

North Cowichan / Duncan RCMP

1/11/2023



Downtown Duncan Corridor and Area Jan to Dec 2022

Annual Review

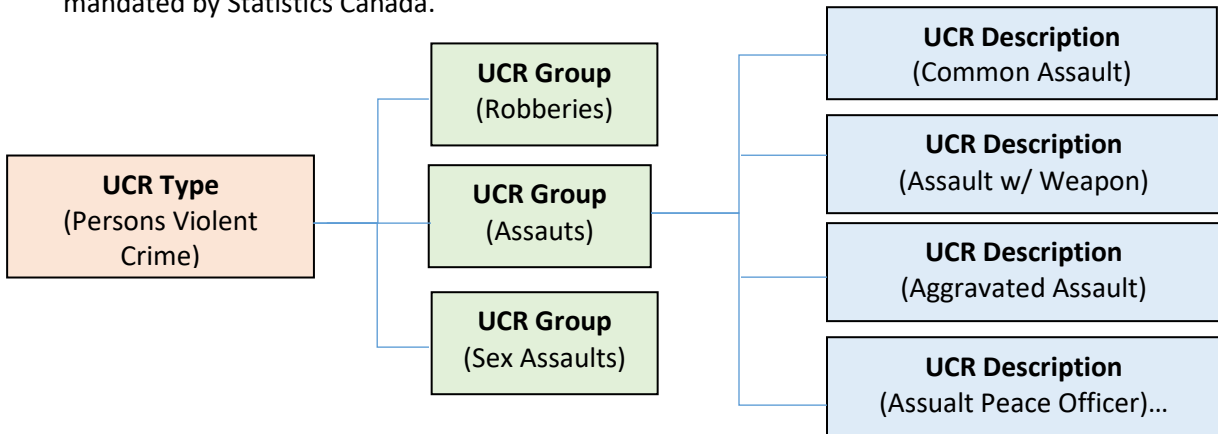


REQUEST

Provide a quarterly summary for the Downtown Duncan corridor and area. Include a map and identify data trends that may be of interest to City Councils and our partners in Bylaw departments.

