



A New Vision for the Future

After months of consultations and extensive reviews of best practices in policing, the Durham Regional Police Services Board unveiled its new three-year Strategic Business Plan in 2008.

The 2008-2010 Strategic Business Plan is a blueprint for the future of policing and service delivery in Durham Region. The 36-page document clearly identifies the new philosophy of the police service, its strategic direction and its priorities for the future.

Led by Supt. Greg Mills and Strategic Planning Manager Audra Mihaly, the development of the plan involved consultations with community organizations and employees of the Service. Members of the public were also consulted through a November 2007 public opinion survey on community safety issues.

The plan outlines the importance of moving the service delivery model towards a more proactive one by focusing more on addressing the root causes of crime. By working with community agencies and leveraging their unique skills and abilities, the Board hopes to meet increasing demands for police service by eliminating or reducing recurring problems and focusing more attention on crime prevention.

"We are one of the leaders in North America regarding this new approach to community safety," says Board Chair Terry Clayton, "This marks the beginning of a multi-year transformation to the way we do business and we are all very excited about charting this new course."

At the heart of the Strategic Business Plan is a new operational philosophy – empowering frontline officers to solve problems by addressing the root causes of crime, fear of crime and anti-





social behaviour through partnerships with existing or emerging community resources. Efforts are now underway to ensure officers have the appropriate amount of time and the proper training to engage in more problem-solving activities.

The plan identifies four priorities for community safety: Youth Safety; Roadway Safety; Violence Against/Exploitation of Persons; and Property Crime. It also identifies four strategic internal priorities for the Durham Regional Police Service, namely: Diversity, Service-Wide Transition; Information Management and Technology; and Emergency Preparedness.

Chief Constable Mike Ewles called the new Business Plan an "important milestone" for the transformation of the police service. "We are all excited about this new approach and I look forward to working with our outstanding team of professional women and men to solve community problems and enhance our ability to help people in their time of need," he said.

The development of a business plan is required under provincial regulations. The Durham Regional Police Services Board created its first three-year plan in 2002. The new document is now online at www.drps.ca under Business Plan on the navigational bar on the right hand side of the web page.

