

Report CCR-CS-15-14

To: Chair Pringle and Members of the Corporate Services Committee
From: Marg Graham, Provincial Offences Court Manager
Meeting Date: May 13, 2014
Subject: **Provincial Offences Court Update**
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CS49-14 May 13, 2014; Endorsed by County Council June 3, 2014 per Resolution CC76-14;

Recommendation(s)

THAT Report CCR-CS-15-14 regarding an update on the administration of the Provincial Offences Court be received for information.

Background

Courts

There has been a significant decrease in Part I ticket volumes over the last six months. This is not unique to Grey and Bruce Counties. Several other Provincial Offences Courts in the West Region have also experienced a drop in volumes.

It is not known what the reason is for the continued drop in volumes. Certainly January volumes were expected to be down due to the severe weather, road closures and obvious need for police officers to deal with related issues; however the downward trend started last September and has continued to the current date.

Two charts are attached. The first is a graph of month by month volume comparison from January 2010 to February 2014. The second is a summary of the number of tickets submitted by agencies from 2009 to 2013 and the percentage of tickets submitted per agency.

Finance

Due to the decrease in volumes a number of steps have been taken to try and lessen the impact on the projected year end budget.

In the fall of 2013 the staffing level was decreased by one full time equivalent (FTE). In July of this year another FTE is relocating to Northern Ontario. That position will not be filled until such time as volumes warrant.

Between January and June of 2014 staff has eliminated six regular court dates in an effort to decrease costs. The trial request volume has decreased in accordance with submitted ticket volumes.

Judicial and prosecutorial costs and expenses such as victim fine surcharge (VFS) payable to the Province decrease in proportion to the ticket volume drop and decrease in trial requests.

Collections

The County has utilized the services of an outside collection agency for “first placement” of defaulted court ordered fines for about a year now. Staff is in the process of setting up the “second placement” agreement and files will soon start to flow to this agency. If the first placement agency is unable to collect over the period of a year then the files are retrieved and forwarded to the second placement agency. First placement files have a 9.5% collection fee added to the defaulted fine amount for both consumer and commercial accounts. When the files move to second placement the collection fee is 24% for consumer accounts and 20% for commercial accounts. All collection agency costs form part of the defaulted fine are payable by the defendant.

Court staff is spending any down time searching for current contact information for defendants with defaulted court ordered fines and locating misplaced tickets.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

Considerations

If the current downward trend in the number of Part 1 tickets submitted continues there will be an impact on the projected 2014 Provincial Offences Court budget. It is not possible to project exactly what that impact will be at this time. The Director of Finance and the Committee will be kept apprised as the year progresses.

Attachments

Part 1 Tickets Accepted

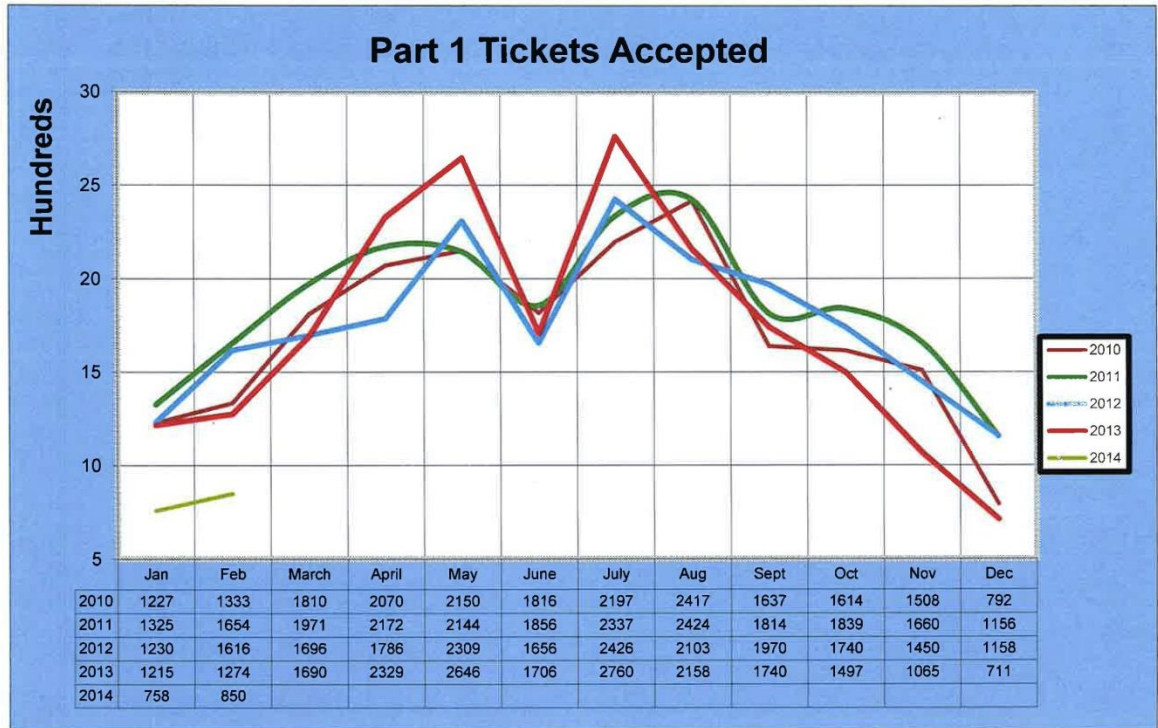
Part 1 Tickets Filed by Agency

Respectfully submitted by,

Marg Graham
Provincial Offences Manager

Director Sign Off: Sharon Vokes

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
2010	1227	1333	1810	2070	2150	1816	2197	2417	1637	1614	1508	792	20571
2011	1325	1654	1971	2172	2144	1856	2337	2424	1814	1839	1660	1156	22352
2012	1230	1616	1696	1786	2309	1656	2426	2103	1970	1740	1450	1158	21140
2013	1215	1274	1690	2329	2646	1706	2760	2158	1740	1497	1065	711	20791
2014	758	850											1608



PART 1 TICKETS FILED BY AGENCY
5 year comparison

	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
Agency	# of tickets filed in 2009 by agency	% of total tickets filed in 2009 by agency	# of tickets filed in 2010 by agency	% of total tickets filed in 2010	# of tickets filed in 2011 by agency	% of total tickets filed in 2011	# of tickets filed in 2012 by agency	% of total tickets filed in 2012	# of tickets filed in 2013 by agency	% of total tickets filed in 2013
Bruce Peninsula OPP	2006	9%	1797	9%	1894	8%	1605	8%	2205	11%
Collingwood OPP	1424	6%	1508	7%	2381	11%	2306	11%	2673	13%
Grey County OPP	7572	33%	6291	31%	7121	32%	6907	33%	5884	28%
Mount Forest Ride	1661	7%	1962	10%	1546	7%	1431	7%	1213	6%
Hanover P.S.	236	1%	189	1%	331	1%	835	4%	539	3%
Owen Sound P.S.	3513	15%	3568	17%	2270	10%	1695	8%	1522	7%
Saugeen Shores P.S.	847	4%	1129	5%	1253	6%	1136	5%	769	4%
South Bruce OPP	4037	18%	2794	14%	3857	17%	3486	16%	4540	22%
West Grey P.S.	683	3%	709	3%	920	4%	1031	5%	916	4%
Miscellaneous	774	3%	624	3%	779	3%	708	3%	530	3%
Total tickets by Year	22753	100%	20571	100%	22352	100%	21140	100%	20791	100%
	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	