DEFINITIONS & DATA CAVEATS

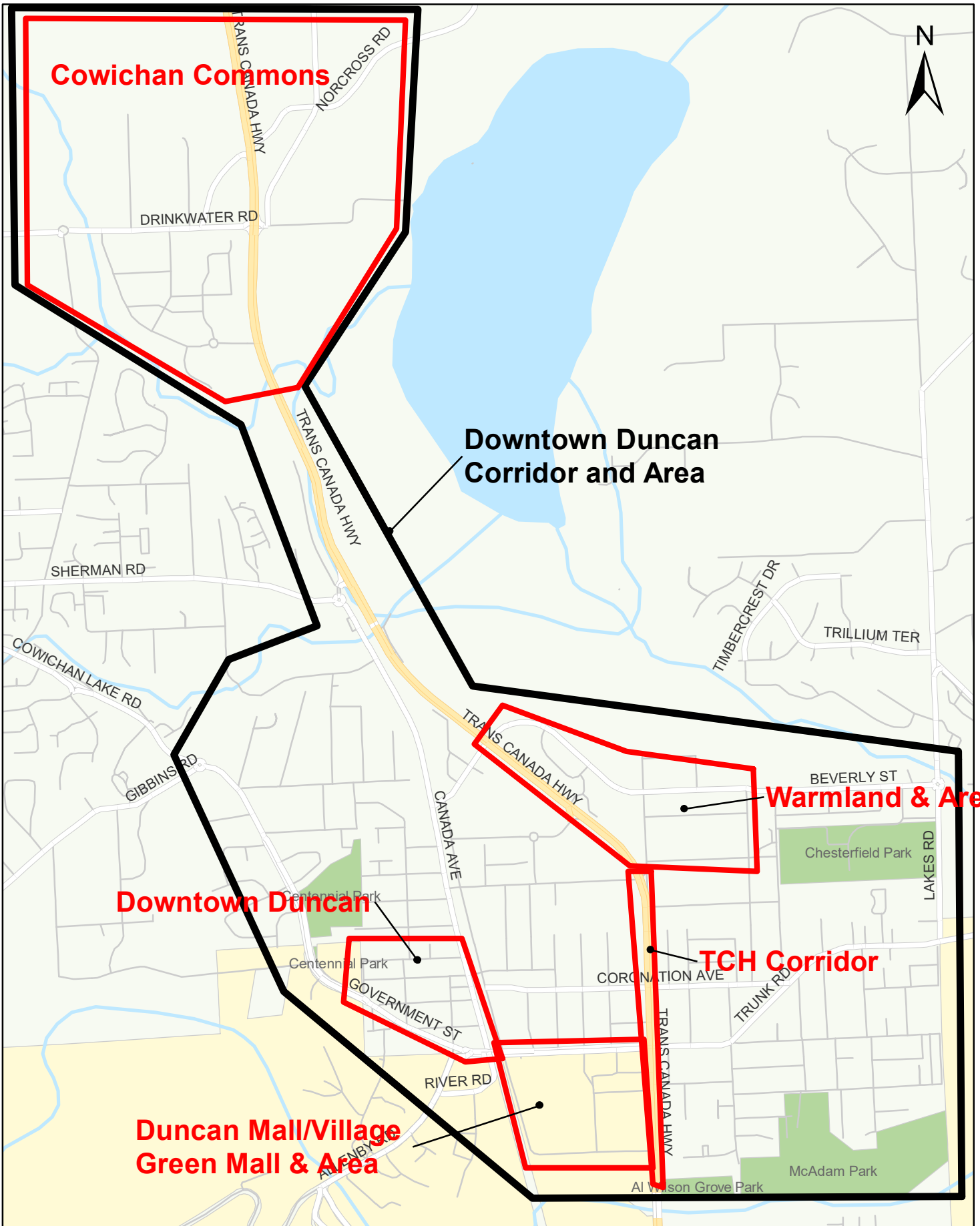
- General Occurrence “GO” data was used as the primary data set.
- To assist a reader from outside policing with this report please understand that a call for service is translated into a general occurrence (“GO”) which has a UCR (Uniform Crime Report) code. In this report these codes have been grouped into logical ‘UCR Groups’ which are further grouped into ‘UCR Types’.
- For example UCR code (Assault - Common) is grouped into UCR Group (Assaults) which is grouped into UCR Type (Violent Crime). Some UCR groups may appear to have the same name (e.g. ‘sex offences’ and ‘weapons offences’) under different offence types. This is because some offences in these groups have specific victims (i.e. are violent crime types), while others do not, such as indecent exposure, and possession of a weapon (both not considered violent crimes). These groupings are made and named by E Div RCMP based on best practices on UCR reporting as mandated by Statistics Canada.



- A ‘most serious offence method’ was used so each incident only has one offence code/group/type reflecting the most serious thing that occurred in the incident.
- Founded events only were included. Events deemed to be *unfounded, assistance, for information or preventative* were not included. It is for this reason mental health files were excluded from the report as they are deemed ‘assistance’ in nature and this is reported on separately in the quarterly report to mayors and council.
- Area definitions: The area examined (Downtown Duncan Corridor and Area) is defined by the **BLACK** polygon on the map on page 2. For the purposes of this report, it is referred to as the ‘*Downtown Corridor and Area*’. Anything that occurred outside the bounds of the black polygon is beyond the scope of this report. Previous reports *may* have used slightly different polygons and this should be kept in mind if comparing the data presented here with any previous reports.
- Within this area, 5 additional sub-areas are defined for the purposes of this report by the **RED** polygons on the map (page 2) where they are also named.
- Data was extracted on January 6, 2023 and is presented as found at that time.



