



# YORK REGIONAL POLICE 2022 Annual Report





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**Wayne Emmerson, Acting Chair and Regional Chair & C.E.O.**



**Steve Pellegrini, Vice Chair and Mayor of the Township of King**



**Jennifer Fang Provincial Appointee**



**Norma McCullough Regional Appointee**



**Mario Cortellucci Provincial Appointee**



**Walter J. Perchal Provincial Appointee**

**PAST BOARD MEMBERS**



**Maurizio Bevilacqua, Former Chair**



**Steve Z. Ranot Provincial Appointee**

# Message From the Chair of the Police Services Board

On behalf of the Police Services Board, I am pleased to present the 2022 York Regional Police Annual Report. I would like to recognize the many successes achieved by the service and applaud the dedication and professionalism of the 2,300 members who continue to work hard to keep York Region safe while meeting the needs of the 1.24 million residents.

One of the Board's key responsibilities is the provision of adequate and effective police services to its communities. To accomplish this, the Board approved a 2022 police budget of \$376 million, which includes the addition of 27 police officers and civilian personnel to address population growth and the increasing complexity of demands for service.

The Board thanked former Board Chair Maurizio Bevilacqua for his five years of service following the end of his tenure in 2022, with Regional Chairman and CEO Wayne Emmerson serving briefly as Acting Chair until January 2023, when he was elected as Chair. King Township Mayor Steve Pellegrini was elected as Vice Chair and the Board then welcomed new provincial appointee Mario Cortellucci in 2022, replacing former member Steve Ranot.

Mario Cortellucci is a well-known developer and philanthropist whose name graces the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital.

The Board was also pleased to select Superintendent Alvaro Almeida as the new Deputy Chief of Investigations. With more than 34 years of service, Deputy Chief Almeida is a progressive leader who brings a wealth of experience to the role.

Continuing our commitment to our anti-racism initiatives, we hired Dr. Akwasi Owusu-Bempah as the subject-matter expert for the Anti-Black Racism and Building Community Trust Committee. A faculty member in the Department of Sociology at the University of Toronto, Professor Owusu-Bempah's work examines the intersections of race, crime, criminal justice and policing.

He delivered the committee's final report in November 2022, recommending the Board play a key role in advancing equitable policing through a comprehensive anti-racism strategy that is data-driven and incorporates recommendations into policy changes and Business Plan goals. The report can be accessed at the [York Regional Police Services Board website](#).

York Regional Police is a recognized leader in building and strengthening partnerships with our many diverse communities and the service continues to implement strategies and programs to ensure service delivery is provided in a fair, inclusive and equitable manner.

Please take some time to review the 2022 Annual Report to learn more about important statistical information, the policing initiatives which promote community engagement and our crime prevention and victim support programs.

I would like to thank York Regional Police for its commitment to community safety and members of the Police Services Board for their diligence in providing responsible, effective and transparent governance.



**Chief Jim MacSween**

# Message From the Chief of Police

The York Regional Police Executive Command Team is proud to present the 2022 Annual Report to our community and our members. Inside these pages you will find stories of heroism; diligent, ongoing work dismantling organized crime groups; continuing efforts to educate and protect our community from fraud and theft; new programs that better connect our people with our residents; and improved effectiveness through advances in technology.

Deputy Chiefs Brian Bigras (Ret.), Alvaro Almeida, Paulo Da Silva, Cecile Hammond, Robertson Rouse and I are grateful for the professionalism and courage of all our members, sworn and civilian, who continue to protect our community each and every day. 2022 was a challenging year for policing, as we mourned the on-duty loss of four Ontario police officers. Their sacrifice and service was recognized across our province.

In the following pages, we highlight the success of frontline and criminal investigations unit officers in our five districts across York Region, including the arrest of a street-level drug dealer plaguing a Vaughan neighbourhood, the rescuing of 16 abused puppies living in horrendous conditions after a fraud and animal cruelty investigation in Markham, taking guns and drugs off the street in Richmond Hill following a traffic stop and arresting three violent offenders in connection with a home invasion in Georgina.

We opened a new state-of-the-art #1 District Headquarters in Newmarket, home to 200 sworn and civilian members who serve a growing population of more than 200,000 citizens in the Towns of Newmarket, Aurora, East Gwillimbury, King Township and small portions of the north border of Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Our specialty units tackled the increase in auto thefts and carjackings with Projects GTA and Touchdown, making more than 60 arrests and recovering 200 stolen vehicles worth \$18 million. We solved a nine-year-old cold case, charging a suspect in two brutal sexual assaults in York and Peel. And we continued to lead our policing partners in joint-forces operations like Project Entrust, which dismantled a \$1.7 million drug and gun trafficking network that extended across Ontario.

The Connected Officer program launched in 2022, modernizing day-to-day law enforcement activities and increasing opportunities for greater community engagement. The program allows officers to share and access information electronically, through newly issued smartphones. Officer notes, witness statements and evidence are now captured electronically, reducing administrative time and keeping frontline members where they belong — in the community, not in the station.

As always, we are thankful for the ongoing support of our Police Services Board and regional and municipal councils, which continue to provide our police service with the resources we need to ensure our community remains safe and secure, welcoming and inclusive, where everyone feels they belong.

# District Highlights

## #1 DISTRICT: NEW DIGS FOR MEMBERS

The members of #1 District proudly serve a growing population of more than 200,000 citizens in the Towns of Newmarket, Aurora, East Gwillimbury, King and parts of Vaughan. For the first time in 51 years, they have a new place to call home.

