

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE APRIL 3, 2006

CARING FOR VAUGHAN-RESULTS OF THE 2005 SURVEY ON COMMUNITY SAFETY IN THE CITY OF VAUGHAN

Recommendation

Councillor Bernie DiVona, Chair of the Safe City Committee recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan receive the report "Caring for Vaughan" ;
2. That the City of Vaughan Corporate Communications Department makes this report available to the general public by having it posted on the website in an electronic format, City Page for those wanting a hard copy, and that a news release be drafted highlighting the results of the citywide survey;
3. That the City of Vaughan forward a copy of this report immediately to the Mayor's Taskforce on Safety, York Regional Police, advisory committees and community service organizations, consistent with the past, in consultation with Councillor Bernie DiVona.
4. That the Safe City Committee continues to work towards using the results of the 2005 as part of the strategic plan being developed by the Safe City Committee to be brought forth to a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact associated with this report and recommendation.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the 2005 study on community safety; level of significance community safety has with the community; determination of public attitudes and preparedness to take an active role with safety; identification of who and where acts of crime take place; identification of the perceived causes of acts of crime and feedback from the public with respect to existing safety programs.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Safe City Committee developed a self administered questionnaire type survey through extensive consultation with researchers, criminologist, police and other community service professionals in the summer of 1995. This survey type platform has been used in 1995, 1998, 2002 and now 2005. In the past the survey has had overwhelming responses ranging from 2,598 to 5,900. The 2005 survey received 2,598 responses as the distribution method had been changed from having it inserted in the hydro billings to now being included as a drop off item with the local newspaper and available online by visiting www.vaughan.ca. Nonetheless, the results of the survey are statistically accurate within 2.9% 19 times out of 20. The simplicity and brevity of the survey has been very well received and findings accurately reflect the attitude and concerns of the residents of Vaughan.

The City of Vaughan questionnaire and/or reports has been requested, permission has been granted to be referenced with other reports from other municipalities and agencies including: Toronto Public School Board, Toronto Transit Commission, York Region Catholic School Board, Town of Richmond Hill, City of Ottawa, former City of Etobicoke, The Salvation Army and The Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario, etc.

The questionnaire type survey is most important from another perspective. During the past decade the City of Vaughan has fundamentally changed in demographics and has transformed itself into a large, dynamic urban community. The questionnaire type survey provides for a comparison between periods to accurately measure and evaluate changes in values and shifts in attitudes with newer demographics.

The survey was specifically designed to:

1. Evaluate the significance of community safety;
2. Determine the level of community safety from both an "actual" vs. "perceived" perspective as comparables are made between the survey results and actual crime statistics as obtained from York Regional Police;
3. Identify community interest and willingness to be involved with community safety;
4. Determine where acts of crime are perceived or concerned to be better or worse;
5. Identify the perceived causes of community crime;
6. Evaluate the level of community understanding with existing programs- a self assessment.
7. Provide the public with the opportunity to voice their input, opinions.

The executive summary on page 14 outlines the major conclusion to the survey and study.

1. We DO live in a safe community was expressed by over 80% of the respondents. As a result, Vaughan is a desirable community to move to and raise a family.
2. Community safety is the leading factor in deciding where you wish to live and raise a family. This is consistent with market surveys and those conducted by several financial institutions.
3. We DO also have major challenges the 2005 survey has shown that there is a fundamental shift opinion as to where and what are the major community challenges. The area of greatest concern is with road and traffic safety as compared to park safety as with previous surveys. Opinions with reference to "road rage" or "terrorism committed daily by motorists in Vaughan" were widely and clearly expressed. The survey was taken at a time when gun violence was very high so there was some expectation that the results of the survey would be moving towards violent crimes from crimes against property or traffic. That was not concluded, not to say that gun or violent crime is not an area of serious concern.
4. The survey concludes that there is a high willingness to assist the authorities by either reporting "acts of crime" or volunteering towards the safety of their community.
5. The survey shows a lag in responsibility as to "who" is responsible for "acts of crime" With a shift towards vehicular activity an expectation and correlation should have been made that those who commit "acts of crime" are adults. The emphasis remains that "teenagers" or those of high school age are the main contributors to "acts of crime".
6. The survey concludes that decision makers at all levels have a greater responsibility towards "improve planning" of the community and providing "better infrastructure" or "better transit"

7. The public expressed low awareness of community safety programs and a lower demand for police. However, positive responses to evaluate existing safety programs were very well detailed by those that had responded.
8. The public supports both "positive" and "negative" discipline approaches. More education, awareness and training is needed with infra structure spending. At the same time there is a need for "stiffer fines, more police."

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

"We will be a Smart City that gives Vaughan a competitive edge in the marketplace and promotes a SAFE, livable and sustainable environment.

We will COMMUNICATE our opportunities and celebrate our successes".

The results of the 2005 community survey puts into focus that the single largest consideration for the quality of life we seek to enjoy, and where we decide to live is "community safety". The priorities and concerns of residents of Vaughan with respect to the change in their priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have not been allocated.

Conclusion

The 2005 community safety survey puts into focus that the single most important factor when examining the quality of life we seek and enjoy is WHERE we decide to live, work, and raise a family. The survey concludes that we DO live in a safe city, but there remain challenges ahead. This survey also has concluded that a shift in focus and emphasis should be considered and placed in the area of road and traffic safety unlike the results of previous survey that concluded the area of greatest concerns were within our park and trail systems (crimes against property), not to say that there exists no problem in our parks and open spaces; instead, it is to say that it not the area of most significant concern.

There is an increasing willingness on the part of residents to report "acts of crime" and volunteer with community based programs. The City of Vaughan survey also mirrors the results of "The Federation of Canadian Municipalities Quality of Life in Canadian Municipalities" report and that of The Regional Municipality of York in that it shows that young offenders are now less likely to commit "acts of crime" on average.

Attachments

A copy of the full report is attached.

Report prepared by:

Councillor Bernie DiVona 905-832-8585 extension 8339.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Bernie DiVona
Chair-Safe City Committee

45.4

**City of
Vaughan**

The City Above Toronto

Caring for Vaughan



Results of the 2005 Survey on Community Safety in the City of Vaughan

Written by: Councillor Bernie DiVona, Ward 3
Chair, Safe City Committee
City of Vaughan
January 2006



Declaration of Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities

Every citizen has a right to...

- Live, work, and play in a municipality that promotes community safety, health, and wellness, while safeguarding the natural environment.
- Live in a municipality in which all mandated services are delivered effectively and efficiently.
- Live in a municipality in which citizens receive value for their property tax dollar.
- Live in a municipality that plans and manages growth responsibly, including the building, maintenance, and renewal of appropriate infrastructure.
- Live in a municipality that attracts, retains and promotes productive and effective employees committed to their own on-going professional training and growth.
- Live in a municipality that enhances the quality of life of its citizens by providing services beyond those mandated by law.
- Live in a municipality whose government communicates effectively with its citizens.

Every citizen has a responsibility to...

- Avoid behaviour that threatens the safety, health and wellness of fellow citizens or the integrity of the natural environment.
- Acknowledge that municipal services are finite, to be shared fairly with fellow citizens.
- Acknowledge that our security and well-being is built on the willingness of each of us to seek the common good.
- Acknowledge that the orderly growth of our City depends on proper planning, which requires citizen participation.
- Acknowledge that the financial stability of our City and the services we expect it to provide depend in part on the taxes we pay, and that as a consequence new services and new infrastructure must be affordable.
- Acknowledge that staff are professionals, and citizens as well; that they deserve to be treated as such; and that as skilled workers they are best retained by competitive salaries.
- Remember that communication is a mutual affair, and that voting is the most basic form of communication between citizens and their elected representatives.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Vaughan, February 28, 2005

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Safe City Committee is indebted to all those individuals that have voiced their concerns and recommendations with the City of Vaughan Safe City Committee 2005 Survey. The printed survey was distributed during July/August 2005 by the Vaughan Citizen, and is available online in an electronic format by visiting www.vaughan.ca. The response rate was such that the findings of the survey are "statistically relevant:" and accurate, i.e., the survey accurately reflects the concerns and interests the people of Vaughan have with the safety of their community.

We wish to thank all those that played a role in participating with the review of the survey responses, providing additional information for the compiling of this report, and those who helped shape this report. It would be unfair to list those that played a role as only too often some are invariably missed. You know who you are - you have asked for a copy of this report, and it will be given to you accompanied with a note of appreciation.

Over and above the survey respondents, public meetings were held by the Safe City Committee throughout the year to obtain community opinions, concerns (both real and perceived) and recommendations. We also wish to thank all those who, through their participation, helped to shape this report and to those that have lived "community safety" as a volunteer through various programs, e.g., the Park Ambassador Program.

We wish to thank KPMG LLP and CP Printing Inc. for their sponsorship of the production of this report, and to Costa Printing for the production of the Safe City Survey. The City of Vaughan is blessed by the generous support from our corporate sector.

We wish to thank the participation and interest shown by York Regional Police-District 4 with a special sense of gratitude to Constable Morris Shaw, and to York Regional Police Headquarters, in shaping this survey and report. Without actual crime results, one cannot appropriately or accurately assess volume, crime rates by category, and shifts in crime, compared to the perceptions of the respondents.

We are grateful to those that have provided logistical and critical support of this report including Liz Baer, Corporate Communications, City of Vaughan, and Laura Borello D'Avino, Executive Assistant to Councillor Bernie DiVona, Chair Safe City Committee for her coordination of this survey and report.

Often the unsung heroes are those that transform ideas and opinions into a work of substance and value. We thank you all!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
Acknowledgements	3
Why a Community Safety Survey?	5
The City of Vaughan <i>Safe City Committee</i>	7
An Introduction to " <i>Caring for Safety</i> "	9
Research/Survey Methodology	11
2005 Survey -- Executive Summary	14
2005 Safe City Survey Analysis	15
Safe City Survey Results	31
Crime Information in York Region	32
Conclusion	35
<i>Appendix A</i> City of Vaughan/York Regional Police 2005 Joint Safety Initiatives	37
<i>Appendix B</i> Vaughan Vision 2007	41
<i>Appendix C</i> Crime Statistics - York Regional Police - District 4	43
<i>Appendix D</i> Crimes Statistics - York Regional Police - Crimes by Type	45

WHY A COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY?

Vaughan Vision Statement

"The City of Vaughan will be a model community that places citizens first through service excellence.

We will be a Smart City that gives Vaughan a competitive edge in the marketplace and promotes a safe, livable and sustainable environment.

We will communicate our opportunities and celebrate our successes."

To borrow from acclaimed economist John Kenneth Galbrath, it is important to consider the "globalization of government and community." It was felt that a survey distributed throughout the City of Vaughan would provide all residents with a heightened awareness of community safety, opportunities for debate and discussion, and appreciation of the role that local government can and does play with this quality of life issue.

The questionnaire type design was a lengthy process with input from many organizations and/or individuals who have had experience with surveys and/or public safety. The original survey was first introduced in 1995 with survey results and/or commentary from York Regional Police, the Attorney General of Ontario, Member of Parliament (Vaughan), Member of Provincial Parliament (Vaughan King Aurora), York Region District Public and Separate School Boards, Toronto School Board, Toronto Transit Commission, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and academics from York University. This survey has been exceptionally well received as over 2,598 individuals have responded.

The 2005 questionnaire type survey has been modified to put an emphasis on "acts of crime" as compared to acts of "vandalism and violence". (However, the questionnaire remains fundamentally the same so as to provide the opportunity to investigate and examine changes in general public attitudes, trends, and emphasis towards community safety.)