Downtown Duncan Corridor and Area





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

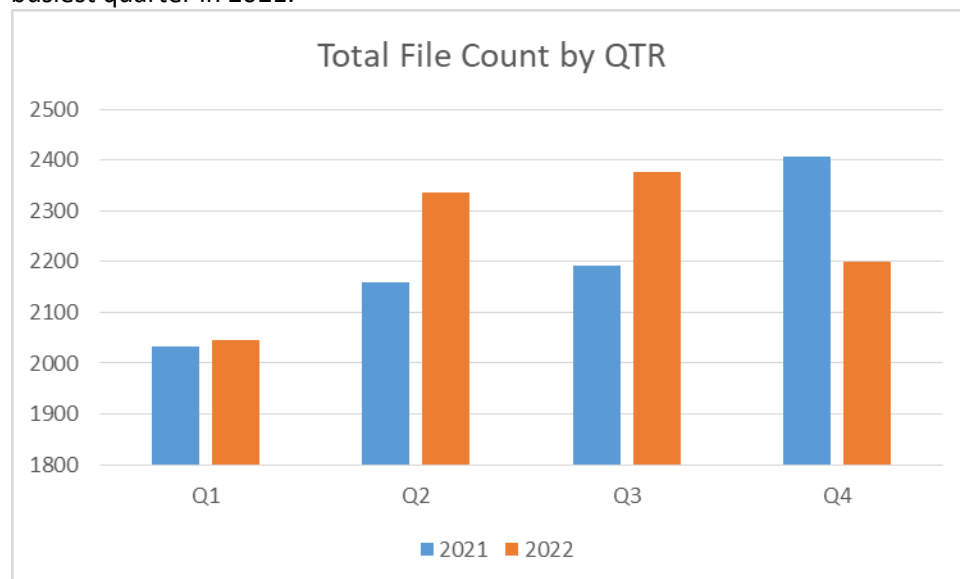
- Overall Police were called to the Downtown area 2% more in 2022 when compared to 2021. This increase was driven primarily by increases in the Q2 and Q3 months (Apr-Sep) of 2022. In Q4 2022 file count decreased 9% when compared to Q4 2021.
- While overall the file count increased 2% changes did not occur uniformly across UCR Types:
 - **Criminal Code Events** (Violent Crime + Property Crime + Other Criminal Code Occurrences) increased 5% (+138 incidents).
 - **Violent crime** increased 7%. This combined increase was driven by specific increases in:
 - Assaults increased 10% (+34 incidents);
 - Robberies increased 56% (+10 incidents);
 - Sex Offences increased 32% (+7 incidents).
 - **Property Crime** increased 8%. This increase was driven by an increase in:
 - *Shoplifting* increased 80% (+237 incidents);
 - *Auto theft* increased 100% (+26 incidents);
 - However combined *Break and Enters* decreased 8% (-10 incidents).
 - **Other Criminal Code offences** increased 39% (+251 incidents). This was due exclusively to a change in administrative creation of *Fail to Appear* files which were previously not created (zero in 2021 and 287 2022). Without the *Fail to Appear* files **Other Criminal Code Offences** decreased 6%.
 - **Other Non-Criminal Occurrences** decreased 1%.
 - *Missing Persons* increased 45% (+40 incidents);
 - *False Alarms* increased 26% (+70 incidents);
 - Police attended *Bylaw offences* were unchanged (0%).
 - **CDSA (Drug) Offences** decreased 58% (-222 incidents).
 - **Provincial Statute Offences** increased 5% (+29 incidents). This was primarily due to increase in:
 - Liquor Act files (*intox in public*) increased 5% (+20 incidents).
 - **Traffic Offences** decreased 20% (-28 incidents). This may be reflective of a change in proactive police time rather than an actual decrease in traffic offences.
- Top UCR codes:
 - The top three UCR codes were *Unspecified Assistance*, *Suspicious Activity*, and *Check Well-Being* which, combined, made up 31% of all the occurrences to the area.
 - These three UCR codes combined were unchanged from 2021.
- Five sub areas are identified as micro-areas of activity or are of recurring interest to our community and various stakeholders. See page 3 for area definitions.
 1. **Warmland & Area** (increased 49%)
 2. **TCH Corridor** (Trans Canada Hwy) (decreased 12%)
 3. **Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall and Area** (decreased 3%)
 4. **Cowichan Commons** (increased 72%)
 5. **Downtown Duncan** (decreased of 14% without Fail to Appear files).
- Key Dates for this report:
 - Modular Housing at 6428 Paddle Rd began occupancy in Apr 2022.
 - Temporary housing pods at 361 St Julien St and The Mound closed Mar 2022.
 - Additional housing pods at 610 Trunk Rd "The Village" began occupancy in Mar 2022.
 - OPS site moved from 221 Trunk Rd to 5878 York Rd in November 2021.
 - Convenience store/Gas Station at Trans Canada Hwy and Trunk Rd closed down in Fall 2022.



