

**2021 Annual Report**  
**YORK REGIONAL POLICE**





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**Maurizio Bevilacqua, Chair  
Mayor of the City of Vaughan**



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Emmerson, Vice  
Chair, Regional  
Chair & C.E.O.**



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Appointee**



**Norma  
McCullough  
Regional  
Appointee**



**Steve Pellegrini  
Mayor of the  
Township of  
King**



**Walter Perchal  
Provincial  
Appointee**



**Steve Z. Ranot  
Provincial  
Appointee**

# Message From the Chair of the Police Services Board

On behalf of the York Regional Police Services Board, I am pleased to present the 2021 York Regional Police Annual Report. This past year continued to be challenging; however, the Board continued to exercise its governance responsibility and York Regional Police continued to ensure the safety and security of York Region residents.

As Chair, I am grateful to work with Board members who truly care about our community and dedicate themselves to public service. As a Board, we continue to provide responsible, effective and transparent governance of the highest standard.

During this term, we continued to focus on the important and vital pillars of diversity, equity and inclusion. In July 2021, the Board held its first Anti-Black Racism and Building Trust Committee meeting. The committee was established to support the Board in addressing policing concerns and identifying and addressing plans for action regarding recommendations from Black community leaders and representatives. The committee's mandate is to address and develop an implementation plan for the Board, consisting of action-oriented objectives with concrete recommendations for change.

The 2021 YRP Annual Report details initiatives and accomplishments in 2021 that demonstrate the importance of partnerships with all levels of government, stakeholders and the residents of York Region to ensure successful, safe and strong communities. The report also features information on community engagement and crime prevention programs, features on YRP officers and ongoing projects, organizational and individual awards and provides statistical information on public complaints, key objectives, performance outcomes and the 2021 Business Plan accomplishments of the police service.

I want to thank the Board for their commitment to strong governance and Chief MacSween and the members of York Regional Police for continuing to ensure York Region remains safe. Please take some time to review the report to learn more about important statistical information, the policing outreach and initiatives which support and promote community engagement and our crime prevention and victim support programs.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Chief Jim MacSween**

# Message From the Chief of Police

On behalf of the Executive Command Team, Deputy Chiefs Brian Bigras, Paulo Da Silva, Cecile Hammond and Robertson Rouse, I am pleased to present the York Regional Police 2021 Annual Report.

We celebrated 50 years of policing excellence in 2021 with historical facts and photos shared on our social media channels each week throughout the year. We also commemorated this significant milestone by designing and writing *York Regional Police: 50 Years of Excellence in Policing*, an elegant book filled with historical images of our members and equipment spanning five decades. Proceeds from the sale of these beautiful books support Special Olympics Ontario and the United Way.

We made great strides in our efforts to police through the lens of human rights in 2021. We struck a community consultative roundtable to address anti-Black racism and provided specialized training to combat anti-Asian racism, incidents of which rose during the pandemic. We continued to build our Inclusion Strategy, which incorporates additional training for officers, improved community engagement and diversity surveys to ensure we are on the right track in becoming more inclusive, both in the community and within our organization.

Significant operational successes were realized in 2021, including in our ongoing fight to thwart the scourge of organized crime in several areas. These include dismantling an international drug trafficking enterprise in Project Cheetah, taking down a high-end, vehicle-theft ring in Project Majestic, tackling residential break, enter and theft rings in Project Rise and keeping the heat on organized street racers and stunt drivers in Project Takeover.

We made several technological advances that have improved service to our community. We launched the Community Safety Data Portal, an interactive crime map that provides citizens easy access to crime statistics, trends and data in their neighbourhoods and across the region. We also introduced Spidr Tech, a software program that sends customised text or email messages to citizens who report break and enters and motor vehicle collisions. These messages include information about citizens' calls for service, updates about stolen property and follow ups to ensure they were satisfied with the service received.

Our organization continued to operate under provincial restrictions due to COVID-19 and I'm proud of our members who continued to demonstrate dedication, commitment to community and operational skill in keeping our citizens safe and secure during this time.

Our sincere thanks to the members of the Police Services Board and regional and municipal councils for their ongoing support and for providing the resources needed to ensure our community remains inclusive, welcoming and safe for all residents.

# Code of Professional Ethics

In both our service to the community and conduct in the workplace, we uphold the high ethical standards expected of us by members of the public and our organization. This Code of Ethics reflects our values and guides our actions each and every day.

- We faithfully administer the law in a just, impartial and reasonable manner to everyone, regardless of their race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status or disability
- We promote equality, diversity and inclusivity, both in the community and in the workplace. We treat everyone with dignity and respect
- We uphold our position of public trust by serving the community with integrity, professionalism and honesty. We are accountable for our behavior, both in the community and in the workplace
- We preserve the rights and freedoms of all individuals in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code



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## **OUR MISSION**

We will ensure our citizens feel safe and secure through excellence in policing.

## **OUR VISION**

To make a difference in our community.

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## **OUR VALUES**

To best serve our community and our people, we are committed to living our values. These shared beliefs guide our conduct with members of the public and our colleagues each and every day.

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### **RESPECT**

We value and treat all people with dignity.

### **COMPASSION**

We care about the well-being of our members and the community.

### **FAIRNESS**

We are just and impartial in everything we say and do.

### **PROFESSIONALISM**

We conduct ourselves with honesty and integrity, and we are accountable for our actions.

### **COURAGE**

We have the moral strength to stand up and to do what is right.

# District Highlights

Officers' initiative, compassion helps less-fortunate family find necessities on frigid day.

## #1 DISTRICT: RESPONDING WITH WARMTH

On one of the coldest days of the year, Constable Brandon Vig went the extra mile to ensure a pair of women living in a car received a warm meal and the bare essentials.

The officer became concerned when he noticed movement inside a parked sedan in an Aurora church parking lot. Inside, a middle-aged woman and her elderly mother sat bundled up in winter coats, hats and blankets, while condensation from their breath turned to frost on the car's windows. They told the officer that they lived in the vehicle, but couldn't afford the fuel to keep the car running.

Thanks to an initiative called Hope in Motion, launched by Vig's colleague Alison Cornfield, he was well prepared to provide assistance.

In #1 District, the program saw each patrol car equipped with a warming package complete with gloves, hand warmers, gift cards and contact information for local shelters.

Vig offered the package to the women but they accepted only a coffee-shop gift card, telling him they had no need for the other items.

Unsatisfied and concerned for the women's well-being, Vig headed to the station, where higher-value gift cards were available through the YRP Holiday Heroes program. The women were most thankful when he returned with several gift cards for groceries and toiletries.

## #2 DISTRICT: LENDING A HAND TO A NEW MOM

An act of kindness elevated Constable Pedro Bernardo from officer to hero in the eyes of an overwhelmed new mother caught in a snowstorm.

The #2 District constable was nominated for a Police Services Hero of the Year Award after providing a safe space for a new mom and her three-month-old baby in February 2021.

