

Classification **PUBLIC**

Meeting **May 9, 2016**

Agenda Item **Monitoring Report: Community Policing**



Recommended Motion:

THAT the Board finds that all provisions of the Community Policing Ends Policy have been complied with.

Community Policing

I hereby submit my monitoring report on your Ends Policy “Community Policing” according to the schedule set out. I certify that the information contained in this report is true.
I report compliance to all provisions of this policy.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chief of Police

Board Policy Statement:

The mission, philosophy and values of the Durham Regional Police Service emphasize the importance of working in partnership with citizens / communities. Working in collaboration with community partners fosters trust and confidence in the police.

It is the policy of the Durham Regional Police Services Board that police services in Durham Region shall be delivered in partnership with communities and citizens to proactively address and resolve community problems. These partnerships will focus on the root causes of crime, aim to reduce fear of crime, and maintain and enhance high levels of community safety.

Reporting

An assessment of community policing in Durham Region shall rely upon quantitative and qualitative analyses of relevant data, information and public input.

Interpretation of the Chief of Police:

It is my interpretation that the Board End of Community Policing relates to Section 1, principle 3 of the *Police Services Act, 1990* – Principle #3 identifies “*The need for co-operation between the providers of police services and the communities they serve*”.

The definition of “community policing” has evolved over the years, both within the Durham Regional Police Service and across the Ontario policing sector. The overarching philosophy of Problem Oriented Policing (POP) supported through Problem Based Learning (PBL) examines the root cause of community safety issues, including crime and the fear of crime and leveraging the appropriate subject matter expertise through credible partnerships to prevent or address the issue with meaningful and ideally permanent solutions.

The DRPS community policing philosophy has evolved and now aligns with the Province of Ontario’s Mobilization and Engagement Model of Community Policing. The Ontario’s Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) accepts this model and it is currently taught as part of the recruit curriculum at the Ontario Police College.

It is my further interpretation that this policy also focuses on the community engagement and community based partnerships that are developed by the Service as result of the activities within the current Business Plan, or arising from community requests, or issues based exigent/emergent circumstances that demand some response to an identified community safety need. The Service shall provide to the Board regular operational updates that confirm our commitment to the POP/PBL philosophies through such organizational activities.

The Board End measures of success involve both quantitative and qualitative measurements. Given the number of partnerships established across the Service, the Board in consultation with Senior Command will identify the programs and partnerships that are worthy of an annual review. The Service will then report on the nature of the partnerships; the activities and services delivered within those partnerships, and measure(s) of effectiveness that satisfy the resource commitment, value added and sustainability of the partnership.

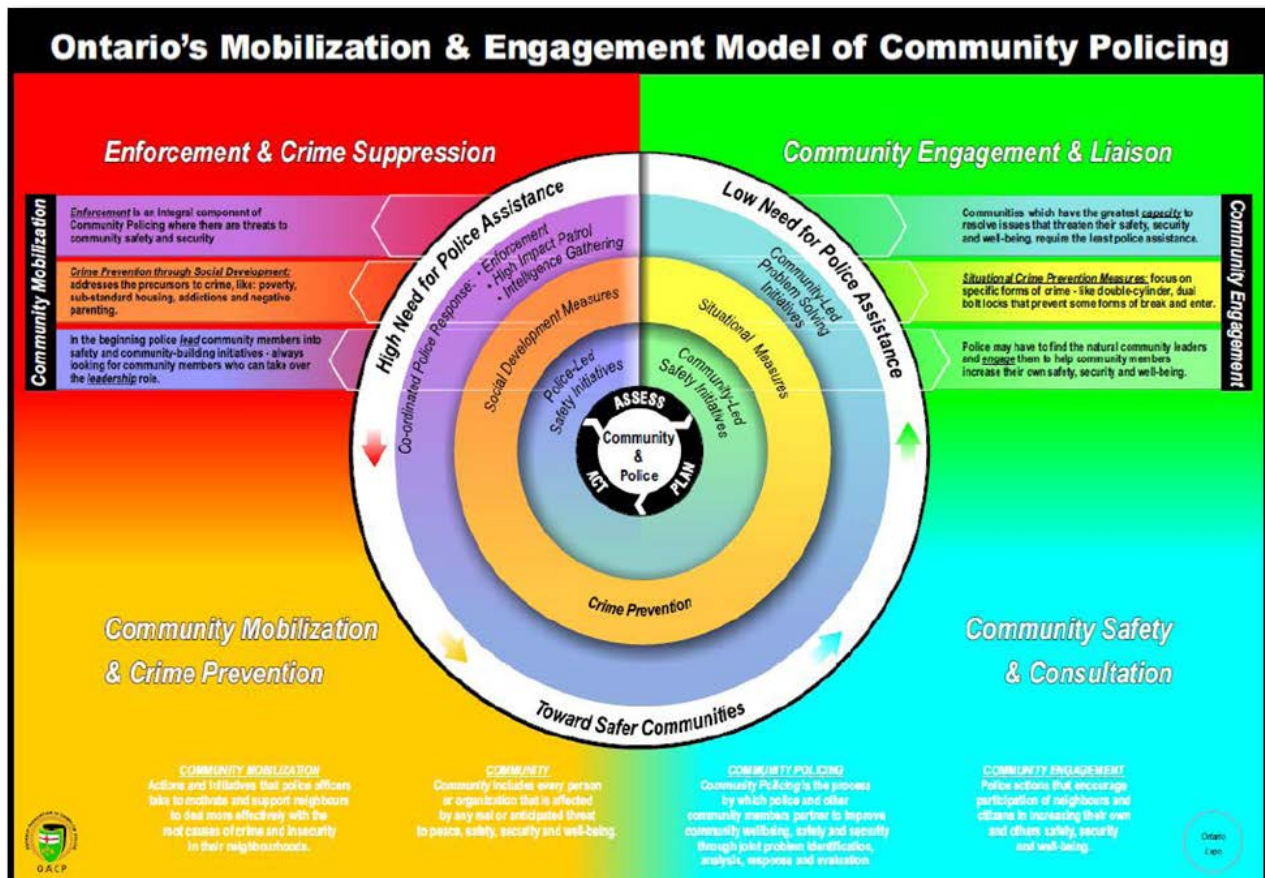
The qualitative measures focus on root causes of crime, fear of crime; the community’s knowledge of what police/partner initiatives have been undertaken, and what the community understands of the impact that these initiatives are having on both individual and collective safety and well-being. These measures may be incorporated into our regular environmental scans and community surveys.