DETAILED FINDINGS

GOs by QTR

File volume fluctuated over 2022 peaking in the Q2 and Q3 months and falling again in Q4 2022. Q1 and Q4 combined had 10% fewer files than Q2 and Q3. File volume in 2021 was more linear with Q4 being the busiest quarter in 2021.



GOs by UCR Type

Changes in GOs in the Downtown Duncan Corridor and Area varied by Type as shown in the table below. Decreases occurred for CDSA (Drug) Offences (-58%), Traffic Offences (-20%) and Other Non-Criminal Occurrences (-1%). While Violent Crime (+7%), Property Crime (+8%), Other Criminal Code Offences (+39%) and Provincial Statute Offences (+5%) all increased. Total Criminal Code Incidents* (excl *Fail to Appear*) increased by 5% (+138 events).

*CRIME = PERSONS VIOLENT CRIME + PROPERTY CRIME + OTHER CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES.

UCR Types for Downtown Duncan Corridor and Area (12 months)

UCR Type	2021	2022	Difference (count)	% Change
PERSONS VIOLENT CRIME	548	589	41	7%
PROPERTY CRIME	1619	1752	133	8%
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES*	638	889	251	39%
CDSA OFFENCES	384	162	-222	-58%
OTHER NON CRIMINAL OCCURRENCES	4909	4877	-32	-1%
PROVINCIAL STATUTE OFFENCES	548	577	29	5%
TRAFFIC OFFENCES	140	112	-28	-20%
Grand Total	8789	8960	171	2%

*includes *Fail to Appear* Files

GOs by UCR Group

The Crime 'Types' (above) are further broke down into 'Groups' (below).

Note: N.C indicates not calculable.



Red text is used to highlight the most significant changes.

UCR by Type and Group	2021	2022	Difference (count)	% Change
CDSA OFFENCES	384	162	-222	-58%
DRUG POSSESSION	359	146	-213	-59%
DRUG PRODUCTION	0	1	1	N.C.
DRUG TRAFFICKING	25	15	-10	-40%
FEDERAL STATUTE OFFENCES	3	2	-1	-33%
BREACH OF CONDITIONS	1	0	-1	-100%
OTHER GO	2	2	0	0%
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	638	889	251	39%
BREACH OF CONDITIONS	114	110	-4	-4%
CAUSE DISTURBANCE	380	384	4	1%
COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY	12	10	-2	-17%
OTHER GO	78	326	248	318%
PUBLIC MISCHIEF	10	5	-5	-50%
SEX OFFENCES	9	9	0	0%
TRESPASS AT NIGHT	5	2	-3	-60%
WEAPONS OFFENCES	30	43	13	43%
OTHER NON-CRIMINAL OCCURRENCES	4909	4877	-32	-1%
911-FALSE/ABAND	108	124	16	15%
BREACH OF PEACE	34	44	10	29%
DANGEROUS OP MOTOR VEHICLE	7	3	-4	-57%
FALSE ALARMS	271	341	70	26%
IMPAIRED OP MOTOR VEHICLE	24	23	-1	-4%
INTELLIGENCE	1	0	-1	-100%
MISSING PERSONS	88	128	40	45%
MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS	233	217	-16	-7%
MUNICIPAL BYLAW	402	402	0	0%
OTHER GO	1033	964	-69	-7%
OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES	519	483	-36	-7%
PROHIBITED DRIVING	24	23	-1	-4%
SUSPICIOUS OCCURRENCES	783	776	-7	-1%
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	1373	1344	-29	-2%
WEAPONS OFFENCES	9	5	-4	-44%

