



Operational Priorities |

Traffic enforcement and countering gang activity continue to be a central concern in the Greater Toronto Area and Durham Region is no exception. In 2004, the DRPS strategy for safer roads and safer streets made a clear difference in community safety.

a | Gang Activity

Approximately 28 gangs were known to exist across Durham Region in 2004, from small neighbourhood-based street gangs to international organizations like the Hell's Angels.

In 2004, Durham Regional Police doubled the size of its Gang Enforcement Unit and aggressively targeted this form of organized crime. Project Impact was a cross-jurisdictional major anti-gang project concentrating on the Malvern Crew based in Scarborough with many connections to street violence in Durham Region. At the end of the campaign, there were 72 persons charged with over 615 criminal offences. Another major gang project in 2004 was Project Gun-Shy, which resulted in 25 arrests, more than 300 charges and the seizure of 14 guns in the Oshawa area.

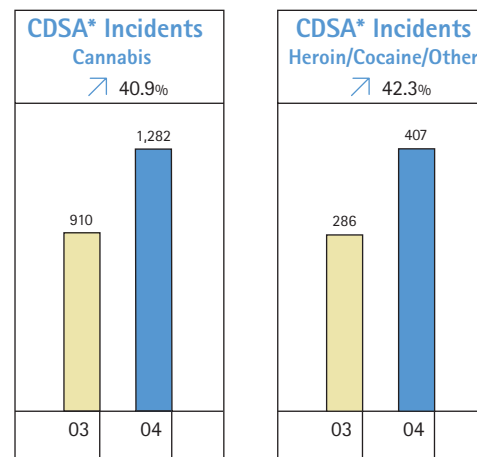
Project Smoke Break, which began in Clarington, busted up a \$1 million GTA-wide break and enter ring specializing in stolen cigarettes. Ten people were arrested and almost 1,000 charges were laid in this joint project with the Toronto Police and the Ministry of Finance's Tobacco Investigation Section.

Our Drug Enforcement Unit aggressively attacked the street level drug problem, resulting in 272 arrests and 1,123 charges. They removed \$4.45 million in drugs off the streets and seized 19 weapons. In total, marijuana arrests were up 41 per cent and heroine/cocaine incidents rose 42 per cent.

A two-pronged attack on drug users, prostitutes and bail violators in central Oshawa resulted in 171 arrests, 533 charges and numerous seized weapons. Project Conductor focused on vandalism in Uxbridge parks and resulted in almost 40 charges against 19 teenagers. Project RAGE (Robbery and Gang Enforcement) in Ajax and Pickering yielded over 490 criminal charges against 170 young street criminals in just four months. In Whitby, troubled youths hanging around in parks were rounded up, resulting in 59 arrests and 214 charges.

Chief McAlpine was the driving force behind the Green Tide Summit in March, which brought 60 agencies together from across Ontario to share ideas about curtailing the number of indoor

Drug Enforcement Activity



* Controlled Drug and Substances Act.



Chief McAlpine joined Toronto Chief Julian Fantino and Community Safety Minister Monte Kwinter for the Project Impact media conference.

marijuana grow homes. He continued his work in this area as a member of the provincial Green Tide Task Force, designed to carry forward the recommendations from the Summit.

We continued to be active participants in a number of joint forces projects aimed at countering gang activity and other public safety concerns.

These include the Provincial Asset Forfeiture Unit, the Provincial Biker Enforcement Unit (BEU), the Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit (PWEU), the Criminal Intelligence Services of Ontario (CISO); Anti-Terrorism Unit, the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team, the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit and the Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement (ROPE) squad.

b | Traffic Management

Despite increases in the number of residents, the influx of new subdivisions and increasing volumes of traffic, Durham Regional Police essentially held the line on traffic injuries and fatalities in 2004.

The total number of reported motor vehicle collisions involving property damage increased only 2.7 per cent to 7,828 incidents. Similarly, there were incremental increases in persons injured in collisions, up 0.4 per cent to 2,413. Unfortunately, 30 people lost their lives in vehicle collisions in 2004, one more than the year before.

Year-long Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) campaigns and targeted enforcement initiatives made a difference in drinking and driving incidents. In 2004, there were reductions in the incidents of Impaired Driving (down 8.7 per cent), Drive in Excess of .08 (down 8.1 per cent) and Refuse Breath Test (down 9.8 per cent) compared to the year before.

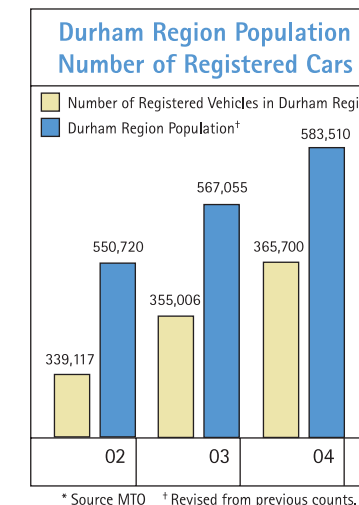
Police officers across Durham Region issued a total of 39,377 Provincial Offence Act notices, mostly for speeding.

Throughout the year, roadside vehicle inspections were set up across the Region. Successful safety blitzes in North Durham, Clarington and Pickering resulted in hundreds of charges and 157 vehicles removed from the road for safety reasons.

Durham Regional Police continue to receive invaluable assistance from several community organizations that help keep our roads safe every year. Road Watch is a volunteer committee that distributed reporting forms across the region. Motorists who witness dangerous driving practices can fill out these forms and submit them to police, who follow up with the registered owner of the vehicle.

Another outstanding group of volunteers is the Durham Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), who join members of our Community Police Offices and the Traffic Services Branch during R.I.D.E. campaigns. They often distribute informational pamphlets to motorists reminding them of the terrible consequences of drinking alcohol and then getting behind the wheel. They also visit schools and reinforce this message to young people, the next generation of motorists.

Durham Region's Growth



* Source MTO * Revised from previous counts.



PC Mark Stone conducts a R.I.D.E. check in Oshawa.

Motor Vehicle Collision Statistics

