

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

25 MARCH 2009

2008 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, 2008, 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 2008 will be a separate report following the release of the CCJS data.

In April 2008, several changes were made to the reporting methodology of Incident-based reporting by CCJS. These included extractions of certain components formally part of multi-offence codes, code re-positioning from one crime category to another, and changes aimed at responding to statistical needs expressed by their stakeholders. Due to these reporting modifications, particularly the re-positioning of some crime categories, which included moving Harassing Telephone Call occurrences from the Other Criminal Code to the Crimes Against Persons category, there were some significant impacts seen on the annual variances. Given that the policy of York Regional Police is to report crime statistics in accordance with CCJS rules and guidelines, the crime statistics are presented for the current year and previous year in the reporting formats in effect during each of those years. This has resulted in some skewing of the variance of Crimes Against Persons and Other Criminal Code

categories for 2008 compared to 2007. The reporting changes do not have an impact on the Total Criminal Code and Federal Violations or the Total Crime Rate presented. A chart has been included below that shows what the variances would have been had the reporting changes not occurred.

The overall Crime Rate (total number of Criminal & Federal Violations per 100,000 population) increased slightly by 0.5 percent in 2008 from 2007. Our stable and low 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 the strong partnerships we have developed with individuals and groups within York Region who are equally committed to building safe communities. In 2009 and beyond, 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, 2008, as compared to the same time period in the preceding year:

	2007		2008		Variance (%)	
	Actual	Rate	Actual	Rate	Actual	Rate
Total Crime	37,425	3,807.01	38,691	3,825.64	+3.4	+0.5
Crimes Against Persons	6,465	657.64	6,933	685.51	+7.2	+4.2
Crimes Against Property	23,204	2,360.39	23,892	2,362.36	+3.0	+0.1
Other Criminal Code	4,671	475.15	4,509	445.84	-3.5	-6.2
Federal Violations	3,085	313.82	3,357	331.93	+8.8	+5.8
Total Clearance	55.8%	N/A	55.5%	N/A	-0.2	N/A
Criminal Code Traffic	2,695	274.15	2,980	294.65	+10.6	+7.5

The following chart summarizes criminal code violation statistics reported January 1 to December 31, 2008, as compared to the same time period in the preceding year had the changes in CCJS's reporting methodology not occurred:

	2007		2008		Variance (%)	
	Actual	Rate	Actual	Rate	Actual	Rate
Total Crime	37,425	3,807.01	38,691	3,825.64	+3.4	+0.5

Crimes Against Persons	6,465	657.64	6,399	632.71	-1.0	-3.8
Crimes Against Property	23,204	2,360.39	23,892	2,362.36	+3.0	+0.1
Other Criminal Code	4,671	475.15	5,043	498.64	+8.0	+4.9
Federal Violations	3,085	313.82	3,357	331.93	+8.8	+5.8
Total Clearance	55.8%	N/A	55.5%	N/A	-0.2	N/A
Criminal Code Traffic	2,695	274.15	2,980	294.65	+10.6	+7.5

TOTAL CRIMINAL & FEDERAL VIOLATIONS

- 38,691 **CRIMINAL & FEDERAL VIOLATIONS** were reported between January 1st and December 31st, 2008, compared to 37,425 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an increase of 1,266 violations or 3.4 percent. Based on the rate of Criminal & Federal violations per 100,000 population, there has been an **increase of 0.5 percent**.