The questionnaire that resulted was simple in design, generating acceptance through brevity and clarity while providing an opportunity for comprehensive understanding of the issues relating to community safety. The questions were written to specifically determine:

- Level of significance with community safety;
- Determination of public attitudes and preparedness to take an active role with safety;

-
- Identification of who and where acts of crime take place;
 - Identification of the perceived causes of acts of crime;
 - Feedback from the public with respect to existing safety programs.

The questionnaire would also provide an opportunity for respondents to express their personal opinions on the subject and make recommendations.

The results of past surveys have been exceptionally well received. After previous survey results were distributed, requests were made by various municipalities and public service providers to use and release findings of previous survey results including: Toronto School Board, Toronto Transit Commission, York Region Public and Separate School Board, the Town of Richmond Hill, City of Ottawa, City of Kingston, the former City of Etobicoke, and the Salvation Army.

As with any survey, study, or research paper, the ultimate intent is to improve the area of investigation.

"If you don't know where you are going, any path will not take you there."

Sioux Proverb

THE CITY OF VAUGHAN'S SAFE CITY COMMITTEE

Committed to proactively maintaining and enhancing safety initiatives through interactive participation with the entire community, the City of Vaughan established the Safe City Committee in 1995. The Safe City Committee was originally named "Committee on Vandalism and Violence". The name of the committee was changed to better reflect a positive attitude towards our goal and objective with community safety.

Membership to the Safe City Committee is from the general public coming from across the City of Vaughan and appointed by the City of Vaughan Council for a three year term. The Safe City Committee has representation from local government, police, business, education, and youth. The Safe City Committee has internal and external support from the City of Vaughan Parks Department, Recreation and Culture, Bylaw Enforcement, Clerk's Department, and from York Regional Police (District 4).

The Safe City Committee's mandate is to develop a strategic plan, identify opportunities to enhance safety and the quality of life in the community through consultation with other stakeholders. Recommendations of the Safe City Committee are forwarded to the City of Vaughan Council for review, consideration, and final approval. All programs are made available to all residents of the City of Vaughan.

Since it is important to understand attitudes and concerns with community safety, the Safe City Committee decided to use a survey as the platform to obtain and gauge public opinion. A survey was designed in 1995 and has been distributed and published about every three years.

The Safe City Committee selected a survey as it could be repeatedly used, and comparisons can be drawn with the measurement and changes in attitudes, and effectiveness of safety programs.

With representation from the local government, police, business, education and youth, the Safe City Committee initiated the survey, analyzed the results and undertook the preparation of this report. The goal of this report is to:

- Determine community understanding and attitudes towards community safety;
- Promote communication among stakeholders by building awareness;
- Develop community-based prevention programs based on community recommendations and research;
- Encourage members of the community to "work together".

MEMBERS OF THE SAFE CITY COMMITTEE (2003 - 2006)

Chair: Councillor Bernie Di Vona

Ex Officio: Mayor Michael Di Biase

Vice-Chair: Shawn Bassin

Members: Rick Bedard
Frank Civichino
Erlinda Insigne
Regional Councillor Linda D. Jackson
Christine Radewych
Franca Sassano

Committee Support: Dave Madore, Manager Enforcement Services
Domenic Colalillo, Manager, Recreation & Culture
Tom Sudak, Manager, Park Services
Rose Magnifico, Assistant City Clerk
Constable Morris Shaw, York Regional Police (District 4)

AN INTRODUCTION TO "CARING FOR SAFETY"

THE GREATER TORONTO AREA

Canada is one of the world's most highly urbanized nations with over three-quarters of its residents living in cities. Canada's biggest cities are often regarded among the "best" places to live in the world, (Organization for Economic Development). Residents of Vaughan, and indeed throughout York Region and the GTA, often identify themselves when traveling as being from Toronto as opposed to being a resident of the Region of York, Vaughan or elsewhere. We identify ourselves as if from one community - the Greater Toronto Area.

Strategically located in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), the City of Vaughan, "*The City above Toronto*", is a dynamic municipality experiencing significant growth, and with this growth comes numerous challenges and opportunities. The City of Vaughan plays a pivotal role within the GTA as a result of its location, socio-economic activity, dependency and interdependency with other municipalities and service providers.

Why is the City of Vaughan, if already enjoying one of the best standards of living within the GTA, conducting research on community safety? We must be vigilant in recognizing that we are subjected to the same societal influences and social, economic and cultural forces as with any other city. The City of Vaughan is not immune to "acts of crime" as experienced throughout the GTA.

"The future of Canadian society is based on an understanding of the role of large cities... and if Canada fails to understand the importance of these places, it will fail as a culture."

Gardner Church

COMMUNITY SAFETY- A "SHARING" AND "SHAPING" ROLE

A community based survey provides us the forum to reflect on Canada's millennium theme, "sharing the memory" and "shaping our dreams". The quality of life we all enjoy, the programs and services being provided; all play a pivotal role in our concerns and/or perceptions of the quality of life we all share. The millennium theme of "*shaping the dream*" implies that community safety and improvements are a continuing process of community involvement, critical evaluation of existing programs, and the impetus to implement "best practices" or other suggestions based on the shortfalls that have been identified. We must recognize that "*shaping the dream*" requires public consultation, study and participation as we come to terms with what distinguishes our community.

What makes the City of Vaughan unique is the character of our community. The City of Vaughan community includes the "service delivery" groups and/or agencies including: City of Vaughan Enforcement Services, York Regional Police, and other agencies and/or organizations working together

for our safety. Our unique character is achieved by people and other "community service organizations" highly involved with their families, places of worship, sports, and the environment. This endorsement and promotion of positive attitudes and participation is what makes Vaughan a "people place", and results in the quality of life we all enjoy. We are an "all inclusive" community.

"The realization of human rights does not involve only actions by the government...It demands a new awareness of the reality of human unity and the development among all people of an all inclusive notion of community that extends from the family, to villages, towns, cities...and, most importantly, to the boundaries of the planet itself.

Moreover, given that rights cannot exist without corresponding responsibilities, each member of a community has a responsibility to uphold the rights of the other members based on a recognition of their unity and interdependence".

**From the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, adopted and proclaimed
by the General Assembly of the United Nations, December 10, 1948.**

While the City of Vaughan and many other cities in the Greater Toronto Area enjoy significant economic growth and prosperity we recognize that social problems do exist. No two communities are identical, and they cannot expect to solve their problems in an identical manner. By working together, however, we can plan safer and more enjoyable communities. The City of Vaughan is well positioned to take a leading role in this regard by encouraging community safety and crime prevention initiatives that will help to ensure that our residents continue to enjoy a high quality of life in the future.

RESEARCH/SURVEY METHODOLOGY

PURPOSE OF A COMMUNITY SURVEY

The City of Vaughan is committed to proactively maintaining and enhancing the "quality of life" through community safety initiatives with the participation and consultation from the entire community.

RESEARCH METHOD - A QUESTIONNAIRE TYPE SURVEY

The Safe City Committee developed a questionnaire type survey through extensive consultation with researchers, criminologists, police and other community service professionals in the summer/fall of 1995. The survey provides a statistical platform to accurately measure and evaluate public opinion and trends.

The self-administered questionnaire type survey was first used in 1995 and mailed to each household in the City of Vaughan. Responses to past surveys was regarded as "exceptional" and provided statistically significance within 1.5% to 5% accuracy, 19 times out of 20. The 1995, 1998 and 2002 surveys were exceptionally well received by volume as well with responses ranging from over 2500 to 5,900. The current survey received 2,598 responses and is statistically relevant within 2.9%, 19 times out of 20. (Previous surveys were included as an insert in the hydro billing which was cost effective and resulted in "guaranteed delivery".) The current 2005 survey used the Vaughan Citizen/Liberal distribution, and was also available online. As a result, the responses have significantly reduced, but still regarded as statistically relevant within 2.9%, 19 times out of 20.

It was felt that the responses exceeded expectation as a result of the simplicity and brevity of the survey, and the importance the general public has with the topic - community safety. With the exceptional high response to previous surveys, the Safe City Committee was satisfied that a new survey would be well received and would accurately reflect public opinion.

During the past decade, the City of Vaughan has fundamentally changed in demographics and has transformed itself from a small bedroom community to a dynamic largely urban community of nearly 250,000. Most recently, the City of Vaughan has had growth exceeding \$1.0 billion in construction activity from 1999 through 2003. The questionnaire type survey provides for a comparison between periods as an acceptable measure in evaluating programs that were introduced between the survey periods, and reflects the value changes in growth and demographics.

The survey was specifically designed to:

1. Evaluate the significance of community safety within the community;
2. Determine the level of community safety from both an "actual" versus "perceived" perspective;
3. Identify community interest and willingness to be involved with community safety;
4. Find out where community crimes take place;
5. Identify perceived causes of community crime ;
6. Evaluate the level of community understanding of existing programs;
7. Provide the public with the opportunity to voice their personal remarks and/or opinions.

The City of Vaughan Safe City Committee established a "benchmark" questionnaire. Numerous requests have been made by other municipalities and public service groups to use the questionnaire and/or findings, e.g. the Ministry of the Attorney General, Toronto School Board, Toronto Transit Commission, York Region Catholic School Board, Town of Richmond Hill, City of Ottawa, the Salvation Army, and the former City of Etobicoke, etc.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY-DISTRIBUTION (SUMMER 2005)

The 2005 survey was distributed in several ways:

- Inserted and distributed by the Vaughan Citizen/Liberal newspaper during the month of August 2005 to all households.
- Printed copies were distributed and available at all City of Vaughan community centers, Vaughan Civic Centre, and Vaughan Public Libraries. (Those surveys that were received from the same location were reviewed to determine to see if they were duplication.)
- Available online by visiting www.vaughan.ca.

The City of Vaughan's Corporate Communications Department also advertised the survey within the "City Page" of the local newspapers, Vaughan Citizen/Liberal, Vaughan Weekly and the Tandem.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY – COMPARISON OF PUBLIC OPINION TREND ANALYSIS

The benefit of using a similar survey is that it provides for the opportunity to determine the changes in attitudes as the municipality grows, a changing society, and socio-economic pressures. The survey analysis details a comparison of the results between the past three years. This report details the survey results from the last survey against the current survey (2001 and 2005).



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY- PUBLIC OPINION COMPARISON vs. ACTUAL CRIME STATISTICS

The survey provides an accumulation of public opinion with respect to attitudes of the public towards community safety compared against actual crime rates as provided by York Regional Police. The public opinion and attitudes may be consistent or inconsistent with the actual criminal activity within the City of Vaughan for various reasons. Depending on the objective of what is being measured and evaluation criteria public opinion may either mirror or converge against actual crime rates. For example, past research has shown that the identification of criminal activity by age group did not mirror the actual age distribution of those committing crimes. However, there was a correlation between attitudes as to priority and types of crime. For example, past survey results has concluded that vandalism and violence in parks and public spaces was regarded as a major concern. Concurrently, "crime to property" closely reflected such attitude; however, the survey did not conclude that those that were committing the acts of vandalism or violence were of a younger age. By using York Regional Police statistical reports we can compare actual rates and volumes against perceived public opinion.

Do community safety programs address the actual type of criminal or safety activity, or have we established community safety programs to address the perceived activity? Questions contained within the survey as to age distribution with "acts of crime" and location of criminal activity, help us address the issue of program development.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

The survey requested respondents to evaluate and comment on existing community safety programs in a general sense, i.e. programs initiated by the City of Vaughan and/or York Regional Police. The intent was to obtain general public feedback with existing programs and to determine how informed the general public was with existing programs.