Executive Summary:

It is the policy of the Board that the Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) work in partnership with the community and citizens to enhance community safety and resolve community problems and the DRPS does that in a number of ways.

The Community Policing philosophy aligns with the Province of Ontario’s Mobilization and Engagement Model of Community Policing, a diagnostic tool to assess community readiness for community-led initiatives with a goal of moving towards safer communities. The model moves along a continuum from enforcement and crime suppression efforts requiring a high need for police assistance to community engagement and liaison requiring a low need for police assistance. The Ontario’s Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) endorses this model and it is part of the recruit curriculum at the Ontario Police College; the DRPS refers to it when planning operational initiatives that align with the Business Plan.

Figure: 1



The DRPS continues to develop its knowledge base by training members to use critical thinking skills to solve community problems. Members are taught to be emotionally and socially aware of the public they serve, while engaging the community and increasing the safety and well-being of themselves and others.

Partnerships make the police more effective and efficient, encouraging community engagement and awareness. Police are often the first line to recognize social issues and are in the position to get our community access to the services that can help them best. Community engagement and partnerships may be part of a long-term program or situational in nature; they range from long-term diversion programs to neighbourhood driving campaigns. The goal of engaging the community is to move from police led initiatives to community led initiatives that contribute to the safety of all.

Data Support:

Developing our Knowledge Base

To be effective in Community Policing, members of the Durham Regional Police Service must have the problem-solving skills to gather essential information and work with others in the community. There are various problem-solving models in use; the DRPS is committed to training our members in the use of Problem Based Learning (PBL). By ensuring that our recruits have sound problem-solving skills before approving them for independent patrol, they start with an excellent foundation for Community Policing.

The training program encourages members to use critical thinking skills and develop outcomes. For example, rather than an officer repeatedly arresting the same individual for the same offence without further intervention, the officer uses the process to understand why the problem is continually occurring. All parties involved are encouraged to come up with a viable solution, supporting the DRPS philosophy of Problem Oriented Policing.

In 2012 the leaders at the PEIC determined that PBL as it was being delivered required a full review as the formal two week training course was very taxing on frontline resources.

During 2014 the PBL principles were integrated into all courses delivered by the PEIC. Also, the traditional classroom delivery will be replaced with a hybrid model of delivery where a combination of on-line and in class instruction will occur to engage learners in a more accessible format.

The following pages detail the various initiatives & partnerships in which the DRPS engages with the community.

Community Engagement and Liaison:

Clarington Joint Community Safety Day:

One of the strategies used by members of East Division of our Service to build on the positive relationships that have been nurtured over the previous years with the community in Clarington was through active participation, once again, in the Clarington Joint-Community Safety Day.

This event for 2015 was held in September and took place on the municipal grounds located behind the former East Division police building. In a coordinated effort with the Clarington Emergency & Fire Services, uniform officers from East Division spent the day interacting with members of the community, offering advice in areas such as personal safety, the 'Lock-it or Lose-it' Program, residential property security and timely advice to those asking about career opportunities in policing. In 2015, both civilian members as well as detectives from the East Division Criminal Investigation Branch also attended this event to offer their unique perspective as to their own particular job responsibilities in support of both law enforcement and crime prevention strategies in Clarington.

In total, police in Clarington had the opportunity to interact with approximately 6000 residents of the public in attendance at this occasion. It should also be noted that 2015 marked the 15th consecutive year our Service has partnered with Clarington Emergency & Fire Services and other community safety stakeholders in this worthwhile endeavour.

Community Shred-It Day:

In November 2015, North Durham hosted a community 'Shred-it Day' event in the parking lot of the North Durham police station. The purpose of this initiative was to provide a free document shredding service to the community.

Shredding documents with personal information contained within it reduces the risk of a person later becoming a victim of fraud. Fraud-related criminal activity is often discovered long after the actual offence has taken place and only after it has been learned that the victim's finances and identity had been compromised.

The 'Shred-it Day' event was promoted through social media, community posters and the Durham Regional Police Service internet-based website. Participants to the event were also encouraged to make a food or cash donation for the North Durham Community Food Bank or the DRPS Food and Toy Drive. In the end, the results of 'Shred-It Day' yielded the following: a total of 107 vehicles attended; a total of \$1500.00 in community sponsor donations was received; an additional \$1240.00 was donated to local charities; almost 630 lbs. of food was collected and 3800 kg. of paper-related documents was shredded.

It should also be noted that the 'Shred-It Day' event also received television coverage on both C.P. 24 News and the C.T.V. News Network.

Oshawa Community Health Centre:

In 2015, members from Central East Division continued to build on the strong relationship with Oshawa Community Health Centre that had developed the year before. The Oshawa Community Health Centre is a community-owned, non-profit, charitable organization located in South Oshawa, providing free medical health care, social work and counseling and community wellness programs to disadvantaged members of the community.

This past year members of Central East Division attended to the annual Oshawa Community Health BBQ. Several officers interacted with residents in this high-density apartment building complex area where the event was held. The officers handed out various police wares and spoke with community members about their safety and well-being.

