

North Cowichan / Duncan RCMP

10/10/2023



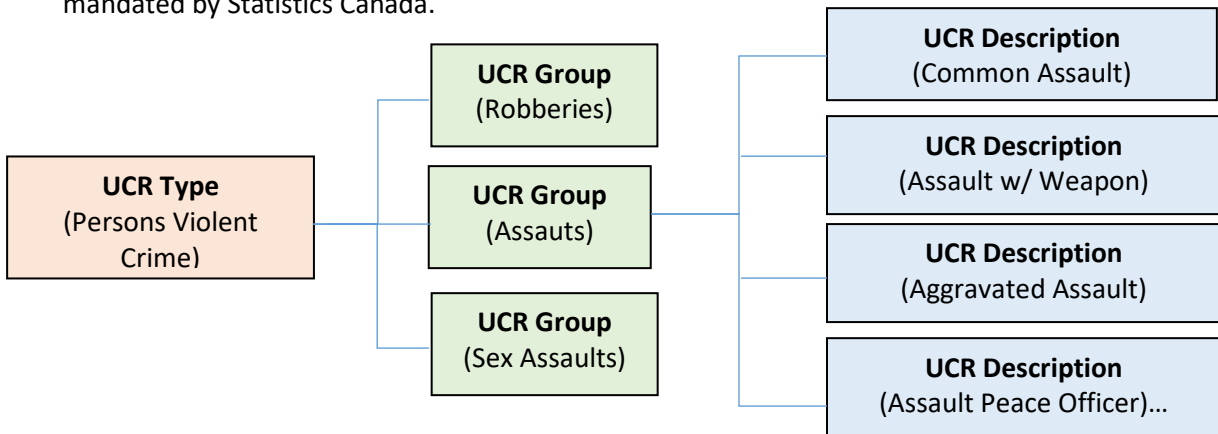
Downtown Duncan Corridor and Area Jul to Sep 2023

Quarterly Review



DEFINITIONS & DATA CAVEATS

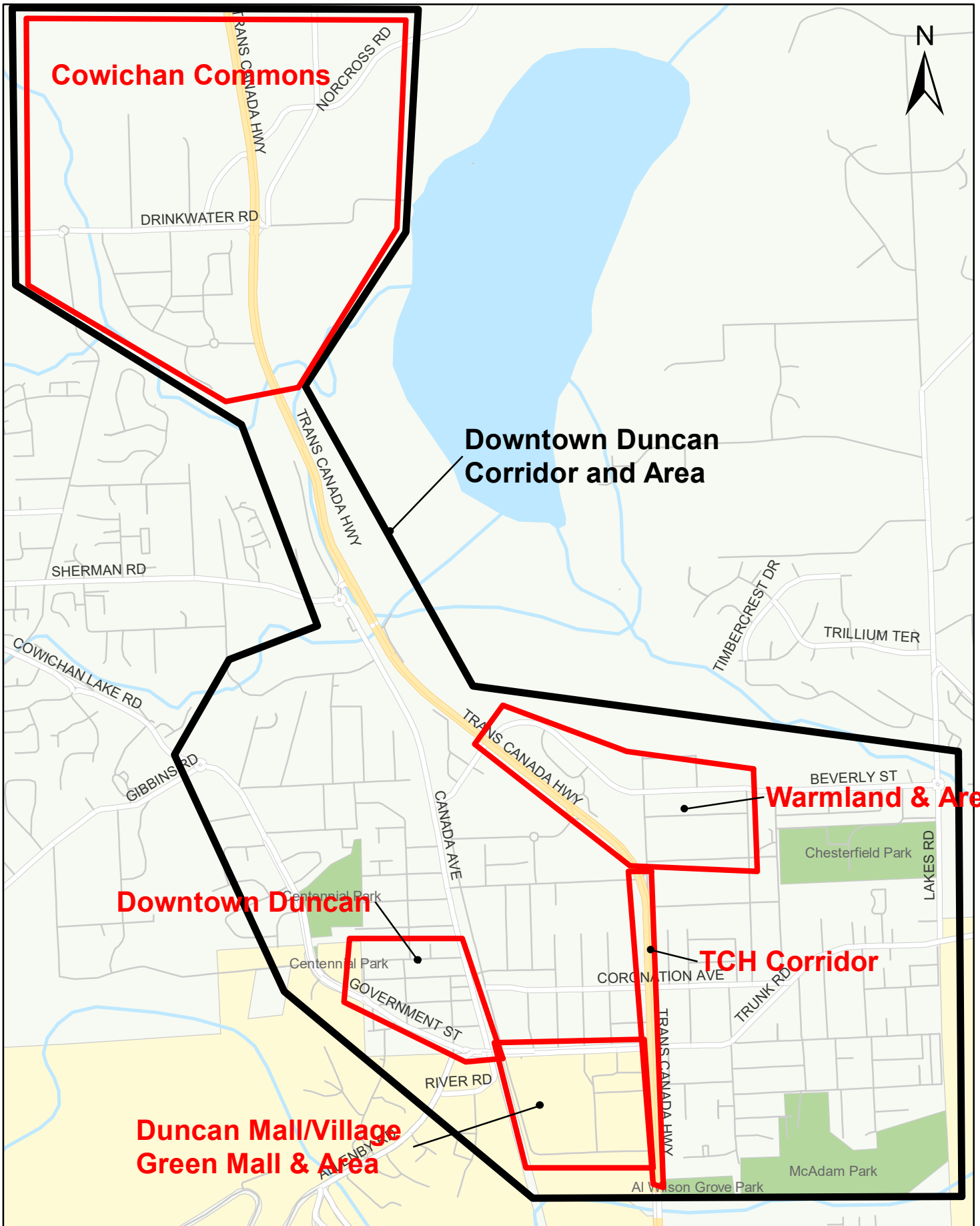
- General Occurrence “GO” data was used as the primary data set.
- To assist a reader from outside policing with this report please understand that a call for service is translated into a general occurrence (“GO”) which has a UCR (Uniform Crime Report) code. In this report these codes have been grouped 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 3) where they are also named.
- Data was extracted on Oct 5, 2023 and is presented as found at that time.



