

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

25 APRIL 2007

Re: 2006 Annual Statistics

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the contents of this report be received by the Board for its information.

SYNOPSIS:

Pursuant to the long-standing practice of York Regional Police, crime statistics are presented to the Board every six months. For the benefit of the Board, a statistical report which overviews incidents which have been reported between January 1 and December 31, 2006, has been compiled and is attached to this report.

York Regional Police publish crime statistics based on the number of reported violations using the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting methodology. Data is submitted to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) and is then converted to Aggregate-based data in order to compile national data as not all Police Services are collecting data using the Incident-based methodology. Aggregate-based data is used for comparison purposes with other Police Services. This data is expected to be released in July. The national and provincial comparisons for 2006 will be a separate report following the release of the CCJS data.

After several years of annual increases, the overall Crime Rate (total number of Criminal & Federal Violations per 100,000 population) decreased for the third consecutive year, dropping 5.1 percent in 2006 from 2005. Despite some increases in crime in certain areas, York Region still remains one of the safest communities in Canada in which to live, visit and conduct business.

Our decreasing crime rate reflects our commitment to proactive policing and the good work our members have done in responding to community needs. It can also be attributed to changes in our Region's demographic makeup and the strong partnerships we have developed with individuals and groups who are equally committed to building safe communities. We will continue to expand and improve upon our community policing and crime prevention initiatives to ensure all of our communities are safe and the high quality of life we have become accustomed to is maintained and enhanced.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND:

The following are the highlights of the January – December 2006 Statistical Report. The summary is detailed by Total Criminal & Federal Violations, Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, Other Criminal Code, Criminal Code Traffic Violations, Clearance Rate, Youth Crime, and Other Miscellaneous Statistics:

TOTAL CRIMINAL & FEDERAL VIOLATIONS

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	39,360	38,663	-697	-1.8
Rate per 100,000 Population				-5.1

During 2006, 38,663 Criminal & Federal violations were reported compared to 39,360 during the corresponding period in 2005. This represents a decrease of 697 violations or 1.8 percent. The Crime Rate in 2006 decreased 5.1 percent from 2005. Our crime rate is the lowest since we started calculating rate in 1997. This decrease is consistent with the national trend where a 5 percent decrease was seen in 2005.

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	6,681	6,567	-114	-1.7
Rate per 100,000 Population				-5.0

In 2006, 6,567 Crimes Against Persons were reported compared to 6,681 during the corresponding period in 2005. This represents a decrease of 114 violations or 1.7 percent. The Violent Crime Rate decreased 5.0 percent in 2006 from 2005.

Increases were seen in Violations Causing Death (Homicide and Criminal Negligence Causing Death), Attempt Capital Crime, and the Violations Deprivation Freedom category. The rise in Violations Causing Death is largely attributable to the increase of three homicides in 2006.

Significant decreases occurred in Sexual Assault and Robbery & Other Violent Violations. The decrease in the Robbery & Other Violent Violations category is attributable to a considerable decrease in Utter Threats to Person. The rate of Robbery violations, however, increased 1.8 percent. This increase is being driven by the number of street level robberies that are occurring in York Region, often committed by youth. These robberies represent over half of all robberies reported (61.9 percent). The clearance rate for robbery has increased over the past year, largely attributed to the number of youths arrested for the street level robberies.

VIOLATIONS CAUSING DEATH

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	11	15	4	+36.4
Rate per 100,000 Population				+31.7

ATTEMPT CAPITAL CRIME VIOLATIONS

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	4	9	5	+125.0
Rate per 100,000 Population				+117.4

SEXUAL ASSAULT VIOLATIONS

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	380	311	-69	-18.2
Rate per 100,000 Population				-20.9

ASSAULT VIOLATIONS

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	3,679	3,735	+56	+1.5
Rate per 100,000 Population				-1.9

ROBBERY VIOLATIONS

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	411	433	+22	+5.4
Rate per 100,000 Population				+1.8

DOMESTIC RELATED OCCURRENCES

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	3,559	3,594	+35	+1.0
Rate per 100,000 Population				-2.4

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	23,702	24,403	+701	+3.0
Rate per 100,000 Population				-0.5

During 2006, 24,403 Crimes Against Property were reported compared to 23,702 in the corresponding year in 2005. This represents an increase of 701 violations or 3.0 percent. The Property Crime Rate decreased for the third consecutive year (0.5 percent).

Although the Property Crime Rate decreased slightly, significant increases occurred in the 2006 rates of Arson (+17.9 percent), Mischief (+14.4 percent), Fraud (+5.6 percent) and Have Stolen Goods (+4.0 percent).

The five year Property Crime rate comparison indicates a decrease of 25.0 percent, consistent with the national downward trend.

Motor Vehicle Theft declined for the third consecutive year, consistent with the national trend. Automobiles represent over half of the vehicles stolen (51.5 percent). Honda continues to be the most common make of automobile stolen (32.5 percent) while Dodge (15.2 percent) was the most frequent make of truck stolen.

STOLEN VEHICLES

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	1,869	1,730	-139	-7.4
Rate per 100,000 Population				-10.6

OTHER CRIMINAL CODE

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	6,382	4,973	-1,409	-22.1
Rate per 100,000 Population				-24.7

The decrease in the rate of Other Criminal Code is largely due to a drop in Counterfeit violations (522 in 2006, down from 2,179 in 2005). This decrease is consistent with the national trend and may be attributed to a change of processing due to a pilot project by the RCMP that allows the banks to submit counterfeit bills directly to them.