Later that same year, officers from the Division attended as participants in the Oshawa Community Health Centre Annual Picnic. The Durham Regional Police were just one of several dozen agencies in attendance here. Officers interacted with members of this disadvantaged community, engaging with them on a one-to-one basis and answering their questions. Community safety pamphlets that contained literature centred on topics related to youth safety were handed out by officers in attendance here.

As of November 1, 2015, Oshawa Community Health Centre (OCHC) and The Youth Centre (TYC) (a youth-centric volunteer community resource agency) had officially amalgamated into a single Community Health Centre. This new organization will be focused on building an even stronger community health services sector that is ready to meet the needs of its growing communities. As the year 2016 unfolds, Central East Division officers will once again be active participants in many of the events held by this community organization.

Notice of Community Crime (N.O.C.C.).

The Notice of Community Crime (N.O.C.C.) Program is a crime prevention initiative started in West Division aimed at informing residents of an increase in criminal activity in their neighbourhood. This is a program that uses officers and community volunteers to go into neighborhoods where a marked increase in crime has been identified through the West Division crime analyst. The goal was to connect with the citizens on a proactive basis and advise them of current crime trends that police have concentrated on for enforcement in their area and provide them with an opportunity for feedback. The community contact process itself involves a pre-formatted card that contains tips to help residents report suspicious activity that they may be aware of (and *that police may not be*) in their area.

In the wake of this initiative, there has been an identified 75% decrease in break and enter occurrence in those neighborhoods targeted for the Notice of Community Crime program in 2015. With the success of this initiative clearly evident to both police and the community-alike, the N.O.C.C. initiative will continue as an effective crime mitigation strategy utilized in West Division throughout 2016.

Community Safety and Consultation:

Scugog-First Nations Community Initiative:

The Mississaugas of Scugog – First Nations (MSFN) are one of the four communities that make up indigenous populations represented in North Durham. In order to build and strengthen the police – First Nations relationship, Chief Kelly LaRocca of the MSFN provided a learning opportunity for all members of North Durham to attend to. Chief LaRocca visited each of the North Durham platoons and gave an informative learning session to frontline officers outlining the history of the MSFN community.

In addition to this effort to engage more with the MSFN community, police in North Durham participated in a number of cultural events in 2015, including: National Aboriginal Day - officers from North Durham attended and supported the community celebrations held on that day; MSFN 19th Annual Pow Wow - officers from North Durham along with Youth in Policing students were in attendance to learn and participate in the culture of the First Nations held during this event; The National Aboriginal Conference in Ottawa – This two-day event was attended to by the North Durham Leadership Team to learn more

about Canada's indigenous peoples and how can police better integrate and support our native communities.

In the autumn of 2015 - North Durham officers also prepared an operational plan for identified "high risk" businesses on the MSFN reserve. This initiative was designed to proactively assist the MSFN community in the event that these venues were targeted for criminal behaviour in the future. The businesses that were identified here included the Great Blue Heron Casino, The Smoke Shack, Fill-Up Fuels, and a future medical marijuana dispensary retailer scheduled to be built on indigenous land areas on Scugog Island.

Finally, the leadership at North Durham has identified a position for an officer to fill in as the role of the First Nations Liaison Officer. The Leadership Team here will be proposing this position of a police liaison officer to Chief LaRocca and Council for their comment and feedback at a meeting scheduled for May 2016 and prior to any decision to moving any further on this initiative.

Roadway Safety Joint Committee:

Throughout 2015, members from West Division of our Service met every two months with a variety of community stakeholders to discuss traffic safety issues of mutual concern and to collaboratively identify solutions. This committee consisted of not only police officers, but also City of Pickering engineers and bylaw personnel, Town of Ajax municipal law enforcement officers and engineering support staff and Region of Durham engineering staff members as well.

At these Roadway Safety Joint Committee meetings, a holistic approach was taken to determine what the relevant traffic concern was and how it impacted community safety, define the most effective measures to correct it and, most importantly, recognize the organization at the meeting itself that was best equipped to address the problem. Ultimately, in many of these instances, the identified stakeholder tasked in finding a solution to the traffic safety concern in-question at these meetings was acknowledged to be that other than the police itself.

Durham Connect (Situation Table):

Durham Connect is a group of 33 agencies in Durham that meet weekly to talk about people and families in need. By using an innovative information sharing protocol, Durham Connect provides a forum to share information across sectors and between organizations to ensure people are safe, stable and connected to services. Over the past 10 months, Durham Connect has helped more than 150 people in 91 states of 'acutely elevated risk' (AER). More than 100 people from the 33 participating agencies have been trained to be information sharing experts and as a result, referrals come to Durham Connect from a wide range of organizations. On average there is more than 600 years of multi-sector experience at Durham Connect meetings. Feedback from supporting agencies has been overwhelmingly positive. Almost 100% of Durham Connect supporting agencies report that the meetings are a good use of their time and more than 80% say it has changed the way that they do business.

Durham Connect has fostered internal capacity building across the range of participating organizations for information sharing, referrals, collaborative interventions and shared data agreements and research. This has been accomplished through more than 70 presentations and workshops over the course of the last 10 months. A core group of Durham Connect supporters also travelled to Saskatchewan to learn about how to expand the project to conduct system-wide research and analysis. Between the shared learning and trip to Saskatchewan, the foundation for meaningful human service system change will soon be a reality.

Police LGBTQ Partnership:

In June 2015, uniform officer from Central East Division along with members from across our Service showed their PRIDE for being part of the diverse community that is the Region of Durham. While proudly supporting our LGBTQ members, families and the community at-large, the Durham Regional Police 2015 PRIDE vehicle, along with a second marked 'Stop Bullying' cruiser, were showcased in the Durham PRIDE Parade. More importantly, uniform members in attendance at this celebration walked in the parade itself that started at Oshawa City Hall and included a barbeque dinner provided by PRIDE Durham.