On January 10, 2022, more than 200 sworn and civilian members started their shifts in a brand new station at 429 Harry Walker Parkway South in Newmarket. This project was the result of years of planning and more than 16 months of construction, led by the Capital Projects and Facilities Bureau.

The two-storey, 49,500-square-foot building, which will operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, is accessible to the public and features areas for community use. The facility provides improved amenities and more space for #1 District staff. It also incorporates design elements to minimize operational energy costs and greenhouse emissions.

The opening of the new station marked the closing of the former #1 District headquarters at 240 Prospect Street. We are now working to renovate the former district headquarters to make it a suitable home for several units, saving the organization up to \$180,000 per year in the cost of leased facilities.

“This beautiful, state-of-the art building will allow #1 District members to continue serving the community with professionalism in improved surroundings, while addressing the rapid growth in our region by providing a larger base of operations to continue keeping citizens safe,” said Chief of Police Jim MacSween.

## #2 DISTRICT: MEDICAL EMERGENCY ON THE ROAD

The quick actions of two #2 District officers prevented a runaway car from colliding with oncoming traffic and saving the driver’s life.

On May 6, 2022, Constables Dave Harren and Darren Boonstra were patrolling in Thornhill during rush hour when they spotted an SUV travelling very slowly, drifting toward oncoming lanes of traffic.

The officers realized that the driver was unconscious and convulsing. Constable Boonstra, who served as a paramedic for 12 years prior to joining YRP, immediately recognized that the driver was exhibiting signs of a seizure.

Constable Harren drove in front of the out of control car and forced a controlled collision, preventing the unconscious driver from drifting further into oncoming traffic. The officers placed the vehicle in park and stabilized the driver until paramedics arrived.

“The actions of Constables Harren and Boonstra most certainly saved a life and prevented what could have been a multi-car collision,” said the officers’ supervisor, Sergeant David Casella.





# District Highlights

## #3 DISTRICT: ATTEMPTED MURDER SUSPECTS NABBED

Thanks to investigators with the #3 District Criminal Investigations Bureau, three violent criminals were brought to justice and a gun and drugs were seized.

In December 2021, three men attempted a home invasion at a Georgina residence.

When the suspects arrived, a house party was in progress. The homeowner met the suspects and a heated argument turned violent. Two men inside the house were shot, causing significant, life-altering injuries.

In the aftermath of the shooting, witnesses and victims were initially uncooperative. However, through persistence and the use of investigative techniques, investigators gathered enough information to obtain a search warrant, leading to the arrest of two of the three suspects in February 2022. Investigation continued and the third suspect was later identified, arrested and charged.

Following the execution of the warrants, investigators also found a rifle, ammunition and a magazine, along with a quantity of cocaine.

## #4 DISTRICT: ILLICIT DRUG SUPERSTORE OUT OF BUSINESS

Members of the #4 District Criminal Investigations Bureau seized a pharmacy-worth of narcotics, before the stash made its way illegally onto the streets of York Region.

The investigation began in January 2022, when officers learned of a man suspected of dealing drugs in Vaughan.

Following the execution of search warrants at the suspect's home and rented storage locker in early February 2023, investigators found a large quantity of narcotics, including 69 litres of hydrocodone, 380 litres of codeine, 5.6 kilograms of cocaine, 1,634 Fentanyl pills,

575 oxycodone pills, 49.5 pounds of cannabis and more than 2,000 packages of cannabis vape pens, edibles, cereals and liquid THC drinks.

Additionally, officers seized nearly \$600,000 in cash and a loaded handgun with ammunition.

A 23-year-old Bowmanville man and a 23-year-old woman were arrested and charged with dozens of drug trafficking and firearms-related offences. Upon arrest, the male suspect was found in possession of another handgun, drug packaging material and \$20,000 in cash.

## #5 DISTRICT: SECOND CHANCE FOR BELEAGUERED PUPS

Investigators with the #5 District Criminal Investigations Bureau partnered with animal services to save 16 mistreated and malnourished puppies in November 2022.

In December 2021, police were tipped off about a pup that had been sold with fraudulent vaccination records. Upon investigation, police identified an individual selling puppies online for up to \$1,500, which included the sale of bogus vaccine records.

When officers executed a search warrant at the seller's home, they found 16 dogs cooped up in four small cages,

subjected to horrendous living conditions. Responding officers called on animal care workers, who rescued the dogs and delivered them to veterinary care.

Officers also located and seized evidence related to the fraud and the forgery of the vaccination records. Two individuals were arrested and charged with animal cruelty, fraud and forgery.

Markham Animal Services reported that all of the puppies were adopted and placed into loving, forever homes.





## **NEW PAWS ON THE GROUND**

From locating missing people to tracking suspects, members of our Canine Unit responded to 3,700 calls for service in 2022. Our team is comprised of 13 officers and 14 police service dogs (PSDs), including one of our newest recruits, Molly.

Partnered with Constable Mandy Bambrough, this two-year-old Belgian Malinois is our first female PSD. Like her canine colleagues, she will be trained in tracking, building and area searches, evidence location, obedience and criminal apprehension.

As Molly progresses in her canine career, she may eventually join the ranks of PSDs who specialize in detecting narcotics, firearms, explosives and cadavers.

# Joint-Forces Operations and Internal Task Forces

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

## JFO: ENTRUST

This year-long investigation brought down a drug trafficking network that extended across Ontario.

Initially, the criminals investigated resided and trafficked within York Region, but it was discovered that this group was also working throughout the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Durham Region, London and the Kawartha Lakes area.

Between June 2021 and June 2022, 19 search warrants resulted in 25 people charged with 113 criminal offences.

