for *Highway Traffic Act* offences. There was only one arrest related to the event, and no criminal code charges were laid.

#### 2025

##### Kingston Police St. Patrick's Day Event Mission Statement

Using an integrated response, the Kingston Police along with policing and city partners will keep the peace, enforce legislation and maintain public safety for the duration of the St. Patrick's Day event with the utmost respect to the individuals Charter of Rights and Freedoms with priority on community and emergency services personnel safety and wellbeing.

## Corporate Communication and Media Messaging Strategy

Messaging was broadcast via social media prior to and continuously during the St. Patrick's Day events in support of the mission statement to discourage illegal behavior, unsanctioned gatherings, and educate people on the negative impact these have on the Kingston Community.

## Police Liaison Team Outreach Strategy

Police Liaison Teams (PLTs) are a key part of police planning and response to major events. The teams focused on proactive relationship building to assist in resolving issues and educating the student population. From about the first week of March through the two days of St. Patrick's Day celebrations, PLT members worked to establish and maintain open and transparent lines of communication with all stakeholders who might be affected, directly or indirectly, by this event.

## Enforcement

The enforcement strategy was to conduct early and continuous alcohol interdiction, and firm enforcement of municipal, provincial and federal statutes by police and City partners, related to noise, fire safety, *Liquor Licence and Control Act*, *Trespass to Property Act* and criminal offences. The strategy involved using discretion when encountering liquor and other offences, and lay charges where applicable.

## Resources/Activities/Outcomes/Charges

On both days the operation was carried out under the Incident Command Model utilizing a significant number of Kingston Police sworn and civilian personnel, supported by members of Gananoque, Brockville, Belleville, and Smith's Falls Police services, as well as Public Order Unit members from the Ontario Provincial Police. The OPP PLT was utilized (along with members of the Kingston Police CORE Unit) in the days leading up to the event, as well as on the Saturday and Sunday.

## Summary

In a media release after the event, Chief Scott Fraser said in a media release "Our strategy of communication and utilization of our Police Liaison Teams is proving to be a success. We are able to reduce our footprint at these events and yet ensure the safety of all participants."

Chief Fraser continued by saying "Our partnership with fellow law enforcement, the City of Kingston and Queens University is appreciated."

Police also thanked the students for their cooperative behaviours, noting that despite large crowds there were no major issues.

## Costs

With the known expenses (overtime hours, parttime hours, other police services, food and other supplies), the cost for the 2025 St. Patrick's Day mass gathering deployment was \$87,274, a 50% decrease from 2024 (\$175,570).

## Weekend Enforcement Totals

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<i>Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019</i>	367	98	7
<i>Highway Traffic Act</i>	5	2	8
Arrests – Public Intoxication	8		
Criminal Code Arrest	1		

## Contact:

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