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UCR by Type and Group	2021	2022	Difference (count)	% Change
PERSONS VIOLENT CRIME	548	589	41	7%
ARSON	1	0	-1	-100%
ASSAULTS	349	383	34	10%
EXTORTION	1	4	3	300%
HARASSMENT	18	15	-3	-17%
INTIMIDATION	0	1	1	N.C.
KIDNAPPING	5	1	-4	-80%
ROBBERY	18	28	10	56%
SEX OFFENCES	22	29	7	32%
UTTER THREATS	133	128	-5	-4%
WEAPONS OFFENCES	1	0	-1	-100%
PROPERTY CRIME	1619	1752	133	8%
ARSON	44	27	-17	-39%
AUTO THEFT	26	29	3	12%
BIKE THEFT	26	52	26	100%
BREAK & ENTER - BUS	70	70	0	0%
BREAK & ENTER - OTH	32	25	-7	-22%
BREAK & ENTER - RES	23	20	-3	-13%
FRAUDS	100	78	-22	-22%
MISCHIEF TO PROPERTY	690	635	-55	-8%
OTHER GO	3	3	0	0%
OTHER THEFT O/5000	4	5	1	25%
OTHER THEFT U/5000	165	146	-19	-12%
POSSESS STOLEN PROPERTY	36	36	0	0%
SHOPLIFTING	298	535	237	80%
THEFT FROM MAIL	3	7	4	133%
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	99	83	-16	-16%
THEFT UTILITIES	0	1	1	N.C.
PROVINCIAL STATUTE OFFENCES	548	577	29	5%
CANNABIS CNTRL & DIST ACTS	5	12	7	140%
LIQUOR ACT	366	386	20	5%
OTHER GO	177	179	2	1%
TRAFFIC OFFENCES	140	112	-28	-20%
DANGEROUS OP MOTOR VEHICLE	8	12	4	50%
IMPAIRED OP MOTOR VEHICLE	126	96	-30	-24%
MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS	0	1	1	N.C.
PROHIBITED DRIVING	6	3	-3	-50%
Grand Total	8789	8960	171	2%



Assaults

Assaults – Common and *Assault-w/Weapon or Causing Bodily Harm* primarily make up the Group “Assaults”. Assaults appeared to become more serious as *Assault-w/Weapon or Causing Bodily Harm* increased 51% (+30 incidents) and *Assault – Common* increased only 4% (+10 incidents), for a combined group increase to “Assaults” of 10% (+34 incidents).

Robbery

Robberies increased 56% (+10 incidents) for the Corridor Area in 2022. Four of those were part of a robbery series in the spring of 2022 involving primarily gas stations being robbed at knife point. Those robberies (total 6) ceased following a media release on Jun 2, 2022. Trends for the remaining robberies were personal street robberies (count = 12) and violent shopliftings (count = 6). Five of the 6 violent shopliftings occurred in Q4, 2022.

Shopliftings

The increase in shopliftings was the single largest increase for the QTR (by count). The COVID 19 pandemic restrictions and temporary financial benefit significantly impacted shopliftings in our area. Presently we are seeing partly a ‘return to norm’ for shoplifting numbers but we’ve also exceeded typical averages, especially in Q3 of 2022. NCD members recommended charges to Crown on 53 shoplifting files in 2022.



Missing Person – High Risk

Significant increase in this category was driven by increase in *Missing Person – High Risk* files (46%/+38 files) stemming from supportive housing facilities at:

- The Village at 610 Trunk Rd (27 files for the year);
- 808 Marchmont Rd (youth group home who report youth missing if they are out past the house imposed curfew of 10PM) (15 files for the year);
- 6428 Paddle Rd (Sq’umul’ Shelh Lelum’) (11 files for 2022).

Combined these three locations added 53 missing persons files for the year. The Trunk Rd and Paddle Rd facilities did not exist in 2021.



Most Frequent UCR Codes (Description)

The table below show the top 20 UCR codes (descriptions) by frequency. UCR codes are the codes that are grouped and typed (above). These 20 UCR codes make up 79% of the total occurrences to the area (consistent with previous reporting).