Further, there could also be a correlation in attitudes with community safety and knowledge of existing programs. Can a resident feel that we are safe and simultaneously feel that we do not have the community safety programs in place? A relationship should or may exist between attitudes and service delivery.

Education and awareness has been an area of increased importance. It is through education and awareness that community participation and debate is ignited. It is the fuel for prevention, community policing and other volunteer type programs.

2005 SAFE CITY SURVEY RESULTS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ✓ We DO live in a safe community according to over 80% of respondents.
- ✓ Community safety is the leading factor in deciding where you wish to live and raise a family.
- ✓ While we do live in a safe city, we do have major challenges.
- ✓ The 2005 survey reflects a fundamental shift in opinion as to where and what are the major community safety challenges/issues. During the past decade, the most significant "acts of crime" were "property related crimes" i.e. vandalism and violence in parks, community centres, schools, etc. The current survey concludes that the most significant problem is with roads and traffic safety, i.e. traffic congestion, unsafe driving and "road rage".
- ✓ "Perception" of who is committing "acts of crime" has not shifted significantly from teenagers to adults. While road and traffic safety is the major concern there was not a corresponding shift to have "adults" accountable.
- ✓ Why "acts of crime" are committed has shifted significantly and fundamentally from "crimes against property" to "traffic" and "unsafe driving". The cause has shifted from "boredom", "lack of parental discipline" with "crimes against property" to "need for improved infrastructure", better transit", and "improved planning" of roads and communities.
- ✓ A significant willingness exists to report "acts of crime" to the authorities.
- ✓ The public expressed low awareness of community safety initiatives. However, those that are aware of safety initiatives were very well informed as they named several community safety initiatives such as: "Road Watch", "Crime Stoppers", "Camera-in-the-Park", "Park Ambassador", etc.
- ✓ The public supports both "positive" and "negative" discipline approaches to address community safety. The "positive" discipline approach includes: improved infrastructure, public education and training, and "build community pride". The "negative discipline" approach included: higher and stiffer fines and penalties, more police, and full restitution to address "acts of crime".



2005 SAFE CITY SURVEY ANALYSIS

Q1: *Do you feel you live in a safe community?*

	<u>2001 Survey</u>	<u>2005 Survey</u>
Yes	82%	80%
No	14%	20%
Not Sure	4%	0%

A1: The first question of the survey immediately addressed the fundamental question with community attitude and feelings towards safety. Respondents had an opportunity to indicate if they feel they live in a safe community by responding "yes", "no", "not sure", or undecided. Nearly 80% of the respondents said "yes" they do feel they live in a safe community, while those responding "no" have increased to 20%. A surprising result was that there were nearly no respondents that answered "not sure". (The actual number of "not sure" was only 12 of 2,495 survey responses).

During the past 10 years there has been a significant increase in population which reflects an increased desirability to move to Vaughan. This question, therefore, should have remained high and continued to have a high positive response rate as people move to where they feel safe as public polls and surveys have consistently concluded that community safety is the prime concern when deciding on where to live and raise a family. A most recent survey concluded that 93% consider "community safety" as the prime consideration.

Community safety tops list in home selection

Survey finds factor Important to 93%, tops for one-third

The survey does not provide a breakdown as to when they moved into Vaughan so we are unable to determine if the attitudes towards safety are with the existing community to those that recently moved into the community. However, it could also be said that if a resident is unhappy with safety, that resident would more than likely move out to a safer community.

The question also provides the Safe City Committee an opportunity to compare actual crime statistics with the perception of crime. The citywide survey concludes that 80% of respondents indicated that they feel safe living in the City of Vaughan. This reflects the high level of importance with which respondents regard community safety. Crime statistics for the past few years have shown that "actual total criminate violations" year over year has remained relatively constant with 11,686 for 2003 and 11,949 for 2004. If traffic violations are taken into consideration, the grand total is 12,632 for 2003 and 12,874 for 2004. As the population has significantly increased, there was not a proportionate increase in the actual crime, and perhaps this explains the high sense of comfort respondents felt with community safety. (Please refer to Appendix "C" for the actual crime rates and clearance rate for District 4 from York Regional Police.)

An alternate approach was considered to determine or measure community safety. Rather than use a "yes" or "no" type approach, a survey could have been drafted to use a sliding scale from one to ten with "one" being "totally unsafe" to 10 being "highly safe". It was felt that an immediate initial response would be more significant and provide a direct comparison with previous results other questions in the survey would provide a measure of the degree of significance and importance to safety as well.

A further comparison with the 1995 survey shows that 11% of the respondents felt that there is a problem with community safety to the current 20%. Since 1995, there have been annual issuances of between 5,000 and 9,000 building permits per year, or 58% increase in Vaughan's population over the past 10 years. The increase in dissatisfaction shows that although community safety generally regarded as satisfactory, there is a trend slowly towards an attitude of improvement and/or a level of confidence with community safety needs some help. While 93% felt that community safety was the prime consideration on where to live, only 80% felt that where they live was safe.

The results may also indicate that the high perception or attitude towards community safety exists based on other factors such as: radio and newspaper reporting which tends to report on negative activity such as accidents, gun activity or deaths. One respondent added a letter to the survey and said, "Why is it that the news does not report how many births there are in Vaughan?"

The 2005 survey was distributed throughout the City of Vaughan during the summer 2005. This was a time in which the City of Toronto and other cities throughout the Greater Toronto Area were experiencing highly violent crimes with guns and murders. It was anticipated that the 2005 survey would have shown an increased concern in the attitude towards community safety with the highly reported gun related criminal activity. However, the survey results were not skewed or adversely affected by the highly visible and reporting of gun violence and murders. Some headlines from the summer of 2005 included:

VAUGHAN CITIZEN

A Metroland community newspaper
Box 290, 9350 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, ON L4C 4Y6

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

LETTERS

**Terrorism committed daily
by motorists in Vaughan**

Every day volunteers dedicate their time and talents to lend a hand in our communities.

My husband and I have been living in Woodbridge for 15 months. While bad driving seems to be epidemic everywhere, nowhere in our world travels have we ever experienced driving as dangerous and aggressive as in Woodbridge.

Tugating and other selfish intimidation tactics are the norm, as are excessive speeding, running stop signs and red lights and failing to allow pedestrians the right of way, to list a few infractions.

We all know aggressive and irresponsible driving causes accidents, property damage, injury and even death. In addition to the grief

Emphasis with what has been regarded and reported as the "year of the gun". This attitude towards extremity of criminal activity continued to be advanced and stretched from the City of Toronto to the entire "905". The Toronto Star headlines that were typical at the time of the survey read, "Though killings in 2005 were down from the year before, the level of shock was hardly lessened in Peel, York, Halton, and Durham regions." And, as the following chart shows, the City of Vaughan was not immune to the adverse reporting on gun activity as there were a number of homicides in the City of Vaughan.

**Problems go
beyond Toronto**

Number of homicides in the 905
area: code regions in 2005:

► **Halton Region (3)**

Oakville 1

Burlington 1

Acton 1

► **Peel Region (11)**

Mississauga 6

Brampton 5

► **York Region (8)**

Vaughan 5

Markham 2

Richmond Hill 1

► **Durham Region (2)**

Oshawa 1

Pickering 1

TORONTO STAR 64

Notwithstanding the timing of the survey up against a climate of highly visible and prevalent adverse attitudes towards violent crimes, respondents to the survey expressed a high regard for safety within their community.

Q2: Have you witnessed any “acts of crimes” in your community?

	<u>2001 Survey</u>	<u>2005 Survey</u>
Yes	46%	58%
No	53%	38%
Not Sure	1%	4%

A2: This question was felt to be necessary to better understand if the attitude or opinion with community safety in Vaughan was the result of or predicated on their actual experience, or was it based on reading the newspaper, watching television, talking to their friends, or any other reason. The results of the survey could also be skewed or distorted if those responding to the survey were those that had direct or personal experience or involved with an illegal event. For example, if there was a rash of break-ins in a neighborhood, there would be a greater participation rate in the survey. Based on the distribution of the responses, it is felt both those that have and have not witnessed “acts of crime” have felt that they do live in a safe community. Over 58% have actually witnessed “acts of crime”, and, yet, over 80% still concluded that they feel they live in a safe community. So many of those that feel they live in a safe community witnessed “acts of crime” and this did not change their attitude towards the safety of their community. Another possible explanation is that there may be a change in expectation or standards. It may be that “acts of crime” may be more tolerated or regarded as the “norm”.

Q3: If so, did you report it to anyone?

	<u>2001 Survey</u>	<u>2005 Survey</u>
Yes	73%	78%
No	24%	17%
Not Sure	3%	5%

A3: The Safe City Committee felt this was also an important question as it required the respondent to reflect inwards as to whether or not they would take ownership with their safety and assist the authorities. There was a 78% response rate expressing willingness towards assistance and cooperation. The correlation between attitude and involvement has improved showing a greater willingness by the public to participate in reporting crime or taking an active role. However, those that said they would not report "acts of crime" to the authorities often stated that they were reluctant as they simply did not know if the police would respond. Some wrote stories of allegedly calling "dozens of times" with no response.

Public safety is not only a police responsibility but a community responsibility as well. The percentage of respondents who witnessed a crime and subsequently reported it has increased significantly since 1995. This clearly shows a greater willingness to contact the police or authority. This is an indication that York Regional Police and local government have been successful at increasing the public's awareness of the importance in reporting criminal activity. During this period, the City of Vaughan had initiated a City of Vaughan "hotline" and promoted assisting York Region Police through various programs.

Q4: *What age group do you think is primarily responsible for "acts of crime" in our community?*

**Reach kids
earlier to
prevent
violence,
expert says**

A4: The purpose of this question was to discover whom the respondents felt was responsible for "acts of crime" in their community. The split in determination of "acts of crime" by age group was deliberate. The intent of the survey was to determine if it was felt to be a problem with elementary school age children, high school age children, or adults. By identifying the age group it would assist in understanding where education and prevention type programs can or should be focused. There also would be a relationship of "who" commits crimes with "where" and "why" crimes are committed.

The results of the 2005 survey are that 88% feel that property crime is within the ages of 13 to 19 (restricted to high school). However, statistical research has concluded that half of the vandalism and violence can be attributed to those "under 12" (25%) and also to "adults" (25%). Respondents have kept away from identifying young children as a possible cause of "crimes of property".

The recognition of "who" commits crimes has a direct impact on education and prevention programs. Studies have concluded that the sooner prevention programs are introduced to younger children, the better. Studies also show that teens are unaware that they are the group most victimized by crime. Those responsible for the education and raising of children must be aware of the need to start early to have children respect property and take responsibility for their community.

The major finding of the 2005 survey was that there was shift in attitude with "where" crimes are committed. As a result, there has been a shift as to who is responsible with committing "acts of crime". The 2005 survey concluded that the most serious problem is with "road and traffic" safety. However, the respondents put the blame highly with those in the "13 to 19" age group. This was surprising as young adults (ages 13 to 16) cannot drive and, yet, are felt to be responsible.

Q5: Where do you believe "acts of crime" occur in our community?

<u>2001 Survey</u>	<u>2005 Survey</u>
Parks	Roads
Schools	Park
Recreation Centres	School /Recreation Centres
Plazas	Plazas
Private Property	Private Property
Business	Business

A5: The purpose of this question was to ascertain the public's perception as to where "acts of crime" are committed. The 2005 survey has resulted in a profound shift in attitude from previous surveys. Each of the previous surveys had concluded that "acts of crime" occurred in our parks, schools, recreation facilities, plazas, private properties and businesses in that order of significance.