TRAFFIC

CRIMINAL CODE TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	3,567	2,818	-749	-21.0
Rate per 100,000 Population				-23.7

During 2006, 2,818 Criminal Code Traffic Violations were reported compared to 3,567 during the corresponding period in 2005. This represents a decrease of 749 violations or 21.0 percent. The rate of Criminal Code Traffic Violations per 100,000 population decreased 23.7 percent.

The decrease in the rate of Criminal Code Traffic violations is largely attributable to a 42.3 percent decrease in the rate of Fail to Remain violations. However, the rate of Impaired violations has increased 9.1%.

IMPAIRED OPERATION/RELATED VIOLATIONS

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	964	1,089	+125	+13.0
Rate per 100,000 Population				+9.1

DANGEROUS OPERATION VIOLATIONS

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	376	342	-34	-9.0
Rate per 100,000 Population				-12.1

MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS (REPORTABLE)

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Actual	16,755	16,944	+189	+1.1
Rate per 100,000 Population				-2.3

FATAL COLLISIONS

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Fatal Collisions	35	30	-5	-14.3
Fatal Injuries	38	33	-5	-13.2

During 2006, 30 collisions resulted in a fatal injury compared to 35 during 2005. This represents a decrease of 5 collision or 14.3 percent. There were 33 persons killed in 2006 compared to 38 in 2005. This represents a decrease of 5 persons or 13.2 percent.

Alcohol was a contributing factor in 12 of the fatal collisions in 2006 compared to 8 in 2005 while excessive speed was a contributing factor in 8 of the fatal collisions in 2006 compared to 12 in 2005. Seatbelt misuse was a contributing factor in 4 of the fatal collisions in 2006 compared to 3 in 2005. Pedestrian error accounted as a factor in 10 of the collisions in 2006 compared to 8 in 2005.

CLEARANCE RATE

	2005	2006	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Crimes Against Persons	75.9	83.3	+7.4
Crimes Against Property	38.6	38.1	-0.5
Total Criminal & Federal Violations	51.2	55.0	+3.8

Clearance rates in Crimes Against Persons and overall crime have increased significantly during 2006 while Crimes Against Property clearance rates remained constant.

YOUTH CRIME

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Charged	1,516	1,590	+74	+4.9
Processed by Other Means	2,855	2,841	-14	-0.5
Total Youth Crime	4,371	4,431	+60	+1.4

Youth Crime is measured by the number of youths formally charged and processed by means other than the laying of a charge. The Youth Crime Rate decreased 1.1 percent in 2006 from 2005.

The number of Youths charged and processed by other means for Violent Criminal occurrences increased significantly in 2006 (11.2 percent) as did those for Property Crime occurrences (4.6 percent). The number of youths charged and processed by other means for other crimes decreased 10.3 percent.

HATE CRIME

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Hate Motivated Occurrences	60	56	-4	-6.7
Rate per 100,000 Population				-9.8

Reported crime involving hate/bias has decreased in 2006. Incidents targeting the Jewish community decreased in 2006 while incidents targeting the Black community have increased. The majority of incidents in 2006, 62 percent, involve mischief to property which is consistent with 2005 (63 percent).

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS

DEMANDS FOR SERVICE

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Calls for Service	242,028	224,992	-17,036	-7.0
Rate per 100,000 Population				-10.2

COMMUNICATIONS BUREAU

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
911 Calls	191,462	182,731	-8,731	-4.6
Non-Emergency Calls	380,957	410,727	+29,770	+7.8
Total Calls	572,419	593,458	+21,039	+3.7

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
MVC/Incident Reports	6,919	8,474	+1,555	+22.5
Police Clearance Letters	18,897	21,341	+2,444	+12.9
Volunteer Screening	20,371	24,365	+3,994	+19.6

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Formal Requests	97	160	+63	+64.9
Informal Requests	1,362	1,369	+7	+0.5
Total Requests	1,459	1,529	+70	+4.8

ALARM PROGRAM

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Alarm Calls Received	25,739	25,378	-361	-1.4
False Alarms	25,517	25,117	-400	-1.6

CRIME STOPPERS

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
Tips Received	1,347	1,230	-117	-8.7
Arrests Made	111	85	-26	-23.4
Drugs Seized	\$6,817,880	\$12,991,141	\$6,173,261	+90.5

VICTIM SERVICES OF YORK REGION

	2005	2006	Actual Change	2005/2006 Variance (%)
On-Scene Occurrences	220	291	+71	+32.3
Telephone Crisis Calls/ Office Visits	1,502	2,560	+1,058	+70.4

We are pleased to see a continuing of the downward trends in our crime rates and an increase in our clearance rates in 2006. They are a direct reflection of the strides we have made in law enforcement, crime prevention, community safety initiatives and in building bridges between all our communities. We recognize that this would not be possible without the continued support of our Police Services Board, Regional Council, community partners and the citizens of York Region who help us to ensure York Region remains one of the safest communities in Canada in which to live, visit and conduct business.

The National and Provincial crime statistical comparison, utilizing data from the Canadian Centre of Justice Statistics from other police services in Canada based on the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, is expected to be presented at the August meeting of the Police Services Board. This report will include rankings and a comparison of our Incident-based statistics and the CCJS released Aggregate-based statistics.

A more detailed report of the 2006 Annual Statistics is attached to this report.

Armand P. La Barge, O.O.M.
Chief of Police.