With the success as an active participant in last year's PRIDE Float in the World PRIDE parade held in Toronto, DRPS again partnered with members of the OACP to partake in another festive float for Toronto PRIDE 2015. Members of the Durham Region 'Heat Band' also played music during this parade.

The support for the LGBTQ community by police in 2015 extended beyond participation in the annual PRIDE Day events. Members for Central East Division attended to regular meetings held by the LGBTQ community in Oshawa this past year to help foster a better understanding of one another and what more can be done to promote a safer community for members who identify themselves as LGBTQ.

Officers from Central East Division also participated in a Bowl-A-Thon held at NEBS World in Oshawa in 2015 to help raise money as part of a yearly fundraiser for the LGBTQ community.

Finally, it should be noted that the 2015 Durham Regional Police PRIDE vehicle is regularly assigned to on-duty uniform police patrol in Central East Division to demonstrate to the public-at-large the commitment by all our members to support safer communities for all residents who live in Durham Region.

'Connect the North':

The 'Connect the North' program was initiated in North Durham as a way to keep members of the community informed of local issues. Some of these concerns meant to be addressed by this initiative include local crime trends, telephone scams and other community safety events of interest.

Members of the public sign-up for 'Connect the North' program by providing their email address to the police. The North Durham Community Safety Officer then disseminates a mass email out to the group of individuals who have signed up for this initiative. Included in the email sent out by police is a contact number if a member of the public subsequently has information that they feel may be of interest to police to report.

Currently, there are over 355 households engaged with the 'Connect the North' program. On average, an additional email message is sent out 2 - 4 times a month by the coordinating officer tied to this program in North Durham as new residents show interest in registering for it.

An expansion of this program to Sunderland is also now currently underway as members of the DRPS Auxiliary Unit have already taken the first step and proactively solicited community residents during the most recent Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival to join the program. A further door-to-door effort to register additional residents in the Sunderland area is slated to commence in May – June 2016.

Police – Community – Youth Partnerships:

Throughout 2015, members of the East Division Community Response Unit, Uniform Patrol Branch and the Criminal Investigation Branch continued to build on the partnerships that have been fostered with a number of community groups over the years. These groups included the Fire House Youth Centre, the Rotary Club of Clarington and the John Howard Society. In addition to this, officers were routinely seen volunteering their own time to support and interact with the most vulnerable of youth in Clarington. These events included the Chief of Police ‘Three-on-Three’ Youth Basketball Tournament, the Big Brother-Big Sisters Annual Bowl A-Thon, the Pro-Action Cops and Kids ‘Run for Me - Run for Us’ and the ‘Take Back the Night’ initiative in support of Bethesda House.

While the goal of these events was to increase the level of communication between police and at-risk youth in the community, the ultimate objective here was for these younger individuals to learn basic life skills while at the same time build self-esteem, interpersonal and conflict resolution skills and to also develop a sense of personal self-awareness of the impact that their actions, especially those actions that are positive in-nature, can have on others.

Additionally, officers in Clarington routinely engaged with a number of other community groups in 2015 through regularly scheduled meetings in support of them and in their own individual group efforts as volunteer agencies to improve the lives of residents in Clarington. These groups included the Clarington Older Adult Association, the Clarington Board of Trade and Durham Deaf Services along with a number of long term elderly care facilities located throughout the municipality.

Community Mobilization and Crime Prevention:

Stop Bullying Program:

At the end of 2014, Chief Paul Martin and Chief-For-A-Day Victoria Broomer proudly unveiled our Police Service’s newest police vehicle at an Anti-Bullying rally held at the Sherwood Public School in Oshawa. This police vehicle had been cosmetically re-purposed to promote anti-bullying initiatives across our Region. The desired objective was to highlight our organization’s commitment in 2015 to support anti-violence and anti-bullying joint police-community strategies in a less conventional way. The pink cruiser used here to symbolize this pledge was intended to serve as a representation of hope and strength to those in the community who have experienced intimidation in the form of bullying in any manner.

Throughout the year 2015, the Stop–Bullying police cruiser was also deployed as a frontline patrol car on a daily basis in West Division. In addition to this, this vehicle is also used at other Divisions within our Service to support their community initiatives linked to their own Divisional anti-bullying programs. The most frequent deployments of these vehicles were at local high schools and at other community events.

Downtown Whitby Stakeholders Initiative:

In 2015, several meetings took place between Central West Division officers and other stakeholders tied to the downtown core of Whitby. One of the identified areas of concern expressed in these meetings was the movement of people out of the downtown after hours when licensed establishments had ceased operating for the evening. Part of the discussions that unfolded here was centred around utilizing taxi-stands as a tool to aid in the pedestrian flow of traffic and placing them in and around the downtown core near these licenced drinking venues.

As a result of these discussions, police were subsequently successful in convincing Town of Whitby Council to fund the erection of these taxi signs in locations near these licenced establishments in the downtown area. The placement of these signs was completed by the summer of 2015 and all taxi-stands are now in place.

Since these new taxi-cab signs were erected, front line officers in Whitby have been able to utilize the various bylaws for the Town of Whitby to effectively keep these areas clear of pedestrians and for use by taxis during the designated night-time hours indicated in the by-law.

In addition to the use of Town of Whitby by-laws to assist in mitigating incidents of crime and disorder, officers from Central West Division also attended on foot-patrol in the downtown core of Whitby on at least 342 different occasions during the past calendar year. A total of 485 Provincial Offences Notices (PON's) were issued by officers during these patrols for various Liquor Licence Act and Highway Traffic Act infractions that had taken place.

Senior Support Unit:

The Senior Support Unit (SSU) proactively helps to keep seniors safe in many ways. The unit works towards reducing a seniors vulnerability to prevent them from becoming victims, provides them with referrals, does follow up visits to assess risk factors and works with many community partners and social services agencies who assist police in this endeavour.