Surveys need to be also taking into consideration the climate that exists as a result of issues having high profile. If we put this general public opinion against the existing increase in gun violence and homicides that was reported during the period of the survey, one would be inclined to conclude that "acts of crime" would likely be identified to be prevalent related to "gun activity".



However, the 2005 survey has concluded that "acts of crime" now are most prevalent on our public roads and are traffic or road related rather than park vandalism related. In fact, when a comparison was performed between "gun vs. traffic deaths" the survey results were reconfirmed, i.e. road safety is more serious a risk than gun crimes according to statistics accumulated by the Toronto Star. While the climate of public opinion had an emphasis of gun deaths, actual crime statistics and the 2005 Safe City Survey both concluded that road and traffic safety was by far a more serious problem.

The 2005 survey also continues to conclude that there is a feeling with the general public that "businesses" have the incidence of the least "acts of crime".

Gun vs. traffic deaths
There were more traffic fatalities than gun fatalities in the GTA last year.

Stats for 2005:

Mun.	Traffic fatalities	Gun fatalities
OPP (GTA's 400-series highways)	78	0
Toronto	59	52
Peel	34	3
York	37	3
Durham	11	0
Halton	10	0
Total	229	58

Bill Sandford for the Toronto Star
SOURCE: Various police agencies

In the GTA in 2005, 229 people died in traffic accidents, including the driver of this car who died last Thursday after he lost control of his vehicle, hit a tree and flipped over on The Kingsway on Thursday.

Q6: Why do you think "acts of crime" are committed in your community?

	2001 Ratings	2005 Ratings
Need to improve infrastructure/transit	10	1/2
Drugs	4	3
Lack of Parental Responsibility/Discipline	1	4
Boredom	2	5
Peer Pressure	3	6
Lack of Enforcement	5	7
Cultural and Lack of Facilities	6/7	8
No Jobs/Work	9	9
Lack of Education/Understanding	8	10

A6: This question attempted to determine what respondents perceived as the cause(s) of "acts of crime". Respondents had an opportunity to give multiple reasons or causes. During the tabulation of the results, we discovered that many hundreds of respondents concluded that we do live in a safe community, but then hundreds continued to identify the causes of "acts of crime". We felt that it was somewhat inconsistent to conclude that they do live in a safe community, but also then identify at length the root causes of "acts of crime". Some members of the committee that reviewed the tabulation felt that while "acts of crime" were committed that they still felt safe in their community as they anticipate or come to expect some level of "acts of crime" as acceptable.

The 2005 survey has concluded that road and traffic safety was the major issue with community safety. And, further, there was a correlation with the cause of "acts of crime" with "why". The predominate comment was that there was or is a "need to improve infrastructure", "need to improve transit", "need to improve roads", and "bad planning", or "too much growth". The respondents predominately leaned towards decision makers and planning considerations as contributing factors towards community safety issues.

Each of the previous surveys on community safety indicated that the root cause of "acts of crime" were more closely related or embedded with the family and interpersonal relationships, i.e. "boredom", "lack of parental discipline" and "peer pressure". The only exception was that "drugs" continued to be regarded as a significant cause of "acts of crime". Possible conclusions suggest that the general public feel that the causes that prevailed in the past have been remedied by education and/or awareness initiatives. Or, that their concern with traffic and road safety is so strong that it dwarfs all other concerns.

However, what was most interesting was that there was little correlation between those "who" cause "acts of crime" with the types of crime. If "road rage", "road safety" or "congestion" are identified as the areas of major safety issue or concerns, then one would reasonably conclude that "adults" would be the majority of those "who commit" crime.

Statistical information confirms that there is an increase awareness or concern with "drugs". It is worth noting that York Regional Police crime statistics for the last two years has shown that "drug violations" has nearly doubled during the same period (see Appendix D). The increase in number of violations for drugs coincides with the increased concern of drugs as a major problem.

The survey also shows that "lack of enforcement" is not as high a problem as was originally indicated in previous surveys. During the tabulation of the results, there was considerable discussion on this subject as it was regarded a decade ago to be a major issue and now the "demand" for law enforcement has diminished. The Committee also reflected upon public comments made throughout the year at public meetings with request to the visibility of the police. When the question was asked: "how many police do you feel now are working tonight in the City of Vaughan?" The responses were, at first, very surprising. Residents had expressed they felt upwards of 1,000 police officers were on patrol. Was this the result of the residents expressing that York Regional Police had already achieved high visibility? When residents were advised that there were approximately one to two dozen officers

on patrol throughout the City of Vaughan many expressed shock and surprise. However, they all soon came to realize that it was impossible for York Regional Police to be solely responsible for enforcement. We need to work together.

The City of Vaughan Enforcement Services has been working closely with York Regional Police and throughout 2005 there were a series of joint enforcement initiatives (see Appendix A).

If we have a major problem with road and traffic safety, how is it possible that more policing or enforcement was not the way to address this issue? Suggestions to address this issue include a review of the clearance rate of statistics which shows that there has been an increase in clearance rate from 32% to 42% year over year overall and there has been a clearance rate for traffic violations from 36% to 44% year after year. Others have suggested that education and awareness programs provided by York Regional Police play a major role in the public's perception – "they are doing the best they can with the resources they have, so don't blame the police!" Problems are "with government" was the familiar comment. None of the previous surveys even included "road" or "traffic safety".

During 2005, the "year of the gun" public attitudes were geared towards violent crimes. However, a review conducted by the Toronto Star comparing "gun vs. traffic deaths" put into perspective that traffic fatalities far exceeded gun fatalities (see page 21). It clearly suggested that an emphasis must be placed on traffic safety as compared to gun safety. The survey, interestingly enough, concluded that traffic safety was indeed the most major problem, and that an emphasis must be with road and traffic planning, investment and development. This is not to suggest that there is no problem with gun safety, it is only intended to suggest that traffic safety is attributable to a greater impact to our overall safety.

Q7: Do you feel that the City of Vaughan safety programs and initiatives have been beneficial?

A7: Over 38% of the respondents felt that the City of Vaughan safety programs have not been beneficial, and, over 42% expressed that they were unaware or "did not know" of our safety programs. This was disturbing to have either a negative response or uncertainty approaching 80% of the total respondents.

However, when respondents did provide a positive response to existing programs, they were very well informed as they named numerous programs including those that are either City of Vaughan safety programs or not. For example, the majority of the responses identified: Road Watch, Crime Stoppers, Neighborhood Watch, and Park Ambassador. The City of Vaughan "Hotline" received the least responses.

SAFE CITY NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2004



Dear Resident:

The City of Vaughan Safe City Committee was established with a mission to investigate and make recommendations to Vaughan Council as to the opportunities to make Vaughan a safer, more enjoyable and better place to live, work, play and raise a family.


This newsletter has been prepared to keep residents informed of some of the policies and programs now available within the City of Vaughan. We invite you to visit our website: www.vaughan.ca

Bernie Di Vona, Chair

Committee Members		STAFF
Shawn Bassin	Angela Leah Quinto	Domenic Colalillo, Programs Manager
Rick Bedard	Christine Radevych	Tom Sudak, Manager of Parks Services
Frank Belluoglio	Luigi Ruffolo	Tony Thompson, Senior Manager of By-Law
Frank Civichino	Franca Sassano	Sandra Galassi, Recording Personnel
Estimda Insigne	Councillor Bernie Di Vona	
Michael Petruzella	Regional Councillor Linda D. Jackson	

MEET CONSTABLE SHAW

Introduce Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)



Ward	Date	Location	Host
1	Thursday, October 14, 2004	Maple Community Center, Mtg. Rm 2 10190 Keele Street	Councillor Peter Meffe
2	Wednesday, November 10, 2004	Father Emmano Bulton Community Center 8141 Martin Grove Road	Councillor Tony Carella
3	Wednesday, February 23, 2005	Ansley Grove Library, Meeting Room 350 Ansley Grove Library, Meeting Rm	Councillor Bernie Di Vona
4	Tuesday, January 25, 2005	Dufferin Clark Library 1445 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill	Councillor Sandra-Yeung Racco
5	To be announced		



All meetings to start at 7:00 p.m.
Crime Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility!



Message from Vaughan Road Watch

The Road Watch Program is a partnership initiative between the City of Vaughan, York Regional Police, the Ministry of Transportation, citizens and businesses of Vaughan. Road Watch gives you an opportunity to report dangerous and aggressive drivers to York Regional Police. Road Watch incorporates three components essential in modifying aggressive driving behavior: awareness, public education and enforcement.

How you can help? If you observe a dangerous act of aggressive driving, complete a Citizen Report form and drop it off at one of the approved drop box locations or on-line at the City of Vaughan website: www.vaughan.ca. When a Citizen Report is filed with the police, an incident number is assigned and contact is made to the plate owner by the police. At each contact point, an opportunity is given for the vehicle owner to provide feedback. All Citizen Reports are held in the strictest of confidence.

Bernie Di Vona - Co-Chair
Frank Civichino - Co-Chair

SAFETY GUIDE



Bicycle Patrol

The City has hired additional By-law Enforcement Officers to patrol parks on bicycle, side by side with York Regional Police, during the summer months. By working together with York Regional Police on this project, the City of Vaughan is able to increase police enforcement to help keep our City safe.



Yellow Jacket Program

We invite and encourage volunteers to become the "eyes and ears" of your community. Walk in the park, speak to users of the park, ease users, and report damaged property, acts of vandalism or violence. This program is funded through corporate sponsorship and support from various groups including York Regional Police and The Royal Plastics Group of Companies. To volunteer, contact Domenic Colalillo at 905-832-8500 ext. 8356.



Camera-in-the-Park

The City of Vaughan has been the first city to introduce this program providing evidence and assistance to the police when unlawful acts take place within City property including parks and community centres. Cameras have deterred many unlawful activities. Locations are selected where increased need exists and supported by the local community.



City of Vaughan Hotline 905-879-4357 (HELP)

The City of Vaughan has introduced a "hotline" to provide residents the opportunity to register concerns with vandalism or violence in a non-emergency situation. The hotline gives the By-law Enforcement Officers the opportunity to hear from residents and to register their complaints, identify areas of greater concern, and enhance our enforcement. We encourage you to use the hotline so that we can understand where the problems are and work to better serve you.



Walkway Lighting Program

The City of Vaughan Council has approved a policy to enhance community safety through the installation of walkway lighting throughout Vaughan. The installation of walkway lighting is based on the level of severity and fair distribution through all communities.



Playground Equipment Retrofit Program

The City of Vaughan Council has approved of a multi-year program to retrofit all playgrounds throughout the City of Vaughan in accordance to the new safety standards.



Pesticide Reduction

There are over 7,500 registered pesticide products approved by the Federal Government. The Federal Government does not have a specific list of reduced risk pesticide products for urban use. A program has been approved by the City to reduce and/or eliminate the use of chemical pesticides. Specific parks have been designated as "pesticide free parks."



Are You Ready?

The City of Vaughan Emergency Planning Program reminds you that disasters can strike at any time with little or no warning. To help our citizens be prepared for potential emergencies and prevent possible injuries and damage, here are some tips to follow:

- Listen to the radio or television for weather warnings
- Know where to take shelter – a basement or the center of a building, away from windows and exterior walls
- Have an emergency survival kit on hand
- Reduce the hazards
 - Trim dead or rotting branches, cut down dead trees
 - Check the drainage around your home
 - Bring lawn furniture, garbage cans, bicycles and unsecured play structures indoors
- Unplug any unnecessary electrical appliances
- Stay calm

For more information, contact the Vaughan Emergency Planning Program at 905-832-8585 ext. 8301 or email ecoc@vaughan.ca.

