

From: Cortney Harkin
Sent: April 14, 2022 2:08 PM
To: Genevieve Scharback <gscharback@westgrey.com>
Subject: West Grey Police

Hi There,

I'm writing to you today within regards to the council's decision to cost OPP for West Grey.

It's apparent that the council doesn't have the intention to keep Durham as small as it currently is, with the new subdivision expanding and what-not, and therefore I wanted to give you some feedback from a family who recently moved here.

My family and I are new residents of Durham, having moved from Toronto in June 2021. While my husband and I did not grow up in Toronto, we did come from two smaller cities; both of which had their own police force. When deciding where to move, we were looking throughout Grey County, including Dundalk, Flesherton, Markdale and Durham. The fact that Durham has its own police force was a major selling feature for us in making our decision. As parents to two young children, it was imperative to us that we had health care readily available and that there was a strong, positive police force in the community that we live in. We are confident you will not get the same community touch with OPP. I've heard from countless friends and family members who live in small towns with OPP, and they've all said that there is no police presence, and when calling 911 it can take hours for police to arrive.

The day we moved in my daughter was using my husband's phone and accidentally called 911. The police called back immediately, spoke with my husband, and there was an officer at our front door within minutes to ensure everything was okay. At that time, we had a brief lovely conversation with the officer on our porch, who knew the previous owners of the house and knew they had sold it. You will not get that community knowledge or touch from OPP.

We're very disappointed to hear that there is a slight chance West Grey Police may be replaced with OPP. We've had all very positive interactions with West Grey since moving in, and am sending this in hopes that it helps you realize just how important it is to have our own force here right in town. I know it's the council's job to keep the budget on track, but you can't put a price tag on your residents' safety.

Thank you,

Cortney