Downtown Duncan Corridor and Area





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

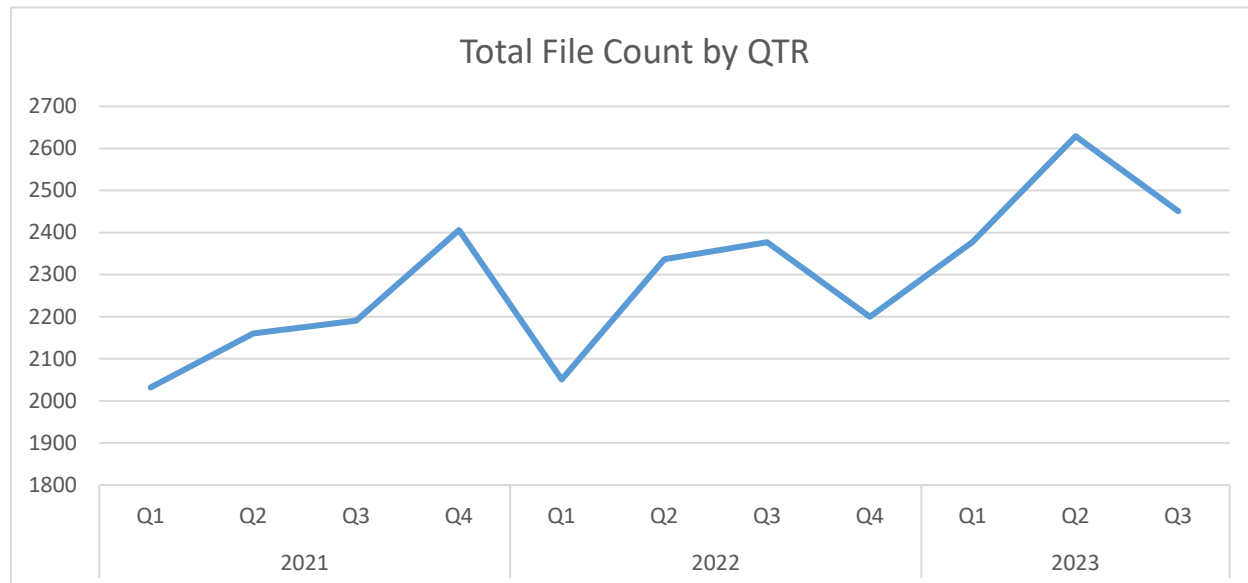
- Overall Police were called to the Downtown area 3% more in Q3 (Jul - Sep) 2023 when compared to Q3 2022.
- While overall the file count increased 3%, changes did not occur uniformly across UCR Types:
 - **Criminal Code Events** (Violent Crime + Property Crime + Other Criminal Code Occurrences) decreased 4% (-36 incidents).
 - **Violent crime** increased 4%. This combined increase was driven by specific increases in:
 - **Assaults** increased 15% (+16 incidents);
 - Which primarily occurred in the TCH Corridor and Warmlands 'micro-areas'.
 - **Property Crime** decreased 13%. This decrease was driven by a decrease in:
 - **Shopliftings** decreased 52% (-99 incidents); and
 - **Thefts, Theft from Vehicle, Bike Thefts** decreased a combined 31% (-24)
 - **Arsons** increased (+20 incidents; from zero in 2022)
 - Combined **Break and Enters** increased 150% (+27 incident), which was primarily an increase in **Commercial Break & Enters**.
 - **Other Criminal Code offences** increased 10% (+22 incidents).
 - **Breach of Conditions** increased 129% (+18 incidents).
 - **Other Non-Criminal Occurrences** increased 3% (+32 incidents).
 - Other GOs increased 14% (+39 incidents);
 - This was primarily made up of **Check Well-Being** files (+30 incidents).
 - **CDSA (Drug) Offences** decreased 58% (-18 incidents).
 - See Key Dates (below) re: decriminalization legislation.
 - **Provincial Statute Offences** increased 76% (+116 incidents).
 - **Liquor Intox/Consume in Public** increased 47% (+50 incidents).
 - **Trespass Act** files which more than doubled; up 204% (+55 incidents).
 - **Traffic Offences** decreased 9% (-3 incidents).
- Top UCR codes:
 - The top three UCR codes were **Unspecified Assistance, Suspicious Activity, and Check Well-Being** which, combined, made up 29% of all the occurrences to the area.
 - These three UCR codes combined increased 2% (+13 incidents).
- 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** (decreased 16%)
 2. **TCH Corridor** (Trans Canada Hwy) (increased 14%)
 3. **Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall and Area** (decreased 15%)
 4. **Cowichan Commons** (decreased 4%)
 5. **Downtown Duncan** (increased 14%).
- Key Dates for this report:
 - On Jan 31, 2023 drug decriminalization legislation came into effect where it is no longer a criminal offence to possess small amounts of certain illicit drugs in B.C. for people aged 18 or above, with some location specific exceptions (schools, airports, motor vehicles).



DETAILED FINDINGS

GOs by QTR Past 2 years

Normal police file volume fluctuates in a cyclical way. Q3 2023 file volume was up 3% when compared to Q3 2022, and 10% YTD. The chart below shows Q3 2023 was the 2nd highest QTR by call volume in the past 2.5 years, second only to Q2 2023.



GOs by UCR Type

Changes in GOs in the Downtown Duncan Corridor and Area varied by Type as shown in the table below. Violent Crime (+4%), Other Criminal Offences (+10%), Other Non-Criminal Occurrences (+3%) and Provincial Statute Offences (+48%) all increased. Property Crime (-13%), CDSA (-58%) and Traffic Offences (-9%) all decreased. Total Criminal Code Incidents* decreased 4% (-36 events).