The single mom, with her baby in the car, was battling a worsening snow storm after picking up equipment at her workplace. She was still on the road three hours later and the baby was crying uncontrollably.

Thankfully, the stressed-out mom had the good sense to call #2 District, as it was just up the road. Constable Bernardo answered the phone. She blurted out she knew the building was closed to the public but she needed a place to feed and change her baby.

Without hesitation, Constable Bernardo answered, "I'll meet you outside. Park anywhere. I got you."

The mom and baby William were welcomed into the station.

"He met me outside, showed me to a quiet room and helped me with my things. He watched the baby, so I could go to the bathroom and offered me a drink," his nominee said. "After an hour, William had become the unofficial mascot of the station and made lots of new friends."

With words of encouragement and an invitation to return for another visit, mom and baby were calm enough to then head safely home.

"Constable Bernardo had no way of knowing I was a recently single mom who was terrified about our future," said the appreciative mom. "He saved my life in more ways than one that day and I will forever be grateful for him for being there on one of the toughest days I've ever had."



# District Highlights

Frontline officers, district-level investigators team up to track down drug dealers across the region.

## #3 DISTRICT: CONSIDER THE SOURCE

The arrest of prolific opioid dealers were just a few checks off the to-do list during a major investigation conducted by #3 District investigators in 2021.

A pair of drug probes, dubbed Heater and Heater II, spanned more than four months and included the seizure of nearly \$95,000 in cash and a haul of drugs worth nearly the same amount. The narcotics included fentanyl, MDMA, cocaine, psilocybin, Oxycocet pills and cannabis.

Twenty-three people were arrested and face more than 80 charges related to drug trafficking. The enforcement helped decimate Georgina's illicit drug market following a surge of overdoses, including at least five deaths in 2020.

During the investigation, several known substance users were educated on the dangers of opioids entering the community and took major steps toward rehabilitation.

## #4 AND #5 DISTRICT: FLUSHING OUT DEALERS

When police came knocking on drug dealers' doors in 2021, common sense went down the drain. Partially down, at least.

An investigation led by officers in #4 District resulted in four arrests during three search warrants in September. Detectives also seized several long guns, a handgun, replica firearms, knives, ammunition and a veritable treasure trove of narcotics: 70 grams of heroin, 73 grams of fentanyl, 129 grams of crystal meth, 154 grams of cocaine, two pounds of magic mushrooms and 103 opioid pills.

The drugs were slated for distribution across the region, but instead, some found their way into a toilet when suspects at a Newmarket home tried to flush dozens of cocaine baggies. Fortunately for police—and the municipal waterworks—the toilet clogged.

A drug dealer arrested by #5 District officers in November was only slightly more successful.

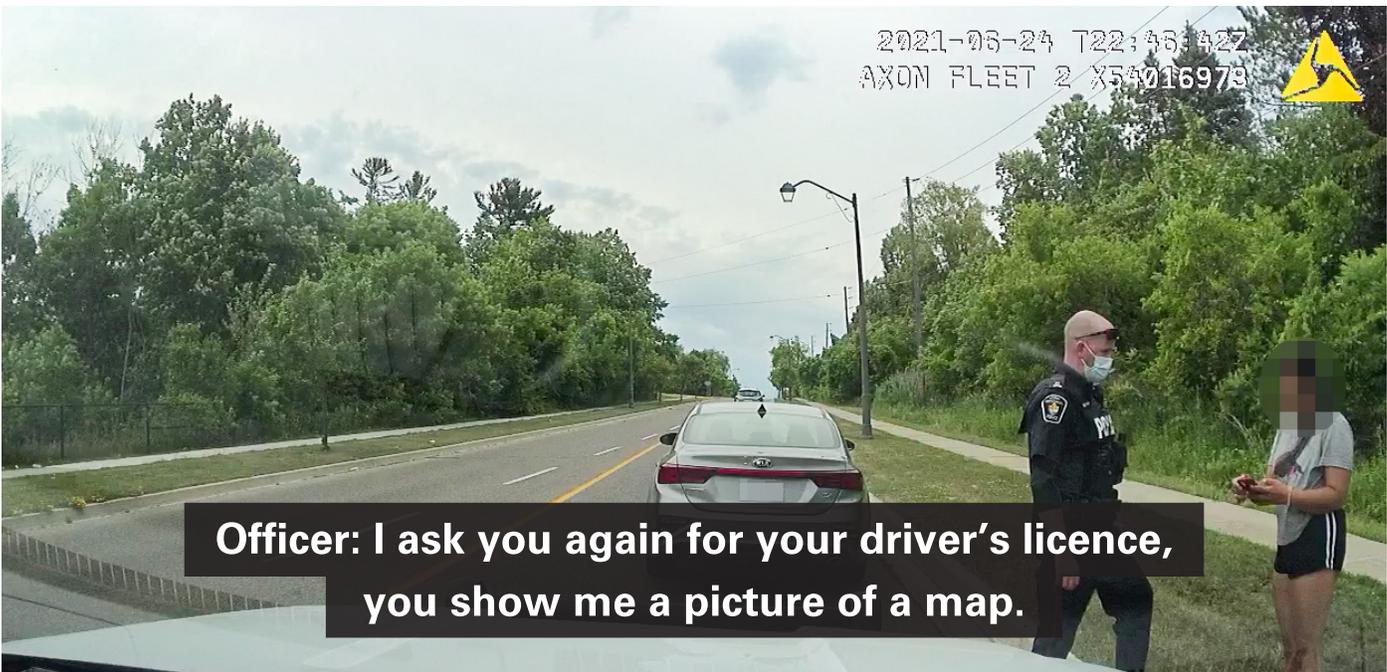
The investigation started with a traffic stop for a car's tinted windows. Shortly after Constable Ashton Hyde pulled over the vehicle, he discovered cannabis in the driver's pocket. Further digging turned up more cannabis and a loaded Glock 35 handgun, along with an extended magazine. The male driver and female passenger, both 19, were arrested and charged with various firearms offences.

Hours later, when #5 District investigators executed a search warrant at a related Toronto address, they found a 25-year-old man trying to flush crystal meth down a toilet. He was arrested and charged after officers fished out a handful of the soggy drugs, in addition to packaging material, sealed cannabis ready for distribution and prohibited ammunition.

