

TOWN OF AJAX: PARTNER-BASED COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

2014-2017 Work Plan



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Parish and members of Town of Ajax Council would like to recognize and thank the following organizations for their contributions in developing the Community Safety Work plan for 2014 – 2017. Council recognizes the importance of this work to keep Ajax the safe community that it is. Further, the collective efforts of these organizations requires coordination, a common vision and a commitment to the quality of life of Ajax residents.

- * Durham Regional Police Service
- * Durham District School Board
- * Durham Catholic District School Board
- Durham Region Social Services
- * John Howard Society of Durham Region
- * Ajax and Pickering Board of Trade
- * Safe Communities of Pickering and Ajax
- * The Youth Centre
- Ontario Provincial Police
- Go Transit Police
- CN Police
- CP Police
- * Town of Ajax

** Depicts the confirmed partners who are committed to working collaboratively on the Community Safety Work Plan (2014 – 2017). The remaining partners as well as others may support various initiatives as deemed appropriate.*

The Town of Ajax Partner-Based Community Safety Strategy was produced in collaboration with consultants Tucker-Reid & Associates.

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TUCKER-REID & ASSOCIATES

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SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION TO THE SAFETY WORK PLAN FOR 2014 – 2017

Introduction

The Town of Ajax has placed a focussed emphasis on community safety since 2007, when a need was identified by community organizations, agencies and residents alike. While many organizations were playing their part in reducing unsafe conditions and harmful behaviours in the community, there was limited commitment by community partners at the time to working together. The development of the first Partnership-Based Community Safety Strategy offered an opportunity for all organizations with an interest in safety to develop one vision and a coordinated approach toward key priorities and initiatives.

The Partnership-Based Community Safety Strategy for Ajax (CSS) was developed in 2008 through the leadership of many community organizations, including the Town of Ajax, Durham Regional Police Service and many agencies, stakeholders and residents. All parties with an interest participated in the development and execution of the strategy. Residents and groups provided input initially and feedback after a draft strategy was developed. The CSS made 66 recommendations and 88 % of the recommendations have been addressed in the last 4 years. Most importantly, the community organizations that support safety initiatives in the Town have developed strong partnerships and look to each other first to determine what can be done as a collective group in order to share resources and reduce duplication of efforts.

While there is every indication that Ajax is a safe community and these efforts are essentially a means of – making a safe community safer- long term and sustainable efforts will continue to garner these positive results. Many factors come into play in reducing harmful behaviours and all credit cannot be given to the strategy results in themselves but some credit is definitely due. The point is that continued effort and coordination is needed.

Work Plan Development Methodology and Report Layout

The development of the Partnership-Based Community Safety Strategy Work Plan for the years 2014 to 2017 builds on the good work that has been completed since 2008 and places focus on a few key areas over the course of the next three years. In creating a new work plan, a number of community partners came together and had the benefit to hear of specific initiatives, current issues and statistics that will impact the work of the collective group moving forward. The following work plan outlines priorities, recommends specific work that should be completed and holds the organizations accountable to commit and report back on the results of their work. This coordinated approach has proven successful and will result in more informed, cohesive and targeted efforts.

Work Plan Development Methodology

The methodology to develop the plan included:

- The background documentation and relevant strategies were reviewed to ensure that there is alignment with key priorities within the Town of Ajax.
- Research was conducted to capture some best practices in other jurisdictions that may inform the priorities suggested in this next three-year work plan.
- Durham Regional Police Service provided current crime statistics and the Community Patrol Plan, which highlights: safety, crime reduction and harm reduction priorities within Ajax. This data clearly focussed the priorities over the next three years.
- The community partners came together for a day-long session to discuss the results of the last strategy, hear from Durham Regional Police Service on the current crime statistics and priorities, and understand what each partner group is currently doing to address safety issues in Ajax. This information allowed the formation of a vision, guiding statements, goals and recommended actions for the next three years.
- A draft plan was developed for distribution and review by the community partners and their stakeholders
- A final plan was refined considering the comments and revisions suggested by the stakeholders and subject to Town of Ajax review and guidance.

Work Plan Report Layout

Section One captures key findings and a summary of the key recommended priorities in the first section of the report for ease of reading.

Section Two highlights the background information, update of the current plan and include:

- Goals and Results of the Community Safety Strategy 2009-2013
- Current Safety Initiatives in Ajax
- Demographics and Future Growth Projections
- Ajax as Compared to Other Similar Sized Municipalities in Ontario
- Crime Rates per 1,000 Population in Ajax 2003 -2013
- Summary and Focus for 2014 – 2017

Section Three captures the 2014 - 2017 work plan and includes:

- The CSS work plan vision for the next three years
- Quality Guiding Statement Describing a Safer Ajax
- Goals and Recommended Actions
- Implementation Plan
- Recommended Performance Measures

SECTION TWO: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Results of the Partnership-Based Community Safety Strategy in Ajax 2009-2013

The CSS development in 2008 was the first time that joint planning with all of the stakeholders occurred with respect to safety. Stakeholder attendees hadn't worked together as a large group or with each other in many cases with a common interest previously. The outcome was not only to build and implement a strategy but also to begin to form relationships and effectively work to educate and jointly provide safety interventions in the community.

The CSS articulated 4 Priority Areas, which included:

1. Youth, Family and Seniors
2. Neighbourhoods
3. Transportation and Getting Around
4. Police Services

The strategy offered 66 recommendations and 58 or 88% have been implemented or are in the throes of being implemented. The community partners are to be commended for launching such a significant number of meaningful programs and initiatives. A full listing of all of the recommendations and their current status is offered for review as part of the appendix of this work plan.