Roughly \$1.7 million in methamphetamines, cocaine, fentanyl and other drugs were seized, along with \$136,000 in cash, \$23,000 in firearms and two stolen vehicles.

**Project Cost: \$418,044**

## JFO: MONARCH

Around \$1.3 million worth of fentanyl, cocaine, cannabis and other drugs were seized as part of Project Monarch, an eight-month investigation that shattered a GTA-wide network involved in drug and gun trafficking.

In addition to the significant drug seizure, investigators identified and shut down operations importing illegal firearms from the United States into Canada for sale in York Region and beyond, seizing 27 firearms and over \$150,000 in cash.

A number of the seized firearms had the serial numbers destroyed, a technique used by criminals to prevent police from tracing the origins of illegal guns.

More than 420 charges were laid against 21 people.

**Project Cost: \$758,457**

All project costs exclude officer salary, benefits and overtime. Figures reflect costs incurred during the 2022 calendar year.

## OUR PARTNERS:



équité



Canada Border  
Services Agency

Agence des services  
frontaliers du Canada

## JFO: GTA

Operation GTA, launched in June 2022, targeted criminal networks responsible for funding and fueling an increase in violent carjackings across the multiple jurisdictions.

Investigators recovered 19 stolen vehicles worth approximately \$1.4 million when warrants were executed in October 2022. Investigators also identified an additional

70 re-vinned vehicles valued at \$5 million. Sixteen people were charged with 110 offences.

See page 17 for more details.

**Project Cost: \$400,397**

## JFO: TOUCHDOWN

Project Touchdown resulted in the identification and dismantling of numerous criminal car theft groups. Thieves were shipping stolen vehicles overseas in sea containers from multiple warehouses across the GTA.

This six-month investigation recovered 216 vehicles valued around \$17 million. Fifty-two individuals were arrested and charged with more than 255 offences.

See page 17 for more details.

**Project Cost: \$86,447**

## ITF: ARMOUR

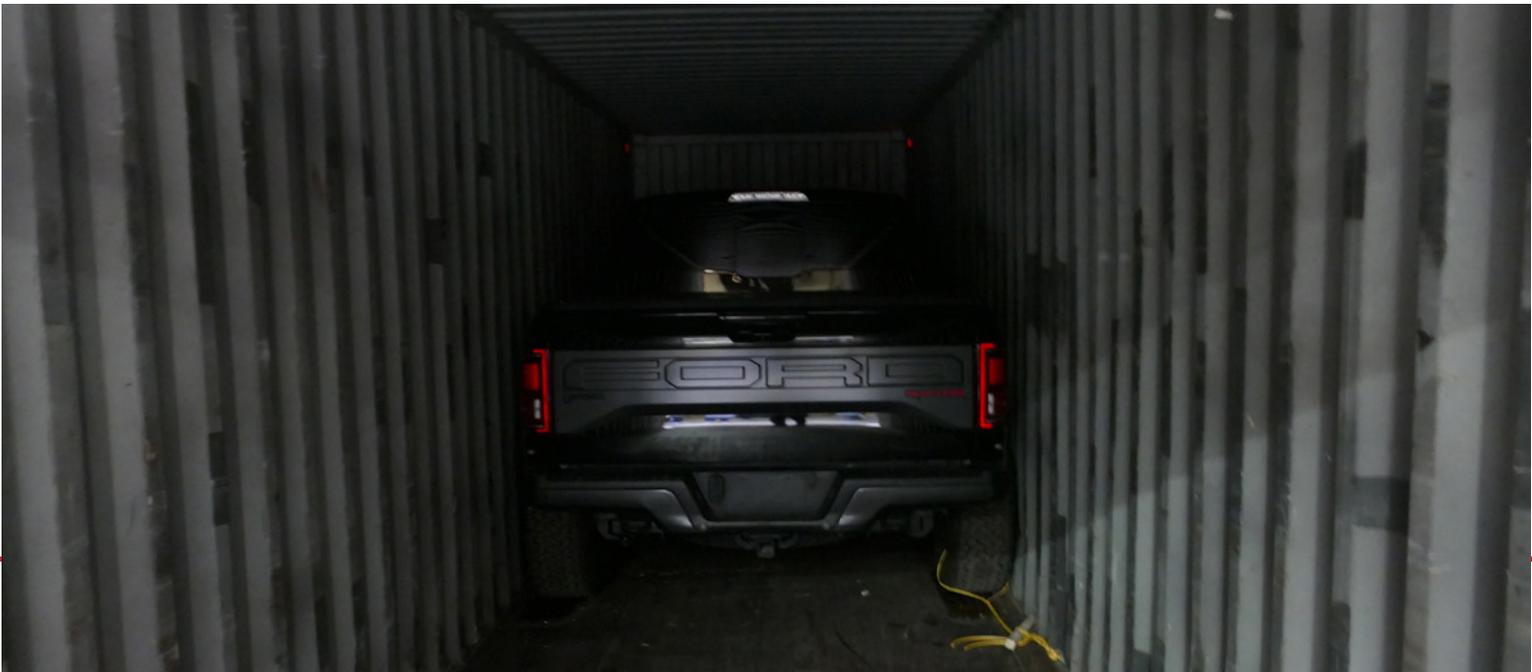
A multi-year investigation followed an organized crime ring that stole \$12 million from victims through mortgage fraud.

Between October 2020 and June 2022, over 30 warrants were granted as investigators tracked stolen funds funneled into bank accounts connected to organized crime, leading to the arrests of four individuals charged with 21 offences.

**Project Cost: \$23,430**

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.