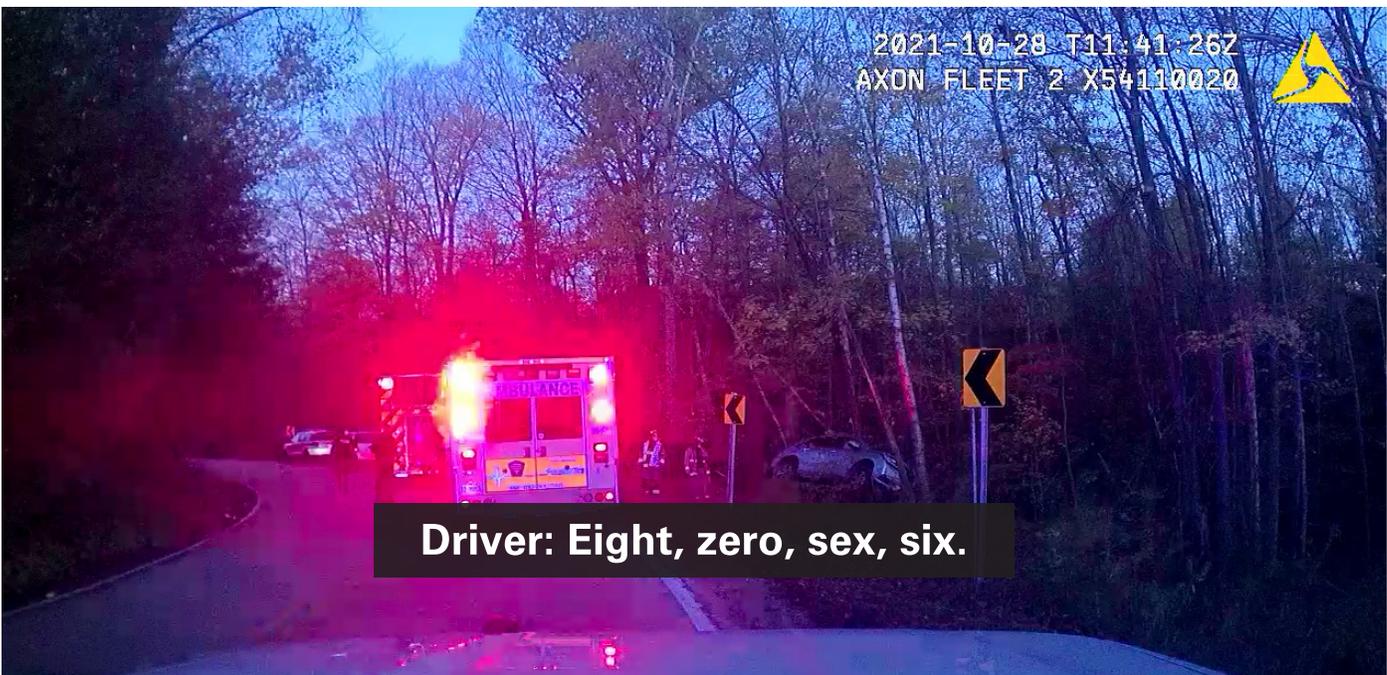




**Caller: I pulled up and there's a 12-year-old kid driving the car.**



**Officer: I ask you again for your driver's licence, you show me a picture of a map.**



**Driver: Eight, zero, sex, six.**

# Caught on Video

Citizens and officers team up in the fight against impaired driving.

## IMPAIRED MAN ENLISTS KID DRIVER

[WATCH THIS VIDEO ON YOUTUBE](#)

After a swerving, silver Toyota Corolla caught the attention of a man driving in Aurora on the afternoon of May 1, he decided to pull up next to the car to get a better look at the driver.

Looking back at him from the driver's seat was an 11-year-old boy. The man called 9-1-1 immediately. He then followed the vehicle into a parking lot, where he watched the boy switch seats with an older man, who

was originally sitting in the passenger side. With the adult at the wheel, the car continued westbound on Wellington Street, where it was stopped by police who had hurried to the scene.

The 52-year-old driver—who admitted to often permitting his son to drive—was charged with operating the vehicle while impaired by drugs and endangering the child.

## STOP IN THE NAME OF THE LAW

[WATCH THIS VIDEO ON YOUTUBE](#)

As he does at every traffic stop, Constable Dan Pritchard asked a driver for her license after watching her race through two intersections without even a pause at the stop signs on June 24 in Vaughan.

In return, the driver produced her phone, which was playing a music application, while staring blankly at the officer. When he repeated his request, this time, the confused driver showed the officer a map on the phone.

Smelling alcohol and concerned for the safety of a young girl riding in the backseat, Constable Pritchard asked

the driver to step out of the vehicle. The incoherent interactions continued until the woman was placed under arrest for impaired driving.

A search of the vehicle, later found to be a rental, uncovered empty liquor bottles and a case of empty beer cans. Back at #4 District headquarters, the 33-year-old's breath test revealed that her blood-alcohol content was more than twice the legal limit.

The driver was charged with impaired-related offences and driving with a suspended G1 license.

## SPOILER ALERT: THERE IS NO SISTER

[WATCH THIS VIDEO ON FACEBOOK](#)

It was almost 7:30 a.m. on June 24 when officers arrived at the scene of a crash on Newmarket's 19th Sideroad. They found an Acura SUV perched on its driver's side, wedged among trees that lined the edge of the roadway.

A young woman sitting on the rear bumper of a fire truck, wearing only one sneaker on her left foot, told first responders her sister had been driving the car and fled on foot shortly after it lurched into the ditch.

The man who first discovered the accident disagreed. He had called 9-1-1 after finding the car with the woman behind the wheel, revving the engine in an attempt to free the vehicle from the jam. He said there was no sister in sight.

Officers later discovered the woman's other shoe lodged beneath the car's gas pedal. A breath test conducted after the woman's arrest confirmed she was impaired. The 21-year-old had a blood-alcohol level over three times the legal limit.





## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

The flag of the Anishinabek nation flew at YRP facilities across the region, including the Marine Unit Headquarters in Georgina, to mark National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21. Our members and community partners also came together for a candlelight vigil in memory of the children who died or suffered abuse in residential schools. More than 350 luminaries lined the exterior of the Marine Unit, overlooking Lake Simcoe, to honour the hundreds of children and families impacted by the trauma. YRP continues to support the reconciliation process by listening, learning and collaborating with our indigenous community partners, including our closest, the Chippewas of Georgina Island.

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# Joint-Forces Operations and Internal Task Forces

Collaboration with policing partners helps tackle organized crime, public safety concerns.

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## JFO: PROJECT MAJESTIC

Project Majestic identified members of an organized crime group stealing mid to high-end vehicles across the GTA, which were then driven or transported to Montreal to be sold and shipped overseas. Eight search warrants were executed in the GTA and in Brossard, Quebec and 73 stolen vehicles, valued at \$4.5 million, were recovered. Fifteen people face 180 charges, including Conspiracy, Trafficking of Property Obtained by Crime and Theft. See page 26 for more details.

**Project cost: \$63,715.**

## JFO: PROJECT HAMMER

Close to \$7 million worth of trafficked firearms and drugs were seized in this five-month investigation that resulted in 250 people charged with 49 offences, including Trafficking Firearms and Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking. Seized items included four rifles, eight handguns and five vehicles.

**Project Cost: \$563,176.**

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## JFO: PROJECT CHEETAH

An organized crime group operating internationally was importing large quantities of drugs into Canada and using a robust network to distribute them nationwide. This organization also extended into the United States and India. More than 130 charges were laid against 33 people in the year-long probe and seized drugs and cash totaled \$3 million. Drugs were being stored at several locations across the GTA, including at a children's play place in Brampton. See page 21 for more details.