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

UCR Types for Downtown Duncan Corridor and Area

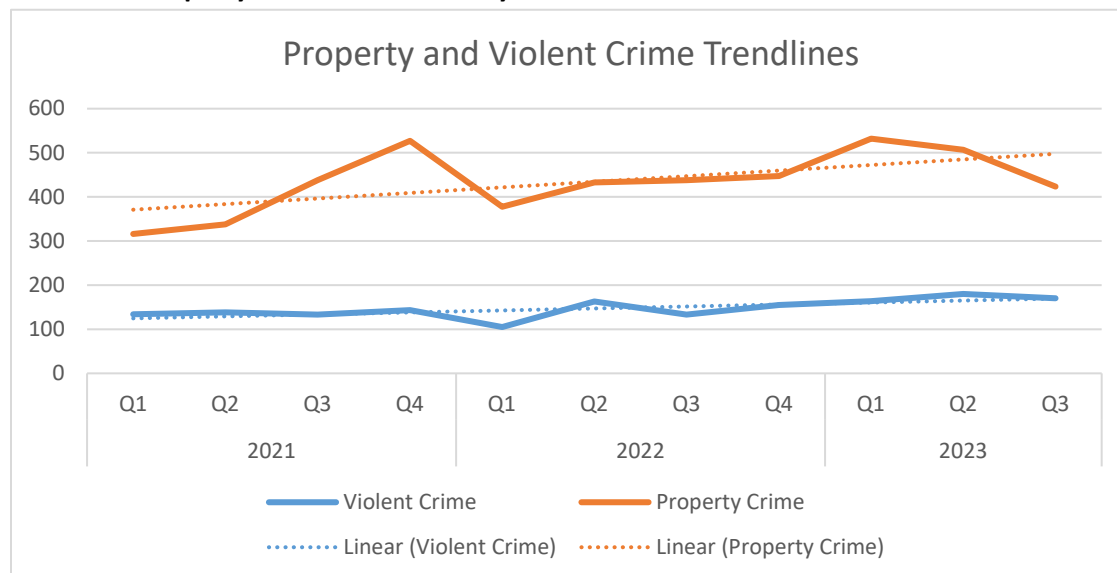
UCR Type	Q3 2022	Q3 2023	Difference (count)	% Change
PERSONS VIOLENT CRIME	163	170	7	4%
PROPERTY CRIME	490	426	-64	-13%
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	223	245	22	10%
OTHER NON-CRIMINAL OCCURRENCES	1277	1309	32	3%
CDSA OFFENCES	31	13	-18	-58%
PROVINCIAL STATUTE OFFENCES	153	226	73	48%
TRAFFIC OFFENCES	34	31	-3	-9%
Grand Total	2371	2451	80	3%

Medium Term Trends

Both Property and Violent Crime continue an overall upward trend over the past 2.75 years with a slight softening in Q3 2023. Violent Crime is up 27% YTD compared to 2021 and 28% compared to YTD 2022. Property Crime is up 34% YTD compared to 2021 and 17% compared to 2022. Fluctuations in property crime are driven mostly by fluctuations in shopliftings.



Combined Property and Violent Crime by QTR since Q1 2021



GOs by UCR Group

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

Note: N.C indicates not calculable.

Red text is used to highlight the most significant changes.

UCR Type and Group	Q3 2022	Q3 2023	Difference (count)	% change
CDSA OFFENCES	31	13	-18	-58%
DRUG POSSESSION	31	8	-23	-74%
DRUG TRAFFICKING	0	5	5	N.C.
OTHER CC OFFENCES	223	245	22	10%
BREACH OF CONDITIONS	14	32	18	129%
CAUSE DISTURBANCE	104	106	2	2%
COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY	1	2	1	100%
OTHER GO	89	89	0	0%
PUBLIC MISCHIEF	1	3	2	200%
SEX OFFENCES	3	4	1	33%
WEAPONS OFFENCES	11	9	-2	-18%
OTHER OCCURRENCES	1277	1309	32	3%
911-FALSE/ABAND	32	32	0	0%
BREACH OF PEACE	13	14	1	8%
DANGEROUS OP MOTOR VEHICLE	0	2	2	N.C.
FALSE ALARMS	91	92	1	1%
IMPAIRED OP MOTOR VEHICLE	1	6	5	500%
INTELLIGENCE	0	1	1	N.C.
MISSING PERSONS	51	37	-14	-27%



