

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

26 MARCH 2008

2007 Annual Statistics

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board receive this report pursuant to Crime, Call and Public Disorder Analysis, York Regional Police Procedure LE-003.

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 2007 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 fourth consecutive year, dropping 6.6 percent in 2007 from 2006. 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 Police Services Board and Regional Council's investment in our police service from a human resources, technology and training perspective, 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 chart summarizes criminal code violation statistics reported January 1 to December 31, 2007 as compared to the same time period in the preceding year.

	2006		2007		Variance (%)	
	Actual	Rate	Actual	Rate	Actual	Rate
Total Crime	38,744	4,075.42	37,425	3,807.01	-3.4	-6.6
Crimes Against Persons	6,567	690.77	6,465	657.64	-1.6	-4.8
Crimes Against Property	24,403	2,566.92	23,204	2,360.39	-4.9	-8.0
Other Criminal Code	4,973	523.10	4,671	475.15	-6.1	-9.2
Total Clearance	55.1%	N/A	55.8%	N/A	+0.6	N/A
Criminal Code Traffic	2,818	296.42	2,695	274.15	-4.4	-7.5

TOTAL CRIMINAL & FEDERAL VIOLATIONS

- 37,425 **CRIMINAL & FEDERAL** violations were reported during January 1 and December 31, 2007 compared to 38,744 during the corresponding period in 2006. This represents a decrease of 1,319 violations or 3.4 percent. The Crime Rate per 100,000 persons decreased 6.6 percent in 2007 from 2006.

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

- 6,465 **CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS** (violent crime) violations were reported between January 1 and December 31, 2007 compared to 6,567 during the corresponding period in 2006. This represents a decrease of 102 violations or 1.6 percent. The violent crime rate in 2007 was 657.64 compared to 690.77 in 2006. This represents a decrease of 4.8 percent. Decreases were seen in all violent crime categories except Attempt Capital Crime. The rise in this category is attributable to the increase of three attempt murders in 2007. Significant decreases occurred in Violations Causing Death and Sexual Assault. The decrease in the Violations Causing Death category is attributable to a decrease in the number of homicides in 2007 compared to 2006.
- 8 **VIOLATIONS CAUSING DEATH** (Homicide and Criminal Negligence Cause Death) were reported in 2007 compared to 15 in 2006. This represents a decrease of 7 violations or 46.7 percent. Based on the rate of Violations Causing Death per 100,000 population, there has been a decrease of 48.4 percent.

- 12 **ATTEMPT CAPITAL CRIME** violations were reported in 2007 compared to 9 in 2006. This represents an increase of 3 violations or 33.3 percent. Based on the rate of Attempt Capital Crime violations per 100,000 population, there has been an increase of 28.9 percent.
- 290 **SEXUAL ASSAULT** violations were reported in 2007 compared to 311 in 2006. This represents a decrease of 21 violations or 6.8 percent. Based on the rate of Sexual Assault violations per 100,000 population, there has been a decrease of 9.8 percent.
- 3,688 **ASSAULT** violations were reported in 2007 compared to 3,735 in 2006. This represents a decrease of 47 violations or 1.3 percent. Based on the rate of Assault violations per 100,000 population, there has been a decrease of 4.5 percent.
- 438 **ROBBERY** violations were reported in 2007 compared to 433 in 2006. This represents an increase of 5 violations or 1.2 percent. Based on the rate of Robbery violations per 100,000 population, there has been a decrease of 2.2 percent. Car-jacking and Home Invasion incidents each represent 4.8 percent of the total Robbery violations. Street-related robberies during this period represent almost three quarters of all robberies (71.5 percent).

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

- 23,204 **CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY** (property crime) violations were reported between January 1 and December 31, 2007 compared to 24,403 during the corresponding period in 2006. This represents a decrease of 1,199 violations or 4.9 percent. The property crime rate in 2007 was 2,360.39 compared to 2,566.92 in 2006. This represents a decrease of 8.0 percent. The Property Crime Rate decreased for the fourth consecutive year.
- 1,828 **STOLEN VEHICLES** were reported in 2007 compared to 1,730 in 2006. This represents an increase of 98 vehicles or 5.7 percent. Based on the rate of stolen vehicles per 100,000 population, there has been a decrease of 1.3 percent. Automobiles represent almost half of the vehicles stolen (49.7 percent) with Honda continuing to be the most common make (24.8 percent) of car stolen. Ford (18.5 percent) was the most frequent make of truck stolen.

OTHER CRIMINAL CODE

- 4,671 **OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (INCLUDING WEAPONS & PUBLIC MORALS)** violations were reported in 2007 compared to 4,973 in 2006. This represents a decrease of 302 violations or 6.1 percent. Based on the rate of Other Criminal Code violations per 100,000 population, there has been a decrease of 9.2 percent.

CLEARANCE RATE

- The overall **CLEARANCE RATE** rate for Criminal Code & Federal violations remained virtually unchanged, increasing slightly to 55.8 percent in 2007 from 55.1 percent in 2006. The clearance rate for Crimes Against Persons decreased slightly from 83.3 percent in 2006 to 81.0 percent in 2007. The Property Crime clearance rate decreased slightly to 37.6 percent in 2007 from 38.1 percent in 2006.