**Project cost: \$526,772.**

## JFO: PROJECT TERCERO

This seven-month investigation focused on a criminal team who were fraudulently registering vehicles with the Ministry of Transportation, then distributing the vehicles to crime groups involved in residential break and enters and distraction thefts. Seven people were charged with 70 offences and 13 vehicles were recovered, worth \$32,000.

**Project cost: \$41,702.**

## OUR PARTNERS:



## JFO: PROJECT RISE

Thirteen people face 77 charges after this four-month investigation into an organized group of suspects using rental vehicles with stolen plates to commit a large number of residential break ins across Ontario. Seized property, worth \$162,000, included high-end handbags, jewelry, gang paraphernalia and three handguns.

**Project cost: \$84,961.**

## ITF: PROJECT TOWER

This investigation followed a violent home invasion in the City of Vaughan that left the victim hospitalized for more than a week. Three people were charged with 25 offences, including Aggravated Assault, Robbery with a Firearm and Break and Enter to Commit an Indictable Offence. More than \$20,000 worth of drugs were seized as well as a Glock handgun.

**Project cost: \$104,894.**

## JFO: PROJECT SOUTHAM

Undercover officers purchased tens of thousands of dollars worth of steroids, cocaine and other drugs over the course of this eight-month investigation, which resulted in the arrests of 26 people who face 141 charges. More than \$4 million worth of property and drugs were seized, including seven high-end vehicles, more than \$300,000 in currency and a large amount of illegal drugs.

**Project cost: \$363,918.**

## ITF: PROJECT BIJITA

This nine-month long investigation focused on suspects trafficking fentanyl and cocaine across the GTA and resulted in more than \$500,000 worth of drugs seized, along with \$56,000 in cash. Seven people were arrested on 48 charges after more than 617 grams of fentanyl and 82 grams of cocaine were trafficked to an undercover officer.

**Project cost: \$60,752.**

A **joint-forces operation** is an investigation made possible by the teamwork of two or more partnering police services or law enforcement agencies.

An **internal task force** is an investigation that combines the resources of two or more units within York Regional Police.



# Project Cheetah

Multi-jurisdictional investigation dismantles international drug network, takes \$2.3 million in drugs off the street.

In an effort to hide their illicit supply, drug traffickers often get creative with the location of their stash houses. From unassuming residential homes to storefronts, local drug depots are often hiding in plain sight.

But when investigators learned that an indoor children's playland was being used to store and traffic heroin as part of an international drug ring—that was a new low.

"It was disturbing to discover that a place where our children go to play and have fun, was actually being used as a stash house for deadly opioids," said Detective Rommel Dimatulac. "We saw this as such a violation of our most vulnerable—our kids—that we were all the more committed to dismantling the operation."

In May 2020, members of our Guns, Gangs and Drug Enforcement Unit launched an investigation, dubbed Project Cheetah, into a large-scale drug trafficking network involved in importing large quantities of cocaine, ketamine, heroin and opium into the Greater Toronto Area.

Investigators discovered that this criminal network extended to Western Canada, the United States and India through a sophisticated distribution system. Given the multi-jurisdictional reach, YRP worked in partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Peel Regional Police and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

On Thursday, April 8, 2021, police in Ontario, British Columbia and California executed more than 50 search warrants, including at the children's playland in Brampton and a mansion in Caledon.

Officers seized \$2.3 million worth of drugs including 10 kilograms of cocaine, eight kilograms of ketamine, three kilograms of heroin and two-and-a-half kilograms of opium. Also seized were 48 firearms and \$730,000 in Canadian currency.

"Project Cheetah recovered a significant quantity of illegal drugs and firearms, much of which was destined for the streets of York Region," said Superintendent Ryan Hogan, who was an officer in charge of the investigation.

"All 48 guns were found in the luxury home in Caledon. This arsenal included shotguns and rifles, one of which had a tactical long-distance scope. This is very menacing firepower, which speaks to the violence and criminality associated with the drug trade," Hogan said.

"And equally devastating to our community are the opioids themselves, which are highly addictive and deadly. They can destroy the lives of both substance users and their families. That's why taking illegal drugs and guns off the street will always be a priority for York Regional Police."

In total, 33 people were charged with more than 130 criminal offences relating to drug trafficking and possession. The case is currently before the courts.

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# Putting Member Wellness First

Wellness services under one roof supports holistic well-being of YRP members, families and retirees.

Every day, our members serve their community with professionalism and compassion, often providing support in times of crisis. And in turn, York Regional Police is committed to taking care of the holistic well-being of our members—and their families—so they can continue to make a difference to the residents of our region.

“Working in law enforcement can place strains on mental and physical health that if ignored, can be harmful to one’s overall well-being. It is critical that our members receive the services and supports they need, when they need them,” said the YRP Chief Psychologist Dr. Kyle Handley.

In fall 2021, we opened the doors to a new Wellness Centre, in partnership with the York Regional Police Association. This state-of-the-art building houses our newly expanded Wellness Bureau, which works to advance our organizational priority of caring for the physical, psychological, social and spiritual health of members, their families and retirees.

This 6,600-square-foot facility will house most of the YRP units that contribute to member well-being, such as Peer Support and Psychological Services, to encourage collaborative, high-quality care that members can access with ease.

The move to the new Wellness Centre marks the expansion and reorganization of wellness services at YRP, which takes a stepped-care approach to the prevention and treatment of all health concerns, integrating training, internal supports and community partnerships.

The rest of the Wellness Centre space is open to members, allowing our family support services to host events.

This facility is the first of its kind in Canada and represents the continued commitment of the Police Services Board and our Executive Command Team to the health and well-being of our sworn and civilian staff.

“This space will allow us to continue to grow our wellness services and support our members in their efforts to keep our communities safe and healthy,” said Dr. Handley.





# Improvise, Adapt, Overcome

## Training and Education Bureau members think outside box to teach through pandemic.

During the pandemic, restrictions on in-person training forced members of our Training and Education Bureau to come up with new, innovative ways to deliver needed training.

COVID-19 threatened to hamper operations on the frontline, where new recruits were desperately needed. In 2020 and 2021, trainers developed one solution after another to not only maintain the quality of training afforded to those recruits, but to enhance it. Their efforts have allowed 142 new recruits to enter the workforce since the start of the pandemic.

Those efforts included delivering training virtually and working outside regularly scheduled business hours.

“They were never told they had to do it, but they were committed to the mission and it makes me incredibly proud,” said Inspector Chirag Bhatt, who joined the bureau in October 2021.