The best way to serve our seniors effectively and solve the complex problems older adults are faced with is to use a collaborative approach which means looking at the situations a senior finds themselves in through a different lens. The SSU uses community partners to assist them in taking the lead on some of the more involved seniors' issues surrounding social services (Community Care Access Centers).

The SSU also provides educational sessions to its partners on the role of the police when it comes to elder abuse issues. These sessions include: giving safety presentations to seniors; elder abuse awareness presentations and fraud presentations. This is provided to many groups in a variety of settings to educate the public on how to protect them against becoming a victim of crime.

The SSU works with the families of those affected by dementia and other cognitive issues to prevent them from becoming missing persons. This is done through education and by putting supports in place through our community partners.

It is important to note that as of June 2015, the number of seniors in Durham Region has surpassed the number of youth in the Region. With this comes a new set of challenges and trends. The SSU has noted that there are a number of familial caregivers who are experiencing fatigue and potential mental breakdown from caring for their elderly family member. With this, the SSU has provided caregivers with information that allows them to access resources to assist them in preventing caregiver burnout.

The SSU also participates in many community event days for seniors where the unit is very well received. Many older adults are surprised to learn at how active the unit is in helping seniors to get connected with social agencies. Additionally, the SSU holds a three day training course for DRPS officers (24 officers) once a year. The course allows DRPS to have specially trained officers available to respond to frontline calls for service involving seniors.

The SSU is also a member of the Aged HART committee (high risk senior offenders) where they are part of a team that reviews complex cases where charges are laid and the victim or accused are elderly and provides advice on how best to manage these cases. When an arrest is made involving an older at risk

adult, the unit plans for and organizes our other Justice partners so that proper supports are in place to begin the reintegration of that person back into society while ensuring the safety of other seniors.

The SSU are also members of the Durham Elder Abuse Network (DEAN) and Law Enforcement Agencies Protecting Seniors (LEAPS). They are also represented on the committee for the Centre of Excellence for Dementia working in partnership with Ontario Shores and participate in both Durham Connect groups. Finally, the unit has a partnership with the Region of Durham where they work directly with social worker and senior safety advisor Tammy Rankin. This partnership deals specifically with incidents involving residents of long-term care facilities in Durham.

Threat Assessment Unit (TAU):

Threat assessment is best explained as criminal profiling for violence. The Durham Regional Police Service, Threat Assessment Unit (TAU) consists of a Detective who has experience in the investigation of violent crime and has received specialized training in the field of Threat Assessment and Risk Management. There are only three other police services in Ontario with threat assessment accredited investigators.

The TAU provides operational support to all branches of the Service. A threat assessment is an analysis of behavioural, personal, verbal, written and situational indicators. These indicators are utilized to assess the risk of violent behaviour posed by an individual. The Threat Assessment Coordinator assists investigating members by providing a report for court, expert testimony, case management suggestions and detailed victim safety planning. Incidents when the threat assessment coordinator provides investigative support include: workplace violence; school violence; domestic violence; sexual offenders; criminal harassment; high-risk offender releases; threatening correspondence; threats to political or judicial officials and any other case involving the potential for targeted violence.

The Threat Assessment Coordinator assists community partners through consultation and training. The Detective in charge of the TAU was instrumentally involved in the development of the current threat assessment protocols followed by Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, Durham Catholic District School Board and the Durham District School Board. The process, named the Community Threat Assessment and Intervention Protocol, involves the collaboration of community partners to: identify individual(s) or situations that are a threat to the safety of the school population; assess the threat and level of risk posed; develop appropriate intervention strategies to stop the threat and provide a safe environment for students, staff and the community.

In 2015, the TAU delivered training to the DDSB and the DCDSB on four separate 2-day sessions. Also present for that training were other community partners (youth services, CAS, Lakeridge Health, law enforcement services, etc.). Instruction addressed the current concepts and research in the field of threat assessment, risk indicators and identification of individuals moving along a pathway towards targeted violence and the application of the protocol. Over 200 community partner members were trained in 2015 in threat and risk assessment and intervention.

The TAU Detective is a member of the Community Threat Assessment and Intervention Protocol steering committee that sits quarterly throughout the year to review the protocol. There are currently about 25 community agencies signed on as CTAIP partners including, but not limited to, law enforcement, school boards, mental health, youth services, corrections, victim services, child welfare, health services, etc.

The TAU consulted with DDSB and DCDSB on 62 cases in 2015.

Port Perry Commercial Engagement Initiative:

The downtown area of Port Perry contains a number of small business retailers that traditionally have no contact with the police. The initiative designed here to enhance the lines of communication between police and business owners was to help build police-community presence and engagement between the actual frontline officers who patrol North Durham with these local business owners & their staff and to provide them the opportunity to discuss any concerns that they may have.

In December 2015, four frontline officers and a police supervisor attended to and spoke to a total of 92 business owners and their employees that had retail establishments located in the downtown area of Port Perry. In response, numerous store owners took the time to show officers around their stores and were receptive to any security tips that were given to them by the officer that they had the opportunity to converse with that day.

In the wake of this initiative, business owners and several members of the general public commented on how pleased they were to see officers on foot patrol in downtown Port Perry. Equally important, the officers in attendance here also obtained up-to-date after-hours contact information for these business owners in the event that any of these retailers had to be reached by phone after-hours in an emergency.

Mobile Crisis Intervention Team (MCIT):

Pre-Charge Mental Health Diversion Program

The Durham Regional Police Service and the Crown Attorney's office recognized that there were an increased number of people with mental illness who were coming into conflict with the criminal justice system. Subsequently, the need to take a collaborative approach with community partners to respond to these cases was identified. Two diversion programs were created in partnership with Durham Regional Police Service, the Durham Crown Attorney's Office, and Durham Mental Health Services as a structured plan of care for persons with mental illness who come into conflict with the law. Initially, the focus of attention (and resources) was on implementing the Post-Charge Mental Health Diversion Program. However, within the last couple of years, the focus had shifted to the Pre-Charge Mental Health Diversion Program.