Current Safety Initiatives in Ajax

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	CURRENT SAFETY INITIATIVES
Ajax Recreation and Culture Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Developing a "Connecting Neighbours" portal on the Ajax site. The portal will include a neighbourhood mapping resource tool to connect residents with events and resources in their neighbourhoods b) Staff work with residents to form groups and engage residents in self-governance and self-direction of community and neighbourhood opportunities c) Staff are working to re-energize the "Strong Neighbourhood day" in 2014 to encourage residents to get to know their neighbours and neighbourhood d) A Social Infrastructure grant program has been introduced and implemented to support groups setting about to address identified social issues in Ajax such as strong neighbourhoods and diversity. e) Staff are assisting a neighbourhood group to form in the Audley neighbourhood. f) Audley Recreation Centre has opened a Youth Centre with drop in and no cost programs as well as a

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	CURRENT SAFETY INITIATIVES
	<p>skate board park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) Staff are beginning to develop neighbourhood specific programs and programs that appeal to diverse populations. h) Partnerships with high schools Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School and J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate provide a seamless day for students, afterschool programs and outreach initiatives. i) Bussed students from Bolton C. Falby Public School to the new Audley Recreation Centre to participate in a Leadership Day and introduce them to programs and services at all three Recreation Centres and encourage participation.
Ajax By-Law Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The By-Law department is responsible to ensure community compliance with over 45 Acts of Legislation. The department receives over 15,000 calls and complaints per year from graffiti to lights. The Town embraces the theory that immediate response and action will set the tone and reduce further infractions (graffiti, vandalism etc.) b) The Town is focussing on parking and traffic safety in school zones and through a partnership with the school boards and Durham Police Services a Zero Tolerance Policy has been imposed to ensure the safety of students, faculty and caregivers.
Ajax – Planning and Development Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The department has hired an Active Transportation Coordinator to facilitate the implementation of a safe an accessible active transportation program in Ajax. b) The Traffic Analyst responds to complaints and accidents, evaluates development applications from a traffic safety and mobility perspective and sits on the Road Watch Committee. c) The Transportation Master Plan update (2013) included a Complete Streets policy to support all modes of transportation operating safely together. d) Traffic Calming plans are developed in accordance with the Town’s traffic calming warrant program. e) Design staff oversees parks improvements. f) The department evaluates development proposals based on CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principals. g) Priorities for 2014 will involve developing a Transportation Demand Management Plan, a Traffic Calming Warrant Update and the ongoing implementation of the Active and Safe Routes to Schools Program (Ajax Moves 3 Ways).
Region of Durham Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Social Services is developing a 10 year plan that will focus on homelessness and poverty reduction

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	CURRENT SAFETY INITIATIVES
Services	initiatives b) Social Services now has a mandate to house victims of domestic violence c) Developing strategies to support children /youth with other support agencies in an integrated fashion
Durham Regional Police Service – Neighbourhood Watch	a) Ajax now has 22 active Neighbourhood Watch (NW) groups, with 14 in the development phase. There are a further 11 historical watches in need of rejuvenation. The program is more active in Ajax than in any of the other Durham Region municipalities: Ajax has 18% of the Watches in Durham Region, and the growth of the program in Ajax over the past 5 years has represented over 60% of the new Watches established region-wide in this time period. b) NW seeks to influence environmental design and community development in order to increase the safety within communities as well as to reduce the fear of crime and empower residents. c) NW is hosting Community Safety Forums for seniors, business owners and homeowners. d) Providing regular community safety and crime prevention events in Ajax e) Putting safety training videos on the Police Services website and on YouTube
John Howard Society	a) The focus of the John Howard Society (JHS) is to provide support to criminalized and at risk residents. Programs and supports targeted at prevention, intervention and harm reduction are evidenced based and on what works in a community. b) Justice on Target is a court diversion program aimed at keeping adults out of the court system by providing community based sanction to those who are taking responsibility for their actions and where the offence is considered minor, also we are one of the partners working with DRPS to provide diversion programming for youth with a first time charge. c) Recently introduced After School Jobs for Youth, targets at risk youth to keep them in school and provide opportunities to gain skills and experience through life skill workshops and on the job training. d) Provides support counselling and anger management and parenting groups as well as several other counselling based programs and harm reduction services for intravenous drug users. e) The challenge for JHS is that their perception is that the criminal justice system is seeing a diverse population yet many are not accessing their voluntary programs.
Durham Catholic District School Board	The Durham Catholic District School Board has a plan in place that addresses school safety. Bullying Prevention Awareness and Interventions ○ School Board staff trained to reduce/prevent cyber-bullying and are available to in-service staff. and

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	CURRENT SAFETY INITIATIVES
	<p>students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School administrators are trained and certified in Threat and Risk Assessment ○ Administrators and staff are trained and certified in Restorative Practice and Circles. ○ Administrators and Safe Schools Teams produce annually a bullying awareness and prevention plan that is shared with Board Safe Schools Staff. ○ On-line safe schools and climate survey conducted annually. ○ Video Surveillance in all Secondary Schools ○ Safe Welcome Program (Video surveillance and controlled entry at front door of all elementary schools). <p>Safety and Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All administrators, student services staff and Board personnel are trained and certified in Threat and Risk assessment. ○ All administrators are trained in Rapid Deployment by Durham Regional Polices Services. ○ 3 fire drills and 2 lock down drills each school year. ○ Safe schools audits completed annually. ○ Safe Schools Week - September ○ Bully Prevention Awareness Week - November ○ Stand Up to Bullying Week - February
<p>Durham District School Board</p>	<p>a) The annual DDSB plan has 6 priorities that promote positive and safe schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bullying Prevention and Intervention ○ Progressive Discipline ○ Restorative Practice ○ Character Education ○ Safety and Security ○ Healthy Choices <p>b) The following annual expectations are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Schools review and publish their School Code of Conduct – Create and implement a Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	CURRENT SAFETY INITIATIVES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a Safe and Accepting School Team - Complete and review the School's Safety Audit - Complete a School Climate Survey (anonymous for students, staff, and parents, every 2 yrs.) - Update Fire and Emergency Safety Plans - Complete one "Lockdown", and one "Hold and Secure" drill each year - Complete six fire drills - Ensure that the DDSB Character Traits are embedded in the curriculum and celebrated <p>c) DDSB schools recognize the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety Week (3rd week in Sept) - Bullying Prevention Week (3rd week in Nov.) - Pink Shirt Day (last week in Feb.) <p>d) The following resources have been developed to support DDSB administrators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bullying Prevention: Educating and Empowering School Communities - Cyber-bullying Tool kit - Progressive Discipline Process for Durham Elementary/Secondary Schools - SAS: Safe at School: Partnerships in Safety - 9-1-1: Emergency Flipchart - Mental Health Toolkit <p>e) Recent initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of DDSB Mental Health and Addictions Strategic Plan 2013-2018 - Hire a Mental Health Lead - Training Safe and Accepting School Teams on building resiliency through self-regulation by Dr. Stuart Shanker is an international expert from The Milton and Ethel Harris Research Initiative at York University and the Canadian Self- Regulation Initiative (CSRi) and Mike McKay, Director of CSRi, - In spring 2013 DDSB, Durham Catholic District School Board, and community partners signed a Community Threat Assessment and Intervention Protocol (C-TAIP) Agreement. - Fall 2013 every Secondary School, 5 Elementary Schools, psychological services and social work staff completed phase one training on how to complete threat/risk assessments