By then, bureau members were already conducting business differently in response to the pandemic. To manage five recruit classes in 2020 and 2021, training staff developed an asynchronous learning model, allowing groups of students to tackle entire parts of the curriculum separately. While one cohort fired hundreds of rounds in the range to master their firearm skills, another group sat in a virtual classroom, learning about drug investigations. While some masked up to practice handcuffing each other, others familiarized themselves with policies and procedures from the comfort of their homes. Subject-matter experts and guest speakers, who once might have paid a visit to the officers-to-be, dialed in on Skype or Zoom instead.

If cadets-in-training were required to isolate due to potential exposure to COVID-19, they connected to their classrooms remotely to participate in training. When illness forced them to miss class, trainers were ready to bring them up to speed upon their return—even if that meant skipping lunches to redeliver class content.

Staff in the Technology and Skills Development Unit, tasked with exploring new teaching platforms, set boundaries for the type of information that could be

shared online and worked with in-house corporate security experts to ensure the privacy of that information.

As rapid tests for COVID-19 became more widely available, the bureau used them to ensure the hands-on parts of the job could be taught safely. When two people needed to share a car for a police vehicle operations exercise, for example, they conducted rapid tests to ensure participants were virus-free.

When it came to keeping cadets on track for deployment in the region, “everything was on the table,” Bhatt said. Everything but lowering the standard of training, which has long been one of the organization’s hallmarks.

The trainees were just as flexible, said Staff Sergeant Jason Hayes, head of the Academics Unit. “With each recruit class, you had a set of younger people who were increasingly more comfortable with the technology,” he said.

Each batch of new officers were eager to start their dream jobs and helped trainers clear any obstacles along the way. Constable Christina Ieradi, a member of the last class of the year, said she felt part of a well-oiled machine once she returned from the Ontario Police College to complete her preparation for work on the frontline.

“By the time I got the phone call, YRP had already established COVID protocols,” she said. “Training a recruit class during the pandemic was something they had already accomplished successfully.”

Despite the new roads paved by the Training and Education Bureau, the final path walked by each recruit—those steps toward the chief to receive their badge—remained as it always has been: One surrounded in sheer jubilation. In the hours before she went from cadet-in-training to police constable, Ieradi recalls refreshing her email inbox repeatedly, anxious to learn where she had been assigned to patrol.

“To say I was excited is an understatement,” said Ieradi, who now serves Vaughan and parts of King Township in her assignment to #4 District.

“Receiving the badge was surreal.”

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# Gone in 60 Seconds

Hundreds of stolen vehicles recovered,  
more than 100 arrested in theft rings.

Turns out an unattended vehicle really can be gone in 60 seconds.

“Tech savvy thieves can break into your vehicle, reprogram its ignition system and drive off in less than a minute,” said Detective Sergeant Pat Smyth, who oversees the Auto/Cargo Theft Unit (ACTU). “Luxury vehicles are in high demand and many of these hot cars are destined for the international black market.”

In 2021, more than 2,000 vehicles were stolen from driveways and parking lots across York Region, a sharp increase over the past two years.

Despite the volume of thefts and the sophistication of the criminals behind them, investigators with our ACTU were successful in disrupting and dismantling numerous large-scale crime groups operating within the region and beyond. Over the past 12 months, the team made more than 100 arrests and recovered 350 vehicles through three major operations: Crockpot, Moose and Majestic.

Through Project Majestic alone, investigators seized \$4.5 million worth of stolen high-end vehicles, particularly Lexus, Toyota and Honda sport utility vehicles. The ACTU team identified a criminal syndicate responsible for stealing high-end vehicles from residential driveways across the GTA. The suspects entered the vehicle and reprogrammed the ignition computer, allowing it to be driven away using a new key.

The stolen cars made their way to the Port of Montreal, where they were loaded onto ships and delivered to buyers in Africa or the United Arab Emirates.

Following this two-month investigation, officers executed eight search warrants across the GTA and in Brossard, Quebec. Seventy-three stolen vehicles were seized and charges included Conspiracy, Trafficking of Property Obtained by Crime and Theft of a Motor Vehicle.

The ACTU carried out its 2021 investigations in partnership with Peel Regional Police, the Toronto Police Service, the Durham Regional Police Service, authorities in Quebec, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Canada Border Services Agency and the newly formed insurance crime investigator Équité Association.

“Given the advances in technology used to steal cars, thieves might think they’ve never had it easier. They’re wrong,” said Superintendent Duncan MacIntyre, commander in charge of the Organized Crime and Intelligence Services Bureau.

“As thieves get more creative and sophisticated in their criminal operations, we too step up our investigative game to stay one step ahead.”





# New Technology Connects us with Community

Innovative technology helps relay key information to public, promotes transparency and community engagement.

Over the past year, York Regional Police continued to solidify its place as a law enforcement leader in technology by introducing two new tools to enhance communication and engagement with our community.

YRP launched the Community Safety Data Portal in November 2021, a website where citizens can access a wealth of local crime statistics and crime prevention resources.

The portal features dashboards with the date and location of crime that has taken place in any area across York Region. Search functions can be tailored to specific crimes in specific neighbourhoods, making it easy to spot crime trends. Options for citizens to submit video evidence are also available on the site, as is a road safety map.

“This innovative, progressive tool allows us to be more transparent with citizens than ever before and empower them to help our officers solve and prevent crime, helping us keep our community safe,” said Deputy Chief of Administration Paulo Da Silva.

The Community Safety Data Portal was built in-house by members of our Business Intelligence and Data Analytics Unit and will continue to evolve to meet the growing needs of our community.

Spidr Tech, a software platform that sends customized text or email messages to victims of crime and members of the public who report crime, was fully implemented in February 2021.

YRP was the first police service in Canada to launch this cutting-edge platform, led by the Information Technology Bureau and assisted by members from across the organization.

More than 120,000 texts and emails have been sent to citizens who reported residential and commercial break and enters, motor vehicle collisions and fraud crimes. These digital communications provide key details about the status of calls for service. Follow-up surveys are also sent to gauge satisfaction with the services received.

“Through the implementation of the Spidr Tech platform, we are enhancing the efficiency and quality of our communication with the public, maintaining trust and confidence, while gaining valuable information from feedback surveys to improve the services we offer,” said DaSilva.

# Celebration for the Books

## YRP digs through old albums to honour policing past.

It was an impossible task, trying to cram a half-century's worth of prestigious policing heritage into one commemorative book. But it was well worth the effort.

To mark our police service's 50th anniversary, Corporate Communications staff researched, authored, designed and published an elegant coffee-table book. Sales of the photo-rich volume will serve as a major fundraiser for Special Olympics Ontario and United Way, two of the police service's charities of choice.

"This wasn't a vanity project for the organization," said Superintendent Alvaro Almeida, who helped to oversee the book's development. "It was our opportunity to celebrate the people who have contributed to the organization's success, while amassing a significant donation to our charitable partners."

Released in spring 2022, *York Regional Police: 50 Years of Excellence in Policing* is chock-full of historic images gleaned from the organization's own archives and from the personal collections of members past and present.

