



Operational Priorities

Youth

Statistically speaking, Durham Region is one of the "younger" areas of Ontario according to the 2006 Statistics Canada Census. There are 158,600 young people under the age of 20 in Durham Region, which represents 28.3 per cent of the regional population. The Ontario average is 25.0 per cent of the population.

Although reported youth crime has been decreasing across Ontario, troubled youth continue to be a community safety concern in Durham Region. In 2006, the Durham Regional Police Service continued to implement its Youth Strategy, which calls on a multi-agency approach to dealing with troubled youth at an early stage. This proactive approach is designed for young people before they develop further bad habits.

In November 2006, the Durham Regional Police held the community's first ever Youth Summit to deal with young people in conflict with the law. Over 230 delegates from 40 different local agencies attended and discussed new ways of sharing information about troubled youngsters so the right kinds of services could be directed to the families involved.

Under the leadership of Chief Vern White, Durham Regional Police accelerated new partnerships with the Eastview Boys and Girls Club, the John Howard Society and the Pinewood treatment facility to facilitate extra-judicial options for young people. Work was also done to introduce Restorative Justice conferencing to Durham Region, where young people accused of crimes can take responsibility for their actions by speaking directly with victims and others affected by the crime in a controlled and supervised environment. A youth Co-ordinator was hired and the program began in November 2006. There were 57 youth diversion contracts signed by late 2006.

In 2006, the Crime Administration Branch was re-organized to support the transition to restorative justice programs and improve service for vulnerable people such as youths, seniors and those with mental health issues.

Also, in the summer of 2006, DRPS was one of only two police services in Ontario to receive funding from the Ministry of Youth and Children Services to hire summer students from at-risk neighbourhoods. This program saw five students spend the summer with our service, learning about the business and hopefully inspiring them to choose policing as a future career option.



Youth Minister Mary Anne Chambers meets summer students.



The first Youth Summit, sponsored by the DRPS, took place in 2006.



Summer students help clean playground equipment.

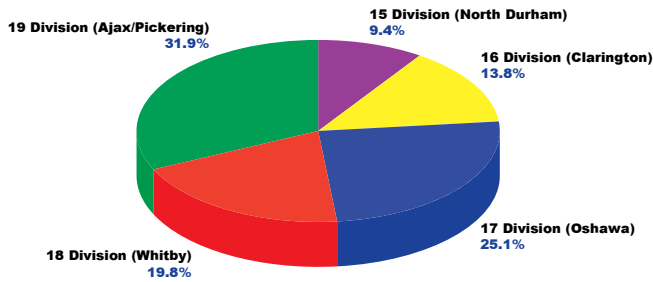


Although the actual number of person and property crimes is gradually decreasing across Canada and certainly here in Durham Region, the demands for police service and the time needed to clear each call continue to increase. Certain violent crime categories are also climbing higher in Durham Region, again reflecting the provincial and national trend.

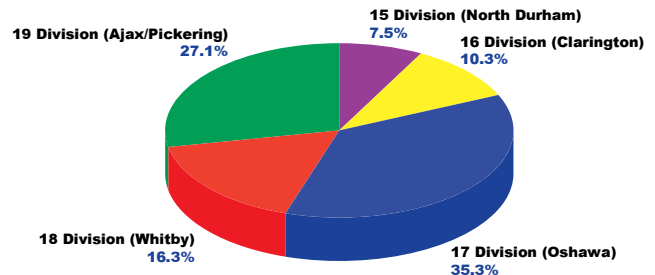
Calls for Service

Our new Versadex Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Record Management System (RMS) continued to provide a new level of statistical detail and accuracy. In 2006, there were 122,485 citizen-generated Calls for Service (CFS).

2006 Population By Division



Total Calls for Service 2006 By Division*



Growth

One major factor affecting police is population growth. Durham Region continued to grow at a brisk pace in 2006, recording \$1.5 billion in total building permit activity. That's the third highest level in Durham Region's history, largely driven by \$1 billion worth of residential building permits. There were 5,244 new residential units approved for construction in 2006 alone. The 2006 Census also revealed that Durham Region's population is younger than the provincial average, with 79.5 per cent of our population 15-years-old or older, compared with 81.8 per cent provincially.

Organizational Change

The organizational chart was refined in 2006 and both Deputy Chief positions were placed in Operations, emphasizing the importance of operational response. With the retirement of Deputy Chief Rod Piukkala, Inspector Mike Ewles was promoted to the vacancy. A new Superintendent position was created to lead our strategic planning process.

A total of 32 promotions took place, including 1 Deputy Chief, 1 Superintendent, 6 Inspectors, 7 Staff Sergeants and 17 Sergeants. New leadership was assigned to the North Durham, Clarington and Oshawa divisions. New leadership was assigned to the Crime Administration Branch and several new programs were launched, including the Domestic Violence Bail Unit, the Vulnerable Persons Unit, the General Occurrence Audit Unit to improve police report quality and a Centralized Alternative Response Unit.

* 3.7% of CFS cannot be attributed to a specific Division, as they are usually originating out-of-region. The largest division - Oshawa - had 35.3 per cent of all CFS in 2006 even though that city's population accounted for only 25.1 per cent of the regional population.

Enhancing Frontline Response

In 2006 a cross-functional team was established to do a careful analysis of how we deploy police officers. The Patrol Staffing Analysis Project (PSAP) began looking at calls for service data, frontline deployment and other issues affecting police response.

In order to take less serious calls away from patrol units in the field, a Centralized Alternative Response Unit (CARU) was created in 2006. The unit takes away non-emergency calls from patrol cars, such as reports of theft, historic break and enters, lost property or minor property damage. Launched in the fall, CARU was consistently diverting about one-third of non-emergency calls from patrol units by the end of the year.