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	CURRENT SAFETY INITIATIVES
Durham Regional Police Service	<p>a) The Community Policing Plan for Ajax and Pickering focuses on key priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduction in property crime including break and enters and theft of and from vehicles ○ Reduction in violent crime including street level robberies, youth crime and high risk offenders ○ Traffic safety including high collision intersections and highway traffic violations ○ The Durham Regional Police Service West Division 2013-14 Community Patrol Plan describes the analysis and actions that will be taken to meet these community safety objectives
Ontario Provincial Police – Whitby Detachment	<p>a) The role of the OPP is to police the 400 series highway east of Brock Road to west of Lakeridge Road. There are 6 officers on the road and the focus is on enforcement versus individual and smaller accidents to keep the traffic flowing. There are a significant number of collisions between Westney and Salem during rush hour mainly due to distracted drivers. The detachment is focussing on education and enforcement with respect to distracted driving, speeding and seat belt use to reduce the number of accidents. There is a dedicated officer during rush hours.</p> <p>b) The festive ride program is beginning and will occur throughout December.</p> <p>c) The detachment is using technology to map out collisions scenes so that traffic congestion can be alleviated sooner after an accident.</p>
CN Police	<p>a) The CN Police unusually work with Mayors and Fire Departments to create an understanding and build cooperation around their priorities.</p> <p>b) Currently working with Durham Regional Police Service to address drug issues on CN property.</p> <p>c) A Community Services Officer provides education opportunities in schools around safety in and around trains and CN property.</p> <p>d) There have been no major issues in the Ajax area.</p>
GO Police	<p>a) Responsible for issues on trains and buses.</p> <p>b) Cameras will have been installed in all 1800 buses by the end of 2014 to record bus incidents.</p> <p>c) Busses on trains are located on the front and rear cars to accommodate moving both ways on the track.</p> <p>d) Graffiti is removed as soon as it is reported and significant issues are dealt with by providing educational handouts to passengers.</p> <p>e) The most critical issue is responding to thefts from vehicles in the parking lots.</p> <p>f) There is a rising number of suicides and death by misadventure and a provincial wide help line is being developed to prevent these incidents and get residents the help and support that they need.</p> <p>g) Presentations are made to 111 schools bordering rail lines to discuss the dangers and further that rail</p>

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	CURRENT SAFETY INITIATIVES
	line safety is everyone's responsibility.
GO Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Responsible for all issues within the property lines including but not limited to garbage, graffiti, trespassing. All property is audited once per month and greater focus is placed on hot spots. Ajax is not considered very problematic at this time b) An ongoing goal is decrease shut down time due to property issues within 60 minutes.
Ajax and Pickering Board of Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Board of Trade has over 650 for profit and not for profit members b) A recent survey concluded that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A strong majority of respondents feel that crime prevention initiatives are important and there is a split perception as to whether vandalism has increased, remained the same or decreased. o A strong majority of the respondents feel that identity theft requires focus over the next 2 years c) Board of Trade members feel that there is a shortage of employable skills in the area and that the mix with youth unemployment requires attention to keep residents and jobs in the region. d) Other priorities for the Board of Trade include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Transportation infrastructure and the cost of congestion on the movement of people and goods o The implementation of the 407 construction to 35/115 highway o Transportation and infrastructure planning for the Seaton Community estimated at 60,000 more residents
Safe Communities of Pickering and Ajax (SCOPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) SCOPA is a partner based organization that coordinates efforts to educate residents on safe practices and strategies. Within the last year SCOPA's program included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o "No Regrets Live; 2,100 students were involved in the speakers series where an injured victim speaks to students about risks o Young Workers Safety Awareness Program o Safety for Seniors sessions centred on gambling, fire safety, driving, internet, and nuclear safety.

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	CURRENT SAFETY INITIATIVES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Youth Leadership Forum was held to develop action plans around student safety. This event occurs every other year.
The Youth Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Youth Centre is a community health centre for youth and young adults ages 13-29 living in Ajax and Pickering. Services are client centred and address the broad determinants of health. Services include counselling, medical, youth outreach, young parent support and health promotion/community development. All services are free and non-judgmental b) Provide free youth programming including cooking classes, self-esteem/spa programs and leadership/volunteerism programming. c) Participate in community initiatives including CAAB-D (anti bullying), TAMI (mental health), SCOPA (safety), Pride Prom (LGBTQ), Take the Lead (youth leadership) d) Deliver drop-in lunch/learn program for youth who are not-connected to services (homeless, out of school, shelter participants etc.) with Ajax library to provide a safe space for youth to access food, information and social support e) Lead agency for a new initiative to provide counselling walk-in services in collaboration with other organizations in Ajax.