Top 20 UCR Code (Description)	2021	2022	Difference (count)	% Change
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	1373	1344	-29	-2%
SUSPICIOUS PERS/VEH/OCCURRENCE	783	776	-7	-1%
CHECK WELL-BEING	628	643	15	2%
THEFT-SHOPLIFTING UNDER \$5000	297	531	234	79%
CAUSE A DISTURBANCE	380	384	4	1%
FALSE ALARMS	271	341	70	26%
BYLAW-OTHER	280	331	51	18%
TRAFFIC-OTHER MOVING PROV	328	319	-9	-3%
MISCHIEF \$5000 OR UNDER	374	315	-59	-16%
MISCHIEF-LOSS ENJOYMENT PROP	312	314	2	1%
LIQUOR-INTOX IN PUBLIC PLACE	313	301	-12	-4%
FAIL TO APPEAR	0	287	287	N.C.
ASSAULT-COMMON	274	284	10	4%
THEFT-OTHER UNDER \$5000	165	146	-19	-12%
TRESPASS ACT	117	132	15	13%
UTTER THREATS AGAINST PERSON	133	128	-5	-4%
PROPERTY-FOUND	160	125	-35	-22%
911-FALSE/ABANDONED CALLS	108	124	16	15%
PROPERTY-LOST	138	122	-16	-12%
MISSING PERSONS-HIGH RISK	83	121	38	46%

Micro-Areas

Within the corridor & area there are 5 sub-areas that have some clustering of occurrences (see page 2). The Warmland & Area and Cowichan Commons were the only areas to have significant increases in volume of GOs. The TCH Corridor had a significant decrease in volume. The increase in the Downtown Duncan area reflects the administrative change for Fail to Appear files, without these files the Downtown Duncan decreased 14% (-84).

Micro Area	2021	2022	Difference (Count)	% Change
Warmland & Area	1234	1834	600	49%
TCH Corridor	1765	1550	-215	-12%
Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall & Area	1359	1320	-39	-3%
Cowichan Commons	529	910	381	72%
Downtown Duncan	603	806	203	34%



Warmland & Area

The new OPS site moved to this area in November 2021. This area makes up 20% of all the GOs to the Downtown area and makes up the largest ‘hot spot’ of activity in the Corridor area. Overall there was 49% increase in volume to this area in 2022 (compared to the corridor area 2% overall). The Warmland area is a consistent hotspot for street level assaults and 65% of all assaults in the Warmland Area occurred in location types “streets”, “parking lots” or “open area/parks”.

Top 10 UCR Groups for 2022 for “Warmland & Area”:

Top 10 UCR Group Warmland & Area	2021	2022	Difference (count)	% change
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	229	430	201	88%
OTHER GO*	165	237	72	44%
MISCHIEF TO PROPERTY	106	167	61	58%
SUSPICIOUS OCCURRENCES	88	147	59	67%
CAUSE DISTURBANCE	73	138	65	89%
MUNICIPAL BYLAW	76	120	44	58%
OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES	85	96	11	13%
ASSAULTS	44	78	34	77%
DRUG POSSESSION	66	62	-4	-6%
LIQUOR ACT	48	47	-1	-2%

*Primary UCR Description for this Group is ‘Check Well-Being’.

TCH Corridor

17% of all the occurrences in the downtown area occurred in the ‘TCH corridor’ (see map on pg. 2). GOs decreased in this area (-12%) in 2022 compared to 2% increase to the corridor area overall. Of the top 10 UCR Groups for this area False Alarms was the only category to increase significantly (60%/+37 files). Of note for this area a gas station & convenience store at TCH/Trunk Rd closed down in the fall of 2022. Previously this was a significant location for volume of police files for the corridor area.

