



Message from the Chief of Police

After 24 years of service with the RCMP, I was delighted to join the Durham Regional Police Service as its fifth Chief of Police in September 2005.

It is a privilege to lead what I consider to be one of the finest municipal police services in Canada. The reason DRPS has such an enviable reputation is because of the employees who work here. Our people are top notch and bring a level of enthusiasm and dedication to each and every shift.

I also want to acknowledge the positive impact Kevin McAlpine made as Chief here and I look forward to building on his successes and introducing new ideas into the mix.

One of the challenges facing us - and every other police service - is keeping up with increasing demands and skyrocketing complexity of work. Although crime rates per 100,000 people are slightly decreasing, the total volume of work is not. New legislation has increased complexity greatly. A domestic assault investigation that took, on average, one hour to complete in 2003 now takes over six hours. Break and Enters take 58 per cent more time to complete today than just a few years ago.

We can overcome these challenges through strategic deployment, new technology, training and community partnerships. Exciting new projects were launched in 2005 to address these areas and details are contained in this report.

In closing, I would like to thank the Police Services Board, the citizens of Durham Region and the employees of the DRPS for welcoming me in such a warm and friendly manner. Together, we will continue to provide a high level of service to our citizens and remain **Leaders in Community Safety**.



Vern White
Chief of Police



P o l i c e S e r v i c e s B o a r d G o v e r n i n g P o l i c i e s

In 2005, the Durham Regional Police Services Board changed the way it did business to better represent the interests of citizens. It transitioned to a "policy governance" model where the Chief and the police service were given specific targets to achieve and parameters to work under. The focus changed from reviewing reports about police activity to concentrating on areas such as timeliness of response and "value for the dollar."

This new policy approach was divided into four main areas:

Ends – The crime rate, clearance rate, number of referrals to support services, public order and timeliness and outcomes of emergency response

Executive Limitations – clearly identifying the parameters inside which the Chief and the Service can operate, including standards for financial and strategic planning; treatment of members, residents and visitors; the protection of assets and ethical and legal conduct

Board-Chief Linkage – establishes the relationship between the Board and the police service, and how the Board will monitor the performance of the Chief and the police service

Governance – ensuring the police service achieves exceptional results at an appropriate cost and outlines the governing style of the Board

In order to ensure these policies were being met, the Board outlined specific tasks that had to be achieved. The Chief is required to submit monitoring reports throughout the calendar year to advise the Board if these tasks are being met, based on the Chief's reasonable interpretation of the direction given.

In 2005, the Chief reported compliancy in most policy areas. All policies and Chief's reports are available for the public to review on our web site www.drps.ca under "Police Services Board."



Members of the media regularly cover the PSB meetings.