"Some were heaped by the dozen into brown banker's boxes with mushy bottoms and frayed edges," reads its introduction, written by Strategic Communications Specialist Billy Courtice, who led the project with Graphic Designer Mike Bastin. "Others were tucked carefully, once upon a time, into envelopes that shared both scent and shade with day-old, milky coffee."

All were restored in vivid detail within the book's pages, accompanying stories written following two years' worth of research and interviews. Hundreds of historic newspaper editions, magazines, organizational reports and, perhaps most importantly, retired and working members, were consulted over a two-year period.

Much of the work took place on the side of its creators' desks, as staff members continued work on their usual business. But the beautiful, 248-page tome will likely earn a prominent piece of real estate on the desks of many of its readers.

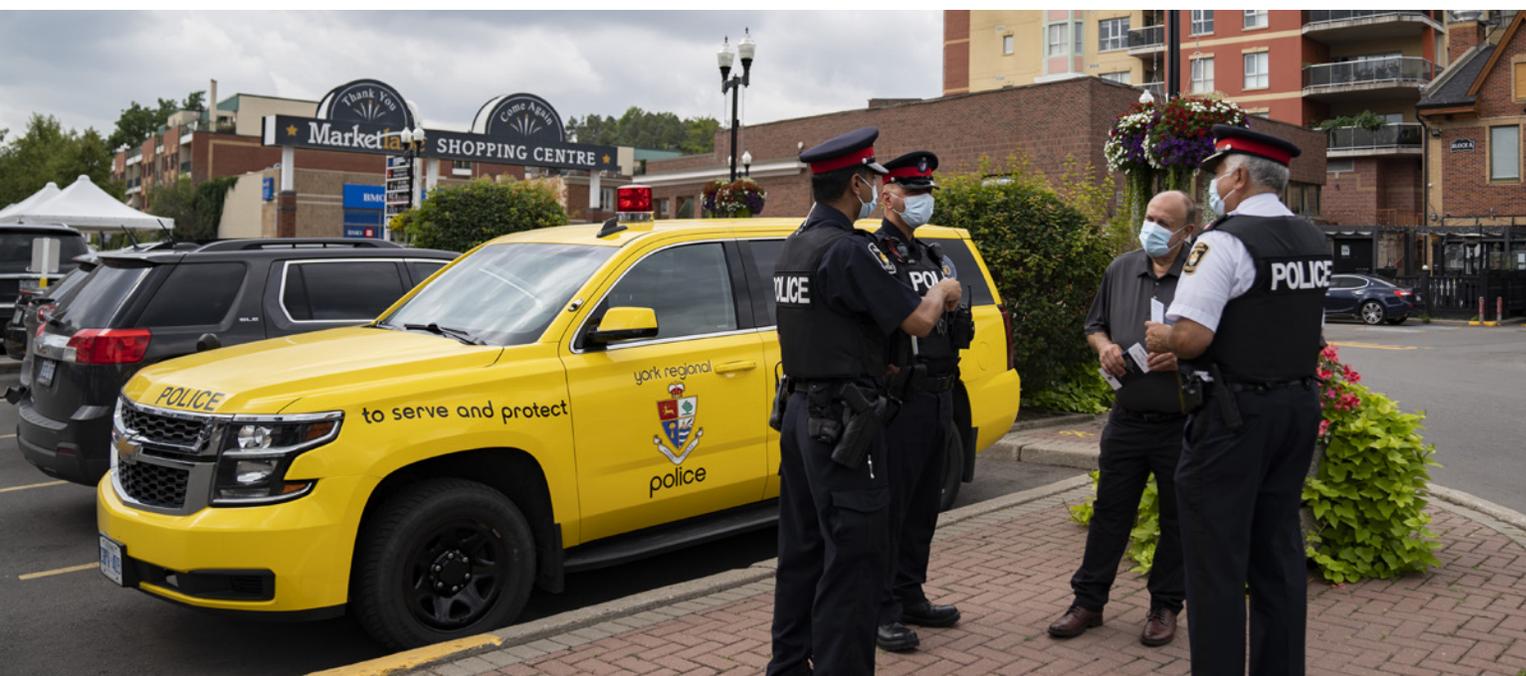
"This book was a labour of love and a tremendous accomplishment driven by Billy and Mike," Superintendent Almeida said. "They have thoughtfully curated a visual snapshot of our history, which will inspire pride in our members—past and present—and community alike."

The book served as the bookend to a larger anniversary campaign through 2021 called *YRP50*, which also included historic vignettes shared on YRP's social media platforms. The content shed light on our most important milestones and influential members.

The campaign spilled from social media to the street, where the 50-year tribute included three specially designed police cruisers. The trio included a bright, yellow SUV in the style of a 1971 cruiser; a red-and-white striped SUV reminiscent of police cars from the 1980s and '90s; and a modern-look cruiser featuring a large YRP50 seal on the rear windshield.

The 1971-styled vehicle made for a colourful backdrop at community events and schoolyard visits from officers in Community Services.

Looking for your own copy of *York Regional Police: 50 Years of Excellence in Policing*? Visit [yrp.ca/50Years](http://yrp.ca/50Years) to purchase a book and support Special Olympics Ontario and United Way.





## CRITICAL INCIDENT TRAINING

After the last shoppers had left for the day, members of our Emergency Response Unit (ERU) reported for duty at Upper Canada Mall in Newmarket on November 24. Together with York Region Paramedic Services, Central York Fire and a team of volunteers, ERU led an active shooter training scenario. These specialized exercises provide an opportunity to work collaboratively, practice and debrief high-risk scenarios. In doing so, our members and partners are prepared to respond quickly and effectively to any emergency situation. By training for the worst, we're ready to keep our community safe when it matters most.



# A Region Where Everyone Belongs

## Inclusive Policing Action Plan empowers members to work through the lens of equity and inclusion.

Our organizational transformation project, called Breakthrough, has resulted in service improvements across York Regional Police, including the commitment to policing through the lens of equity and inclusion.

Breakthrough, the three-year transformation of our organizational culture, came to a formal end in 2021, with many of the initiatives under that umbrella moving into operational units as the work continues.

Breakthrough was led by members, for members, and it is their determination and dedication that led to its success. We have achieved significant improvements across the organization including modernizing our shared values and Code of Ethics, based on the organization's two pillars—our people and our community.

Inclusion, both within our organization and our community, was a top Breakthrough priority. The Anti-Black Racism Working Group was established, as was a mandated multi-stage, equity-focused anti-racism training for all members and organizational leadership.

We are also improving recruiting practices to ensure our workforce better reflects the diverse region we serve, breaking down selection barriers, providing more mentorship opportunities for new members and addressing marginalization with the help of advanced data gathering and analysis.

Our newly formed Professionalism, Leadership and Inclusion Office (PLIO) fosters an organizational culture of civility while ensuring all members feel they belong. All people are valued and supported through equal access to opportunities for career growth and are supported in their professional goals and personal well-being.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau (DEIB) builds bridges of trust with the region's diverse racial, ethnic, religious and cultural groups. Members of the DEIB are also responsible for hate crime prevention and education across the region.