# Projects Touchdown and GTA Nab Car Thieves

International crime ring thwarted by Auto/Cargo Theft Unit and partners, \$17 million in property recovered.

Car thefts continued to rise across York Region in 2022, with more than 3,160 vehicles stolen. This is 1,000 more than were stolen in 2021—and the numbers have been climbing each year.

“This is a growing problem,” said Superintendent Duncan MacIntyre, commander in charge of the Organized Crime and Intelligence Services Bureau. “Thieves working for organized crime groups are using electronic devices to reprogram car ignition systems and steal vehicles from driveways in the dead of night. The cars are then sent overseas to foreign buyers.”

York Regional Police is working tirelessly to shut down vehicle theft rings and recover stolen cars, more than 1,300 of which were tracked down in 2022.

Our Auto/Cargo Theft Unit (ACTU) struck a major blow to organized car thieves in December 2022 with the execution of Project Touchdown.

The six-month investigation was the unit’s most successful of the year, recovering 216 vehicles worth roughly \$17 million. Touchdown identified and shut down several large theft groups, resulting in fifty-two arrests and more than 255 charges laid.

The investigation uncovered multiple warehouses across the GTA used by thieves, who were shipping stolen vehicles overseas in sea containers. Officers also seized \$100,000 worth of guns, ammunition and illegal drugs.

Our Hold Up Unit initiated Operation GTA in June 2022, an investigation focused on identifying and targeting the criminal networks responsible for funding and fueling an increase in carjackings across York Region and beyond.

Through Operation GTA, investigators recovered 19 stolen vehicles worth approximately \$1.4 million in October. Investigators also identified an additional 70 re-vinned vehicles worth over \$5 million, which were still stolen and had their vehicle identification numbers (VINs) altered. Work continues to track those cars down. In total, 16 people were charged with 110 offences during the course of this investigation.

Both Touchdown and GTA were joint-forces operations, involving policing partners Toronto Police Service, Peel Regional Police, the Durham Regional Police Service, the Halton Regional Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police, along with the Canada Border Services Agency and insurance crime investigator Équité Association.

“Keeping up with the ingenuity and reach of organized car theft groups isn’t easy, but it’s made easier with the help of our valued partners,” said Deputy Chief of Investigations Alvaro Almeida.

“Working with other police services allows us to pool resources and extend our reach across jurisdictional boundaries, ensuring that wherever these car thieves operate, we can catch them and shut down their operations.”

# Technology: Connected Officer

## Cloud-based innovation answers the call to replace outdated frontline note-taking system.

On an unnamed road in York Region, deep in the dark recesses of an inconspicuous building, is a storage room home to thousands of police notebooks. They're stashed in boxes and stacked on shelves from floor to ceiling. Most haven't seen the light of day in years, if not decades.

There isn't space for any more. And Deputy Chief Paulo Da Silva has no plans to rent another unit.

His head is in the clouds. Err, cloud. The deputy's plans for the future of police note-taking in York Region saw officers ditch their pens and pads in favour of smartphones.

An electronic note-taking application, E-Notes, was just one exciting new tool made available to York Regional Police officers in 2022 as part of the Connected Officer program.

Developed by Digital Mobility Inc. and designed in collaboration with officers of various ranks and roles, the app increased transparency around the note-taking process, as it included a log of individuals granted access to review notes, preventing any tampering with archived files.

"Since Sir Robert Peel and the dawn of modern policing, we've been scrawling our observations into notebooks," said Deputy Chief Da Silva. "But with the options at our disposal today, it was high time we leveraged technology to improve the experience of our officers and the quality and effectiveness of their notes."

Notes were filed to a cloud-server, which eliminated the need for physical storage. A practical and responsible solution, said Deputy Chief Da Silva.

"It was an arduous process to locate and review old notebooks in the past," he said. "Now, notes can be searched with a few keystrokes and they're no longer susceptible to destruction in a flood, fire or any other physical mishap."

E-Notes and an array of patrol-related programs were loaded on Samsung Galaxy smartphones and issued to 1,100 frontline officers and investigators over the course of the year. The phones allowed officers to access to police and criminal records, review the details of an incident, watch video recorded by in-car cameras and even schedule a future court date.

Most importantly, it allows officers to spend more time where they are needed most: Patrolling York Region streets.

"This will allow our frontline to better respond to calls and engage with our residents more frequently," said Superintendent Kelvin Chantiam, who oversaw the talented project team who implemented the Connected Officer program at YRP.

Policing professionals in our Information Technology Bureau and officers are now joining forces to research and develop new apps in 2023 and beyond.





## HONOURING OUR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY

A striking orange crosswalk is the newest addition to our Community Safety Village, recognizing the contributions of Indigenous Canadians and to honour the lives lost at residential schools.

Together with the Chippewas of Georgina Island and our community partners, each year we mark the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 and host a candlelight vigil at our Marine Unit location.

We also launched a new cultural mindfulness program, led by George Couhie, a member of the Nipissing First nation. The session educates members on Indigenous culture, teachings, traditions and history, including the Indian Act and residential school system.

Through education, action and collaboration, we will continue to work to teach future generations about our country's past to advance the reconciliation journey.



Every  
Child  
Matters

Every  
Child  
Matters

# Scammed Seniors Seek Justice

Grandparent scams on the rise in York Region, investigators warn the community to be aware.

Nicky remembers picking up the phone to hear his grandson in tears. He had been arrested for drug possession and needed cash to be released on bail. Apparently the judge had imposed a publication ban, so Nicky and his wife were not allowed to tell anyone, not even family. They were instructed to put the money in an envelope and wait for a courier to arrive.

