

Crime rate drops, but murder up

BY THE NUMBERS

Electronic gadgets such as iPods lead to increased street robberies

BY JOE FANTAUZZI
Staff Writer

York Region's crime rate has dropped, even though there were more murders and robberies last year.

York Regional Police statistics show there were 38,663 crimes reported in the region last year, down 697 from 2005. That translates to a drop of 5.1 per cent per 100,000 residents from 2005.

However, there were three more

murders and 22 more robberies.

Total crimes against persons were down by 114, driven by a drop in sexual assaults.

The increase in robberies includes an increase in young people being robbed on the streets of electronics such as iPods and designer clothes.

"This is a safe community and continues to be a safe community," Chief Armand La Barge said.

Patrick Francone, 18, agrees. "There are not that many murders," the Aurora resident said. "I've never seen any muggings or pickpockets — never heard of it."

Michelle Qubti, who recently moved to Vaughan, said she also feels safe.

"I haven't had any incidents," Ms

Qubti said. "I think it's fairly quiet. I don't see a whole lot of kids grouped together; nothing that would frighten me."

Jeff Purvey, who lives in Keswick and stopped to eat in Markham Tuesday, said he also feels safe, adding he's street smart, having grown up in Scarborough.

"I think it's better than most places, but I think it has something to do with it being a ritzier community," he said.

While York police cleared 83 per cent of crimes against persons, only 38 per cent of property crimes were cleared.

Property crimes are harder to solve because there are often no witnesses, Chief La Barge said.

York police plan to increase their use of crime analysis in property cases to identify trends and patterns, he said.

- ▶ **38,663:** Total criminal and federal offences in York Region in 2006
- ▶ **701:** Increase in property crimes: arson, mischief and fraud
- ▶ **139:** Decrease in vehicle thefts (Hondas were stolen more than any other car)
- ▶ **749:** Drop in criminal code traffic violations
- ▶ **125:** Increase in impaired driving charges
- ▶ **56:** Number of hate crimes in York, down 2
- ▶ **139:** Decrease in vehicle thefts
- ▶ **645:** Weapons violations, down from 658
- ▶ **6:** Percentage in drug violations
- ▶ **83:** Percentage of crimes against persons cleared by York police

YRMG YORK REGION MEDIA GROUP PROUDLY SPONSORS

A PREMIUM OUTDOOR EVENT TO BENEFIT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

KING & FEST

MUSIC & FESTIVAL 2007

JUNE 22
SLOAN
THE TREWS
THE JOEL PLASKETT
EMERGENCY

JUNE 23
PRAIRIE OYSTER
THE JIM CUDDY BAND

JUNE 24
BRUCE COCKBURN
SARAH HARMER

PRESENTED BY
LACEBY

ADDITIONAL PERFORMERS:

Al Simmons	Lynn Miles	Sho Mo & The Monkey Bunch
Ariana Gillis	Mike Stevens & Raymond McLain	Susan Werner
Dala	Nancy Dutra	The Salads
Justin Rutledge	Oh Susanna	Wendell Ferguson
Katherine Wheatley	Pat Robitaille	
Kieran Kane & Lucas Kane		
Dani Strong	James McKenty & The Spokes	Poor Tom
David Hein	Japhy Ryder	Rick Rubichouid
Glen Marais	Joel Krivy	Sarah Burton
Grainne Ryan	Jon Brooks	Turn Off The Stars
Jack D	Lou Moore & Friends	Voyce

www.kingfestmusic.com

HOSTED BY SENECA COLLEGE - KING CAMPUS, 13990 DUFFERIN ST. N., KING CITY
Order tickets on-line at www.ticketmaster.ca or call 416-870-8000 **ticketmaster**

SPONSORS: The NEW 93.1, BUSINESS, Smith, Sykes, Leeper & Turstall LLP, ENBRIDGE, HUBBARD, JACK, Seneca, MICALPINE, ONTARIO, PHILIPS, Larter, ROGERS, York Region, Music, yorregion.com, Vaughan, artslink, A.

2007

Planning for Tomorrow

York Region Growth Management

Over the next 25 years, York Region will experience continued rapid and dynamic population and employment growth. By 2031, the Region is anticipated to grow by adding:

- 570,000 people, to bring our population to 1.5 million people
- 340,000 jobs, to bring our employment to 800,000

Last year the public gave us key input on a range of issues facing the Region, including:

- protecting our natural heritage and maintaining our high quality of life.
- accommodating significant population and employment growth.
- addressing traffic congestion and ensuring that there is appropriate infrastructure investment to support growth rates.
- ensuring that human services keep pace with growth.
- maintaining a vibrant economy and attracting employment.

Our challenge is to make smarter, more sustainable growth management decisions. In 2007, we are asking for your input on several growth scenarios developed over the past year. Come and share your thoughts and ideas with us on one of the following dates:

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Open house
7:00 to 7:30 - Presentation
7:30 to 9:00 p.m. - Facilitated Discussion

Meeting Date & Municipality	Location
Tuesday, May 8, 2007 Town of Richmond Hill	Richmond Hill Municipal Offices 225 East Beaver Creek Road OMB Hearing Room & Lobby 1 st Floor
Wednesday May 9, 2007 Town of Aurora	Aurora Town Hall 1 Municipal Drive, Aurora Council Chambers
Thursday May 10, 2007 Town of East Gwillimbury	East Gwillimbury Civic Centre 19000 Leslie Street, Sharon Council Chambers
Tuesday May 15, 2007 Town of Newmarket	Newmarket Municipal Offices 395 Mulock Drive, Newmarket Council Chambers

For further information please visit www.york.ca or call 905-830-4444, extns 1526, 1532, or 1508.

York Region

LOVE YOUR LOOK AND FEEL THE CONFIDENCE

Laser hair removal safe, effective, permanent

Cellulite reduction using advanced RF technology *see our website for CITY TV's feature*

Photofacial, Microdermabrasion, and advanced skin care

Special for the month of May - book any advanced skin care treatment and receive a second treatment at half price!

MediSpa Clinic on Main 6038 Main Street, Stouffville 905.640.0092
www.medispaclinic.com