Demographics and Future Growth Projections

The Town of Ajax has experienced steady population growth over the past 30 years. The Town's population has more than tripled between 1981 (25,474 residents) and 2011 (109,600 residents). The vast majority of dwellings in Ajax were constructed after 1971. Between 1971 and 1990, the proportion of dwellings constructed represented 46% of the total number dwellings in the Town. A further 34% of total dwellings were built recently, between 2001 and 2011.

The Town of Ajax is projected to grow by nearly 47% between 2006 and 2031. Much of this growth is estimated to occur up to 2015, after which much smaller increases are projected, due largely to

limitations on where the Town can expand. Between 2016 and 2031, the population is expected to grow from 126,325 persons to 137,670 persons, representing a growth of 9%.

Ajax has a high proportion of families with children. Over 60% of the Town's households are comprised of three persons or more. As compared with the Region, Ajax has a higher proportion of three or more person households.

Ajax's population has a similar age distribution to Durham Region with a couple of important differences. The Town has the second highest percentage of children (29% of the Town's population in 2011) and the lowest proportion of seniors (9%) compared with other municipalities in the Region. However, it is important to note that approximately 11% of the Town's population is aged between

55-64. Over the next 10 years, this population will fall into the 65-74 age range, increasing the seniors' population.

The 2011 Census showed that the median age of Ajax's residents is 36 years, which is slightly older than the previous Census year (indicating an aging of the population), but remains below Ontario's median age of 40.

Approximately one in five families in Ajax are lone parent families and out of those lone parent families over 80% are female lead households. This statistic is fairly consistent between the 2011 and 2006 census.

The majority of Durham's workforce is employed within the Region. In 2001, 55.1% of work trips (104,100) made by Durham residents during a typical weekday were destined for work locations within the Region. By 2006, this percentage increased slightly to 56.1% of work trips (113,200). While the total number of work trips made by Durham residents within Durham increased by 8.7% between 2001 and 2006, work trips made by Durham residents to other parts of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) increased by 4.6% during the same period.

Residents of the Town of Ajax enjoy a high quality of life, 64.1% of the population have post-secondary education and household incomes exceed the provincial average by over 37%.

Source: Durham Region Profile – Demographics and Socio-Economic Data 2009; and Statistics Canada, Census 2011

Demographics have an impact on the development of community safety strategies and the development of a work plan gives consideration of the following:

- The Town will continue to grow in population and efforts to educate and continue to influence the safety of Ajax will require continued and sustained efforts.
- A focus on children, youth and older adults will address a significant part of the growth of the population over the next ten years.
- As the population of Ajax continues to age the safety needs of residents will continue to shift slightly.
- Consistent communications will play a significant role in informing residents of the opportunities to connect with neighbours given the fact that the majority of those employed travel outside of the community to work.
- Continued efforts will need to be made to include residents from diverse backgrounds and especially those with low income backgrounds.

Crime Rates in Ajax as Compared to Durham Region 2006 to 2013

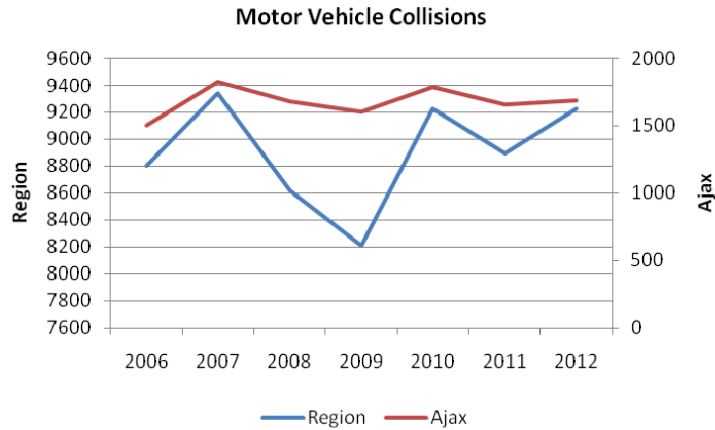
This summary has been prepared for the Town of Ajax Partner-Based Community Safety Strategy purposes to examine crime statistics in Ajax and compare to that of Durham Region, over the past seven years. The types of crime considered in this report are aligned with the strategic priorities of Roadway Safety, Property Crime and Violent Crime, as outlined in the 2013-2014 West Division Community Patrol Plan.

Roadway Safety

One of the Roadway Safety goals of the West Division is to reduce motor vehicle collisions. Strategies to achieve this goal include enforcement initiatives, public awareness strategies and long-term research studies.

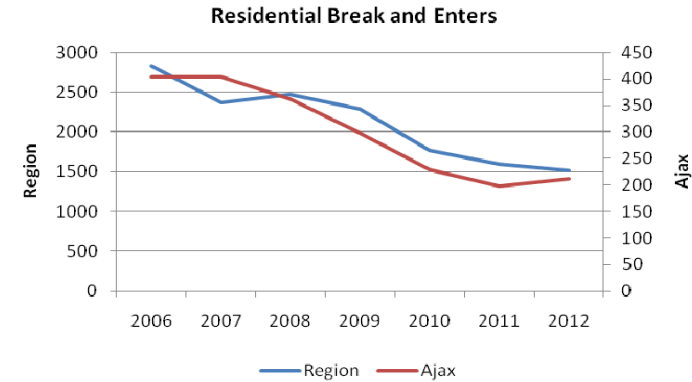
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Long-term trends of motor vehicle collisions over the past seven years in the Region, as well as in Ajax, have increased.