"We believed that he was in trouble and we wanted to help," said the 81-year-old Newmarket resident, whose name has been changed to protect his identity.

The trouble is, the voice on the other end of the phone was not Nicky's grandson. It was a criminal, who successfully defrauded Nicky and his wife out of more than \$100,000 over the course of two months.

"I really felt clobbered," said Nicky. "I just wondered how I missed the signs."

Known as a grandparent scam or an emergency scam, this type of fraud has been on the rise across York Region. Typically, the crime involves a phone call to an elderly person by an imposter posing as a grandchild in distress. The criminal will demand money to help get them out of trouble, with accomplices pretending to be government officials, police officers or lawyers.

In 2022, there were more than 200 reports of grandparent scam cases in the region, with total losses of more than \$1 million. According to the Canadian Anti-fraud Centre, this type of fraud resulted in more than \$5.4 million in losses across Ontario in 2022. Grandparent scams are often under-reported, with only an estimated five to 10 per cent of victims coming forward.

"This is a crime that preys on our most vulnerable citizens through manipulation and lies," said Detective Sergeant Glenn Wright, who oversaw our Financial Crimes Unit. "Our investigators are working tirelessly to identify and dismantle the criminal organizations responsible. Not only are we focused on enforcement, but also on prevention. Collectively, we all have a role to play in protecting our elderly loved ones."

Together with officers in our Community Services Bureau, our fraud investigators have held virtual crime prevention sessions and visited seniors' residences and community centres to educate elderly citizens and their families on telltale signs of fraud.

"Our biggest piece of advice is not to offer any money or personal information until you verify the story with family first," said Detective Sergeant Wright. "Don't ever feel rushed to make a decision. And if in doubt, please reach out to police. We are here to help."

Money lost through fraud rings is extremely difficult to recover, which is why prevention is so critical. Investigators were successful in returning a portion of Nicky's cash, but not all of it. This has made a significant impact on the couple's spending habits, including forgoing a celebration for their 50th wedding anniversary.

"We're making it through. But it's just a lot of adjustment," said Nicky. "I'm not angry. I just want justice. That's why I came forward."

If you think you or a loved one may be the target of a scam, contact the York Regional Police at [yrp.ca/ReportIt](http://yrp.ca/ReportIt) or by calling 1-866-876-5423.

## Protect Yourself from Grandparent Scams:

- Do not offer any money or personal information until you verify the story with family first
- Call the grandchild or family member in question at a phone number you recognize as their own
- Ask the caller personal questions that only your grandchild could answer
- Press the caller for details if they identify as a government official and verify their information
- Please take some time and ask yourself: Could this be a scam? Does it make sense?



"I really felt clobbered. I just wondered how I missed the signs."

'Nicky' and his wife came forward to police in the hopes of educating other seniors on the dangers of grandparent scams, to prevent others from falling prey.

To hear Nicky share his story, visit the [grandparent scams page on the York Regional Police website](#).



# Special Constables Serving Vaughan

New Community Support Officers enhance frontline capacity, drive community engagement.

In a Vaughan neighborhood on a cold January morning, Special Constables Suzie Da Silva and Richard Clarke are knocking on doors. They are engaging with residents and asking if their video doorbells or home security cameras might have captured footage of a car that was stolen the night before.

Da Silva and Clarke are two of four new Community Support Officers (CSOs), who have been patrolling the City of Vaughan in #4 District since November 2022 as part of a one-year pilot project.

“CSOs attend calls for service where nobody is in custody and there’s a very low threat level,” said Da Silva.

In addition to canvassing neighbourhoods for surveillance footage and witnesses of crimes, CSOs direct traffic, assist with road closures, provide security at insecure premises and crime scenes and take reports for property crimes.

“The work we do frees up sworn officers to focus on priority calls,” Da Silva continued.

Easily identifiable in uniforms with light blue piping and specially marked vehicles, CSOs help to increase our presence in Vaughan through proactive foot and vehicle patrols, deterring crime and providing residents with enhanced service delivery.

“These special constables have been very well received by the community,” said #4 District Superintendent Graham Beverly. “Members of the public have remarked appreciatively on the CSOs professionalism, thoughtfulness and enthusiasm, as well as their desire to go above and beyond to provide assistance.”

Currently, one CSO has been assigned to each platoon at #4 District. York Regional Police is exploring how the program can be expanded across York Region in the future.

Chief of Police Jim MacSween said the CSOs have proven to be a valuable asset to York Regional Police and the region.

“These peace officers perform vital operational tasks and help keep the public safe, allowing sworn officers to be directed where they are needed most,” said MacSween. “They also engage meaningfully with the public, creating stronger bonds of trust between our police service and the community it serves.”



## CELEBRATING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Every year, hundreds of community members take part in our Asian Heritage Month celebration at Headquarters. This vibrant event features cultural performances, traditional cuisine and inspiring guest speakers. Most importantly, this event is an opportunity for the community to engage with our members, including those who serve on our East-Southeast Asian (ESEA) Internal Support Network.

ESEA is one of seven internal support networks at YRP, which offer members a safe and supportive space to share both lived and cultural experiences. These member-driven groups work to foster equity and inclusion and offer mentorship, career development and community outreach opportunities.



# Instant Replay

## York Regional Police turns to TikTok to educate public on poor driving habits

Pics or it didn't happen. The mantra of social media.

As in, show, don't tell.

Officers in the Road Safety Bureau believe it. In 2022, in collaboration with the Corporate Communications Bureau, they turned to video tape to show traffic violators the error of their ways in the YRP Instant Replay series.

