

The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board

Public Board Meeting
January 27, 2021

Report of the Chief of Police

Annual Report on Auxiliaries and Volunteers

1. Recommendation

That the Board receive this report pursuant to the Police Services Board Auxiliary and Volunteer Program, Board Policy No. 03/02.

2. Summary

In accordance with Section 5.4 of the Auxiliary and Volunteer Program, Board Policy No. 03/02, the purpose of this annual report is to outline the contributions made by members of the Auxiliary Unit, the Volunteer Program, the Chaplain Program, the District Community Liaison Committees and the Police Community Advisory Council, and to report on highlights and program implementation by the Police Service.

3. Background

The Community Engagement and Wellbeing Bureau within Community Services administers the Auxiliary Unit and the overall Volunteer Program for York Regional Police.

In addition, Staff Services manages the Chaplain Program and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau manages the Police Community Advisory Council. All five Districts manage a District Community Liaison Committee and Organized Crime and Intelligence Services manage the Integrated Strategic Community Advisory Committee. There are also three Community Volunteer Groups located in Georgina, King and East Gwillimbury.

4. Analysis

AUXILIARY, VOLUNTEER UNITS AND COMMITTEES

Auxiliary Unit

York Regional Police established an Auxiliary Unit in 1980. Section 52(1) of the *Police Services Act* provides the authority for a Police Services Board to appoint members of an auxiliary for a police force. The *Act* states:

An auxiliary member of a police force has the authority of a police officer if he or she is accompanied or supervised by a police officer and is authorized to perform police duties by the chief of police; and

The Chief of Police may authorize an auxiliary member of the police force to perform police duties only in special circumstances, including an emergency, that the police officers of the police force are not sufficiently numerous to deal with.

Auxiliary members are volunteers who are appointed by the Police Services Board and are governed by the *Police Services Act*. The Auxiliary Unit's function is therefore reported independently from other volunteer groups managed by York Regional Police. The Auxiliary Unit's reporting structure is further reflected on the York Regional Police Organizational Chart.

Auxiliary members are required to commit a minimum of 12 hours per month to the Unit for a total of 144 hours per year. This includes mandatory attendance at monthly meetings. The monthly commitment can include a variety of duties including, but not limited to, training, meetings, special event participation, administrative duties, recruiting information sessions, community canvasses, emergency and disaster response, traffic control, ride alongs, parades, funerals of fallen officers and police memorials. The minimum standard hours is consistent with the expectation of a number of other Police Services, including Toronto, Durham, Halton, Peterborough, London, Hamilton and Barrie Police Services. Peel Police Service require a greater commitment of 24 hours.

At the commencement of 2020, the Auxiliary Unit had 107 members. At the conclusion of the year, the Unit had 117 members. While there are no provisions under the *Police Services Act* that dictate the number of auxiliary members, York Regional Police has adopted a practice of targeting up to ten percent of the authorized sworn strength. Currently, the Unit is within 51 members of the targeted strength.

Throughout the year, 31 new members joined the Unit and 21 members resigned. Seven of the members that resigned were hired as Cadets-in-Training with York Regional Police. Two Auxiliary members were hired as constables with the OPP. Two Auxiliary members were hired as Cadets-in-Training with Toronto Police Service. The remainder of the members resigned due to personal reasons. The average length of service of an active Auxiliary member is 7.4 years.

The Auxiliary Unit participated in events throughout York Region. These events included municipal winter festivals, Black History Month celebration, Community Safety Village Fire Watch, PREP practice sessions, Crowd Management Unit scenario training, ERU Critical Incident Command scenario training, Recruiting Information sessions, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing course, Qualified Death Investigators course, processing the Offender course, special events, , crime prevention canvassing initiatives, the Holiday Heroes Program, and Drive-By Santa Clause Parades (see **Appendix A** for an inclusive list of events attended in 2020). Furthermore, 20 members completed and passed the annual Police Fitness Test.

In addition to providing assistance at events, members of the Unit participated in 625 hours of ride alongs supporting the work of front line officers throughout the Region.

In total, the Auxiliary Unit contributed 11,241 volunteer hours to the organization in 2020.

Volunteer Program

The York Regional Police Volunteer Program is administered separately from the Auxiliary Program. It includes 11 groups including Special Event Volunteers and Mascots, UNITED & UNITY, Ceremonial Mounted Unit, the three Community Volunteer Groups (East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King), the Community Chorus, Pipes and Drums, Venturer/Rover Scouts, the Youth Band, Community Safety Village Classroom Assistants, Field Placement and Co-op Students and the 32 Military Police Army Cadet Corps. The Program provides opportunities for citizens to support the community and York Regional Police through volunteer placements. The use and administration of the Volunteer Program is governed by General Procedure AI-006 and specifically states the following.

Volunteers shall not:

- be considered as strength in the general staffing levels
- perform any functions or activities that members of York Regional Police perform
- carry or be equipped with weapons
- operate a marked general patrol vehicle
- wear police uniforms or insignia with the exception of the assigned uniform or insignia approved by the Chief of Police or designate.

The objective of the Volunteer Program is to provide an opportunity for citizens to support the activities of York Regional Police in the community. The Community Engagement and Wellbeing Bureau strives to ensure that volunteer assignments personify the Organization's Values and Vision of making a difference in the community. The Program provides for mobilization of our citizens and allows them to contribute towards a safer and more inclusive York Region.

York Regional Police volunteers attended 51 special events (see **Appendix B** for an inclusive list of events attended in 2020). Our volunteers are involved in supporting events hosted by Community Services as well as the community. Volunteers participated in the Georgina SnoFest, Black History Month, York Vintage Hockey tournament as well as the East Gwillimbury Home Show. The Pipes and Drums and Youth Bands, Community Chorus, mascots and UNITED and UNITY provided entertainment at events and facilitated youth engagement. and the Ceremonial Mounted Unit visited the Queenview Residential Home in Sharon.