Mayor and Members of Council: Mayor Michael Di Biase - Councillor Peter Meffe - Councillor Tony Carella - Councillor Bernie Di Vona
Councillor Sandra Young-Racco - Regional Councillor Mario Ferri - Regional Councillor Linda Jackson - Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio

Cameras reduce crime at school

**Safety, security
Number 1 issue
among parents'**

By LESLIE FERENC
STAFF REPORTER

For years, vandalism, car thefts, break-ins and rowdy gangs in the hallways were a source of major headaches and serious concern for students, their parents and administrators at North York's Emery Collegiate Institute.

But the pain and problems have disappeared ever since 64 security cameras were installed at the Weston Rd. school near Finch Ave. W. five months ago.

The cameras, which cost

\$100,000, have been keeping an eye on students in hallways, the gym, cafeteria, parking lots and building entrances, and it's made a world of difference, principal Deborah Gans says.

Emery was the first public high school in Metro to get security cameras as part of a pilot project initiated by the North York Board of Education. Gans pushed to be part of the project because of growing concerns about safety and security.

"It was the Number 1 issue among parents," the principal said. "I wanted to do something positive to deal with the concerns."

She also wanted to curb the mounting costs of vandalism at

☛ Please see School, NY6

School cuts crime with video cameras

☛ Continued from NY1

the school — upwards of \$30,000 a year.

Emery was an ideal location to test the closed-circuit television system because unlike many new schools that are built on one level, it has three storeys, making it difficult to monitor.

It's also one of the biggest high schools in the city with 1,800 students. As well, there are as many people in the building on weekends and evenings attending night classes, community meetings or public swimming programs.

In addition, the school is physically isolated from the neighboring residential community, which made it a popular haunt on weekends for vandals and thieves, Gans said.

There's been a marked decrease in the number of incidents since the cameras were switched on.

From January, to December 1995, five cars were stolen from

the parking lot at Emery, and there were nine cases of damage to vehicles, and three thefts in the school. Last year, painters had to be called in six times due to vandalism in the washrooms.

Repair staff haven't been in once since the pilot project started. In addition, no cars have been stolen, no windows broken and there has been no vandalism.

Locker break-ins have dropped dramatically as well. From September to December 1995, there were 26 cases. Since January only five break-ins have occurred and culprits were caught in the act on tape, Gans said.

Shameza Abdulla, 17, said the crime rate at the school has dropped significantly.

"The cameras act as a deterrent and I believe people think twice before they do something," the Grade 12 student said in an interview. "There is definitely a greater feeling of safety and security."

Graduate and be recognized

City and York Police acknowledge Park Ambassadors

A fall training workshop and recognition night for nearly 30 new and current Park Ambassadors was held last week by the City of Vaughan's Bylaw and Parks Services departments, and the York Regional Police at the Civic Centre.

The Park Ambassador program is a City of Vaughan, York Regional Police, and corporate-sponsored initiative of the Safe City Committee that encourages residents to be more involved in their community by patrolling parks and reporting any acts of vandalism, unruly behaviour or other park damage. As well, Park Ambassadors distribute information regarding City services and special events, and create a visible presence that promotes safety and security.

"Our Park Ambassadors are a devoted group of volunteers whose actions help to make our City a wonderful place to live," said Mayor Michael Di Biase. "This program helps to bring our residents closer together by ensuring our parks are safe and enjoyable places."

"The formal training will enable Park Ambassadors to perform 'safety audits' of our parks. An Ambassador will enhance our communication with parks users by providing information," said Councillor Bernie DiVona, Chair of the Safe City Committee.

"One aspect of the training deals with 'Tactical Communications' and teaches the Park



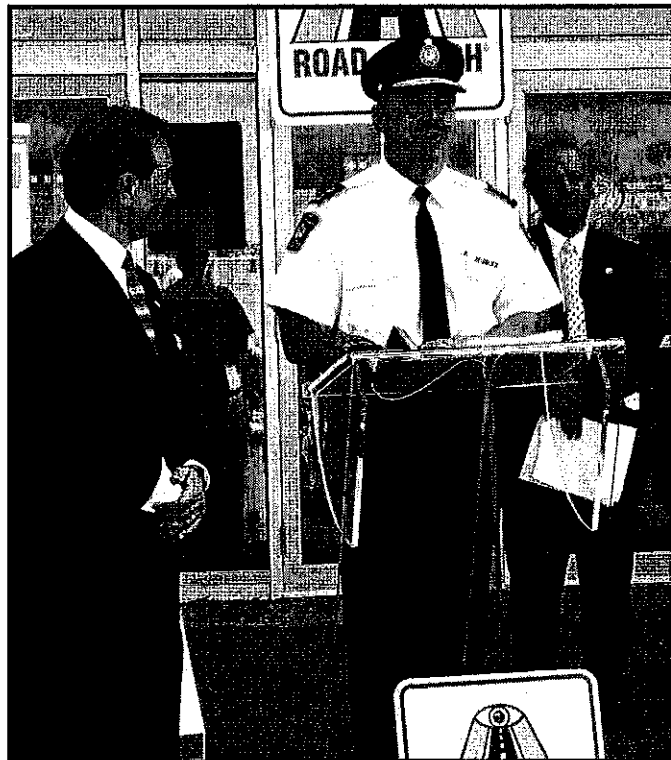
Mayor Michael Di Biase and Councillor Bernie DiVona, Chair of the Safe City Committee, congratulate Park Ambassador Gaetano Luoro after he received his volunteer certificate.

Ambassadors how to deal with difficult people," Councillor DiVona added. "This program is a fine example of city, community, and corporate volunteerism and participation." ♦

For more information, or to register for the Park Ambassadors program please contact: Councillor Bernie DiVona, Chair of the Safe City Committee, 905-832-8585 ext. 8339 or Tom Sudak, Manager of Parks Services, 905-832-8585 ext. 6312.



Councillor Bernie DiVona (left) and Mayor Michael Di Blase (2nd right) at the launch of the Yellow Jacket Program



Mayor Michael Di Blase, Police Chief Armand LaBarge, and Councillor Bernie DiVona at the Road Watch Program

City aims to recoup costs from vandals

Offenders could avoid charges by paying to repair damage

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

You break it, you pay for it.

That's the tough punishment vandals face under the city's new safe community centres policy.

Anyone caught willfully damaging city property will be given the option of circumventing criminal charges by agreeing to compensate the municipality.

Yet, one police officer isn't sure avoiding justice by writing a cheque is the way to go.

Through the program, restitution will be made financially and/or by performing community service work, said Councillor Bernie DiVona, chairperson of the safe city committee. Such agreements will be worked out between city staff, police officers, the offender and his or her family.

"It makes sense. The criminal is responsible for his actions," said Mr. DiVona, adding the system means taxpayers won't be on the hook for costs.

The city spends about \$350,000 a year repairing or replacing damaged equipment and facilities, but Mr. DiVona did not know how much can be attributed to vandalism and how much is normal wear and tear.

While the city has applied the restitution process informally since the mid-1990s, it will now be offered to everyone caught vandalizing city property at community centres, pools, heritage buildings, theatres, arenas and sports fields.

See DECISION, page 27.

Title: Vaughan Citizen
Date: November 17, 2006
Page: 1 & 27
Parts: 1 of 1

Decision formalizes procedure

From page 1.

"The message is we want to formalize it so we know everybody will be treated the same. It really wasn't consistent (before) and we didn't have a policy across the board," Mr. DiVona said.

"Everybody (now) knows the rules of the game. What you have now is the very first time it is put in writing."

York Regional Police Insp. Les Young is not aware of the new policy but he admits he has reservations about a program working outside the court system.

"The reason the judicial system is there, it's independent and non-partisan rather than a political situation," he said.

"The whole idea of the judicial system is to make sure the person is not going to re-offend. If we're only looking to receive money and you can buy your way out if it (is it proper?)"

In Vaughan and south King Township last year, police laid 837 mischief charges, which includes incidents of vandalism.

That was a 5.7 per cent drop from 2003.

Keeping us safe

Council approves policy for City-operated programs

The Vaughan Council has approved the Safe Community Centres Policy, which was designed to promote the safety, respect and courtesy of all users of public community centre facilities.

This policy identifies types of incidents that may occur, with the inclusion of everything from the misuse of emergency exits to illegal activities, and it will be in effect at all City-operated community centres, swimming pools, heritage buildings, theatres, arenas, outdoor sports fields and leased program space for City programs.

"The City of Vaughan encourages residents to experience and enjoy our various community centres, programs and services," said Mayor Michael Di Biase. "This policy addresses the issues of vandalism and inappropriate behaviour in our facilities."

In an effort to increase the public's awareness of the new policy, it will be posted on the City's website, as well as signs will be placed inside all community centres, and an information pamphlet will be created and distributed to all community groups and users of community centre facilities.

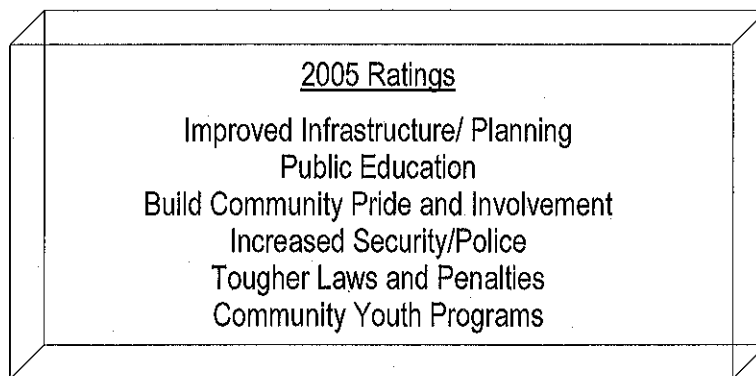
"This policy is intended to act as a tool that will



Councillor Bernie DiVona (left), Chair of Vaughan's Safe City Committee with representatives of York Region Police.

help to ensure the safety of our residents using these facilities and provides appropriate action to deal with offenders," said Councillor Bernie DiVona, Chair of the Safe City Committee. "The cost of repairing facilities that have been vandalized...should be borne by the offenders." ♦

Q8: Do you have any recommendations or comments to reduce "acts of crime" in your community?



A8: It is important to recognize that the road to change and improvement requires a comprehensive approach with various opportunities as there is no "magic rabbit" to solve all problems.

The Safe City Committee wanted to ensure that the survey, in addition to measuring public feelings and attitudes, would take a proactive role in identifying opportunities to improve community safety. Numerous recommendations have been received, catalogued and referred to the Committee. They are now being considered for inclusion for a Strategic Plan that is being developed by the Safe City Committee for Council's consideration.

When recommendations were submitted, they were fundamentally divided into two categories:

1. **Positive Discipline Approach**

This broad category looks at opportunities to educate, teach, direct, or guide residents towards the values and principles society regards as important. Violence, the threat of violence, destruction to property, and prejudicial behaviors are undesirable. As previously expressed, it has been demonstrated that greater education and awareness of existing programs is needed. Numerous respondents refer to the need to develop a culture of safety when driving and using public roads. Some respondents refer to driving in other countries as being much safer and drivers being more polite. Many respondents feel that we have poor driving habits and simply need more training on road safety as they experience overwhelming accidents when there are poor conditions. Comments all point towards – "don't they know how to drive in snow?"

2. **Negative Discipline Approach**

While a large number of individuals can be influenced through positive training approaches, there is still a need to implement laws with appropriate penalties and/or fines, especially so with road and traffic safety. The vast majority of respondents expressed a concern that they are offended by the attitude that many have taken towards open and visible disobedience to residential neighborhood conditions, "rolling stop signs", and unsafe driving. Numerous respondents commented on traffic calming projects that had been initiated. Numerous "pro" traffic calming had expressed that they were beneficial but more had to be done. The "anti" traffic calming regularly felt that there was a need for "more police" rather than any other solution. Both groups agreed that traffic and road safety was the area of greatest concern to them.

