

Residents want to see more police on streets: survey

By **KATHLEEN GRIFFIN**
Staff Reporter

Break and enter, theft, and traffic violations are the three crimes citizens in Stouffville and across York Region worry about the most, a police survey on community needs revealed.

Things like assaults, weapons and drug offences and vandalism are deemed not serious in most Stouffville neighborhoods, the survey found.

Yet 29.4 per cent believe the level of crime in Stouffville and the region has greatly increased in recent years. The first word that came to mind when people hear the word police was pro-

tection, then safety, then help. More than 94.1 per cent described their attitude towards police as positive.

In Stouffville alone, 64.7 per cent of respondents rated break and enters in their neighborhoods as somewhat serious while 17.6 per cent said the problem was very serious. Theft in neighborhoods was rated somewhat serious by 35.3 per cent while 23.5 called it very serious.

Fifty-eight per cent said assaults were not a serious problem, 52.9 said violent crimes were not serious and 47.1 per cent said robberies and

hold-ups weren't serious in their neighborhoods.

Most respondents felt safe in York Region, during the day, in places like their homes, public parks, walking in their neighborhoods and shopping. At night the numbers dropped somewhat, but a clear majority still felt safe - except in public parks where 28.6 per cent said they felt somewhat unsafe.

The majority of residents surveyed - 17 people responded of the 38 surveys mailed out, for a response rate of 44.7 per cent - felt newspapers were the best source to receive information and 71.4 said they wanted more

neighborhood crime updates and more information on crime prevention and home security.

Stouffville residents felt vehicle patrol was the most important police service, followed by crime prevention, traffic enforcement and the investigation of violent and serious crimes.

Community service programs were rated in order of importance with drug education first, alcohol awareness second and protection for women presentations third. More than 70 per cent of people felt there is sometimes a communication gap between the community and police and 50 per cent felt the fault lay with the nature of the

job, while another 50 per cent felt the public's apathy made for poor communication.

More than 70 per cent of people in York Region said its low crime rate was a factor in influencing their decision to move here. But more than half said there were problem locations where people hang out and cause problems, including local plazas, parks and high schools. And 40 per cent said they have never or rarely seen a police cruiser in the neighborhood in the last month.

The survey was randomly sent to 1,154 households in York Region and 484 were returned before the deadline for a 41.9 per cent response rate.



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Ontario likes the way Markham is approaching its goal of 70% solid waste diversion from landfill by the year 2000. In 1995, we reached 37% diversion thanks to your continued diligence. And Markham's data for 1996 shows a per capita waste generation rate of 248.8 kilograms per year. That's a more than 40% reduction from the 1991 provincial standard of 422 kilos per year!

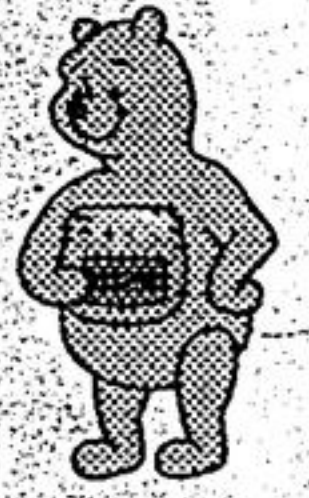
...and here's how we can all keep a good thing growing.

As a Communities In Bloom initiative in celebration of National Composting Week, a Composter Sale will be held by the Waste Management Department on Saturday, May 3. Composting is a simple and effective method of cutting your household waste by over a third, while reducing the amount of garbage going to landfill.

The Composter Sale will be held on May 3, 1997, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Markville Shopping Centre parking lot, Highway 7 & McCowan Road. "Garden Gourmet" Composters will be on sale at the special low price of \$10 (plus tax), for one day only. If you need additional information on this event, backyard composting, or any other Waste Management Program, call the Hotline: (905) 415-7535, fax us at (905) 479-7766 or email at wastemgt@city.markham.on.ca.



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TO MILLIKEN AREA

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In the area bounded by Warden Ave., Steeles Avenue, McCowan Rd. and 14th Ave. the municipal water pressure will be lower from April 30/97 to May 9/97. This is due to maintenance work to be done on the Milliken water storage tank.

We regret any inconvenience this may cause.