UCR Type and Group	Q3 2022	Q3 2023	Difference (count)	% change
MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS	56	63	7	13%
MUNICIPAL BYLAW	85	101	16	19%
OTHER GO	275	314	39	14%
OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES	143	138	-5	-3%
PROHIBITED DRIVING	7	3	-4	-57%
SUSPICIOUS OCCURRENCES	212	195	-17	-8%
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	309	309	0	0%
WEAPONS OFFENCES	2	2	0	0%
PERSONS VIOLENT CRIME	163	170	7	4%
ASSAULTS	107	123	16	15%
EXTORTION	1	1	0	0%
HARASSMENT	4	6	2	50%
KIDNAPPING	0	1	1	N.C.
ROBBERY	6	5	-1	-17%
SEX OFFENCES	14	10	-4	-29%
UTTER THREATS	31	24	-7	-23%
PROPERTY CRIME	490	426	-64	-13%
ARSON	0	20	20	N.C.
AUTO THEFT	7	6	-1	-14%
BIKE THEFT	17	11	-6	-35%
BREAK & ENTER - BUS	11	26	15	136%
BREAK & ENTER - OTH	4	10	6	150%
BREAK & ENTER - RES	3	9	6	200%
FRAUDS	25	20	-5	-20%
MISCHIEF TO PROPERTY	161	180	19	12%
OTHER THEFT O/5000	1	1	0	0%
OTHER THEFT U/5000	33	28	-5	-15%
POSSESS STOLEN PROPERTY	13	12	-1	-8%
SHOPLIFTING	189	90	-99	-52%
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	26	13	-13	-50%
PROVINCIAL STATUTE OFFENCES	153	226	73	48%
CANNABIS CNTRL & DIST ACTS	5	1	-4	-80%
LIQUOR ACT	107	164	57	53%
OTHER GO	41	61	20	49%
TRAFFIC OFFENCES	34	31	-3	-9%
DANGEROUS OP MOTOR VEHICLE	2	0	-2	-100%
IMPAIRED OP MOTOR VEHICLE	31	30	-1	-3%
PROHIBITED DRIVING	1	1	0	0%
Grand Total	2371	2451	80	3%



Data Highlights

Violent Crime

Assaults (up 15%/+16 incidents)

Assaults were the only UCR Group to increase in the Violence category this QTR. This was due to an increase in *Common Assaults* +21% (+16 incidents). A moderate increase in assaults occurred in the **TCH Corridor** and **Warmlands** areas. Small increases in *Assaults* in the Cowichan Commons, Cairnsmore St/Government St area and James St Area all combined to make the increase to the area overall.

Assault Description	Q3 2022	Q3 2023	Difference (count)	% Change
ASSAULTS	107	123	16	15%
ASSAULT-COMMON	77	93	16	21%
ASSAULT-W/WEAPON OR CBH	28	25	-3	-11%
ASSAULT POLICE-COMMON	2	3	1	50%
ASSAULTS-OTHER	0	2	2	N.C.

Sex Assaults

There was 1 stranger sex assault (the suspect is not known at all to the victim) for the QTR in the corridor area. Of the 10 *Sexual Offences* reported in this QTR in the corridor area, 9 were actual *Sexual Assaults* and 4 were to youth victims.

Property Crime

Arsons (+20)

Arsons to Property increased 20 incidents (from zero in Q3 2022). Most of the Arsons occurred within a 1 block radius of the 100 – 600 Blocks Trunk Rd (total 13 arsons for the QTR in this area). Of the 20 Arsons reported in the corridor area 8 (40%) were to dumpsters/garbage cans. Four fires occurred to structures that were all lit outside with mostly minor to moderate damage (such as damage localized to fence or door). Three arsons were related to homeless encampments with 2 of those BTB people falling asleep with a fire in their encampment structure and waking up to some part of it on fire. Four Arsons were to grass/brush/trees with limited damage occurring. Several people identified as linked to Arson activity; no charges laid for Arsons this QTR.

Arsons by Type:

Item Burnt	Count
Dumpster	8
Grass/shrub/tree	4
Structure	4
Debris	2
Tent	2

Break & Enters 150% (+27)

Combined *Break & Enters* increased 150% which was primarily due to an increase in *Break & Enter – Business* 136% (+15 incidents).



Break & Enter Description	Q3 2022	Q3 2023	Difference (count)	% Change
BREAK & ENTER	18	45	27	150%
BREAK & ENTER - BUS	11	26	15	136%
BREAK & ENTER - OTH	4	10	6	150%
BREAK & ENTER - RES	3	9	6	200%

Increases to Combined Break & Enters occurred primarily in 3 areas.

- The 100-200 Blk TCH where squatting and repeat BNEs were occurring over 2 blocks in July & August (11 BNEs to these 2 blocks).
- Jubilee St & area increased had 6 Break & Enters reports (compared to zero to this area in Q3 2022), which were primarily unforced entry BNEs to homes and sheds.
- Minor streets off of Coronation Ave (between Duncan St & TCH) 4 compared to zero in Q3 2022 – primarily to fenced construction sites.