"The reason for the stop today is that you didn't stop at the red light back at the intersection," Sergeant Andy Pattenden told the driver of an SUV featured in a video on the York Regional Police TikTok account, @yorkregioncops.

"I thought it went green," said the driver.

"No, it was red. It was red the whole time," Pattenden reiterated. But to ensure the driver felt he was getting a fair shake, he agreed to check out the video recorded by his police cruiser's in-car camera.

Video, of course, doesn't lie. There it was—a red traffic light and an SUV that showed no sign of stopping as it turned right onto Markham's Apple Creek Boulevard.

It was plain to see for the 2.5 million who checked the video out on TikTok.

After the instant replay, the call on the road stood.

Videos in the series, which featured drivers who disputed an officer's assessment of their driving violations, attracted more than five million views on TikTok alone in 2022. Hundreds of thousands more caught the sassy segments on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

The very thought of flashing lights in a rear-view mirror is enough to keep many drivers between the lines. And for those who break the law—willfully or unknowingly—a traffic stop is a tool to teach a driver an important lesson.

But on social media, the Instant Replay videos deliver that lesson to millions.

"These videos open up important conversations about road safety," said Staff Sergeant Doug James, officer in charge of the Road Safety Enforcement Unit. "If someone who watches the video thinks twice when they are about to roll through a red light, the program has served its purpose."

### **1: RED-GREEN SHOW**

The driver in this video insisted the light was green before he turned on to Apple Creek Boulevard in Markham. Sadly, it was not.

### **2: MATTER OF SECONDS**

In this video, the driver thought he snuck in his right turn in the nick of time. Video review proved he was 2.569 seconds too late.

### **3: NEAR DISASTER**

After the officer pulled over this car in Markham for disobeying a no-right-turn-on-red sign, the driver nearly backed into her cruiser. As it turned out, she was driving with an expired licence.

2022-11-02 T14:23:29Z  
AXON FLEET 2 X54119575



"I thought it was green"

2022-11-25 12:26:42 -0500  
AXON FLEET 3 F X6847239H



"So on further review of the instant replay, the light was indeed red"

2022-12-06 16:09:40 -0500  
AXON FLEET 3 F X684725FJ



"You're going to hit my car!"



LICENSING





## **BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY**

In York Region, everyone belongs. And our Hate Crime Prevention Unit intends to keep it that way.

Over the past year, the team has investigated more than 350 hate crimes and hate/bias incidents across our region. We were also proud to host our third annual Hate Crime Conference, drawing representatives from police services across the country, to share in best practices and case studies.

We work closely with our municipal and community partners on education and enforcement, often reaching residents in their preferred languages. Our Hate Crime Unit is part of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau, whose members speak nine different languages in addition to English.

# Justice for Sex Assault Survivors

## Blue Light investigators get their man, nine years after brutal Richmond Hill attack.

In November 2014, Inspector Simon James and Staff Sergeant Mustafa Durgun were total strangers.

Today, the two investigators—James of York Regional Police and Durgun of Peel Regional Police—have spent thousands of hours working together.

Their professional union has led to exactly one arrest. Jaehyun “David” Cho, captured in 2022 and convicted of multiple offenses including kidnapping and sexual assault with a weapon in 2023, eluded police for nearly a decade. He plead guilty to an eight-and-a-half-year prison sentence.

The partnership was an undeniable success, said James.

“This is what it looks like when a multi-jurisdictional investigation is done right,” he explained.

The investigation first crossed regional boundaries when James, then a detective in York’s Special Victims Unit, received a notification from the province’s major case management unit and the Centre for Forensic Sciences. Forensic evidence, collected from a brutal sexual assault in Richmond Hill on November 13, 2014, matched that of an offender from a similar scene in Mississauga more than a year earlier.

For survivors of sexual assault, details, both big and small can cause lasting trauma. That’s why James, Durgun and the team of investigators, which they assembled, were committed to bringing justice to the victims at all costs, using a victim-centric and trauma-informed approach.

The team was called the Blue Light Task Force, named for the electric-blue beams on the front of York and Peel Region transit buses. In both cases, a knife-wielding Cho dragged a victim into dense brush away from the street after departing a late-night bus, before assaulting her. In Mississauga, his target was a 47-year-old woman; in Richmond Hill, it was a 17-year-old girl.

In the years that followed, officers working the case—eventually amounting to dozens from both agencies—stepped into uncharted investigative territory. DNA phenotyping, a practice used to determine someone’s physical characteristics, was used for the first time at York Regional Police in 2015. For investigators, it painted only the vaguest of pictures.

In 2017, a consultation with a genetic genealogist at the Federal Bureau of Investigation drew police ever closer to their suspect. In another first in York Region, the suspect’s DNA was compared with samples submitted to a public database in an attempt to identify his relatives. Police learned they were looking for a man of Korean descent. The pool narrowed again, but only barely.

Over time, officers executed 13 warrants, collected more than 150 DNA samples for analysis, canvassed more than 600 businesses and homes, conducted 1,000 interviews and eliminated, one by one, 154 potential suspects.

“We never lost faith that we would find our suspect,” said James. “It was never if, but when.”

When turned out to be December 1, 2021. Cho’s identification didn’t come as a result of some revelation in forensic science or the leveraging of a new technology. It came when his DNA was collected as part of a Toronto Police Service-led human trafficking probe.

Just as he had in 2014, through a Centre for Forensic Science notification, James became aware of yet another scene to which their perpetrator was connected. This time, Cho wouldn’t evade arrest for years on end. It was mere months before James and his colleagues identified Cho through interviews and careful surveillance.