Negative and positive discipline approaches can be combined to deter repeat offenders and ensure that crime is addressed as a serious social problem. For example, one of the greatest problems faced by repeat offenders is their ability to have access to employment and their need of transportation. In such a case, the negative discipline may be a sentence, fine and criminal record; the positive discipline would be coordination of employment or referrals; and access to public transportation.

There are also opportunities for families to take more responsibility for crime and prevention. For example, consideration of full restitution, which would ensure that families worked with the guilty party and the victim to effectively address the issue. For example, someone who spray-painted a building with a "hate message" would be required to meet with the property owner and make arrangements to repair the damage.

Respondents also expressed a need for increased security and there is a role for local government and the police in this regard. It is worth noting that there appears to be greater satisfaction with York Regional Police.

SAFE CITY SURVEY RESULTS

	<u>2001 RESULTS</u>			<u>2005 RESULTS</u>		
	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DNA/ Not Sure</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DNA/ Not Sure</u>
1. Do you believe we have a problem with Community safety?	82%	14%	4%	80%	18%	2%
2. Have you witnessed any "acts of crime" in your community?	46%	53%	1	58%	38%	4%
If yes, did you report to anyone?	73%	24%	3%	77%	19%	4%
3. What age group do you think is primarily responsible for "acts of vandalism"?	<u>U12</u> 3%	<u>13-19</u> 90%	<u>Adults</u> 5%	<u>U12</u> 6%	<u>13-19</u> 83%	<u>Adults</u> 11%
4. Where do "acts of crime" occur in your community?	<u>Area</u> Parks Schools Recreation Centres Commercial Plazas Private Property Businesses			<u>Area</u> Roads Parks Schools Commercial Plazas Private Property Businesses		
5. Do you feel that "acts of crime" are being committed by persons living in your community?	<u>YES</u> 75%	<u>NO</u> 20%	<u>DNA/ Not Sure</u> 5%	<u>YES</u> 81%	<u>NO</u> 11%	<u>DNA/ Not Sure</u> 8%
6. Why do "acts of crime" occur in your community?	<u>Area</u> Lack of Parental Discipline Boredom Peer Pressure Drugs Lack of Education/Understanding Cultural Lack of Recreation Facilities Lack of Enforcement No Jobs/Work			<u>Area</u> Roads/planning/infrastructure Drugs Lack of Parental discipline Boredom Peer Pressure Lack of Enforcement Lack of Recreation Facilities Lack of Education/Understanding No Jobs/Work		
7. Recommendations to reduce vandalism?	<u>Area</u> Public Education Community Pride and Involvement More security/police Tougher laws and penalties Community youth programs Greater facilities			<u>Area</u> Improved Roads and Transit More enforcement presence Tougher laws and penalties Education in schools More community participation Community youth programs		
8. Would you be taking an active role in preventing vandalism?	<u>YES</u> 69%	<u>NO</u> 29%	<u>DNA/ Not Sure</u> 2%	<u>YES</u> 74%	<u>NO</u> 24%	<u>DNA/ Not Sure</u> 2%

CRIME INFORMATION IN YORK REGION

THE VAUGHAN MOSAIC

The City of Vaughan is a family of five communities: Maple, Woodbridge, Concord, Thornhill and Kleinburg. Each of the communities has achieved an individual identity in addition to the collective identification as being part of the City of Vaughan.

The City of Vaughan has significantly grown over the past decade to becoming a large urban community of approximately 250,000 (2005). The City of Vaughan is a mosaic of social, economic, ethnic, cultural and religious groups, many of which now reside in the City of Vaughan after coming from the City of Toronto and neighbouring municipalities.

The changing makeup of the City of Vaughan, the significant rate of change in growth, and the changing urban environment makes communication with the public even more important. What is the impact of the newly arrived residents of Vaughan? Do they share the same feeling from where they came or where they have arrived? While we in Vaughan are all subject to many of the same influences and pressures, how has that translated into a sense of safety or quality of life? The results of the 2005 survey are consistent with previous surveys – there is no significant shift between existing or new residents.

This survey attempts to capture attitudes we in Vaughan have with “acts of crime” from what the residents feel. This survey will then look at actual crime rates and shifts of crime by type of crime over various periods, to determine if the perceptions and attitudes are consistent with the crime statistics. The attitude and concerns towards “actual” crime should support the determination of who, where, what and why “acts of crime” exist in the City of Vaughan.

York Regional Police has compiled crime statistics by type of crime including :crimes against persons, crimes against property, other criminal code offences, drug violations , weapons violations, traffic violations and other criminal offences. The most recent crime statistics for the past two years are shown in Appendix D.

"SOFT" CRIME VS. "HARD" CRIME

"York Region has the 3rd lowest property crime rate, next to Peel and Halton, at 2,620 property crimes per 100,000. As per national trend, property crime rate has been on a downward trend since 1991, although York Regional Police statistics show slight increases between 2001 and 2003."

York Region Report 5, dated June 23, 2005, "The Federation of Canadian Municipalities Quality of Life in Canadian Communities", page 5.

Property related crimes such as minor theft and damage to property are generally regarded as "soft crimes" as compared to such violent crimes such as armed robbery or murder. It is important to note that nearly two-thirds of reported crimes are property related crimes.

Property related crimes have the lowest incidence of clearance by police forces across York Region, Ontario and Canada. For example, in 2003 there was a 21.6% clearance rate as compared to 66% clearance rate with crimes against persons or 58% with respect to weapons violations. Very clearly, resources have been allocated towards those 'acts of crime' that have moved the significant impact with human life.

A review of property crimes from 1996 to 2000, as per Appendix D, concludes that there has been a downward trend towards crimes against property. Each and every previous survey has concluded that the general public was most concerned with "property related crimes". Based on the volume of activity, one can appreciate the general public concern.

However, there has been a stabilization of crimes against property with 7,904 in 2003 and 7,931 in 2004. This is important, as there was an improvement with percentage cleared from 22% in 2003 to 32% in 2004. Therefore, as the volume of crimes against property remained stable, and as the enforcement improved, so did the attitude of "crimes against property" also improve for the same period?

Factors leading to the improved clearance rate in violations indicate a more experienced and improving police force. However, there are large variances in the clearance rate as well from a low 5% for arson to a high 96% for having stolen property.

YOUNG OFFENDERS

"Rates of Crimes Committed by Young Offenders" has decreased as per national trend. York Region's rate in 2002 was 2,304 young offenders charged per 100,000 youth population, which is the 2nd lowest of all "Quality of Life Report System" (QOLRS) communities and less than half the average rate for QOLRS communities."

York Region Report 5, dated June 23, 2005, "The Federation of Canadian Municipalities Quality of Life in Canadian Communities", page 5.

The identification of those committing the crimes is also most important. Entire communities may live in fear as a result of single individual or group. Entire communities may put their emphasis, concern and even blame with individuals and/or groups that have not, in a real sense, been the cause of the majority of the crime.

The vast majority of respondents have regularly expressed that those "under 12", or in elementary school, are not the cause of "acts of crime". However, those same surveys also conclude that the cause of crime is "lack of parental responsibility/discipline", boredom, peer pressure, or drugs. So, while there is recognition that two thirds of the crimes are property related crimes, and that they take place in parks, schools, recreation centers or plazas, no survey has concluded that those that are younger are offenders.

If an emphasis is to be placed on education and awareness through prevention, statistics would conclude that early intervention is needed, and the volume of "soft crimes" does exist, but it is unknown as to why there is no correlation between "soft crimes" and young offenders.

The majority of respondents for the 2005 survey have only modestly shifted emphasis from young adults to adults. This is very surprising as the cause of crime is road and traffic safety and these types of activities and uses are mostly with older adults.

In summary, there is a lag in the recognition by the public with identifying "acts of crime" either with youth from elementary schools and with adults. Instead, "teenagers" are largely identified as having "acts of crime" attributed to them.

*Thank you
for your input!*



CONCLUSION

We hope that this report, and the 2005 Safe City Survey, has been "food for thought" and has stimulated participation and discussion with this important issue - community safety. In fact, the safety of our family and community is without a doubt the single most important factor/consideration when deciding where to live, work, play and raise a family.

In summary, the major findings of the City of Vaughan 2005 Safe City Survey were:

- Vaughan residents overwhelmingly feel we live in a safe city (80%); however, it is recognized we do have problems that need attention.
- There is an increasing willingness on the part of our residents to report "acts of crime" and volunteer with community-based programs.
- Vaughan residents have profoundly shifted their emphasis with where and what is our most serious safety concern. During the past three years, there has been a shift away from "unsafe" parks and public places towards road and traffic safety, i.e. "road rage", congestion and unsafe driving. Road and traffic safety related problem is felt to be the single most severe problem.
- Who commits the crimes? The survey has concluded that there is a shift in attitude from believing that we have a major problem with "teens" and young adults to, now, older adults. This is consistent with the fundamental change in attitude towards the finding that our major "act of crime" is now road and traffic safety.
- Actual Crime Rate vs. Perception - Most Serious Safety issue (road and traffic). Vaughan residents have overwhelmingly concluded that road and traffic related matters are the single most severe criminal activity affecting them and their families. However, York Regional Police statistics for the most recent years (2003 and 2004) concludes that "traffic violations" only represents 8% of the total actual charges. In fact, actual charges year over year have gone down from 946 to 925, while public interest has gone up.
- Crime by Type - "Crimes against Property". Respondents have consistently expressed that "crimes against property" is a major concern, second to road and traffic safety. Actual York Regional Police crime statistics conclude that over 66% of all criminal violations (excluding traffic) are "crimes against property" with over 7,900 "crimes against property" for both 2003 and 2004.
- Respondents have felt that not enough has been done by the City of Vaughan and/or York Regional Police with community safety. While more "community safety programs" was requested, many respondents were able to identify specific community safety programs, e.g. *Road Watch*, *Park Ambassador*, etc. Many respondents also expressed support for "more police". An increase in education and awareness is felt to be needed.

- This report is intended to be a blueprint for change. Our challenge is to build upon the values and strengths that currently exist within our community, identify safety concerns that require attention, and work together to allocate the energy and resources that are required to effectively address these concerns.
- The impetus for change begins with identifying the sources of vandalism and criminal behavior. The information obtained from those who responded to both the 1996 and 2001 surveys identified a major source of community safety problems in the "13 to 19 year old" age group.
- This report will serve as the springboard for the Safe City Committee to move ahead with its Strategic Plan to address community safety issues in the City of Vaughan.
- Some of the Strategic Plan recommendations will be achievable within a short period of time. Others will require dialogue, community support, and changes in practices, policies and procedures by the City of Vaughan, Province of Ontario, York Regional Police and other stakeholders.
- Change is ongoing, dynamic and variable. The Safe City Committee will be identifying "positive" discipline approaches aimed at building awareness and community pride in order to teach, guide and motivate children during their formative years. By involving them in the process, rather than by simply forcing them to obey rules and regulations, we will be initiating long-term solutions to make our community a safer place to live, work and raise our families.
- The Safe City Committee held various public meetings throughout the year with professionals, "experts", and "special interest groups" to address the entire spectrum of topics pertaining to community safety. During 2005, each local Councillor chaired a community meeting to discuss "community policing (or crime prevention) through environmental design" or CPTED. Further, additional meetings were held to focus on issues identifiable with local issues, e.g. home invasions, community safety zones, traffic infiltration, etc. The consultation process is a continuous, ongoing, and interactive process affecting every perspective of community safety. Recommendations and comments have been incorporated into both the survey and strategic plan that will be issued by the City of Vaughan's Safe City Committee.



CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2006

Item 23, Report No. 5, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on February 13, 2006, as follows:

By approving the replacement of the document attached to the report with the revised version entitled "City of Vaughan Enforcement Services/York Regional Police Joint Safety Initiatives (2005)" in accordance with the memorandum from Councillor DiVona, dated February 10, 2006.

23 CITY OF VAUGHAN AND YORK REGIONAL POLICE JOINT ENFORCEMENT 2005

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of Councillor DiVona, dated February 6, 2006:

Recommendation

Councillor Bernie DiVona, Chair – Safe City Committee, in consultation with the Senior Manager of Enforcement Services and Manager of Parks Services recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan receive this report for information.
2. That the City of Vaughan make this report and attachment available on the City of Vaughan website.
3. That the City of Vaughan Clerks Dept. be requested to forward this report to the Mayor's Task Force on Safety and Security.

Economic Impact

None

Purpose

To ensure the residents of Vaughan are aware of the joint enforcement projects carried out by the City of Vaughan Bylaw Enforcement working together with York Regional Police to help reduce nuisances, vandalism, and other activity not in keeping with community safety.

A Safe City Survey conducted in August/September 2005 has concluded that residents are largely unaware of the role and activity of community safety initiatives undertaken by the City of Vaughan. As a result, the Safe City Committee resolved that a comprehensive report should be produced to make the public aware of those joint enforcement efforts carried out in 2005.

Background - Analysis and Options

The City of Vaughan Safe City Committee was established with a mission to investigate and recommend opportunities that would serve to make Vaughan a safer and more enjoyable place to live, work, play or raise a

family. Fundamental to the achievement of this mission is the need to participate with York Regional Police towards enhanced enforcement and communication to the public of our efforts and opportunities.

The Safe City Committee conducted a citywide survey of residents in August/September 2005 to better understand their concerns with community safety and to obtain feedback of concerns from residents. The survey has been completed and a final report is to be released within 30 days. A major finding of the survey included public comments and opinions as to the level of public acceptance of existing community safety program. The survey has concluded that some 40% of respondents were not aware of community safety initiatives or programs within Vaughan.

However, those respondents that were aware of community safety initiatives provided a "good to excellent" rating 60% of the time. This was evidenced by respondents naming community safety programs or initiatives. It is clear the City of Vaughan needs to inform residents of existing programs and initiatives that have been undertaken to enhance community safety.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

This report has been prepared to provide a consolidated report of joint City of Vaughan Bylaw Department and York Regional Police initiatives undertaken during 2005. During the year, the Bylaw Department and Parks Department worked jointly with York Regional Police to address enforcement issues that are within the realm of the municipality.

The Safe City Committee has felt that there must be an increased awareness of the programs and initiatives that have been undertaken, as residents have expressed concern as a lack of knowledge of community safety initiatives. This report has been prepared to ensure that both the education and awareness is provided to the public.

Attachments

A summary report is attached outlining those joint enforcement initiatives.

Report prepared by:

Councillor Bernie DiVona

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

City of Vaughan/York Regional Police Joint Safety Initiatives – 2005

Bicycle Patrol

City of Vaughan Enforcement Services joins York Regional Police (YRP) officers to patrol our parks, trails, and open spaces. It is estimated that approximately 20 – 40 hours per month were expended in joint patrols.

Biker Unit

City of Vaughan Enforcement Services has partnered with the "biker unit" to apply the provisions of the "fortification provisions to a Woodbridge property."

Body Rub Enforcement

City of Vaughan has an ongoing working relationship with YRP for the purpose of enforcing the illegal body rub establishments. To date, approximately 200 charges have been laid.

Community Safety Through Design

The City of Vaughan, working with York Regional Police (Constable Morris Shaw), conducted six community meetings to provide information, awareness and assistance to residents on how they can help minimize, discourage, prevent or mitigate illegal activity on their property such as break-ins and robberies through designing physical design changes and improvements. Community safety can be enhance or prevented in some instances through design improvements.

Community Safety Zones Enforcement

City of Vaughan Enforcement Services have partnered with YRP to enforce dangerous driving and speeding within selected designated safety zones.

E.R.A.S.E. Program

City of Vaughan has been working with YRP, through noise enforcement, for problems related to street racing.

Long Weekend Initiative (May 20 – 23, 2005)

To commence the summer park patrol program a combined joint operation of parks and public facilities was undertaken. Using five Enforcement officers and five YRP officers, a series of charges were laid including: seven trespass to property; two possession of controlled substance; one drug trafficking; two loitering in a public park after closed; and, four charges of use of public facility other than lawful intend.

Home Safety Seminars

During the year, Constable Morris Shaw conducted a series of instructional, educational workshops and community meetings to inform residents of how they could improve the safety of their properties and to address concerns raised with break-ins and home invasions. A handbook produced by YRP was provided to all interested parties.

Park Ambassador Security Clearance and Training

The City of Vaughan initiated the "Park Ambassador" Program in which volunteer residents act as the "eyes and ears" of the community and provide information to residents of City of Vaughan programs. These volunteers are trained to interact in a non confrontational manner, i.e. tactical communications. In excess of 30 residents had been trained.

Project Trick or Treat (Halloween)

Over the years, Halloween has been a major source of safety and concern with swarmings, vandalism and other unlawful activities. During the Halloween weekend, four By-law Enforcement officers, four to five YRP officers and Air 2 conducted a comprehensive enforcement responding to complaints. Charges laid included: impaired driving; criminal possession for the purpose charge; six nuisance charges; one tow truck licensing charge; and, 15 trespass notices. Numerous verbal cautions for indecent acts in parks and school parking lots were laid. YRP also laid additional charges and these are separate from the above.

Special Enforcement Unit

This unit was active in our parks and worked closely with YRP to enforce park and community safety, nuisances and complaints received. YRP provided support in instances in which arrests or charges needed to be laid.

Transportation Vehicles Joint Projects

Three joint initiatives with YRP, Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of the Environment were undertaken with respect to tow trucks, taxi cabs, catering trucks, and other commercial vehicles. Charges were laid by the Ministry of the Environment for various violations.

Woodlot Enforcement Initiative

City of Vaughan and YRP received complaints from St. Elizabeth School, residents, and City Council regarding numerous youth consuming alcohol as bottles have been found, condoms, needles and smoking of drugs with the woodlot. The woodlot is a part of a city park and is regularly attended by seniors. A total of eight Enforcement officers including four from the City of Vaughan and four from YRP jointly conducted a blitz and laid a variety of charges ranging including: 11 trespass charges; two charges of use of the facility for other than the intended use; two consuming of alcohol; and, six drug arrests.

CITY OF VAUGHAN – VAUGHAN VISION 2007

1.0 SERVICE DELIVERY EXCELLENCE

1.1 *Improve community safety through design, prevention, enforcement and education.*

- 1.1.1 Implement recommendations of the Safe City Committee approved by Council.
- 1.1.2 Review all community designs to ensure enhanced safety standards.
- 1.1.3 Identify and implement innovative traffic management alternatives to improve general traffic safety.
- 1.1.4 Identify and implement improvements to existing City facilities and parks to optimize community safety.
- 1.1.5 Review and update all City emergency-planning, response and prevention methodologies.
- 1.1.6 Review the level of enforcement, compliance and monitoring of regulations related to public safety.

1.2 *Establish and communicate service level standards that are affordable and sustainable.*

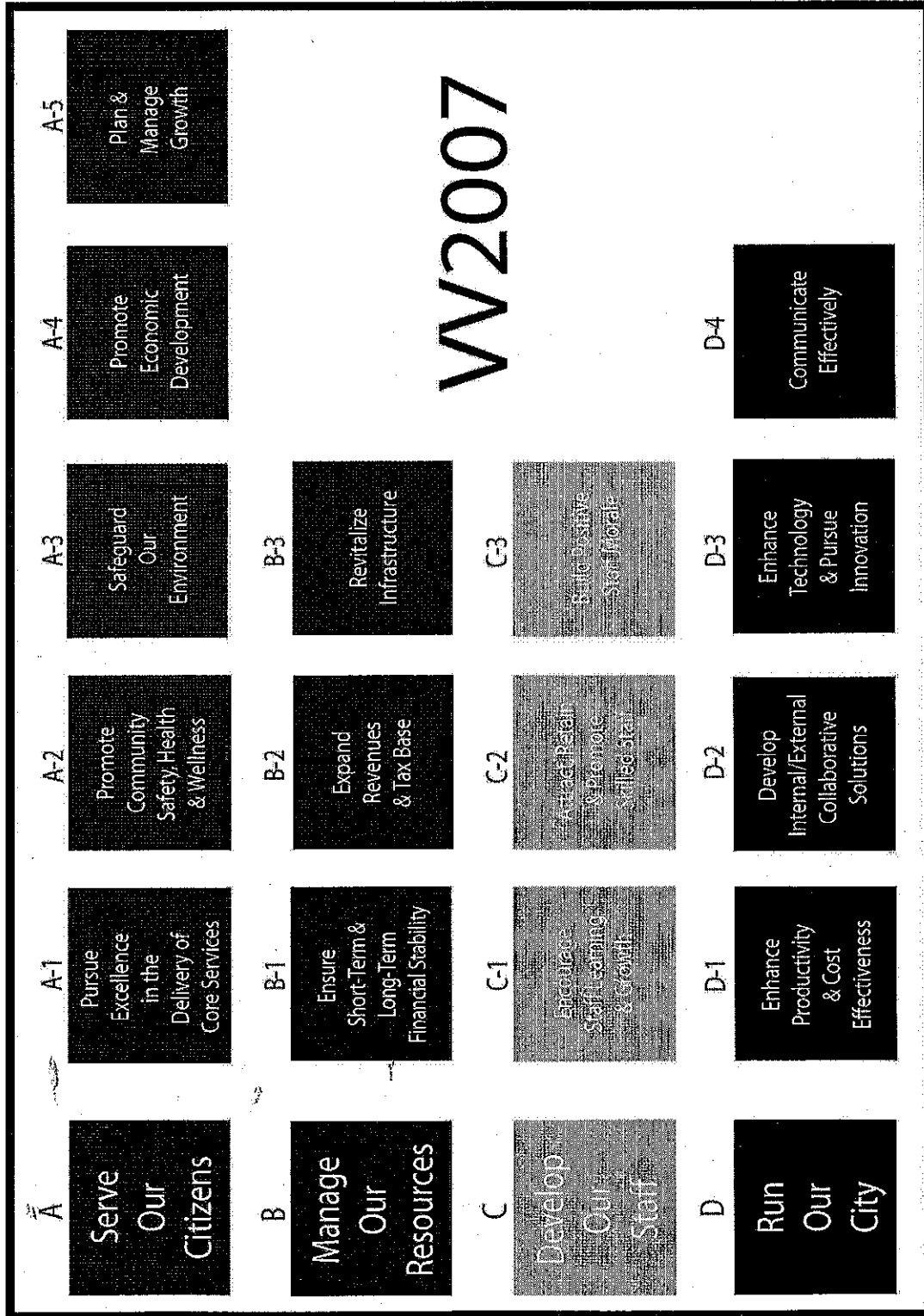
- 1.2.1 Develop service levels that are attainable and measurable.
- 1.2.2 Review current customer service practices and implement enhanced and consistent customer service standards. (Representative team from across the organization)
- 1.2.3 Communicate established service levels to the community.

