



Operational Priorities

2007 was a record year for drug and gun seizures in Durham Region and significant results were also achieved in the areas of traffic enforcement and the fast tracking of justice for youth and the victims of youth crime.

Gang Activity

Approximately 130 street gang members or associates are known to be in Durham Region, from small neighbourhood-based groups to international organizations like the Hell's Angels. In addition, about 14 members of Toronto-based street gangs are known to live here.

Frontline officers and members of the Gang and Drug Enforcement Units (GEU, DEU) aggressively targeted street-level gang activity in 2007. The DEU and GEU alone executed 111 search warrants, charged 296 people and seized \$23.2 million in illicit drugs as well as \$1.15 million in cash. They also seized 47 crime guns, including 25 handguns, in 2007.

In late 2007, the Minister of Community Safety announced \$510,000 in funding for Durham Regional Police to enhance counter-gang activities. This funding led to the creation of the Durham Region Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (D.R.A.V.I.S.) which began high-visibility anti-gang enforcement activities before the end of the year.

Significant Drug Busts

Two major projects highlighted the work of the DEU and the GEU. Project Merlin terminated an international drug-smuggling ring involving cocaine packages hidden in commercial airplanes arriving at Pearson International Airport. Officers seized more than \$3 million in cocaine and nearly \$445,000 in currency as well as 12 firearms, a bulletproof vest and eight private vehicles. Over 200 charges were laid against 12 people.

Project Lynx was a DEU-led joint forces investigation that broke up a \$6 million drug ring centered in Port Perry. More than 30 individuals were arrested, including two Quebec men and more than 130 criminal charges were laid. This investigation involved the largest outdoor marihuana field ever found in Durham Region – 4,400 mature plants worth \$4.68 million.

We continue to experience fewer problems with indoor marihuana grow operations, with only 18 indoor and six outdoor grow ops discovered in 2007. The peak year for indoor grow ops in Durham Region was 2002 when 108 were discovered and dismantled.

DEU and GEU Drug Seizures 2006 vs 2007 (\$10,000+)

	2006 (\$)	2007 (\$)
<i>Marihuana</i>	\$ 2,015,972	\$19,435,400
<i>Cocaine</i>	36,200	2,880,000
<i>Ecstasy</i>	23,460	525,500
<i>Ephedrine</i>	125,600	150,000
<i>Cannabis Resin</i>	29,600	130,000
<i>Anabolic Steroid</i>	-	32,500
<i>GHB</i>	-	25,300
<i>Oxycodone</i>	3,540	22,600
<i>Psilocybyn</i>	750	12,056
<i>Methamphetamine</i>	1,671,610	-
<i>MDMA Powder</i>	16,012	-
TOTAL	\$4.2 M	\$23.2 M



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 Service of Ontario (CISO); the Provincial Anti-Terrorism Section (PATS), the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team (INSET), the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU), the Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement (ROPE) squad and the Provincial Auto Theft Unit (PATU).



Traffic Management

A strategic, targeted approach to traffic enforcement and roadway safety paid dividends in 2007.

Despite increasing traffic on our roads, there were decreases in both persons killed in motor vehicle collisions and those injured. By concentrating on school zones at the beginning and end of the school year and targeting the Region's most dangerous intersections, the total number of fatalities decreased by one and the number of injury collisions fell 5.3 per cent.

A year long Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) campaign and an aggressive campaign around the Christmas season also made a significant difference. During Festive R.I.D.E. 2007/08, a total of 113 persons were charged with drinking and driving offences, an increase of 12 from the previous year. Our Traffic Services Branch targeted neighbourhoods near bars and taverns and began the campaign by sending a Christmas card to every suspended driver in Durham Region, reminding them not to operate an automobile during the holidays. Overall, total Impaired Operation incidents were down 0.7 per cent in 2007.

The number of Offence Notices (mostly traffic tickets) was virtually the same as the year before (47,890 compared to 48,288 in 2006). Frontline Officers continued to spend a considerable amount of time stopping speeders and other dangerous drivers to change their behaviour.

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 distributes 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 (M.A.D.D.), who join members of our Operational Divisions and the Traffic Services Branch at roadside checks. 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.



One of our Officers conducts a road side check.