And on March 11, 2022 they had Cho in custody, hopefully bringing a sense of justice to the victims.

# PROJECT BLUE LIGHT



# Organizational Chart

Over the past year, York Regional Police implemented several key changes to our organizational structure to better serve the evolving needs of our community and our members.

To better serve the needs of our members People, Wellness and Talent (PWT) has restructured into five bureaus—People Relations; Health, Safety and Ability; People Services, Rewards and Administration, Talent Acquisition and Management and Wellness.

The well-being of our members and their families continues to be a priority. As an organization, we must take care of our people, so they can in turn take care of our community.

In 2022, all biological, psychological, social, and spiritual services were brought together under our newly formed Wellness Bureau within the PWT service area. This bureau has a mandate of promoting and protecting the holistic wellness of members throughout their entire career.

These organizational changes are further integrating the well-being of our members into our people-centric approach to human resources.

This service area continues to report directly to the Deputy Chief of Administration.

To review our organizational chart online, visit the [York Regional Police website](#).





# 2022 Business Plan Accomplishments

## OUR COMMUNITY

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Continued collaboration with Victim Services of York Region on sexual assault investigation reviews
- Installed an Indigenous-themed crosswalk, designed by the Chippewas of Georgina Island and the Town of Georgina, at the Community Safety Village
- Continued focus on senior safety and preventive education regarding scams
- Created a new social media marketing and intern program with York University

### COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

- Formalized Greater Toronto Area commanders network with police services to coordinate work and promote inter-jurisdictional information sharing
- Developed new partnerships with mental health facilities to connect people experiencing homelessness with additional services and support
- Collaborated with child protective service agencies to combat human trafficking
- New partnership with the Solicitor General of Ontario to create scenario-based training for officers encountering persons in crisis

### OPERATIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY

- Continued development of the York Regional Police Pandemic Plan
- Enhanced regulatory partnerships to disrupt, deter and dismantle organized crime
- Engaged in multiple public safety and vulnerable road user campaigns, such as Safe Roads: Your Call and Instant Replay
- Numerous presentations delivered to external partners on the Run, Hide, Defend active attacker survival strategy

### EQUITY AND INCLUSION

- All members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Unit completed online Indigenous training through the University of Alberta to increase culture competency
- Hosted the 2022 Hate Crime Conference with attendees from across Canada
- Focused recruitment efforts on diverse communities through various engagement events
- Formalized weekly engagement sessions with frontline patrol officers and religious leaders in their community

2022 marked the third and final year of our 2020–2022 Business Plan. To learn more about our past accomplishments and future objectives, visit our digital edition at [businessplan.yrp.ca](https://businessplan.yrp.ca).

## OUR PEOPLE

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Implemented a training needs-assessment tool to assist with member career development planning
- Rolled out the first phase of an organization-wide Talent Management System
- Implemented a new organizational structure for the People Wellness and Talent Bureau
- Developed and delivered training for investigators and civilian monitors for execution of Part VI authorizations

### TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

- Implemented Automated License Plate Recognition for all frontline vehicles through Axon in-car cameras
- Implemented electronic information sharing solutions with E-Notes, E-Hub and E-Intake
- Launched business intelligence dashboards on wellness services to better support member well-being
- Axon interview room installed in all YRP interview rooms across the organization

### MEMBER SUPPORT

- Continued to embed wellness services at all YRP locations as part of the YRP Wellness Strategy
- Launched the Wellness First smartphone application to make it easier for members to access wellness supports
- Hosted the Together We are More Forum to address systemic racism and promote racial justice, equity and inclusion
- Established an incentive program to encourage members to complete annual fitness testing

### CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Developed new hybrid work procedure to further assist members with flexible work options
- Launched the Community Support Officer program, which deployed special constables to support frontline officers and engage with our community
- Developed a continuous improvement procedure to establish a prioritization model for organizational change projects
- Implemented an online identification verification process by partnering with Equifax to eliminate the need for some customers to attend police facilities in person



## TAKING UP THE TORCH

Special Olympics Ontario has long been a charity of choice for YRP. All it takes is a conversation with one of the athletes to understand why. We are inspired by their passion, resilience and love for sport.

In 2022, YRP raised more than \$75,000 for Special Olympics Ontario through a number of events, including the annual Race for Plunkett. More than one hundred YRP members and community partners ran alongside athletes, raising funds and paying tribute to fallen officer Detective Constable Rob Plunkett, a long-time Special Olympics supporter. The race was just one of 22 fundraising campaigns led by the Special Events Unit, which raised a total of \$1.5 million in 2022 for important community initiatives.



**ROB PLUNKETT MEMORIAL TORCH RUN**

RACE FOR PLUNKETT  
10 km / 5 km

Special Olympics Ontario

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPIANS

YORK REGIONAL POLICE

LAW ENFORCEMENT  
TORCH RUN  
FOR SPECIAL OLYMPIANS  
ONTARIO

1987-2022  
35 YEARS

# 2022 Statistics

<b>Public Complaints Accepted by OIPRD</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Formal Discipline	1	0
Informal Discipline	2	1
Informal Resolution	14	7
Unsubstantiated	18	16
Withdrawn	35	29
Policy/Service	3	5
OIPRD Cannot Proceed	0	0
Outstanding Files at Year End	23	32
<b>Total Complaints Accepted and Investigated</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>90</b>

<b>Public Complaints NOT ACCEPTED BY OIPRD</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Over Six Months	0	3
Not in Public Interest, Other Law, Etc.	119	116
Not Directly Affected	1	0
Retained by the OIPRD	0	0
<b>Total Complaints Not Accepted by the OIPRD</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Total Complaints</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>209</b>

