

# Robberies, youth crime up during first half of 2005

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE  
Staff Writer

The number of murders, sexual assaults and stolen cars in York Region were down during the first half of 2005.

But robberies, drinking and driving and youth crime are on the rise.

York Regional Police released statistics from the first six months of 2005 during a police services board meeting Wednesday showing demand for service dropped from 128,189 calls in the first six months of 2005 to 120,859 this year.

"I think what we're continuing to see is that crime, overall, is on the decrease," York Regional Police

Chief Armand La Barge said. "But that doesn't necessarily mean there aren't things we are concerned about."

Topping the list of concerns is the recent rise in robberies.

The jump from 185 during the first six months of 2004 to 199 this year represents the highest number reported since 1999. This includes an increase in home invasions, from eight in the first six months of 2004 to 17 in the first half of 2005, though home invasions represent just 8.5 per cent of all robberies.

Retail robberies represent 32.2 per cent, car jacking 4.5 per cent and muggings 50.8 per cent. The remaining 4 per cent include finan-

cial, ATM and deposit robberies.

Youth crime was also up 18.7 per cent during the first six months of 2005. Charges laid against young persons increased 15.5 per cent and the number of youths dealt with by other means increased 20.6 per cent.

But Chief La Barge doesn't believe youth crime is on the rise as much as his police service's ability to detect it.

"In York Region, 99 per cent of our youth are not involved in any criminal activity at all," he said. "It's just a small number of youths causing the problems."

The number of impaired driving charges was up as well, from 459 in

the first half of 2005 to 470 in the same period this year, proving the don't drink and drive message is still failing to reach some.

Population increases actually drove the drinking and driving rate down across York, but Chief La Barge is still not satisfied.

"Even one impaired driving charge is one too many," he said, adding police will continue to work with the community to send the message drinking and driving comes with serious consequences.

Despite increases in certain crimes, Chief La Barge maintains York is a safe community and many of the six-month statistics back

that up.

There was a record number of homicides in 2004, including nine in the first half of the year, but only four were recorded from January to June 2005.

The number of sexual assaults was down from 221 to 213 and 960 vehicles were stolen, down from 1,111 during the first half of last year.

The community may also be more interested in helping solve crime.

Crime Stoppers of York Region received 653 between January and June 2005 compared to 566 during in the same period last year.

**CLEAROUT SALE**  
Special Friday **NO TAX EVENT** Open 'til 10 pm!  
For Main Street Midnight Madness  
We need to make room for new models!

**DAY BEDS** from \$77  
**FUTONS** from \$179  
**MATTRESS SETS** from \$129/Piece

**ALL Floor Models MUST GO!**  
Furniture • Bunk Beds • Adjustable Beds  
Head Boards • Beds • Storage Beds  
Duvet Sets • Pillows • Mattress Covers  
*No reasonable offer refused*

**Special Promotion**  
King Coil Sets \$398.00 Queen  
All sizes Available

• Free Delivery  
• Free Set Up  
• Free Removal On All Mattress Sets

**MATTRESS HAVEN**  
www.sleepfactory.com  
74 Main St. North, Markham (Markham Rd./Hwy. 404)  
905-472-7504  
FRONT & BACK ENTRANCE • FREE PARKING ON SITE

Hours: Mon-Wed 10:00am-7:00pm, Thurs-Fri 10:00am-6:00pm, Sat 9:00am-6:00pm, Sun 11:00am-5:00pm

**The War Amps**

**Who Speaks? for Them?**

Whether a child is born missing an arm, or loses a leg in an accident or for medical reasons, The War Amps can help.

With programs like Operation Legacy, graduates of the CHAMP Program for child amputees are able to continue the tradition of "amputees helping amputees."

To see a listing of our Canadian Military Heritage documentaries, visit our Web site at [www.waramps.ca](http://www.waramps.ca). Documentaries can be borrowed free-of-charge or purchased at cost-recovery prices. To order a pamphlet that lists our Canadian Military Heritage documentaries, contact The War Amps. E-ZEE ACCESS: Tel: 1-800-250-3030 Fax: 1-800-219-8988

Charitable Registration No.: 13196 9628 RR0001

**Think You've Heard It All?**

New advancements in hearing aid technology have made it possible to provide quality digital hearing aids that are nearly undetectable to others, letting you enjoy a variety of environments without missing a sound.

**SPECIAL HELD OVER FOR OCTOBER**  
SAVE UP TO **\$500.00** on a pair of **DIGITAL HEARING AIDS**  
Call for details and to book your hearing test. Offer valid with ad. Expires October 31st, 2005.

- SALES and SERVICE to ALL MAKES OF HEARING AIDS
- AID, WSIB, DVA AUTHORIZED DISPENSERS
- Hearing Assessments - Newborn to Geriatric
- Hearing Aid Evaluations
- Batteries and Hearing Aid Accessories
- Assistive Listening Devices FM Systems
- Custom Hearing Protection - Musician and Swim Plugs
- Tinnitus Therapy

**WE TREAT YOUR HEARING PROBLEMS IN A PROFESSIONAL - CLINICAL ENVIRONMENT!**

**FINANCING NOW AVAILABLE PAY NO INTEREST FOR 12 MONTHS** (Cannot be combined with any other promotional offer)

**NO CHARGE** All Inclusive Loss and Damage Insurance - 1 year

**NO CHARGE** All Inclusive Manufacturers Warranty - 2 years

**35 Day Full Satisfaction Guarantee**

Associated With ENT's (Ears, Nose And Throat Doctors)

Full Time Experienced Certified Audiologists On Hand To Serve You.

**EVERY DAY IS SENIORS DAY!**  
10% Discount Off All Accessories & Batteries  
• PARKING AVAILABLE • FREE HEARING AID CLEANING

**Bar Care**

**LEADING EDGE CARE FOR SOLUTIONS YOU SEEK!**

**NORTH YORK**  
416-498-4151  
The Audiology Centre  
Established 1936  
1333 Sheppard Ave. E., Suite# 340

**MARKHAM**  
905-477-4557  
Markham Stouffville Hearing Services  
Established 1992  
377 Church St., Suite# 203

**ETOBICOKE**  
416-233-8584  
West End Hearing  
Established 1994  
1243 Islington Ave., Suite# 711

MasterCard, VISA, Discover, American Express