

the

DURANDER

Criminal Intent

Durand Residents Plagued by Increase in Crime

It started becoming a pattern in late September. Many residents reported break-ins. Some homes were entered in the middle of the night while the homeowners lay sleeping their beds. Others homes were entered in the

middle of the day, in broad daylight. The thieves were after jewelry, cash and anything else of value they could carry. They entered through the back, side and even front doors of homes throughout our neighbourhood.



All this in spite of statistics reported in the Hamilton Spectator on October 4 that show break-ins are down in Hamilton by 26% over the previous year, although we are still 50% more likely to be broken into than residents of Toronto. The article also cited that the number of home alarm systems registered with police has increased from less than 15,000 in 2001 to 37,000 today.

Janice Brown, the Durand's representative on F.U.N. (Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods) has been in regular contact with Councillor Bob Bratina about the sudden rash of break-ins in the Durand.

She reported that by the end of October, police had reports of more than 17 break-ins in the Durand alone. The topic of community safety turned out to be the key topic of discussion amongst the nearly 60 residents who attended the DNA Annual General Meeting held on October 24 at the Football Hall of Fame.

Police representatives present at the meeting shared not only their concerns, but also a new policing model that will be introduced to the neighbourhood in the next 60 days. (see article A New Model for Policing on page 5)

Crack House - Catalyst For Crime (see page 3)

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

An Important DNA Meeting All Residents Should Attend

The Durand Neighbourhood Association is organizing a **Community Dialogue** meeting with representatives from Hamilton Police Service and municipal government to discuss increasing crime stats in the Durand.

The meeting will provide an important forum for all residents to become more informed and more involved in the protection of their neighbourhood.

DATE: November 17

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION:

Public Library

Main Branch - Room A

Get on the DNAInfo List

If you want the DNA to share information with you as it becomes available, please send us your email address so that we can add it to our new DNAInfo list. We'll use the list to keep you up-to-date on important and late-breaking news an information in the most cost-effective way possible. We won't inundate you with emails, but we will keep you informed. We'll also post updates on our website.

durand@hwcn.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE DNA



"People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, make them."

~G.B. Shaw, Mrs. Warren's Profession

This special edition of the Durander is special for a couple of reasons. One, our next edition of the Durander was not due out until January. Two, it's a call to action to our members and non-members alike. We have a situation in our neighbourhood that all residents need to know about and to work together to resolve right now. The issue is crime. No, we're not being alarmist - just take a look at the police crime stats at the bottom of this page if you need

to be convinced. That's why the Board of the DNA has organized a special **Community Dialogue** to be held on November 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Main Branch of the Hamilton Public Library in Jackson Square. I encourage you to attend. The meeting will provide you with direct access to the police officers and politicians who are responsible for serving the needs of our neighbourhood. You'll hear what's going on; what's being done about it; and what you can do to help. This is a serious issue, one that needs the input and support of every one of the 11,000 residents of the Durand. I sincerely hope you will be there.

CATHY GAZZOLA

FACING THE FACTS

Durand neighbourhood crime facts you need to know about right now.

Crime/Incident Type	Between Sept. 1 - Nov. 1	Additional Information
Break-Ins	- Almost 20 break-ins in the Durand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-afternoon robberies • Early-morning (4:00 a.m.) robberies • Vacant premises • Occupied premises (people watching TV or asleep in their beds) • Front doors kicked in • Windows forced or broken
Crack Houses	- Increase # of crack houses operating in the Durand	
Prostitution	- Prostitution evident on certain street corners in the Durand	
Arrests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 individual arrests, all for multiple B&E's - 4 arrests for outstanding warrants 	The police have identified 2 other B&E suspects who are presently being sought.

These crime stats were provided to the DNA by the Hamilton Police Service through Superintendent John Petz's office.

CRACK HOUSE - CATALYST FOR CRIME

We've all heard the phrase - everything connects. Well, when it comes to crime, nothing could be more true. The recent spike in break-ins in the Durand is directly related to the number of active crack houses in the area. As the number of active crack houses increases, so too does the number of prostitutes who usually work in close proximity to the crack house where they spend the money they generate turning tricks.