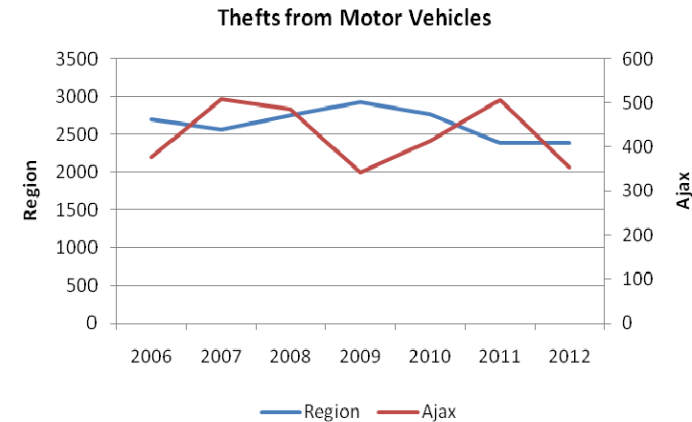
Property Crime Investigative Initiatives

One of the strategic goals of the West Division is to reduce residential break and enters. In order to achieve this goal, Officers have conducted conventional and social media education campaigns for residents on ways to protect their homes against break and enters. Over the past seven years, there has been a considerable decrease in reported residential break and enters across the Region as well as in Ajax.



Another strategic goal of the West Division is to reduce thefts from motor vehicles. Past history have shown that this activity tends to increase over the summer months, so leading up to and during that time, proactive initiatives were conducted.

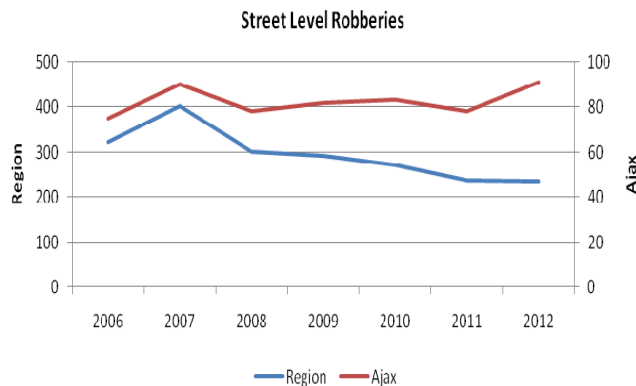
The long-term results have been an overall decrease in thefts from vehicles across the Region as well as in Ajax. However in Ajax, the yearly fluctuations are more prominent.



Violent Crime Investigative Initiatives

Reducing Street Level Robbery is the focus of one of the violent crime strategic goals. Since 2006, there has been a negative trend in reported street level robberies across the Region, however during the same time period in Ajax, the trend has been positive.

Strategies to achieve this goal include proactive enforcement and investigative focus.



There is a perception that Ajax is a safe community and current crime statistics prove that to be true. While the focus of the work plan is to continue to educate the community on prevention and interventions; promoting Ajax as a safe community to live, work and play will assist residents in knowing that Ajax is safe and integrated community partners continue to focus on key issues. Data with respect to the perceptions of community safety in Ajax can be found in Appendix 2.

An Integrated Approach to Improving Community Safety

Durham Regional Police Service developed a Community Safety Patrol Plan to support a number of identified priorities. The plan is revised on an annual basis to ensure it remains current with issues affecting the community. Attached as appendix 3 is a copy of the DRPS Community Patrol Plan for 2014/2015

With that said, Ajax has adopted an integrated approach to reducing harmful behaviours in the community by working together with like-minded partners. This tactic promotes the notion that safety is everyone's responsibility as well as a better use of limited resources. The community organizations have worked to:

- Gather together like organizations that have an interest in community safety to discuss the important safety issues in Ajax
- Assess the needs of residents and the various organizations in their work in increasing community safety perception and reducing crime, violent and harmful behaviours
- Gather background information with respect to perceptions, promising practices and changes in demographics
- Develop a plan that focuses on evidenced based data and addresses key initiatives and strategies
- Develop community awareness and communications strategies to promote the plan and the key priorities
- Implement and take actions in a timely and thoughtful manner, and
- Evaluate the initiatives put forth in the plan and the results or intended outcomes

- Support the work being done by Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) through the DRPS Community Patrol Plan (2014/2015)

Community Safety - Summary and Focus for 2014 – 2017

Key Findings

- Ajax will continue to grow and will require a coordinated partnership-based focus on safety over the long course.
- Ajax is a safe community as compared to other like sized communities in Ontario
- There is a synergy forming between the “partners in safety” in Ajax, focussed objectives will further align limited resources toward the community good.
- There is strong and positive perception of community safety in Ajax with 79% of the population agreeing that Ajax is a

safe community. Continued emphasis should be spent communicating that Ajax is safe and that integrated efforts strive to make Ajax even safer.

- Continued importance must be placed on the reduction of property crime, street level robberies, harm reduction and traffic safety over the course of the next three years.
 - Ajax is taking an integrated and planned approach with other community partners. This is an evidenced based practice that typically witnesses results over time.
- Community Safety - Summary and Focus for 2014 – 2017



SECTION THREE: AJAX PARTNERSHIP-BASED COMMUNITY SAFETY WORK PLAN 2014 – 2017

Vision

A vision for the next 3 years must clearly articulate what can be reasonably accomplished, create a call to action and demonstrate to the public that safety is all about everyone's efforts and not one particular group or individual. Residents and agencies alike must see themselves in the vision and commit to playing their part to reduce harmful and unsafe activities within Ajax.