It had been recognized by all partners that worked on the initial Post-Charge Diversion Program that a Pre-Charge Diversion Program identified the root cause of the issues regarding an individual with a mental illness and would allow that person to get the treatment they needed in a timelier manner while minimizing the chance for recidivism. The Ministry of Attorney General's office also recognized the merits of this program and asked that members of the Durham Regional Police Service present at the Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee 2015 Annual Conference.

In the wake of these efforts to bring a Pre-Charge Mental Health Diversion Program to Durham Region, the success rate for it in 2015 has been one hundred percent; however, all partners involved in it also recognized how under-utilized it was (as there were only 7 contracts issued for the entire year). The Durham Regional Police Service has since made an enhanced commitment to increase this number through implementing various educational initiatives including: platoon presentations in every division; approval to train all supervisors during their 2016 mandatory supervisor training; a Chief's Video Message and the facilitation of two Mental Health Response Officer courses offered to frontline patrol officers. It has been noted that since these educational initiatives were completed, the 2016 Pre-Charge Diversion numbers have already surpassed those completed in the prior year.

Community Partnerships

An ongoing partnership between the Durham Regional Police Service and Durham Mental Health Services has continued to aid those suffering from mental health issues get the treatment they need through the timely response of the Mobile Crisis Intervention Team which was created specifically to meet that objective. This partnership is made up of two plain clothes police officers and two community mental health nurses who attend calls for service involving persons in crisis. In 2015, the Mobile Crisis Intervention Team attended 566 calls-for-service where they diverted 249 people from the local hospital emergency departments and assisted in diverting another 116 ambulance calls. MCIT also cleared 933 uniform officers from the scene of an incident after they had initially been dispatched to attend to. In fact, these diversion numbers were an increase from previous years and, as such, are a testament to the ultimate goal of the program to ensure members of the community suffering from a mental illness quickly got the help they require.

The Mental Health Support Unit (MHSU) of the DRPS has also taken a collaborative approach to reaching-out to the community for assistance by engaging with numerous public agencies also dealing with persons-in-crisis. The Mental Health Support Unit recognized the importance of these partnerships and invited over 30 community agencies to attend to their two respective Mental Health Response Officer courses held in 2015. During the course, officers in-attendance had the opportunity to attend the location as to where the participating community agencies in attendance on the course were located, learn about that organization's particular mission, values and the programs that can help an individual suffering from mental illness obtain.

This engagement with community partners then led to the development of professional relationships that resulted in several agency requests for the Mental Health Support Unit to attend to for numerous speaking engagements. A total of 77 meetings were attended to by various MHSU members in 2015, including Lakeridge Health Oshawa, the Rouge Valley Health System (Ajax-Pickering), the Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, the Canadian Mental Health Association, Durham Mental Health Services, the Mental Health and Pinewood Centre Program at Lakeridge Health, Frontenac Youth Services, Kinark Family Services, Autism Durham, Cornerstone Men's Shelter, the Durham Catholic Family Services Centre, the Children's Aid Society and the local youth centres. The feedback from these agencies in their subsequent interaction with police was very positive and the working relationship with these organizations has increased substantially to the ultimate benefit of the mental health community as a whole.

As a result of this educational initiative taken in 2015, the Durham Regional Police Service and Autism Durham Chapter were able to partner together and create an Autism Registry that went 'live' in June 2015. This registry is offered online and allows a vulnerable individual or their caregiver to register them with important information to assist police in times of crisis. This can provide front line officers with emergency contact information, detailed physical descriptions, known routines, favourite attractions, triggers & de-escalation techniques and any other special needs geared to the specific individual with autism. There has been great feedback from the autism community in regards to this new program and future speaking engagements have already been arranged in 2016 to continue to build on this nascent partnership.

Community Engagements

The Durham Regional Police Service has continued to be a leader in organizing and participating in community events that were held at the Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences this past year and included a baseball tournament and ball hockey tournament. These events were designed to build relationships and break down barriers between police and those who suffer from a mental illness and were proven to be successful as the feedback received by police from staff and patients alike who participated in it had been overwhelmingly positive.

Finally, it should also be noted that in 2015 one of the local newspapers in Durham Region recognized the positive impact the Mental Health Support Unit has had in the community in Durham Region and, as such, requested information from the unit itself to learn more about the Mobile Crisis Intervention Team in order to message it out to their readers. The subsequently published article released by the local media here eventually led to international recognition of the work carried out by the Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, as the article was later referred to in 'The Lead', a published news service magazine released by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Enforcement and Crime Suppression:

Domestic Violence Investigation Unit (D.V.I.U.):

The Domestic Violence Investigation Unit was approved in 2015 and commenced operations on February 1, 2016. For the purposes of an update, the following 2016 information is included.

The unit's schedule covers a continuous seven day-a-week period, with shifts spanning between 07:00 A.M. to 2:00 A.M. daily. Apart from these hours, the unit is on-call on a rotating basis should someone from the unit is needed to be called in to assist on a domestic incident that meets the unit's mandate.

The Domestic Violence Investigation Unit is responsible for responding to domestic violence occurrences where reasonable grounds exist to believe that an assault has occurred or threats of domestic violence have been made resulting in the arrest of an accused or the need for a warrant application. The Domestic Violence Investigative Unit is also responsible for providing a member to perform in the role of a Major Case Manager in matters of reported domestic criminal harassments; domestic breaches and any other occurrence deemed high-risk in-nature. Finally, the Domestic Violence Investigation Unit may be assigned to any other investigation at the discretion of the Inspector of M.C.U.