The DEIB, working in collaboration with our Afro-Caribbean Canadian Internal Support Network and the Executive Command Team, formed the Black Community

Consultative Roundtable with leaders of York Region's Black community in 2020. This was a needed partnership amidst tensions in the wake of George Floyd's death in Minneapolis, which prompted calls for police reform across North America.

"It was painfully obvious that our black community was profoundly impacted. We started by listening and educating ourselves on the issues they face every day. We heard our black community members and took action, through initiatives like the consultative roundtable," said Chief of Police Jim MacSween.

"While we've made great progress, there's much more work to do to eliminate racism in all of its ugly forms," added MacSween. "We all need to work together to build a community that is safe, secure, welcoming and inclusive—a place where everyone feels they belong."

The roundtable submitted 51 recommendations to the Police Services Board to dismantle systemic racism within policing that are currently being implemented.

Our deliberate focus on wellness has provided members with unprecedented access to confidential and effective wellness services, programs and training that touch on each area of member health (see page 22).

We've also achieved significant improvements in frontline workload and developed better processes for reporting and addressing member concerns which has, and continues to, increase respect, professionalism and inclusion in our workplace.

Over the past two years, the Communications Modernization Team redesigned training, staffing and supervision models in an effort to support members in our 9-1-1 Communication Centre and build a framework for future growth to meet the needs of the community and our organization.

We continue to modernize several areas of our service, ensuring our reputation as innovative and progressive policing leaders.



# Organizational Chart

In order to better serve the evolving needs of our community and our members, York Regional Police implemented a number of key changes to our organizational structure in 2021.

The enforcement and prevention of organized crime within our region remains a priority. We have strengthened our Organized Crime and Intelligence Services Bureau through a strategic restructuring. The newly created Financial and Organized Property Crimes Bureau includes units that focus on criminal groups committing financial crimes, property crimes and auto/cargo thefts. Additionally, a new Serious and Organized Crimes Bureau has been established to house the Major Projects Unit and Traditional Organized Crime Taskforce.

More than ever before, smart data is providing our members with real-time information that helps us deploy resources, solve crimes and respond to emergencies quickly and effectively. Our business intelligence tools also feed into our Community Data Safety Portal, which encourages the public to take an active role in community safety and crime prevention. The Business Intelligence and Data Analytics Bureau now reports directly to the Deputy Chief of Administration.

Following the three-year organizational transformation called Breakthrough, the Professionalism, Leadership and Inclusion Office was created to help build a culture of civility and inclusion, provide conflict resolution, oversee awards and recognition and help ensure that all members feel valued and supported at every stage of their career. This new bureau will report directly to the Chief of Police.

Breakthrough also helped establish the new People, Wellness and Talent (PWT) service area, formerly Staff Services. The vision of PWT is to ensure a people-centric approach to supporting members throughout their entire talent life cycle with York Regional Police. This service area will continue to report to the Deputy Chief of Administration.

To review our organizational chart online, visit [our website](#).





# 2021 Business Plan Accomplishments

## OUR COMMUNITY

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Virtual lessons and seminars hosted to highlight sustainable global goals of the Human Rights Education Classroom at the Community Safety Village
- Launched the Older Adult Seminar Information Series (O.A.S.I.S) online
- Social media campaigns promoted the roles and daily activities of Community Services members including social workers, the Mental Health Support Team and Senior Safety Officers

### COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

- The Community Safety Data Portal launched during Crime Prevention week in November. The portal allows community members to easily identify crime trends and community safety alerts
- Continued leading and participating in organized crime projects and joint-forces investigations with external police agencies
- Partnered with the Region of York to develop a Community Safety and Well-being Plan that takes a multi-sectoral approach to reducing risks and developing strategies to improving the overall well-being of our communities

### OPERATIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY

- Critical incident command and joint emergency preparedness scenarios conducted throughout York Region, together with local policing partners
- Road Safety Bureau utilized statistical data to target enforcement in areas known to be frequented by impaired drivers
- Established permanent Call Diversion Unit to continue diverting low-priority calls away from frontline officers and expedite service delivery

### EQUITY AND INCLUSION

- Virtual and in-person recruiting information sessions hosted for both members of the Asian and 2SLGBTQ+ communities
- Hosted the 2021 Hate Crime Conference to promote cultural awareness, education and training in identifying and investigating hate crimes
- Established an Anti-Racism Working Group, the Anti-Black Racism Working Group and Black Community Consultative Roundtable to address internal and community concerns related to racism

# OUR PEOPLE

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Leadership and emotional-intelligence training sessions delivered in virtual format to police officers in supervisor positions
- Reviewing processes of Staff Services Bureau led to transformation of office into People, Wellness and Talent. Hired a civilian senior director
- New courses designed and implemented for 9-1-1 Communications Centre members in alignment with the Communication Modernization Strategy

## TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

- New and enhanced dashboard applications adopted to track members' mandatory training and staffing levels
- Implemented systems to enhance the sharing of electronic information between YRP and courts
- Many sworn and civilian members have been trained on digital evidence solutions including Axon in-car camera and Digital Evidence Management Systems (DEMS). Trained frontline investigative members on digital evidence solutions including the new Axon Fleet2 in-car camera system

## MEMBER SUPPORT

- Professionalism, Leadership & Inclusion Office (PLIO) established to guide and maintain YRP's high standard of ethics and inclusion
- Developed member-centric alternate conflict resolution model
- Restructured units within the Wellness Bureau to increase available resources and promote a holistic approach to organization-wide well-being

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Creation of Projects and Continuous Improvement Unit to oversee the project management of significant strategic and organizational reviews
- Piloted flexible day shifts for frontline officers to improve workload balances and quality of life
- Construction was completed on the new #1 District Headquarters



CS18

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

  
9-1-1



## VULNERABLE PERSON REGISTRY

More than 1,340 families across York Region can rest a little easier knowing their loved ones are protected through the Vulnerable Person Registry (VPR). Available to anyone who may require assistance due to cognitive, intellectual, developmental disabilities or a tendency to wander, the VPR makes it easier to quickly locate participants in the event of an emergency. The VPR makes essential personal information readily available to responding officers, helping them formulate a plan to locate missing children or adults. We also offer Vulnerable Person Identity Cards, which help give vulnerable people a voice when they need it most by conveying emergency contact and medical information. To register, visit [www.yrp.ca/vpr](http://www.yrp.ca/vpr).