The police representatives who attended the DNA Annual General Meeting on October 24 described what a crack house was to the nearly 60 people in attendance. A crack house is a house or an apartment that is usually taken over by a dealer for periods as short as 4 to 5 days. Often, the tenant is not the dealer, just the supplier of the premises. According to the police, dealers prey on vulnerable people whose situations may cause them to agree to the terms set by the dealer. After a few days of dealing, often the dealer will move on to another place within the same neighbourhood. No matter where the next operation is set up, prostitutes who are addicted to crack are always

nearby. Not only that, but other addicts who are now aware of the availability of crack in the neighbourhood, feed their habit by doing break-ins. This cycle of illegal activity is at the centre of the many of the crime issues currently facing the Durand neighbourhood. So, getting the crack houses under

control will ultimately lead to a reduction in the number of break-ins. That's not to say that the police are focusing only on crack houses. In fact, they have made a few arrests for breaking and entering in our neighbourhood in the last few weeks; and have their eyes on a couple of suspects. So, should



you be worried? The short answer is, 'Yes'. The longer answer is, "Worry, but don't panic". Vigilance by residents and by the police is really what's called for. So too is communication - resident-to-resident and from and with the police. For more information on what the police are doing to address this situation, be sure to read the article called *What the Police Are Doing About the Crime Situation* on page 4 of this Special Edition of the Durander.

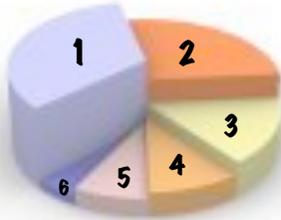
WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Do nothing and nothing will be the result. So, to help residents help themselves, the DNA has asked representatives from the Hamilton Police Service to come to our **Community Dialogue** meeting on November 17 to share information and recommendations. The police contingent will include Paul Cairns, Crime Manager, who will lead the implementation of the

new community policing model in the area that includes the Durand. In addition, one of the speakers at the **Community Dialogue** meeting will be Sgt. Steve Mahler, who is specialist in environmental protection - namely how to protect your premises. You will be able to assess your own current situation, ask questions and get ideas. For additional information about how to protect your property, visit www.hamiltonpoliceservice.com/ and go to the Preventing Crime Menu in the left hand column.



ESTABLISHING DNA COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR 2006



On November 1, the DNA Board convened a meeting to begin the process of establishing Safety & Security priorities for the Association. The intent of the

Board is to bring these preliminary priorities to the upcoming special **Community Dialogue** meeting for further discussion, input and prioritization.

The Board feels that the fact that police will be present at the meeting affords us an opportunity to share our views and to hear their reactions to the proposed priorities.

The DNA Board's first draft of the top 3 DNA Safety & Security Priorities for 2006, in order to priority, are:

1. **Crack Cocaine & Prostitution**
 - Crack houses
 - Drugs in the park
2. **Break Ins & Property Damage**
 - Residential
 - Commercial
3. **Traffic Management**
 - Accidents
 - Speeding

If you want input to the finalizing of the DNA Community Priorities for 2006, be sure to attend the Community Dialogue meeting on November 17 at the Main Branch of the Hamilton Public Library,

WHAT POLICE ARE DOING ABOUT THE CRIME SITUATION

Superintendent John Petz told the DNA that he had assigned a special Division 1 Task Force to focus on the recent spike in crime in what the police refer to as "WestTown", which includes the Durand. The Task Force consists of Detectives, members of the H.E.A.T. and B.E.A.R. units and officers from foot patrols. Their focus has started to pay off. Within a one week period, 4 separate arrests were made. Two more arrests of people who have been charged with multiple counts of break and enter related to residences on Jackson, Queen and Bold streets.