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

- 6,933 **CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS** (Violent Crime) violations were reported between January 1st and December 31st, 2008 compared to 6,465 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an increase of 468 violations or 7.2 percent. The violent crime rate in 2008 was 685.51 compared to 657.64 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an **increase of 4.2 percent**. The rise in this category is largely attributable to the changes made to reporting methodology on April 1, 2008, driven most significantly by moving Harassing Phone Call occurrences from the Other Criminal Code category to Crimes Against Persons. Although the changes in reporting had a significant impact on the 2008 figures, significant increases were otherwise seen in Sexual Assault and Violations Deprivation Freedom. Decreases occurred in Violations Causing Death and Assault.
- 2 **VIOLATIONS CAUSING DEATH** (Homicide and Criminal Negligence Cause Death) were reported in 2008 compared to 8 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents a decrease of 6 violations or 75.0 percent. Based on the rate of Violations Causing Death per 100,000 population, there has been a **decrease of 75.7 percent**.
- 16 **ATTEMPT CAPITAL CRIME** violations were reported in 2008 compared to 12 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an increase of 4 violations or 33.3 percent. Based on the rate of Attempt Capital Crime violations per 100,000 population, there has been an **increase of 29.6 percent**.
- 435 **SEXUAL ASSAULT** violations were reported in 2008 compared to 290 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an increase of 145 violations or 50.0 percent. Based on the rate of Sexual Assault violations per 100,000 population, there has been an **increase of 45.8 percent**.
- 3,590 **ASSAULT** violations were reported in 2008 compared to 3,688 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents a decrease of 98 violations or 2.7 percent. Based on the rate of Assault violations per 100,000 population, there has been a **decrease of 5.4 percent**.

- 384 **ROBBERY** violations were reported in 2008 compared to 438 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents a decrease of 54 violations or 12.3 percent. Based on the rate of Robbery violations per 100,000 population, there has been a **decrease of 14.8 percent**. Car Jacking incidents represent 2.9 percent of the total Robbery violations while Home Invasions represent 7.3 percent. Street related robberies during this period represent 66.9 percent of all robberies.

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

- 23,892 **CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY** (Property Crime) violations were reported between January 1st and December 31st, 2008 compared to 23,204 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an increase of 688 violations or 3.0 percent. The property crime rate in 2008 was 2,362.36 compared to 2,360.39 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an **increase of 0.1 percent**.
- 1,535 **STOLEN VEHICLES** were reported in 2008 compared to 1,828 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents a decrease of 293 vehicles or 16.0 percent. Based on the rate of stolen vehicles per 100,000 population, there has been a **decrease of 18.4 percent**. Automobiles continue to represent almost half of the vehicles stolen at 46.1 percent with Honda continuing to be the most common make, at 22.5 percent. Ford, at 17.6 percent, was the most frequent make of truck stolen.

OTHER CRIMINAL CODE

- 4,509 **OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (INCLUDING WEAPONS & PUBLIC MORALS)** violations were reported in 2008 compared to 4,671 during the corresponding period in 2008. This represents a decrease of 162 violations or 3.5 percent. Based on the rate of Other Criminal Code violations per 100,000 population, there has been a **decrease of 6.2 percent**. The decrease in this category is largely attributable to the changes made to reporting methodology on April 1, 2008, driven most significantly by moving Harassing Phone Call occurrences from the Other Criminal Code category to Crimes Against Persons

CLEARANCE RATE

- The **CLEARANCE RATE for Crimes Against Persons decreased to 78.6 percent** in 2008 from 81.0 percent in 2007. The **Property Crime clearance rate decreased slightly to 37.5 percent** in 2008 from 37.6 percent in 2007. The **overall clearance rate for Criminal Code & Federal Violations** remained virtually unchanged, **decreasing slightly to 55.5 percent** in 2008 from 55.8 percent in 2007.

CRIMINAL CODE TRAFFIC

- 2,980 **CRIMINAL TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS** were reported in 2008 compared to 2,695 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an increase of 285 violations or 10.6 percent.

Based on the rate of Criminal Traffic violations per 100,000 population, there has been an **increase of 7.5 percent**.