Ajax Community Safety Vision

"Ajax is a welcoming and vibrant community that embraces the principles of respect, fairness and equity; diverse neighbourhoods thrive and all residents have access to engaging community based opportunities. Supported by Ajax Council, the Town continues to be a safe place to live, work and play due to the continued and focussed efforts of residents, the community and its agencies. "

Quality "Guiding Statements"

Qualities of a safe and healthy Ajax:

1. All residents have the opportunity to be connected and engaged in the activities that keep Ajax vibrant and safe.

2. Individuals, family, community and government share in the responsibility for the safety, protection and well-being of this community.
3. Efforts focus on safety messaging, harm reduction strategies and recognition of positive results.
4. Equal, affordable and timely access to high quality health, social and emergency services contribute to a safe environment.
5. Residents and community partners work well together toward similar safety and quality of life objectives.
6. Neighbourhoods have well-used gathering places such as schools, parks and facilities which are safe, active and accessible.
7. Residents continue to be engaged in a variety of community recreation, culture and leisure activities, which ensures that all residents can benefit from positive lifestyle choices.
8. There is a central source that connects residents to good information and to needed supports.
9. There are initiatives in place to make Ajax economically sustainable through business development and retention in order to create meaningful jobs.
10. Efforts to promote safety and decrease harmful environments are measured; successes, challenges and results are communicated.

Focussed Outcomes

Community agencies and institutions with a responsibility/mandate to implement safety initiatives to reduce harmful behaviours recognize that they must work better together in order to maximize limited resources and reduce duplication of efforts. Further, the Community Safety Strategy has a limited three-year timeframe and therefore any goals and objectives must be able to be achievable and measurable by the end of the plan horizon. The input from agencies with a mandate of public safety all agreed to adopt the following principles in developing the work plan for 2014 – 2017:

- Continue with initiatives that are showing promising results
- Align efforts with the fact based plans (Community Patrol Plan) adopted by the Durham Regional Police Force
- Keep the work plan simple and focus on 10 -15 critical initiatives
- Recognize that as compared to other similar sized municipalities in Ontario, Ajax is considered a safe community yet the environment can change at any time. Efforts must be sustained over time.
- The main purpose of the safety work plan is to educate, provide information, and encourage healthy lifestyle choices.

- Efforts need to be focussed where critical issues are evident.

Priority Areas and Recommended Actions

Key Safety Priorities in Ajax 2014-2017

The key safety priorities for 2014-17 have been based on crime statistics, issues identified by community partners, best practices in other jurisdictions and the best thinking of the experts on safety initiatives in Ajax. The thought is to keep the plan focussed on a few key priorities and work in a coordinated fashion in achieving the needed results. The work plan is summarized into 4 key result areas and recommended actions to ensure that the partner-based work is simple to access and track as initiatives are implemented and updates are provided. The focus on reducing street level crime, bullying and cyber-bullying, active youth, engaged neighbourhoods are all critical elements in order to make Ajax – a safe community safer. The following table will summarize the key results areas and recommended actions over the next three years. These recommended actions compliment the great work that continues to increase safety in Ajax and provides clear focus on where advances need to be made.

KEY RESULT AREA	FOCUS ON	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS OVER 3 YEARS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
Safe Neighbourhoods: To provide critical interventions to build strong neighbourhoods and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build resident capacity in neighbourhoods to address safety and accessing supportive services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to encourage the growth of the Neighbourhood Watch Program by 20% over 3 years. 2. Build strategic and timely communications on pertinent neighbourhood safety issues such as 	DRPS, Neighbourhood Watch Program, Ajax, John Howard Society

KEY RESULT AREA	FOCUS ON	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS OVER 3 YEARS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
reduce localized crime where it exists		locking car doors to avoid theft ("Lock It Or Lose It")	
Safe Residents and Families: To ensure that residents receive focussed interventions with respect to safety issues and access to local services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anti-bullying education ○ Reduction of street level crime (Theft of phones, money and clothes) ○ Senior's safety (scams, internet fraud etc.) ○ Identity theft ○ After school opportunities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Work cooperatively with DRPS, schools boards and other partners to identify anti-bullying education awareness initiatives and a public awareness campaign on reducing bullying and cyber-bullying behaviours; involve youth in developing and delivering the message 4. Create awareness and prevention strategies on fraud and identity theft 5. Increase after school opportunities and reduce barriers in areas where there are higher levels of street crime 6. Expand the Strong Neighbourhoods Portal on the Ajax website to include efforts around community safety 7. Expand outreach through education & public awareness on being a victim of street level crime 8. Due to the anticipated growth of the Town, investigate the feasibility of a dedicated Police Station in Ajax 9. Explore the use of community based CCTV Public Safety cameras in targeted locations 	Durham District School Board, Durham Catholic District School Board, SCOPA, Ajax/Pickering Board of Trade, Town of Ajax, The Youth Centre, John Howard Society
Safe Streets: To increase safety on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce distracted driving and as a result car 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Educate the public and make efforts to reduce distracted driving and 	Town of Ajax, DRPS, Road

KEY RESULT AREA	FOCUS ON	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS OVER 3 YEARS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
our streets and reduce harmful behaviours	accidents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the concept of sharing the roadways with cyclists, walkers and scooters 	resultant accidents. 11. Broaden the 'Ajax Moves 3 Ways' brand to includes additional traffic safety initiatives being delivered by various community partners i.e. DRPS 12. (Conduct a Review) of the Road Watch program governance structure, including reporting, relationships, insurance, and operational matters for the program 13. The Town & community partners advocate for the use of technology related safety programs such as photo enforcement (red light camera systems) 14. Educate public on the use of roundabouts	Watch, SCOPA, Durham District School Board (DDSB), The Youth Centre
Community Perception of Safety: To reinforce the message to residents and businesses that Ajax is safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting Ajax as a safe Community 	15. Post crime statistics in Ajax as compared to other like sized municipalities in Ontario (incidents per 1000 population) 16. Continue to test perception of safety and post results	DRPS, Ajax

Implementation Plan

Keeping strong momentum in implementing and evaluating the CSS work plan will require continued effort and commitment on the part of the community safety stakeholders and residents. It is suggested

that the partners meet to agree to their respective contributions and determine the leads and partners needed to support each initiative and include youth and seniors on the stakeholder based

committee. The implementation teams will meet throughout the project timeline of 3 years and it is suggested that the full community partners meet quarterly thereafter. The development of a core team of lead agencies to keep the plan on track and provide communications would also be worth the effort. The associated costs to implement the safety work plan are not anticipated to require additional funding from the various stakeholder budgets, nor require greater staff and volunteer time than is already dedicated to community safety issues. There will be some project costs as the plan proceeds but it is anticipated that the Town of Ajax Social Infrastructure Fund will be a likely source of funding.