# 2021 Statistics

<b>Public Complaints Accepted by OIPRD</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Formal Discipline	1	1
Informal Discipline	1	2
Informal Resolution	9	14
Unsubstantiated	16	18
Withdrawn	18	35
Policy/Service	1	3
OIPRD Cannot Proceed	0	0
Outstanding Files at Year End	31	23
<b>Total Complaints Accepted and Investigated</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>96</b>

<b>Public Complaints NOT ACCEPTED BY OIPRD</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Over Six Months	4	0
Not in Public Interest, Other Law, Etc.	94	119
Not Directly Affected	6	1
Retained by the OIPRD	0	0
<b>Total Complaints Not Accepted by the OIPRD</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Total Complaints</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>216</b>

<b>Classification of Complaints</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Conduct	179	213
Policy/Service	1	3
<b>Total Complaints</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>216</b>
Involved Officers	213	278
Officers Disciplined	2	4
Civilians Involved	11	6
Reviews Requested	8	5
Directed Hearings Ordered by OIPRD	1	2
Based on 1,698 officers employed at York Regional Police, public complaints total 0.13 per officer.		

<b>Total Uniform Strength</b>	<b>2021</b>
Authorized	1,698
Actual	1,692

<b>Total Civilian Strength</b>	<b>2021</b>
Authorized	679
Actual	653

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2019/20 Variance</b>
Population	1,213,602	1,228,180	1.2

Crime Rates	2020		2021		2020/21 Variance	
	Actual	Rate	Actual	Rate	Actual	Rate
Crimes Against Persons	8,830	727.59	9,777	796.06	10.7	9.4
Crimes Against Property	21,340	1,758.4	22,504	1,832.30	5.5	4.2
Other Criminal Code	4,425	364.62	4,609	375.27	4.2	2.9
Weapons Violations	535	44.08	490	39.90	-8.4	-9.5
Public Morals Violations	25	2.06	20	1.63	-20.0	-20.9
Total Criminal Code Violations	35,155	2,896.75	37,400	3,045.16	6.4	5.1
Drug Violations	1,467	120.88	1,624	132.23	10.7	9.4
Other Federal Violations	92	7.58	88	7.17	-4.3	-5.4
Total Criminal Code Violations Excluding Traffic	36,714	3,025.21	39,112	3,184.55	6.5	5.3
Criminal Code Traffic Violations	4,069	335.28	4,305	350.52	5.8	4.5

Clearance rates	2020	2021	2020/21 Variance
Crimes Against Persons	60.8	57.2	-3.6
Crimes Against Property	32.8	26.8	-6.0
Other Criminal Code	88.7	89.7	1.0
Weapons Violations	81.5	83.5	2.0
Public Morals Violations	76.0	80.0	4.0
Total Criminal Code Violations	47.7	43.3	-4.4
Drug Violations	92.0	97.3	5.3
Other Federal Violations	100.0	95.5	-4.5
Total Criminal Code violations Excluding Traffic	49.6	45.7	-3.9
Criminal Code Traffic Violations	54.4	56.7	2.3

Benchmarks: Five-year Statistical Comparison	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Police to Population	745	756	721	722	723
Member to Population	534	542	518	516	517
Gross Cost per Capita (\$)	294	312	320	336	342

**What this chart means to you:** Gross Cost per Capita represents expenditures divided by the population of the area served by York Regional Police, rounded to the nearest dollar. Member to Population counts represent the population divided by the number of police officers and civilian staff. Police to Population represents the population divided by the number of police officers.

Provincial Offence Notices Comparison	2019	2020	2021
Offences	101,002	79,972	74,575

Reportable Motor Vehicle Collisions	2019	2020	2021
Collisions	13,085	8,798	8,783

# 2021 Statistics, continued

<b>Calls for Service</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020/21 Variance</b>
Calls for Service (citizen generated)	255,407	254,451	-0.37
Number of Calls Dispatched	98,042	96,852	-1.2
9-1-1 Calls Received	250,496	270,269	7.9
False Alarms Received	3,114	2,013	-35.4

<b>Victim Services</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020/21 Variance</b>
On-Scene Occurrences	345	180	-47.8
Telephone Crisis Calls/Office Visits	16,680	15,088	-9.5
Total Clients Served	14,762	13,001	-11.9
Female	8,252	6,553	-20.6
Male	3,040	1,955	-35.7
Children (0-15 years)	3,470	4,493	29.5
*victim services comments: may be attributed to school closures			

<b>Youth Crime</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020/21 Variance</b>
Youth Charged	465	316	-32.0
Youth Processed by Other Means	555	639	15.1
Total	1,020	955	-6.4

<b>Hate Crime</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020/21 Variance</b>
Hate Crime Incidents	160	195	21.9

<b>Cost of Policing</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Salaries and Benefits	346,652,979	342,614,546	(4,038,433)
Program-Specific Expenses	3,999,332	3,655,100	(344,232)
Professional Contracted Services	1,905,586	1,788,100	(117,486)
General Expenses	16,440,097	18,643,748	2,203,651
Financial Charges	417,524	361,000	(56,524)
Insurance	2,788,390	2,788,390	0
Occupancy Costs	8,985,476	9,241,015	255,538
Minor Capital	232,179	305,872	73,693
Debt-Related Payments	6,985,212	7,113,693	128,481
Internal Charges	1,024,288	1,271,209	246,922
Contribution to Reserves	9,038,260	8,981,410	(56,850)
Total Expenditures	398,469,323	396,764,083	(1,705,240)
Total Revenues	(37,817,280)	(36,112,001)	1,705,279
Net Position	360,652,043	360,652,082	39

All collections of identifying information submissions are reviewed by a supervisor in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau prior to being published for viewing by members of the organization. It was determined that no submissions were bias-based.

An analysis of the proportion of individuals from whom identifying information was collected or attempted to be collected does not reveal any indication of over-representation based on the population of York Region.

Collection of Identifying Information	2021
Attempted and actual collections	0
Individuals from whom identifying information was collected	0
Times officers did not disclose why they were collecting information	0
Times individuals were not given a receipt because they declined it	0
Times a receipt was not provided because it may have compromised safety	0
Attempted collections from individuals based on sex (men), as perceived by a police officer	0
Attempted collections from individuals based on sex (women), as perceived by a police officer	0
<b>Note:</b> All reporting of collection of identifying information is based on officers' perception of age, race and sex at the time.	

Access to Restricted Identifying Information*	2021
Times members of the police service were permitted to access identifying information to which access is restricted.	0
*Aside from Auditors and the designated Verifier, no one accessed restricted identifying information. These two groups accessed restricted identifying information for the purpose of determining training needs.	

Collections or Attempted Collections by District	2021
#1 District	0
#2 District	0
#3 District	0
#4 District	0
#5 District	0

Collections By Age Group**	2021
12-17	0
18-29	0
30-49	0
50+	0
**As established by the Chief of Police, as provisioned within the regulation.	

Collections By Race***	2021
Aboriginal	0
Arab	0
Black	0
Chinese	0
Filipino	0
First Nations	0
Inuk	0
Japanese	0
Korean	0
Latin American	0
Metis	0
South Asian	0
Southeast Asian	0
Other	0
West Asian	0
White	0
***As established by the Chief of Police, based on the 2016 National Household Survey for the Identification of Racialized Groups as provisioned within the regulation.	