The challenge we face is that while progress is being made by our police force, the crime spree isn't over yet. That's why it's important for all residents to not only keep their eyes open, but also to take extra measures to secure their properties. While it's always a personal decision that needs to be made by each parent individually, given that some criminals have entered homes in the middle of the day and night, you may



want to discuss with your spouse or partner just what information you will share with your children. Let's be really clear about one thing - our intent is not to alarm, but rather to inform. Do what you think is best for your situation. If you have an alarm system, use it. If you're working at the back of the house, be sure to lock the front door. None of us want to live with a fortress mentality, but at least for the next couple of months, being cautious is probably a good idea. And if you see something that makes you suspicious, make a call to the police. The more they know, the more they can help. There are contact numbers on the back page of this special edition of the Durander.

For additional information about how to protect your property and yourself, visit www.hamiltonpoliceservice.com/ and go to the Preventing Crime Menu in the left hand column.

A NEW MODEL FOR POLICING

AN INTERVIEW WITH SUPERINTENDENT JOHN PETZ OF DIVISION 1

At the DNA Annual General Meeting, we heard from the Hamilton Police Service that they're as concerned about the sudden spike in crime in our neighbourhood as we are as residents. But, for those whose experience has made them more than a little skeptical about such statements, we decided to find out what the police were doing about the situation. We sat down for an interview at Police Headquarters with Superintendent John Petz who heads up Division 1.

Superintendent John Petz gets animated when he talks about the new model for policing that he will be implementing in his Division in January 2006. The model grew out of the C.O.P.P. (Challenging Our Patrol Priorities) 2000 Committee, on which Petz served. It involved researching other community policing models in Canada, the U.S. and England. The model has already been piloted, with great success, in the east end of Hamilton over the past 14 months. To understand the new model, Petz provided some context for how policing has been done.

For years, the police have viewed their priorities as the ABC's of Policing:

- A = 911 emergencies
- B = Investigative - done after the crime or event occurs
- C = Quality of Life - generally neighbourhood-related

Petz describes A and B as reactive policing, while C is intended to be proactive policing. He admits that while A and B have always been done pretty well, C has lagged behind because officers have complained they were too busy with A and B to spend much time on C. "It's not that our officers don't want to focus on quality of life issues, it's just that there were too many barriers in their way. In the new model, A and B issues will still be responded to, but what will be different is how and when B (the investigative work) gets done. If it's time sensitive, then officers will be there ASAP. If it's less time sensitive, namely whether the officer gets there in 10 minutes or five hours will make no difference to the outcome, then we may assign different resources to do the follow-up. So, rather than sending a patrol officer, we may send a Call Management Response Unit officer to do the investigation, or

somebody from the H.E.A.T. (High Enforcement Action Team) or B.E.A.R. (Break Enter Auto Recovery) squads. What that does is free up our officers' time to focus more on their beats and on the quality of life issues in the neighbourhoods they serve."

In addition, Petz said that he felt that the communication between squads really needed improvement. Think of the squads as intact teams that work shifts. So, while communication within the team on the same shift is generally good, the communication between teams on different shifts leaves a lot to be desired. Why? Often the only time when members of different squads see each other is during a shift change. They do their best to pass on important information from their shift, but often there isn't much time for much of a debrief. The new model emphasizes the beat as the team, not just the smaller unit or squad.

BASIC ORGANIZATION

1 DIVISION

4 SECTORS

11 BEATS PER SECTOR

**8 OFFICERS PER BEAT
(divided in to squads)**

To make this more than wishful thinking, the model uses a newly created role called Crime Manager. The Crime Manager is assigned to a Sector - there are 4 sectors in Division 1. Within each sector, there are 3 or 4 beats. The Crime Manager will communicate with and allocate resources across squads in conjunction with the Staff Sergeants responsible for the squads. "I like to think of the Crime Managers as community developers," adds Petz. The Crime Managers were specially selected for their abilities," says Petz. "This job was not posted, as is our usual procedure. The role is a critical one. It requires the right combination of administrative, problem solving, coordination and communication

skills. I'm confident that we have the right people in the right jobs. Their role is to ensure that the community gets what it needs and that our officers are supported and allocated in the most efficient and effective way possible. Right now, under the old model, that just wasn't happening to the extent that I think it needs to happen."