Performance Measures

Evaluating the effectiveness of the community safety work plan will serve to keep the plan efforts focussed and nimble in making any needed changes. Data collection will be required throughout the year to assist in measuring the inputs, outputs and outcomes articulated in the plan. The commitment to develop an annual report that would be presented to Council, the stakeholder boards and decision makers will serve to keep the plan results communicated to reflect any emerging issues and successes to decision-makers.

PRIORITY AREA	INPUTS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Safe Neighbourhoods	Funding, volunteer and staff time dedicated to safe neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees at neighbourhood events Number of Neighbourhood Watch Programs Participation in Strong Neighbourhood Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual reduction in thefts and break ins (cars and homes)
Safe Residents and Families	Funding, volunteer and staff time dedicated to safe residents and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees at youth, business and senior education on safety events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual reduction in street level crimes Number of attendees annually at after-school opportunities Visits to the Community Safety portal on the Town's website
Safe Streets	Funding, volunteer and staff time dedicated to safe streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of days that the radar screens are in use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage reduction in speeding Infractions and distracted driving
Community Perception of	Funding, volunteer and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach of communications centered on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More favourable perception

PRIORITY AREA	INPUTS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Safety	staff time dedicated to communicating, supporting, measuring and recognizing safety efforts	safety	of community safety in Ajax (by age group) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Better crime statistics than other like sized communities in Ontario (incidents per 1000 population)

In conclusion, the community partners in Ajax are to be commended for their continued efforts to address safety in and around the municipality. The focussed emphasis of addressing key issues - that are supported by statistical data - will serve to coordinate and utilize limited community resources in the most

effective fashion. While Ajax is considered a safe community, sustained efforts to maintain this good standing and make a safe community safer are critical to the excellent quality of life enjoyed by residents and businesses alike.



APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Promising Practices in Community Safety

SAFE NEIGHBOURHOODS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Driven Safety Audits - Toronto ○ Block Parties to encourage neighbours to get to know each other - Edmonton ○ Neighbourhood Watch Programs to engage neighbours to address local safety issues – Durham Regional Police Service ○ Good Neighbours Program – Recognition of neighbours that make efforts to reach out and help others ○ Snow Angels – a program to encourage neighbours to clear snow at homes where residents are either away or not physically able to clear their snow – Edmonton ○ Targeted enforcement to address key safety issues in neighbourhoods through prevention, intervention and enforcement – Durham Regional Police Service ○ Use of Crime Prevention Through Community Design Principles (CPTED) – Ajax ○ Local Crime Prevention Heroes program (Mississauga) ○ Neighbourhood Beautification Program and Hero Recognition Luncheon (Mississauga) ○ Annual Crime Prevention Conference (Mississauga) ○ Neighbours Night Out (Toronto) ○ Neighbours Night Out (Mississauga) ○ Crime statistics available on website, ie. Chicago, Peel Regional Police, Ottawa Police Service, Los Angeles.
SAFE RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Addressing the early risk factors of crime and safety issues including income, education, housing and employment – Toronto, Durham Region, Peel Region, London ○ After-school programs in priority neighbourhoods – Toronto, Aspire Program, the Crossroads Youth Academy and the Counteract Neighbourhood Nights programs from Mississauga, Yonge Street Mission – Evergreen youth program ○ Mapping of Community Assets and addressing gaps in local programs and opportunities – Ajax
SAFE STREETS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Targeted intervention and enforcement based on vehicular statistics – Durham Regional Police Service ○ Active and Safe Routes to School - Green Communities Canada (GCC) ○ Walking School Bus and WOW – Walk/Wheel on Wednesdays – Engaging local volunteers to walk with and supervise children to walk to school safely (GCC)

COMMUNITY PERCEPTION OF SAFETY

- Mapping of crime statistics by neighbourhood and annual reporting – Los Angeles
- Reporting of crime statistics by neighbourhood – Mississauga
- Polling residents as to their perception of community safety – Ajax
- Safety messaging based on key safety issues – Ajax
- Indicators of a Sustainable Community – Seattle measures both juvenile misdemeanours and filings as well as “neighbourliness”

APPENDIX 2: Perception of Community Safety in Ajax

In 2010 The Town of Ajax completed a community survey through Environics to determine resident perception of community issues including the perception of neighbourhood and community safety. Similar polls had been taken in 2005 and 2007. The results of the poll served to inform the Partnership – Based Community Safety Strategy and the resultant work plan being developed for 2014 to 2017.

- 79% of residents felt that Ajax is a safe community,
- 21% of residents felt that Ajax is not safe due to the perception of increasing crime rates, violence and property crime,
- 14% felt that youth crime is an important community safety issue, and
- 31% felt that more police and presence of authority is needed to improve community safety, other suggestions included the formation of neighbourhood safety groups and neighbourhood involvement

APPENDIX 3: Status of the Actions from the Partner-Based Ajax Community Safety Strategy 2009-2013