1.3 *Provide effective and efficient delivery of services.*

- 1.3.1 Develop and implement innovative alternatives for service delivery.
- 1.3.2 Identify and implement the necessary elements that will create an environment where Staff is motivated to provide effective and efficient services.
- 1.3.3 Improve Staff efficiency through the implementation of a Council enquiry process, and the establishment of a simplified service delivery protocol.

1.4 *Develop an effective service measurement system.*

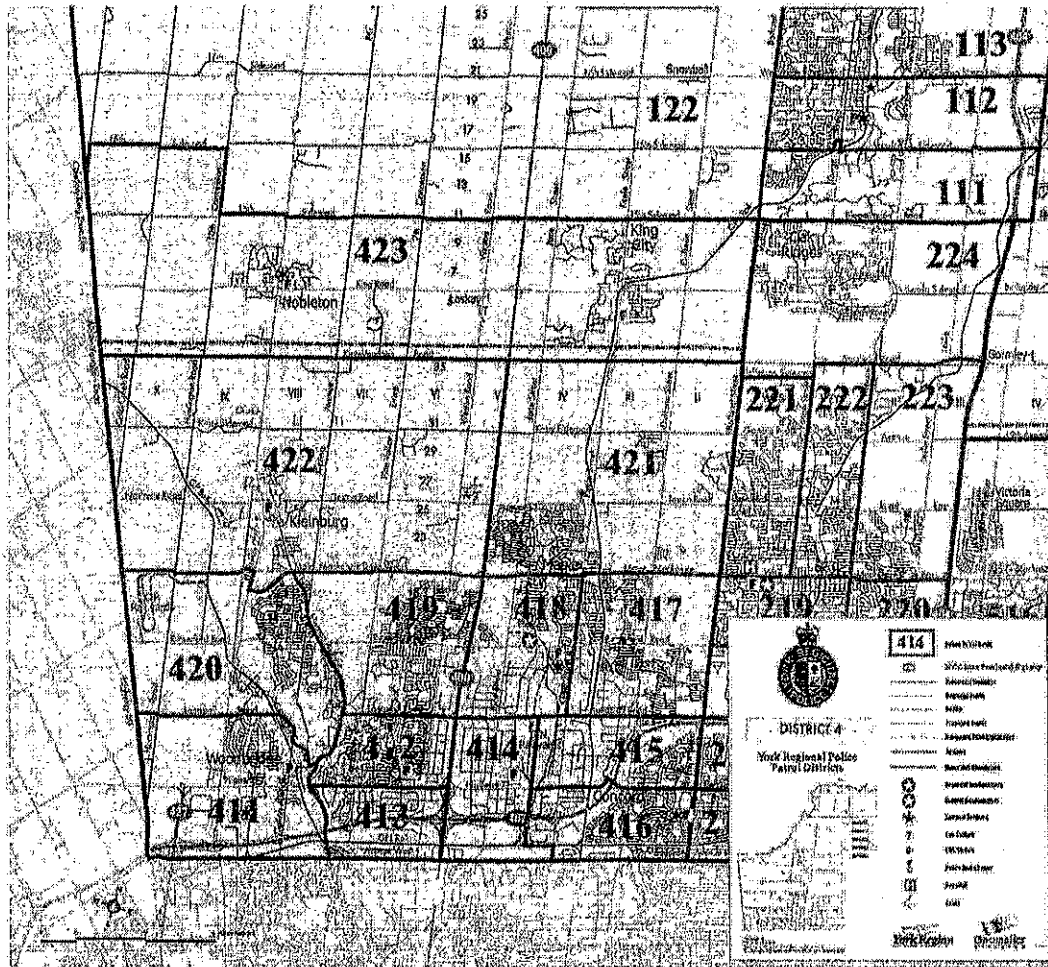
- 1.4.1 Review and implement benchmarks and standards to manage and measure service delivery.
- 1.4.2 Communicate service measurement results to the community.





APPENDIX C
Page 1 of 2

DISTRICT 4
(VAUGHAN, SOUTH KING)



CRIME STATISTICS
DISTRICT 4
JANUARY – DECEMBER (2003 – 2004)

	2003			2004			2003/04	
	Actual	Percent Cleared	Rate Per 100,000 Population ¹	Actual	Percent Cleared	Rate Per 100,000 Population ¹	Variance in Actual (%)	Variance in Rates (%)
Crimes Against Persons	1,672	66.3	N.C. ²	1,720	67.9	N.C. ²	2.9	N.C. ²
Violations Causing Death	5	100.0	N.C. ²	3	100.0	N.C. ²	-40.0	N.C. ²
Attempt Capital Crime	5	10.0	N.C. ²	0	0.0	N.C. ²	-100.0	N.C. ²
Sexual Assault	70	61.4	N.C. ²	76	70.7	N.C. ²	7.1	N.C. ²
Assault	890	75.5	N.C. ²	917	76.9	N.C. ²	3.0	N.C. ²
Violations Deprivation Freedom	43	41.9	N.C. ²	38	44.7	N.C. ²	-11.6	N.C. ²
Robbery & Other Violent Violations	659	55.4	N.C. ²	687	56.8	N.C. ²	4.2	N.C. ²
Crimes Against Property	7,904	21.6	N.C. ²	7,931	32.0	N.C. ²	0.3	N.C. ²
Arson	36	13.9	N.C. ²	41	4.9	N.C. ²	13.9	N.C. ²
Break and Enter	1,459	5.4	N.C. ²	1,017	10.4	N.C. ²	-30.3	N.C. ²
Theft Over \$5000	1,134	6.8	N.C. ²	880	7.5	N.C. ²	-22.4	N.C. ²
Theft Under \$5000	2,863	22.0	N.C. ²	3,059	32.0	N.C. ²	6.8	N.C. ²
Have Stolen Goods	586	95.9	N.C. ²	979	96.1	N.C. ²	67.4	N.C. ²
Fraud	839	21.8	N.C. ²	1,118	26.1	N.C. ²	19.1	N.C. ²
Mischief	868	16.8	N.C. ²	837	17.8	N.C. ²	-6.7	N.C. ²
Other Criminal Code	1,634	30.2	N.C. ²	1,406	37.2	N.C. ²	-8.4	N.C. ²
Other Criminal Code (Part A)	1,421	27.4	N.C. ²	1,273	33.6	N.C. ²	-10.4	N.C. ²
Other Criminal Code (Part B)	113	64.6	N.C. ²	132	72.0	N.C. ²	16.8	N.C. ²
Drug Violations	377	84.4	N.C. ²	657	90.4	N.C. ²	74.3	N.C. ²
Weapons Violations	138	58.7	N.C. ²	171	67.8	N.C. ²	23.9	N.C. ²
Public Morals Violations	30	66.7	N.C. ²	36	63.9	N.C. ²	20.0	N.C. ²
Prostitution/Public Morals	24	68.3	N.C. ²	35	63.0	N.C. ²	45.8	N.C. ²
Gaming and Betting	6	100.0	N.C. ²	1	100.0	N.C. ²	-83.3	N.C. ²
Other Federal Violations	31	100.0	N.C. ²	29	100.0	N.C. ²	-6.5	N.C. ²
Total Criminal Code Violations (excluding traffic)	11,686	31.9	N.C. ²	11,849	41.7	N.C. ²	2.3	N.C. ²
Traffic Violations	946	35.9	N.C. ²	928	44.0	N.C. ²	-2.2	N.C. ²
Dangerous Operation	96	97.9	N.C. ²	111	100.9	N.C. ²	15.6	N.C. ²
Impaired Operation/Related Violations	208	100.0	N.C. ²	251	100.0	N.C. ²	20.7	N.C. ²
Other Criminal Code Traffic Violations	642	5.9	N.C. ²	566	7.8	N.C. ²	-12.3	N.C. ²

¹ District population figure not available.
² Not calculable.

Notes: District crime statistics may not equal regional figures due to investigations which occur outside York Region.
On November 4, 2004, the Vaughan Mills Mall opened at 8960 Jane Street, Vaughan.

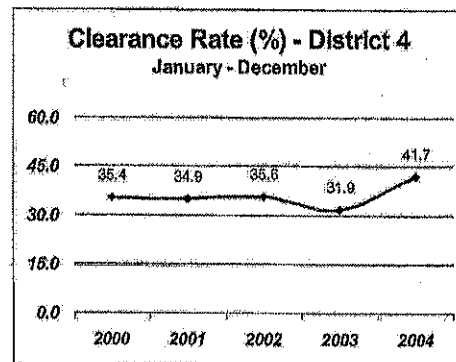
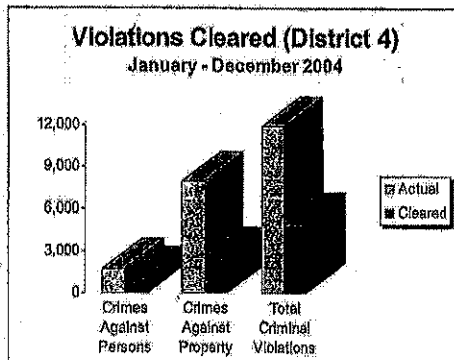
45.48

APPENDIX D

CLEARANCE RATE
DISTRICT 4
JANUARY - DECEMBER (2003 - 2004)

	2003			2004			2003/04
	Actual	Total Cleared	Cleared (%)	Actual	Total Cleared	Cleared (%)	Variance Cleared (%)
Crimes Against Persons	1,672	1,108	66.3	1,720	1,168	67.9	1.6
Crimes Against Property	7,904	1,705	21.6	7,931	2,535	32.0	10.4
Other Criminal Code	1,534	483	30.2	1,405	523	37.2	7.0
Drug Violations	377	318	84.4	667	594	89.4	6.1
Weapons Violations	198	81	58.7	171	116	67.8	9.1
Public Morals Violations	30	20	66.7	36	23	63.9	-2.8
Other Federal Violations	31	31	100.0	29	29	100.0	0.0
Total Criminal Violations (excluding Traffic)	11,686	3,726	31.9	11,949	4,968	41.7	9.9
Traffic Violations	946	340	35.9	925	407	44.0	8.1

Note: Due to rounding, figures may not subtract exactly to variance cleared.



45.49

© 2006 KPMG LLP, the Canadian member firm of KPMG International, a Swiss cooperative. All rights reserved.

New
markets.

New
rules.

New
opportunities.

We can
help you
understand
them.



www.kpmg.ca/enterprise

Understanding the issues—a key factor in the success of your company. Because we understand, KPMG Enterprise advisors bring insight and uncommon clarity to the issues facing your business. Get where you want to go. Talk to a KPMG Enterprise advisor who can help you get there.

Bruno Amadi
416-224-4104
bamadi@kpmg.ca

Ed Bartucci
416-224-4102
ebartucci@kpmg.ca

Gerry Hagerman
416-224-4196
ghagerman@kpmg.ca

understanding @ **KPMG**



45.50

York Regional Police

Deeds Speak

Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is everyone's business and community safety is everyone's responsibility. York Regional Police are committed to crime reduction and prevention.

Visit our website at www.police.york.on.ca for crime prevention suggestions and safety tips that may help you prevent crime or reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

There are three elements needed for a crime to occur:

**An Offender
A Victim
A Location**

Given an opportunity, an offender will take advantage of a situation. Reduce the opportunity by removing one of these elements and you reduce the risk and the fear of crime.

What is Crime Prevention?

Crime Prevention is the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of a crime risk and the action taken to reduce or remove it. (This definition is accepted by the Ontario Association of Chief's of Police.)

Be alert and aware at all times. York Regional Police want you to ***Think Safety Now***, not now and again!

**York Regional Police
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 4W5
1-866-876-5423
www.police.york.on.ca**