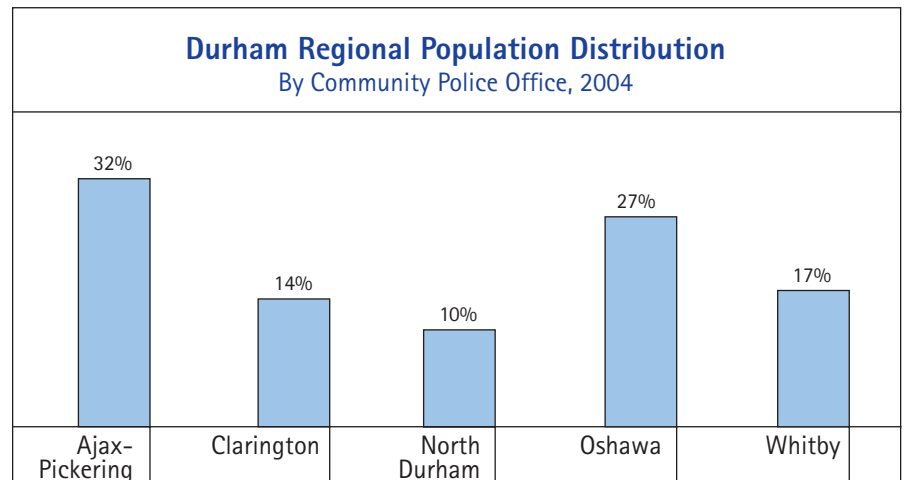




CONTINUING HIGH DEMANDS ON POLICING

With over 1,000 members – sworn and civilian – the size of our membership has grown 21% in the past five years. The demands on policing have grown as well, along with public expectations for service accessibility and accountability.

The DRP responded to more than 190,000 calls for service in 2003, a rise of 37% over the last five years. Over the same period, reported crimes rose 24% to 38,188 in 2003, while expanding legislative requirements require the police to deal with increasingly complex criminal investigations.





"There are wonderful policing partnerships in some schools. I think police officers need to hear about these successes."

- Comment from Community Liaison Member.

THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF DURHAM REGION

Durham Region continues to experience steady population growth of over 2% per year. By 2005, more than 576,000 people will reside in Durham Region. Population is expected to reach 664,000 in 2011 and over 1 million by 2031. The municipal areas of Whitby, Clarington, and Ajax showed the largest population growth over the 1996 and 2001 Census years. The largest forecasted growth is expected in Pickering, followed by Ajax, Clarington, and Whitby, as outlined in Durham Region's Planning Department Official Plan.

While less diverse than other areas in Greater Toronto, the cultural diversity of Durham Region is increasing. The largest number of visible minority groups live in the municipal areas of Pickering and Ajax where they now comprise more than 25% of the population. The Business Plan includes initiatives to reflect the growing diversity in the Durham community.

Durham Region, like the rest of Canada, is facing an aging population. The largest age groups are people between the ages of

35 – 39 and 40 - 44. At the same time, Durham's age profile is appreciably younger than that of Ontario – 30% of Durham's population is under 19, compared to 26% in the province. This is in part due to the migration of young families to the Region.

The age and diversity composition of the community will impact police service delivery. The high proportion of youth will challenge the DRP to review its existing programs and develop new initiatives specific to those under 19 years old. With an aging population, elderly victims will likely require police assistance specific to their needs. Actions to address these trends are outlined in the 2005 – 2007 Plan.

STRONG ECONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS

Durham Region's economic prospects continue to grow. The \$1.7 billion in building permits issued in 2003 was the highest in the Region's 30-year history, driven by a 36% increase in residential building permits to \$1.1 billion in 2003. Non-residential building permit value also rose substantially by almost 75% to \$649.8 million in 2003, surpassing high growth in the Greater Toronto Area overall.

Growth and development – whether residential, commercial, industrial or other growth – will continue to place high demands on all public services in Durham Region, including policing.