The following table shows each volunteer group, the actual number of members associated to each group, the number of events attended and the total number of hours each group volunteered in 2020.

Table #1
Volunteer Statistics 2020

Group	Number of Members	Number of Events	Number of Hours
32 Military Police Army Cadet Corps	29	6	1,682
Ceremonial Mounted Unit	1	3	210
Community Chorus	42	3	1,393
Community Safety Village Classroom Assistants	20	0	252
East Gwillimbury Community Volunteer Group	8	1	80
Field Placement and Co-op Students – Virtual and Independent Learning	15	0	1,128
Georgina Community Volunteer Group	22	4	283
King Township Community Volunteer Group	14	0	0
Pipes and Drums Band	32	12	619
Special Events including Mascots and Escorts	156	5	225
UNITED and UNITY	17	2	16
Venturer Scouts Company and Rover Scouts Crew	28	12	1,982
Youth Band	35	3	858

Group	Number of Members	Number of Events	Number of Hours
TOTAL	419	51	8,728

The total number of volunteers listed in the table above is greater than the actual total number of volunteers (363). The discrepancy arises because many volunteers are involved in multiple groups.

The Field Placement and Co-op students are now coordinated through the Community Safety Village.

In 2020, 79 volunteers resigned due to their inability to continue to commit to the Program. The majority resigned due to family or work-related obligations. Sadly, five volunteers passed away.

In 2020, eight York Regional Police members became registered volunteers, totaling 58 full-time members that are also involved with the Volunteer Program. In 2020, eight volunteers were hired as police officers.

Also in 2020, a volunteer received the following award remotely - The City of Vaughan 2020 Volunteer Recognition Award.

In summary, the Volunteer Program contributed 8,728 hours to York Regional Police, plus an additional 11,241 hours from the Auxiliary Unit generating a total contribution of 19,969 hours in support of York Regional Police and the community.

Chaplain Program

The Chaplain Program is administered separately from the Volunteer Program. It is administered by the Member Support Bureau under the umbrella of Staff Services.

York Regional Police currently has 10 volunteer Chaplains. All of our Chaplains have status within their chosen denomination and a minimum of five years of practice. Upon appointment, Chaplains take an Oath of Office, Allegiance as well as an Oath of Secrecy. Chaplains are assigned to the honorary rank of Inspector and are permitted to wear the uniform of that position while performing their duties.

The role of the Chaplain is to provide spiritual support and guidance to all members of our organization and members are encouraged to take advantage of this service. Chaplains also fulfill a spiritual function at ceremonial events, attend the home of next of kin in the event of serious injury or death of a member and visit sick or injured members at their request. In 2020, the Chaplains contributed 350 hours to York Regional Police and 257 of those were on the Wellness Project.

District Community Liaison Committees

The District Community Liaison Committees (DCLC) are administered separately from the Volunteer Program by the corresponding District; and, in the case of the Integrated Strategic

Community Advisory Committee, by the Organized Crime and Intelligence Services. The command staff works with members of these volunteer advisory groups with a focus on addressing local issues by developing suggested solutions and initiatives. The committees are comprised of a diverse group of citizens and community leaders.

The following table provides information pertaining to the actual number of members associated to each of the committees and the number of hours they volunteered in 2020.

Table #2
District Community Liaison Committees 2020

Location	Number of Members	Number of Hours
1 District	27	81
2 District	33	76
3 District	25	20
4 District	21	0
5 District	30	60
Integrated Strategic Community Advisory Council	20	90
TOTAL	156	327

Police Community Advisory Council

The Police Community Advisory Council (PCAC) is administered separately from the Volunteer Program by the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Bureau under the umbrella of Community Services. The mission of the PCAC is to promote and foster harmony, dialogue and understanding between members of York Regional Police and the community. This volunteer advisory group is comprised of 20 residents or other stakeholders of York Region representing ethno-cultural, geographical and age diversity.

The Police Community Advisory Council generally meets bi-monthly with the Chief to provide informed advice on a variety of matters including awareness of race relations, perceptions of social inequality, specific initiatives and the delivery of specialized programs.

This initiative is reciprocal in that the Council provides feedback to the community on policing perspectives, facilitating both community awareness programs and community responses to public safety and policing issues. The Council takes every opportunity to remain current with community and policing concerns and is prepared to guide community members on appropriate procedures to follow.

The Police Community Advisory Council, while remaining an independent resource to both the community and the police, facilitates opportunities to promote ongoing positive public relations on behalf of York Regional Police. In 2020, PCAC contributed 46 hours to York Regional Police and the community through meetings, special events and initiative planning.

5. Financial

Funding in the amount of \$2,715,370 was included in the 2020 Operating Budget for the Community Engagement and Wellbeing Bureau inclusive of salary and benefit costs of \$496,887 for one Sergeant, two Volunteer Coordinators and an Administrative Assistant directly related to Auxiliary and Volunteer initiatives. Additional funds exist in the 2020 Operating Budget for Officers to supervise Auxiliary activities as well as costs to equip and train the Auxiliaries and Volunteers.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Auxiliary Unit and the various York Regional Police volunteer groups provided a total of 20,692 hours in 2020. Collectively, the Auxiliary Unit and the volunteer programs make a difference in our community by enhancing the presence of York Regional Police in the community and building trusting relationships with our citizens.

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Jim MacSween, B.A.A.
Chief of Police

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Attachments - Appendix A: 2020 Events Involving YRP Auxiliary Members

Appendix B: 2020 Events Involving Participation of YRP Volunteers