<b>Classification of Complaints</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Conduct	213	204
Policy/Service	3	5
<b>Total Complaints</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>209</b>
Involved Officers	278	339
Officers Disciplined	4	1
Civilians Involved	6	2
Reviews Requested	5	5
Directed Hearings Ordered by OIPRD	2	0
Based on 1,713 officers employed at YRP, public complaints total 0.12 per officer		

<b>Total Uniform Strength</b>	<b>2022</b>
Authorized	1,713
Actual	1,680.5

<b>Total Civilian Strength</b>	<b>2022</b>
Authorized	691
Actual	675

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021/22 Variance</b>
Population	1,228,180	1,239,424	0.9

Crime Rates	2021		2022		2021/22 Variance	
	Actual	Rate	Actual	Rate	Actual	Rate
Crimes Against Persons	9,777	796.06	11,935	962.95	22.1	21.0
Crimes Against Property	22,504	1,832.30	26,402	2,130.18	17.3	16.3
Other Criminal Code	4,609	375.27	5,264	424.71	14.2	13.2
Weapons Violations	490	39.90	963	77.70	96.5	94.7
Public Morals Violations	20	1.63	6	0.48	-70.0	-70.6
Total Criminal Code Violations	37,400	3,045.16	44,570	3,596.03	19.2	18.1
Drug Violations	1,624	132.23	1,115	89.96	-31.3	-32.0
Other Federal Violations	88	7.17	28	2.26	-68.2	-68.5
Total Criminal Code Violations Excluding Traffic	39,112	3,184.55	45,713	3,688.25	16.9	15.8
Criminal Code Traffic Violations	4,305	350.52	5,073	409.30	17.8	16.8

Clearance Rates	2021	2022	2021/22 Variance
Crimes Against Persons	57.2	55.2	-2.0
Crimes Against Property	26.8	23.5	-3.3
Other Criminal Code	89.7	77.5	-12.2
Weapons Violations	83.5	70.5	-13.0
Public Morals Violations	80.0	50.0	-30.0
Total Criminal Code Violations	43.3	39.4	-3.9
Drug Violations	97.3	98.8	1.5
Other Federal Violations	95.5	96.4	0.9
Total Criminal Code violations Excluding Traffic	45.7	40.9	-4.8
Criminal Code Traffic Violations	56.7	48.2	-8.5

Benchmarks: Five-year Statistical Comparison	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Police to Population	756	721	722	723	724
Member to Population	542	518	516	517	516
Gross Cost per Capita (\$)	312	320	336	342	347

**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	2020	2021	2022
Offences	79,972	74,575	58,761

Reportable Motor Vehicle Collisions	2020	2021	2022
Collisions	8,798	8,783	11,902

# 2022 Statistics, continued

<b>Calls for Service</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021/22 Variance</b>
Calls for Service (citizen generated)	254,451	258,531	1.6
Number of Calls Dispatched	96,852	106,454	9.9
9-1-1 Calls Received	270,269	290,322	7.4
False Alarms Received	2,013	2,498	24.1

<b>Victim Services</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021/22 Variance</b>
On-scene Occurrences	180	248	37.8
Telephone Crisis Calls/Office Visits	15,088	15,094	0.0
Total Clients Served	13,001	15,167	16.7
Women	6,553	8,117	23.9
Men	1,955	2,901	48.4
Transgender****	0	16	NA
Non-binary****	0	0	NA
Children (0-15 years)	4,493	4,149	-7.7

<b>Youth Crime</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021/22 Variance</b>
Youth Charged	316	490	55.1
Youth Processed by Other Means	639	895	40.1
Total	955	1,385	45.0

<b>Hate Crime</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021/22 Variance</b>
Hate Crime Incidents	195	277	42.1

<b>Cost of Policing</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Salaries and Benefits	355,496,920	357,352,011	1,855,091
Program-Specific Expenses	4,022,901	3,766,600	(256,301)
Professional Contracted Services	2,274,124	1,962,500	(311,624)
General Expenses	18,149,537	18,875,017	725,480
Financial Charges	230,824	311,250	80,426
Insurance	2,844,160	2,844,160	0
Occupancy Costs	9,864,248	9,958,992	94,744
Minor Capital	221,531	286,900	65,369
Debt-Related Payments	7,555,182	7,446,967	(108,215)
Internal Charges	979,026	1,029,931	50,905
Contribution to Reserves	10,805,597	10,784,935	(20,662)
Total Expenditures	412,444,051	414,619,263	2,175,212
Total Revenues	(44,658,638)	(37,788,027)	6,870,611
Net Position	367,785,413	376,831,236	9,045,823

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	2022
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*	2022
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	2022
#1 District	0
#2 District	0
#3 District	0
#4 District	0
#5 District	0

Collections By Age Group**	2022
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***	2022
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.

\*\*\*\*Victim Services of York Region began capturing data for these categories in 2022.



## ALWAYS ON THE LINE

If you take a walk around our bustling 9-1-1 Call Centre, you're likely to spot one of our members in T-shirt emblazoned with the battle cry: They go all night, every night.

Our dispatchers and call-takers work 24/7, serving as the voice of calm when our residents place a 9-1-1 call.

Over the past year, our call centre fielded 258,531 citizen-generated calls for service. They dispatched 106,454 to our frontline officers, working hand-in-hand to keep our community safe.



# 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



## **OUR MISSION**

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

## **OUR VISION**

To make a difference in our community.

## **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.

### **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.