According to Petz, the community policing model strikes a finer balance between reactive (A & B) and proactive (C) policing. There are specialists in place now such as Community Relations Officers. Petz believes these specialists are doing a good job, but adds that he wants the beat officers to be directly involved in the neighbourhoods they serve, not just responding to incoming calls or emergencies. To support this move to cross-squad communication, the officers will make greater use of electronic communication that involves real-time input and access. Think of it as email in the patrol car.

According to Petz, "Right now, officers do not have a way of sharing what they write down in their log books, other than verbally during a shift change, which happens but not as much as it should. Now, when you come on shift, you have access to all of the notes that the officers on the earlier shift made right in the car. That may not sound like much, or maybe it sounds obvious, but I'll tell you it's going to make a huge difference to each officer's understanding of what is going on in their beat."

For the model to really work, there are some key variables that will have to be monitored by Petz and his senior officers. They include cooperation between the Staff Sergeants who are responsible for the patrol squads and the Crime Managers who liaise with each of the patrol squads in their sector. Issues of priorities, resource allocation, quality of communication and information all have to be managed properly. In addition, the officers themselves have to improve the quality and frequency of their communication between the patrol squads by not only demonstrating the discipline to use the technology that is now available to them, but also through building personal links between

the squads with and through the help of their Crime Manager.

Petz adds, "This is as much a mindset change as it is a structural and resource change. But one thing is certain - our officers are fully supportive of the new model."



When asked about how he would measure success a year from now, Superintendent Petz said, "I'd expect to see crime down; calls for service down; the quality of life issues better addressed; representatives from all of the neighbourhood associations in the Division sending representatives to my Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Safety & Security. These are some of the indicators that I'd be looking for."

Petz isn't the only one who is measuring outcomes. At his monthly meeting with the Chief, Petz says he has to report on levels of crime for the month and that Chief Mullan closely monitors the data and the trends and looks not only for explanations but for intended actions.

In terms of the role of citizens in the community policing model, Petz says, "We need community activists, like some of the members of the DNA, who are involved in and concerned about their community. They not only help us with information and perspectives, they also help to ensure that the community gets the kind of policing it needs. I want all of my officers to be open-minded and available to the residents of the communities they serve. I believe this new model is going to help that happen."

As he walks me back to the lobby of Police Headquarters, Superintendent Petz points to one of the dozen or more signs that are posted throughout his area of the building. They say "You Own It".

Petz says that he had the signs put up to remind officers at all levels that they own whatever it is that is required to deliver police services to the public.

You get the real sense that he means it.

CONTACT SHEET

WHO TO CALL WHEN YOU HAVE A CONCERN

Keep the following Contact Sheet handy if you see a crime; experience a crime; see something suspicious; have a question; want an answer, etc.

Organization	Name	Contact Info
	Hamilton Police Service Chief Brian Mullan	905.546.4772 (Reception) bmullan@hamiltonpolice.on.ca
	Supt. John Petz Division I	905.546.4945 jpetz@hamiltonpolice.on.ca
	Crime Manager Paul Cairns	pcairns@hamiltonpolice.on.ca
	Staff Sergeant Ray Rikic 'A' Squad	905.546.4725 rrikic@hamiltonpolice.on.ca
Crime Manager Paul Cairns		
City Hall 905.546.CITY (2489) General Enquiries	Mayor Larry Di Ianni	mayordianni@hamilton.ca
	Ward 2 Councillor Bob Bratina	bbratina@hamilton.ca
	Jennifer Cleary - Assistant to Councillor Bratina	jcleary@hamilton.ca
	Donna Reid - Special Assistant to Councillor Bratina	dreid@hamilton.ca
Durand Neighbourhood Association	Cathy Gazzola - President	cathygazzola@sympatico.ca OR durand@hwcn.org

Ensure that all windows and doors are secured when you leave and when you go to bed. Report things immediately. For example: A knock at the door and a person making an excuse as to why they are there. Unusual noises. Things out of the ordinary.

Please call the police and let them investigate.

Then, send an email to the DNA and tell us what happened.