



Profile | Operations - The Face of Policing



It's a freezing cold morning in early February, 2002. Officers make their way into the Parade Room, – a classroom-sized space in the heart of the Community Police Office. Some officers are still waking up, others are well into their first coffee of the day. The Supervisor steps up to the podium and delivers an update. What to expect today. Officer safety issues. A list of warrants issued. Pictures of missing persons. Births, deaths and other stories. Then, in less than 20 minutes, the officers are assigned their vehicles, given specific duties to perform and are heading out to serve their community.

That's a typical beginning to a typical day in policing in Durham Region. Except for one thing – no day is typical. But these officers have had the very best training and have been given the best equipment. They are ready for anything.





And they are part of the biggest component of the Durham Regional Police Service – Operations. These officers are often referred to as the “frontline” and they work in the Community Police Offices throughout the Region.

They are professional police officers, prepared and equipped to deal with the vast majority of incidents. Many have specialized knowledge and serve their community as School Liaison Officers, K-9 Officers (responsible for handling specially-trained dogs), Scene of Crime Officers (SOCO), Sexual Assault Response Officers (SARO), Traffic Collision Investigators and even Coach Officers, who are trained to teach new recruits the intricacies of the job.

There are two other major facets to operations, also involving specialized skill sets. In Major Crime, experts in robbery, homicide, pornography, fraud, sexual assault, victim services and forensic identification take over where the frontline leaves off. They conduct thorough investigations of crime scenes and interview witnesses to solve crimes.

The Intelligence Services Branch also consists of police officers, this time in the field of drug investigations, surveillance, auto theft, organized crime, and bikers. In 2002, there was an alarming increase in firearms investigations as more weapons were found throughout Durham Region

In all, 2002 was another successful year for Operations, as Durham Regional Police investigated and solved more crimes than ever before. As criminal elements become more complex every year, and as the legal and judicial framework everyone operates under continues to flex and change, our officers must keep up to solve and prevent crimes. To this end a significant amount of resources are dedicated to training and educational programs.