Top 10 UCR Groups in 2022 for “TCH Corridor”:

Top 10 UCR Group TCH Corridor	2021	2022	Difference (Count)	% Change
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	377	309	-68	-18%
OTHER GO*	233	212	-21	-9%
MISCHIEF TO PROPERTY	130	112	-18	-14%
SUSPICIOUS OCCURRENCES	115	111	-4	-3%
FALSE ALARMS	62	99	37	60%
OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES	127	89	-38	-30%
LIQUOR ACT	87	89	2	2%
SHOPLIFTING	66	70	4	6%
ASSAULTS	68	65	-3	-4%
CAUSE DISTURBANCE	60	64	4	7%

*Primary UCR Description for this Group is ‘Check Well-Being’.



Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall & Area

15% of all GOs to the Downtown area occurred in the Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall & Area making it the second largest hotspot of activity in the Downtown Corridor and Area. GOs decreased 3% to this area in 2022 when compared to 2021. *Shoplifting* and public intoxication remain an issue for this area. *Breach of Conditions* is related to *Shoplifting* (as many shoplifters breach “No Go” conditions to stores).

Top 10 UCR Groups in 2022 for “Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall & Area”:

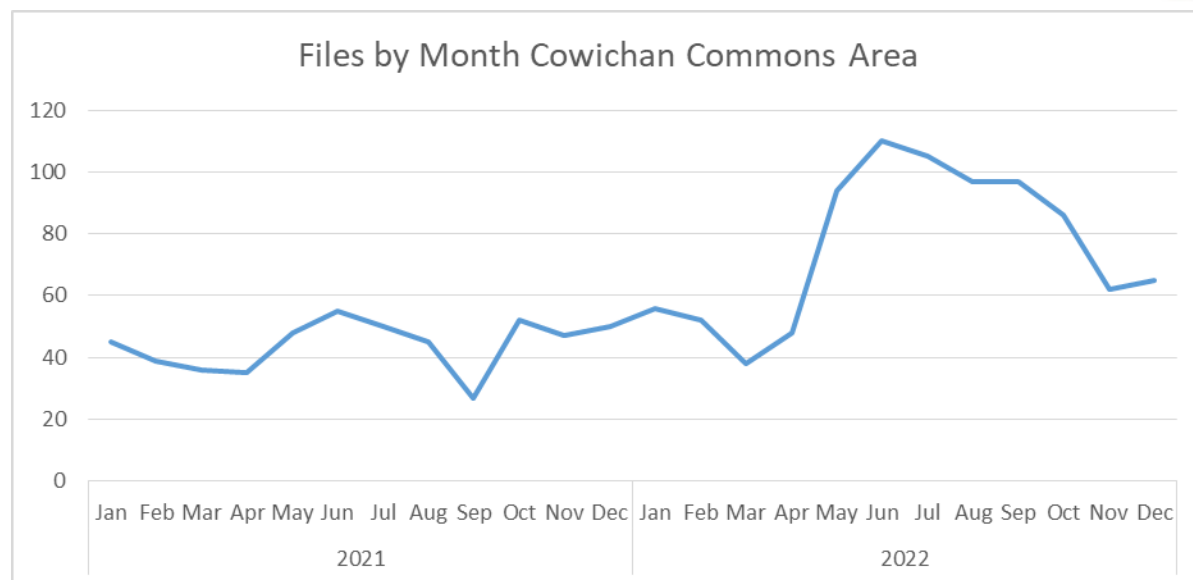
Top 10 UCR Groups Duncan Mall & Area	2021	2022	Difference (Count)	% Change
SHOPLIFTING	178	323	145	81%
LIQUOR ACT	100	153	53	53%
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	225	147	-78	-35%
OTHER GO*	191	140	-51	-27%
SUSPICIOUS OCCURRENCES	82	68	-14	-17%
ASSAULTS	58	56	-2	-3%
MISCHIEF TO PROPERTY	83	56	-27	-33%
CAUSE DISTURBANCE	74	52	-22	-30%
MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS	35	43	8	23%
BREACH OF CONDITIONS	22	42	20	91%

*Primary UCR Description for this Group is ‘*Check Well-Being*’

As noted in previous reports; the former Overdose Prevention Site would have fallen in this area in most of 2021 but none of 2022. The homeless temporary Cabin site on St Julien St and the Mound both bordered this area for a period 2021 but closed down in March 2022. The new permanent housing pods at 610 Trunk Rd “The Village” opened and began occupancy during Apr 2022 which also borders this area. Furthermore in July 2021 COVID 19 restrictions were relaxed for some establishments in the area which led to a reduction in file volume in 2021. This effect was not present in 2022.