CRIMINAL CODE TRAFFIC

- 2,695 **CRIMINAL TRAFFIC** violations were reported in 2007 compared to 2,818 in 2006. This represents a decrease of 123 violations or 4.4 percent. Based on the rate of Criminal Traffic violations per 100,000 population, there has been a decrease of 7.5 percent. This decrease is largely attributable to a 12.5 percent decrease in the rates of Other Criminal Traffic Violations (Fail to Remain -14.1 percent and Drive While Disqualified -30.5 percent).
 - 1,122 **IMPAIRED OPERATION/RELATED** violations were reported in 2007 compared to 1,089 in 2006. This represents an increase of 33 violations or 3.0 percent. Based on the rate of Impaired Operation/Related violations per 100,000 population, there has been a small decrease of 0.4 percent.
 - 359 **DANGEROUS OPERATION** violations were reported in 2007 compared to 342 in 2006. This represents an increase of 17 violations or 5.0 percent. Based on the rate of Dangerous Operation violations per 100,000 population, there has been a slight increase of 1.5 percent.
 - 16,711 **REPORTABLE MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION REPORTS** were processed in 2007 compared to 17,045 in 2006. This represents a decrease of 334 reports or 2.0 percent. Based on the rate of reportable Motor Vehicle Collisions per 100,000 population, there has been a decrease of 5.2 percent.
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- 24 **FATAL COLLISIONS** occurred on our roadways in 2007 compared to 30 in 2006. This represents a decrease of 6 collisions or 20.0 percent.
 - 27 **PERSONS DIED** on our roadways in 2007 compared to 33 in 2006. This represents a decrease of 6 persons or 18.2 percent.

YOUTH CRIME

- **YOUTH CRIME** (the number of youths formally charged and processed by other means) in York Region decreased 7.8 percent in 2007 compared to 2006. The number of young persons charged increased 2.8 percent while the number of youths processed by other means decreased 13.7 percent. The Youth Crime rate decreased 9.4 percent.

HATE CRIME

- **HATE CRIME** reported in York Region increased 32.1 percent in 2007 compared to the previous year. There were 74 criminal occurrences of hate motivated crime reported in 2007 compared to 56 in 2006.

DOMESTIC RELATED OCCURRENCES

- 4,243 **DOMESTIC RELATED** occurrences (criminal and non-criminal) were reported in 2007 compared to 3,594 in 2006. This represents an increase of 649 occurrences or 18.1 percent. Of the total occurrences reported, 30.9 percent resulted in charges, while no probable grounds for charges were found in 69.1 percent of the cases.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS

- 227,949 **CALLS FOR SERVICE** were received in 2007 compared to 224,992 in 2006. This represents an increase of 2,957 calls or 1.3 percent. Based on the rate of Calls for Service per 100,000 population, there has been a decrease of 2.0 percent.
- In 2007, 194,384 9-1-1 calls were received in the **COMMUNICATIONS BUREAU** compared to 182,731 in 2006. This represents an increase of 6.4 percent. The number of non-emergency calls decreased 0.6 percent (408,199 from 410,727). The total number of calls received increased 1.5 percent (602,583 from 593,458).
- **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT** processed 7,931 requests for Motor Vehicle Collision/Incident Summary reports in 2007 compared to 8,474 in 2006. This represents a decrease of 543 requests or 6.4 percent. The number of police clearance letters processed in 2007 increased 2.1 percent from the corresponding period in 2006 (21,341 to 21,796) and the number of volunteer screening letters also increased slightly by 0.1 percent (21,762 to 21,774).
- During 2007, a total of 1,753 **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION** requests were received compared to 1,529 in 2006. This represents an increase of 224 requests for information or 14.7 percent. Formal requests increased 21.3 percent (194 from 160) and the number of informal requests also increased 13.9 percent (1,559 from 1,369).
- The **ALARM PROGRAM** saw a 10.2 percent decrease in alarm calls received (22,788 from 25,378) in 2007. The number of false alarms continues to be problematic with 99.4 percent of the calls being false. This increased slightly (0.5 percent) from 2006.
- Tips received by **CRIME STOPPERS** increased 4.7 percent in 2007 compared to 2006 (1,288 from 1,230). Arrests made as a result of Crime Stoppers tips decreased 40.0 percent (51 from 85). The value of property recovered increased 43.4 percent (\$262,824 to \$376,974).
- The **VICTIM SERVICES OF YORK REGION** program saw a decrease in on-scene occurrences (4.8 percent) while the number of telephone crisis calls/office visits increased 77.9 percent. In 2007, female clients represented 68.7 percent of the total clients served while male clients represented 9.8 percent and children represented 21.5 percent.

We are pleased to see a continuation of the downward trends in our crime rate and maintenance of a high total clearance rate in 2007. They are a direct reflection of the strides we have made in crime prevention, law enforcement, and 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 2007 Annual Statistics is attached to this report.

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

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