It should also be noted that the Domestic Violence Investigative Unit is not a time-sensitive response unit in the conventional sense. Instead, the expectation is that patrol constables will normally make the initial arrest (where reasonable grounds clearly exist to do so) in response to a call-for-service in a domestic occurrence and then they will transport the offender involved to the D.V.I.U. for processing.

Another critical component tied to the creation of the Domestic Violence Investigative Unit is that it shall consult, establish and maintain a positive working relationship with a whole host of community agencies within Durham Region and, by so doing, they will have the ability to provide both the necessary and timely information and support systems to those victims who will need it in times of crisis such as these.

Since it commenced operations on February 1st of this year, the Domestic Violence Investigation Unit has completed 130 investigations and case-managed an additional 26 occurrences outside of their traditional mandate. A total of 311 criminal charges have been laid by the unit to-date.

The Domestic Violence Investigation Unit, which initially started operations in Central East Division in February of this year, will expand at pre-planned regular intervals throughout the coming months to ultimately encompass the entire Region of Durham by June 1st, 2016.

Traffic Services Branch:

The Traffic Services Branch directly supports the Durham Regional Police response involving driving behaviours that result in serious injury and fatal collisions unfolding on our roadways. These behaviours have been identified as the 'Big 4 Killers' and include Impaired Driving, Distracted Driving, Aggressive Driving and Failure to Wear a Seat Belt.

- Impaired Driving

Impaired driving continues to be the leading cause of criminal death in our nation. The Durham Regional Police is committed to addressing this very serious criminal conduct in a number of ways, including enforcement, education and community involvement.

The Durham Regional Police Festive R.I.D.E. Team has been a model for police services throughout Ontario and across Canada. In 2015, the annual Festive R.I.D.E. launch was held at the Newcastle Fire Hall and included the attendance of both local corporate and community partners to help showcase our commitment to combat drinking and driving criminal behaviour across Durham Region.

There is no criminal offence that receives as much media attention as that of impaired driving. Vehicle manufacturers, local distilleries, M.A.D.D. Canada (*Durham Region Chapter*), Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving ('O.S.A.I.D.'), and local media outlets continually sent out the message about drinking and driving in 2015. Members of the Traffic Services Branch worked to educate and enforce the 'zero tolerance' model espoused by our Police Service. This initiative included the 'Last Drink Program' whereby the Traffic Services Branch partnered with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario to identify, educate and enforce provincial liquor licence legislation tied to drinking establishment across the Region.

Throughout 2015, a divisional R.I.D.E. enforcement initiative was also carried out on the last Thursday of each month using both frontline officers from each Division and members of the Traffic Services Branch. In addition, R.I.D.E. spot checks were conducted during the 'Super Bowl 50' sporting event, the St Patrick's Day festivities and during the annual Brooklin Spring Fair held in early June 2015.

- Distracted Driving

Distracted driving had emerged in 2015 as a major concern for police and the community alike. This concern was underpinned by the fact that the number of distracted driving violations laid by officers across the Region continued to increase over the past three year period.

Traffic Services Branch officers identified intersections in the Region where distracted driving resulted in numerous collisions. In response, plain clothes officers would attend to these intersections to observe this offence as it unfolded and then uniform officers would subsequently stop the driver and issue the Distracted Driving Provincial Offence Notice.

It should be noted that in 2015, the Police Service issued a total of 5343 tickets for Distracted Driving. The Traffic Services Branch, in-turn, issued 1239 of these offence notices. This total represents a 350% increase in the number of tickets issued for this offence since the year 2012.

(Effective September 1st 2015 Ontario Bill #31 came into effect increasing the fines for Distracted Driving to \$490.00 plus 3 demerit points.)

The Traffic Services Branch also conducted distracted driving presentations to the youth in our community in 2015. 'Impact Teen Drivers' was a presentation geared towards Grade 11 and 12 students in the Region. Members of the Traffic Services Branch presented to students at Monsignor Dennis O'Connor Secondary School in Ajax, the Uxbridge Secondary School in Uxbridge and the Monsignor John Pereyema Catholic Secondary School in Oshawa.

- Pedestrian Safety- Education

To promote pedestrian safety, the Traffic Services Branch, in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation, G.O. Transit and the Region of Durham Traffic Services Department, conducted a joint pedestrian safety initiative.

Known as the 'Do the Bright Thing' campaign, Traffic Services Branch officers handed-out reflective zipper draw strings to citizens attending the G.O. Transit System at the Oshawa G.O. station concourse. They also distributed pamphlets to educate citizens on strategies to make it safer for pedestrians to use our sidewalks and roadways when moving afoot. The ultimate goal of this campaign was to promote and reinforce pedestrian safety, urging pedestrians to wear reflective clothing and to refrain from texting or talking on their cell phone while crossing the road.

- Seat Belt Safety

In 2015, a number of aggressive driving and seat belt enforcement initiatives were held throughout the year. In 2015, a total of 733 individuals were issued provincial offences notices by members of the Traffic Services Branch for not wearing their seatbelts compared to 797 tickets the year before.

- Project E.R.A.S.E

The Traffic Services Branch was the lead partner once again in a joint initiative with York Regional Police, the Ontario Provincial Police, Halton Regional Police, Peel Regional Police, Barrie Police and the South Simcoe Police Service to eradicate street racing across the GTA & the 400-Series Highways.

- Marine Unit

The Durham Regional Police Marine Unit is responsible for waterway safety for over 300 km of shoreline within our Region. The Marine Unit conducts boating safety education initiatives on an ongoing basis while patrolling the various waterways in the area as well. This past year, the Marine Unit participated in a number of special events, including Whitby Harbour Days and Canada-Day festivities.

- Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

The Traffic Services Branch recently partnered with the Ontario Ministry of Transport and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to conduct a heavy truck enforcement and education initiative on Regional roads. Ongoing heavy truck enforcement within our Region will continue to be an on-going enforcement initiative for the Traffic Services Branch throughout 2016 due to the high volume of commercial traffic moving through the Region.

White Oaks Apartments Program:

The White Oaks Apartments Youth Outreach Program was launched in 2014. At that time, the property management team at White Oaks ('CAPREIT') assisted police with providing a small space for youth to meet. The Boys and Girls Club of Durham also agreed at the time to provide two outreach workers with funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. The program would be focused on providing a youth drop-in service once-a-week with on-site and off-site opportunities to engage the youth. On-site examples included obtaining assistance with school work, resume writing and cooking lessons for the at-risk teenagers in-attendance. Off-site support for youth here included providing computer lessons at a local library, a tour of Central West Division and playing soccer or basketball at a local park.

During its initial launch in 2014, five to ten youth attended the weekly program. In 2015, the number of teenagers who attended the weekly White Oaks Apartments Youth Outreach Program doubled in number from the year prior. Since January 2016, the number of youth in attendance on a weekly basis has increased once again. It should also be noted that many of the original teenagers who participated in the program back in 2014 still attend on a weekly basis.

As this program has now entered into its third year of operations, many of the youth who participated back in 2014 and in the months since then are beginning to show an interest in attaining a post-secondary education, part-time employment and / or volunteering within their community. In February 2016, 'Community Connection', a grass-roots community support network, contributed funding towards the operating costs of expanding this program for two more years. In addition, the White Oaks Apartments Building Management Team ('CAPREIT') has now provided a larger community room for this on-going program.

The Town of Whitby, in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Durham and Community Connection, has applied for an Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Funding Grant to expand the youth program further. This will increase the facilitation of the youth program to operate five days a week. More importantly, the Town of Whitby will now administer the sport and recreation portion of the program and the Boys and Girls Club will lead the Youth Outreach portion, both components of this initiative that were previously facilitated by Central West Division officers.

- White Oaks Apartments – Enforcement:

Throughout 2015, frontline officers have been engaged with the property management team at White Oaks Apartments in Whitby on a recurring basis. Also in 2015, members of the Central West Division Target Team participated in the White Oaks Community BBQ as part of a partnership with residents of this high-risk neighbourhood, the objective to which was to foster better trust and confidence in the police.

In 2015, law enforcement activities engaged by Central West Division officers were centred on a number of projects that targeted criminal activity in the area. These projects included the following law enforcement initiatives: Project 1 - A heroin investigation resulted in the arrest of five suspects from White Oaks and the seizure of 81.7 grams of cocaine, 28.2 grams of heroin and \$3000.00 in Canadian currency; and Project 2 - The investigation here involved street level robberies occurring in the area of south Whitby and the geographical area surrounding the White Oaks apartments. Several suspects were identified that lived at the White Oaks complex itself. A subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of three young offenders alleged to have participated in multiple robberies and assault-type incidents.

It should be noted that the property management team at the White Oaks Apartments was an integral part in support of all the law enforcement investigations carried out by Central West Division officers and tied to this apartment complex this past year.

‘Joint Law Enforcement – Loss Prevention Network’:

The Central West Division Criminal Investigation Branch started a ‘Joint Law Enforcement - Loss Prevention Network’ email group with the objective of sharing information to combat organized retail crime within the Durham Region and across the Greater Toronto Area. This group holds regular meetings for networking purposes and to discuss current crime trends. It also provides the opportunity for the various loss prevention managers that also form a part of this e-mail group to ask questions from law enforcement officers.

During the year 2015, this e-mail group continued to grow with the addition of several new retailers as well as investigators from both the Toronto Police Service and the York Regional Police Service added to the team.

It should be noted that in the past year, approximately 15 cases were solved within the Region of Durham and GTA based on the information shared within the e-mail group.

To highlight the success of this initiative, an example was illustrated back in April 2015 when investigators from Central West Division C.I.B. received an email from the Loss Prevention Manager of the Sobey’s Supermarket who, in turn, attached images taken by the in-store camera of the suspects involved and who allegedly had used counterfeit United States currency to purchase food from the retailer. This information was disseminated within the e-mail network itself and the suspect was quickly identified by another loss prevention officer who was also a part of the e-mail group and who had arrested the same male suspect several months earlier in York Region. This information ultimately led to two search warrant executions and over 17 charges being laid against the identified individual by Durham Regional Police.

Youth Diversion Program:

To be eligible to participate in the diversion program, the young person involved must accept responsibility for participation in the program once they have been identified as involved in the commission of a criminal offence. The young person having been informed of their rights and consenting to participate in an extrajudicial measure is then connected with the Youth Diversion Coordinator for our Police Service. The coordinator engages the youth and makes a referral to one of the identified service providers to complete the extra-judicial measure assigned to that individual to complete.

In 2015, DRPS officers diverted 435 youths to our community partners, an increase from 408 in the year 2014. Diversions are traditionally used for minor criminal offences involving Theft Under, Possession Under, Mischief Under, Fraud Under, Minor Drug Possession, Cause Disturbance, Minor Assaults/Threats, Take Motor Vehicle without Consent or being identified by police as a passenger in a stolen vehicle.

Since the implementation of the Youth Diversion Program, less than three percent of young people initially assigned to it do not successfully complete their diversion programming. However, it should be noted that if a youth does not complete the extra judicial measure assigned to them, they will be

summoned to court to answer to the original criminal offence that they were alleged to have taken a part in.

For their part, the Youth Diversion Coordinator for Durham Police continues to write articles in the 'Police Insider' Magazine outlining both the merits and the past success of the Youth Diversion program as a part of their continued effort to encourage more frontline officers to consider utilizing it when the right criteria has been met.