



Performance Objectives |

Planning for the future, preparing for growth, keeping up with changing legislation and adapting to new case law are only some of the challenges facing a modern police service. An aggressive crime-fighting strategy is also an essential component, ensuring that the right people and the right amount of money are directed to the biggest problem areas. In 2002, the Durham Regional Police Service and our Board identified two key priorities for public safety: (a) traffic management and (b) gangs. In both operational areas, tremendous success was achieved.



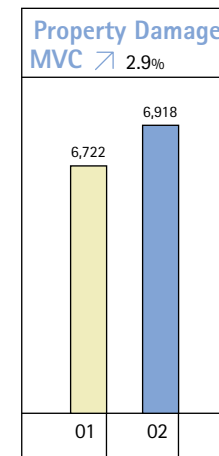
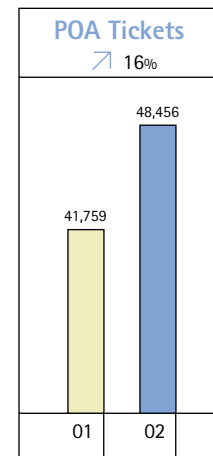
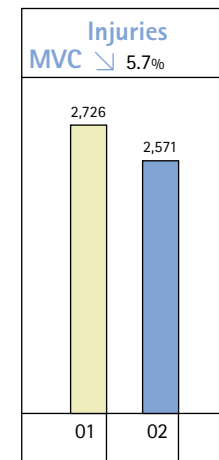
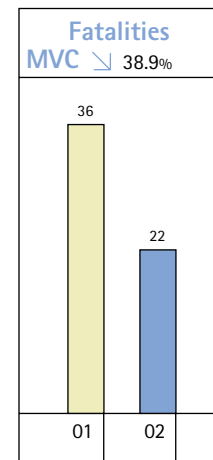
a | Traffic Services Branch

The top issue brought forward in every community and from our public opinion survey is traffic safety. With very few increases in infrastructure and more drivers taking to the road every year, Durham Region's streets continue to see the effect of traffic intensification. Add to this mix the deadly combination of aggressive and impatient motorists and it is clear to see why traffic management is a top community concern.

Despite increases found in other parts of the Greater Toronto Area, Durham Region actually had a decrease in motor vehicle deaths and injuries in 2002, thanks in large part to a major commitment from the Traffic Services Branch and from every Community Police Office. In 2002, there were 155 less injuries on Durham roads. Over the past 10 years, the per capita collision rate in Durham has actually decreased from 20 to 18 collisions per 1,000 people.

Through a year-long Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) program and targeted traffic enforcement initiatives, our crackdown on aggressive and dangerous drivers paid dividends.

Traffic Services





b | Gangs

A significant concern for both residents and law enforcement officials is the emergence of gangs in neighbourhoods. Usually formed by bored 14 to 20 year-old youngsters from low- or middle-income families, gangs pose a significant public safety risk. Of course, even greater concern are the more sophisticated organized gangs, such as the Hell's Angels and their involvement in prostitution, street level drugs and dangerous weapons. Crack cocaine continues to be a major concern and many people were arrested in 2002 for possession or trafficking. The year also saw an explosion of sophisticated indoor marihuana growing factories inside residential houses across Canada. Durham Region was no exception and our Drug Unit was enlarged to attack the problem head on. We added several new drug officers to our Drug Unit in 2001 and the results were clearly seen in 2002.

We were also part of several cross-Canada marihuana grow home raids. Grow homes pose a significant public safety risk because they bring organized crime figures into peaceful residential neighbourhoods, they cause fires and they create targets for other criminals. In some cases, young children are found in the homes and must be turned over to the Children's Aid Society.

We continued to be active members of several provincial crime fighting teams in 2002 to ensure local citizens received the kind of networking and expertise provided by other policing jurisdictions. We continued to be an active member of the Provincial Biker Enforcement Unit (BEU), the Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit (PWEU), the Criminal Intelligence Services of Ontario (CISO) and the Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement (ROPE) squad. Durham Regional police also employ the services of a unit dedicated to investigate street crimes and suppress gang activity, particularly in Ajax and Pickering.

Drug Incidents

