



## Operational Priorities

### Youth

Durham Regional Police continued to lead the way in providing alternative ways of dealing with youth crime.

Instead of overloading the traditional judicial system with less serious youth crime, the DRPS began concentrating on offering alternative justice options in late 2006. Throughout 2007, frontline police officers diverted young people accused of less serious criminal offences to specialized programs in an effort to get to the "root cause" of the behaviour. Partnerships were strengthened with the Eastview Boys and Girls Club, Pinewood Centre of Lakeridge Health and the John Howard Society to offer troubled young people specialized programs. From anger management programs and addiction services to Restorative Justice conferences - in which the accused and the victim meet to talk about the impact of the behaviour - the administration of youth justice looked very different in Durham Region in 2007.



PC Deborah Knight (standing) and Joanne Fulford work with frontline officers to provide alternative justice measures to youth in conflict with the law.

Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services Mary Anne Chambers was in Durham Region for several visits to oversee the impact of her Ministry's \$308,000 investment in these pre-charge diversion programs. The community was in support of the approach, as well. The Whitby Rotary Club generously donated \$20,000 to assist with training.



Racing Against Drugs teaches kids about the affects of alcohol through the use of special goggles.

Although the initial target was 360 youth referrals in the first year, there were 591 referrals, indicating this approach was broadly adopted by frontline officers looking for new ways of dealing with troubled young people. In 2007, 142 young people were referred to Pinewood for addiction counselling, 118 were referred to John Howard Society for anti-theft and anger management programs, 135 were assigned community service hours, 457 were placed on "behaviour contracts" and 72 participated in Restorative Justice conferences through the Eastview Boys and Girls Club.

Statistics from other jurisdictions indicate that about 70 per cent of young people re-offend when introduced to the court system at an early age, but that number drops to less than 40 per cent when youths are introduced to a Restorative Justice program. Victims of crime praised the Restorative Justice program as it helped them understand why the crime was committed and gave them more immediate closure - within weeks of the infraction taking place.



## 2007: Significant Events

### New Chief, Deputy Chief

Mike Ewles was appointed the new Chief of Police for the DRPS in June 2007 following the departure of Vern White, who left to lead the Ottawa Police Service. A Change of Chief Constable ceremony took place at Headquarters on June 19th and was attended by representatives from police services across Ontario.

On August 2, 2007 long-time DRPS member Superintendent Sherry Whiteway was sworn in as Deputy Chief of Police, the highest rank ever held by a female in the police service. She began her career in February 1980 and served as a frontline uniform patrol officer in Pickering, Ajax, Uxbridge and Whitby. Over her career, she has implemented the Collision Reporting Centre in Pickering, opened the North Ajax Community Policing Centre and led the Communications/9-1-1 Unit. Past awards have included the Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Commitment to Community and the YWCA Woman of Distinction Award.

### Demands for Service

Calls for service increased in 2007 by 1.2 per cent from the previous year. There were 123,927 calls for service in 2007, of which 11 per cent were emergencies, 44 per cent were urgent and 44 per cent were considered routine.

One major factor for this increase is the growth in population and 2007 was another banner year for growth. The \$1.4 billion in building permits issued was the fourth highest in Durham Region's history, largely driven by \$900 million in residential building permits.

Total calls fielded by Communications/9-1-1 staff decreased slightly from 2006 (784,632) to 2007 (721,760). That's 1,977 calls a day in addition to the calls handled by the automated telephone system.

### Fighting Crime

Crimes of Violence, including assault, sexual assault, robbery, threats and criminal harassment increased by 13.8 per cent in 2007. The overall violent crime clearance rate across the Region is 77 per cent.

Total Property Crimes decreased 8.2 per cent in 2007 to 19,375 incidents, following a provincial and national trend. These crimes include fraud, theft, possession of stolen property and break-ins. The decrease was largely driven by a 10.2 per cent reduction in reported Mischief Under \$5,000 incidents and a 16 per cent reduction in Break and Enter incidents.

### Auxiliary Celebrates 30th Anniversary

The DRPS Auxiliary Unit celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2007 at a gala dinner in Ajax. Chief Mike Ewles presented Auxiliary Inspector Louise Elborn with a flag dedicated to the Auxiliary Unit. The Unit has 70 civilian members who have donated over 250,000 hours to help police at major community events, like parades and festivals over the years. They provide valuable assistance in search and rescue, R.I.D.E. programs and many other operational areas.



### New Courthouse Construction

Attorney General Michael Bryant and Public Infrastructure Minister David Caplan were in Oshawa in June to officially mark the start of construction of a new consolidated courthouse to service Durham Region.

Once completed in late 2009, the 350,000 sq. ft. structure will feature 33 courtrooms and house more than 500 employees. It will consolidate eight different courthouse locations in Durham Region and improve efficiency in the management of those in custody. In the new building, six courtrooms will have video remand conferencing and there will be two remote video testimony rooms for vulnerable and child witnesses.