- 1,375 **IMPAIRED OPERATION/RELATED VIOLATIONS** were reported in 2008 compared to 1,122 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an increase of 253 violations or 22.5 percent. Based on the rate of Impaired Operation/Related violations per 100,000 population, there has been an **increase of 19.1 percent**.
- 387 **DANGEROUS OPERATION** violations were reported in 2008 compared to 359 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an increase of 28 violations or 7.8 percent. Based on the rate of Dangerous Operation violations per 100,000 population, there has been an **increase of 4.8 percent**.
- 17,604 **REPORTABLE MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION REPORTS** were processed in 2008 compared to 16,711 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an increase of 893 reports or 5.3 percent. Based on the rate of reportable motor vehicle collisions per 100,000 population, there has been an **increase of 2.4 percent**.
- 29 **FATAL COLLISIONS** occurred on our roadways in 2008 compared to 24 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an **increase of 20.8 percent** or 5 collisions.
- 32 **PERSONS DIED** on our roadways in 2008 compared to 27 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an **increase of 18.5 percent** or 5 persons.

YOUTH CRIME

- **YOUTH CRIME** (the number of Youths Formally Charged and Processed By Other Means) in York Region increased slightly to 0.8 percent in 2008 compared to the corresponding period in 2007. The number of young persons charged decreased 4.6 percent while the number of youths processed by other means increased 4.3 percent. The Youth Crime rate **decreased 1.4 percent**.

HATE CRIME

- **HATE CRIME** reported in York Region **increased 8.1 percent** in 2008 compared to the corresponding period in 2007. There were 80 criminal occurrences of hate motivated crime reported in 2008 compared to 74 in 2007.

DOMESTIC RELATED OCCURRENCES

- 4,685 **DOMESTIC RELATED** occurrences (criminal and non-criminal) were reported in 2008 compared to 4,243 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an **increase of**

10.4 percent or 442 occurrences. Of the total occurrences reported, 30.7 percent resulted in charges, while no probable grounds for charges were found in 69.3 percent of the cases.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS

- 239,948 **CALLS FOR SERVICE** were received in 2008 compared to 227,949 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an increase of 11,999 calls or 5.3 percent. Based on the rate of Calls for Service per 100,000 population, there has been an **increase of 2.3 percent**.
- In 2008, 201,423 **9-1-1 CALLS** were received in the Communications Bureau compared to 194,384 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an **increase of 3.6 percent**. The number of non-emergency calls increased 0.9 percent from 408,199 to 411,934. The total number of calls received increased 1.8 percent from 602,583 to 613,357.
- **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT** processed 7,499 requests for motor vehicle collision/incident summary reports in 2008 compared to 8,381 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents a decrease of 882 requests or 10.5 percent. The number of police clearance letters processed in 2008 increased 4.0 percent from the corresponding period in 2007 (21,796 to 22,665) and the number of volunteer screening letters also increased 8.9 percent (21,774 to 23,717).
- During 2008, a total of 1,861 **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION** requests were received compared to 1,753 during the corresponding period in 2007. This represents an **increase of 6.2 percent** or 108 requests for information. Formal requests increased 6.2 percent (206 from 194) and the number of informal requests also increased 6.2 percent (1,655 from 1,559).
- **ALARM CALLS** saw a **7.2 percent decrease** in calls received (21,150 from 22,788) in 2008. The number of false alarms continues to be problematic with 99.4 percent of the calls being false. This remained unchanged from 2007.
- **CRIME STOPPERS TIPS decreased 3.4 percent** in 2008 compared to 2007 (1,381 from 1,429). Arrests made as a result of Crime Stoppers tips increased 60.8 percent (82 from 51). Authorized rewards increased 96.3 percent (\$24,245 from \$12,350).
- The **VICTIM SERVICES OF YORK REGION** program saw increases in on-scene occurrences (15.5 percent) and the number of telephone crisis calls/office visits (8.7 percent). In 2008, Female clients represented 65.5 percent of the total clients served while male clients represented 5.2 percent and children represented 29.3 percent.

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 September 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.

York Region continued to enjoy a stable and low crime rate and a high total clearance rate in 2008. 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 and

Local Councils, community leaders, 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.

A more detailed report of the 2008 Annual Statistics is attached to this report.

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

APL:wd