The following tables detail the accomplishments that have been achieved and the remaining strategies to be implemented under the Partner-Based Ajax Community Safety Strategy 2009-2013. The

accomplishments have been subdivided into three main categories: Families/Children/Youth, Policing, and Transportation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
FAMILIES/CHILDREN/YOUTH	
○ Program introduced in Riverbreeze Community Housing (Region & Town)	☑
○ Quality of Life survey completed in 2010 (Town)	☑
○ Reached “Gold” Status for “Youth Friendly Community” in 2009.	☑
○ Research completed for lighting along walkways	☑
○ Protocol developed, including involvement with Knights on Guard and DRPS (DRPS & Town)	☑
○ Environmental policies in OPA 38 provide for Safe Community Design. (Town)	☑
○ Review of current Social Service programs completed in 2009 (GAP Analysis)	☑
○ “Take the Lead” Youth program developed in 2009. (Youth Centre & Town)	☑
○ Youth Summit for Ajax schools program developed in 2009. Held annually at Lincoln Alexander P.S. (DDSB)	☑
○ Anti- bullying program developed & delivered in 2009 & 2010 (SCOPA)	☑
○ Ongoing Initiative’s taking place through the Coalition for Action Against Bullying (SCOPA)	☑
○ Anti-gang strategy workshop’s held in 2010 (Region)	☑
○ Return Ticket Program for high priority youth established (DCDSB)	☑
○ Funding secured through Ministry for after school program for children & youth. (2 programs implemented)	☑
○ Settlement Workers in School Program implemented in 2011 (CDCD)	☑

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Affordable Access to Recreation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town lead a delegation to Region's Health & Social Services Committee in 2011 regarding Affordable Access for Recreation - Small working group, including Town, community partners and Region staff formed to develop practices and approach's within the Region - Current Ajax needs being met through Canadian Tire initiative, free program implementation, Girls and Boys Club after school program, financial subsidies 	☑
○ DDSB web site re-design which included more focus on Safe School and Character Building program	☑
○ Safety audit conducted in Ajax schools (ongoing)	☑
○ Annual student attitudinal survey in Ajax schools (ongoing)	☑
○ Staff at DDSB & DCDSB and various youth serving agencies have been formally trained in the Restorative Justice Alternative model	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Development & Outreach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Group Affiliation Policy developed - Recreation Fee Structure changed to include reduced rates - Community Group Education & Training Program (free) developed - Day time room rates introduced at Town facilities - St. Francis not-for-profit rates introduced (2011) - Neighbourhood Tool Kit available to residents (free) 	☑
○ Review of Service Delivery of By-law Services completed March 2011. (Town By-law)	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation's delivered in Ajax Senior Centre's in 2010/11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senior's Campaign developed in partnership with DRPS & SCOPA 	☑
○ "Encourage Me Ajax" public awareness youth campaign held in 2011 - 2013	☑
○ Picnic Tables installed at Rossland/Harwood for J. Clarke/Notre Dame H.S. (Town)	☑
○ Consultation occurred with youth on indoor/outdoor space for ARC (Town)	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth Spaces/Services Study complete in 2010 ○ New Youth Centre opened at J. Clarke/Notre Dame (DDSB, DCDSB, Town) ○ New youth Space opened at Audley Recreation Centre in 2013 	☑

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Durham Drug Awareness Committee meets monthly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two annual events held: Choose Your Ride, (2) Ultimate Mix 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth Portal developed as part of Town's new web site 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Session held with summer camp staff in 2010/11/12 to teach safe working environment awareness (SCOPA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Program session, led by SCOPA to be a focus for 2012/13, following high school graduation (fall) 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth program survey completed in 2009. (Town) 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welcome Centre opened in fall 2012. (CDCD) 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth pilot program initiated at J. Clarke/Notre Dame for at risk youth (Long term sustainability a challenge financial & partnership) 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fee structure reviewed in 2012 of youth membership programs to ensure affordability 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual Community Safety Week and Forum held for Students/Parents (DDSB) 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Street Level Robbery Education Campaign – High School Students – 2012 (DRPS, DDSB, DDCSB) 	☑
NEIGHBOURHOODS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Neighbourhood events held in high priority areas (BBQ's) 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New interactive Neighbourhood Portal (Town) 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 16 new Neighbourhood Watches endorsed in Ajax since 2008 (14 since 2009) 33 Neighbourhood Watch programs in Ajax (22 active and 11 inactive) 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strong Neighbourhood Strategy completed (2013) 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Neighbourhood Tool Kit developed and available to Ajax residents (Town) 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lock-it or Loose-it Safety Campaign – 2013 (DRPS) 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Neighbourhood Social Infrastructure Fund Program established – 2013 (Town) 	☑
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OPA 41 has been approved by Town Council (2010) 	☑
TRANSPORTATION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pedestrian and bicycle plan approved by Council in 2010 (Town) 	☑

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
○ Durham Region Transit developed new routes in 2011/2012 (DRT)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
○ Roadway Safety: ○ Phase 1 – “Think and Drive” campaign held in 2011 ○ Phase 2 – “Ajax Moves Three Ways” campaign launched in 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
○ Active & Safe Routes to School Program -Brother Andre Catholic School Pilot launches in 2011 (DDCSB, Town)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
POLICING	
○ Cops and Kids presentation delivered to Ajax Council in fall 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
○ DRPS developed a public relations campaign in 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
○ Town staff, in partnership with DRPS, developed a magnet to assist residents in crime reporting (DRPS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
○ DRPS Business Planning Session held in 2009 ○ Community meeting held in 2012 (DRPS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
○ DRPS Roadway Safety Plan (2012/2013) was developed in 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
○ DRPS outreach basketball program introduced in 2011 at J. Clarke H.S. (DRPS & DDSB) – no longer running ○ Dedicated officers assigned to all 5 high schools in Ajax ○ Committee established in early 2013 between Ajax Youth Advisory Committee and DRPS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
REMAINING STRATEGIES – NOT YET COMPLETED	
○ Investigate the benefits of establishing a registry of residential rental properties where landlords are not present	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Traffic calming warrant information updated on Town’s new web site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Active Transportation: ○ New Trail/Roadway signage installed	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Development of Ajax Transit Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Investigate the Potential of an overnight visitor parking permit system	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Explore a shared community resource space, including the creation of an evening youth drop-	<input type="checkbox"/>

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
in program with multi-service providers	
○ Educate on the use of roundabouts	<input type="checkbox"/>