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At least, that was the case before the pandemic.

“It was definitely a crazy summer. We started seeing an increase in mental health calls as well as drug calls and overdoses. . . and they’ve been pretty steady ever since,” said Fox, adding it all can have an impact personally. “It can be hard to try and stay positive through it all. I’m lucky to have a job and supports if I need them. Lots of people who call in are in worse situations; they’re frustrated and scared.”

Fox says those calls tend to increase significantly each time there’s a new order from the Province.

“Because we’re a community-based police service, we do get those callers who just need to chat, to bend a friendly ear, and that’s fine with us,” said Fox.

Police Chief Mark Mitchell concurred that most people are “tired of the pandemic and all of the restrictions and limitations it has imposed on our lives.”

“Many of the measures have been unpopular and being responsible for enforcing those rules [along with by-law, OPP and health inspectors] has been an added burden on our members. As the pandemic now enters into a second year, we have started seeing the secondary effects of that on our community and that has meant a busier winter than usual for our staff,” said Chief Mitchell.

That stands for the many other front line workers including paramedics and hospital staff.

“We are truly all in this together and I think the entire Kawartha Lakes community has weathered the pandemic very well. Personally, I am looking forward to the day when I can lift all of our COVID-19 related standing orders.”

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