Cowichan Commons

The Cowichan Commons area made up 10% of the volume of files for the Downtown area (polygon pg. 2). Nine out of the top 10 UCR Groups had significant increases. File volume increased 72% for the 2022. Property crime groups and loitering/unwanted person were the primary issues police were called to for this area. Combined property crime (UCR Type) increased 109% (+152 files). Combined break and enters increased 171% (+12 files). The supportive housing Sq’umul’ Shelh Lelum’ at 6428 Paddle Rd began occupancy in April of 2022. File volume to the area peaked very quickly in April, and has fallen in Q4 2022 compared to previous months.



Top 10 UCR Groups in 2022 for “Cowichan Commons”

Top 10 UCR Groups for Cowichan Commons	2021	2022	Difference (Count)	% Change
OTHER GO*	85	133	48	56%
SHOPLIFTING	41	125	84	205%
SUSPICIOUS OCCURRENCES	52	100	48	92%
OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES	69	100	31	45%
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	27	72	45	167%
MISCHIEF TO PROPERTY	33	65	32	97%
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	17	30	13	76%
ASSAULTS	18	28	10	56%
CAUSE DISTURBANCE	13	23	10	77%
MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS	32	23	-9	-28%

*Primary UCR Description for this Group is ‘Check Well-Being’

Downtown Duncan

This area made up 9% of the area total by volume in 2022. All the Fail to Appear files occurred in this area (Provincial Court House). These files reflect a change in internal record keeping of warrants for Fail to Appear files that were began in Spring 2022. Without these additional 287 files in 2022 the volume of files to this area was down 14% (-84 files).



Top 10 UCR Groups in 2022 for “Downtown Duncan”:

Top 10 UCR Groups for Downtown Duncan	2021	2022	Difference (Count)	% Change
OTHER GO*	117	364	247	211%
FALSE ALARMS	68	83	15	22%
MISCHIEF TO PROPERTY	38	49	11	29%
SUSPICIOUS OCCURRENCES	44	44	0	0%
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	59	38	-21	-36%
OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES	34	28	-6	-18%
MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS	16	24	8	50%
ASSAULTS	17	24	7	41%
MUNICIPAL BYLAW	26	20	-6	-23%
CAUSE DISTURBANCE	25	17	-8	-32%

*Primary UCR Description for this Group is ‘Fail to Appear’

Conclusion:

Police attended occurrences in 2022 increased marginally (2%) when compared to 2021. Overall occurrences increased in severity – with both Violent crime (+7%) and Property crime (+8%) contributing to a 5% increase in Crime overall (excluding *Fail to Appear* files).

Assaults and *Robberies* were the drivers for increases in Violent Crime. More serious assaults increased 51% (+30 incidents). Robberies increased 56% for the year partly due to a robbery series in early 2022 targeting this area and partly due to an increase in violent shopliftings that occurred primarily in Q4 2022.

An increase in *Shopliftings* was the drivers for increases in property crime which have trending back to ‘normal’ and then exceeded ‘normal’ after suppressed numbers due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Property crime increased significantly in the Cowichan Commons area (up 109%).

Consistent with previous reports *Unspecified Assistance* is the single most frequent UCR code, and as established in previous reports UNWATED PERSON is the call type that predominantly makes up this category. *Unspecified Assistance* files are almost double the volume of the next most frequent UCR code. *Unspecified Assistance* decreased 2% in 2022 when compared to 2021. In other UCR codes significant increases occurred for *Shopliftings* (+80%), *False Alarms* (+26%), *Missing Person* (+45%), and *Assaults* (+10%).

There was significant growth in volume of activity in the Warmland area and, the Cowichan Commons area. File volume in other areas: Downtown Duncan, TCH Corridor and Duncan Mall & Area all decreased.