Provincial Statute Offences

PROVINCIAL STATUTE OFFENCES	153	269	116	76%
LIQUOR ACT	107	164	57	53%
LIQUOR-INTOX IN PUBLIC PLACE	78	111	33	42%
LIQUOR-CONSUME IN PUBLIC PLACE	29	46	17	59%
LIQUOR (LCLA) ACT-OTHER	0	5	5	N.C.
LIQUOR-SUPPLY TO MINOR	0	2	2	N.C.
OTHER GO	41	104	63	154%
TRESPASS ACT	27	82	55	204%
WILDFIRE ACT/REGULATIONS	1	6	5	500%
SAFE STREETS ACT	13	4	-9	-69%

Liquor Act

Combined Liquor Act file increased 53% (+57). This increase occurred particularly in the TCH Corridor as well as the James St Area.

Trespass Act

RCMP members of the Corridor Enforcement Unit have been liaising with many property owners and representatives in this area over the quarter to be able to use enforcement options under the Trespass Act in order to prevent loitering and unauthorized camping on properties. Once a letter of permission is received from the property owner, Police are authorized to act with respect to trespassers on behalf of the property representative. Increased enforcement efforts under this act and proactive work were likely responsible for the 204% (+55) increase to Trespass Act files in the corridor area. Significant increases in this file type occurred in the Warmlands Area, TCH Corridor, Duncan Mall and James St Areas.

Micro-Areas

Within the Corridor & Area there are 5 sub-areas that have some clustering of occurrences (see page 3). The **TCH Corridor and Downtown Duncan** were the only areas to have significant increases in volume of GOs.



Micro Area	Q3 2022	Q3 2023	Difference (count)	% Change
Warmlands & Area	469	392	-77	-16%
TCH Corridor	342	390	48	14%
Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall & Area	385	326	-59	-15%
Cowichan Commons	294	281	-13	-4%
Downtown Duncan	191	218	27	14%

1. Warmland & Area

This area made up 16% of all the GOs to the Downtown Corridor (down from 22% last QTR) and is usually the largest ‘hot spot’ of activity in this area, however this QTR the **TCH Corridor** was equal in volume. Overall there was a 16% decrease in volume to this area for Q3 2023 (compared to the corridor area increase of 3% overall). The Warmland area is a consistent hotspot for street level assaults and suspected drug trafficking activity. Trespass Act files increased in the Warmlands Area from 7 to 23 (230%). Trespass Act files fall under OTHER GO (Other Non Criminal Occurrences) in the list below.

Top 10 UCR Groups for Q3 2023 for “Warmland & Area”:

UCR Group	Q3 2022	Q3 2023	Difference (count)	% Change
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	122	77	-45	-37%
OTHER GO	62	76	14	23%
MISCHIEF TO PROPERTY	40	36	-4	-10%
SUSPICIOUS OCCURRENCES	40	33	-7	-18%
MUNICIPAL BYLAW	19	24	5	26%
ASSAULTS	18	24	6	33%
OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES	20	17	-3	-15%
CAUSE DISTURBANCE	36	17	-19	-53%
FALSE ALARMS	7	10	3	43%
UTTER THREATS	9	8	-1	-11%

2. TCH Corridor

16% of all the occurrences in the downtown area occurred in the **TCH Corridor** (see map on pg. 3). Area saw the most significant increase (14%) in Q3 2023 compared to a 3% increase to the corridor area overall. Of the top 10 UCR Groups for this area, *Liquor Act* files and *Trespass Act* (Other GO) saw the most significant increases (combined +185%/+37 files). A significant number of Business Break and Enters also occurred in this area this QTR as did Assaults.



Top 10 UCR Groups for Q3 2023 for “TCH Corridor”:

UCR Group	Q3 2022	Q3 2023	Difference (count)	% Change
OTHER GO	55	68	13	24%
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	50	61	11	22%
LIQUOR ACT	16	42	26	163%
OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES	34	38	4	12%
ASSAULTS	17	25	8	47%
SUSPICIOUS OCCURRENCES	26	24	-2	-8%
MISCHIEF TO PROPERTY	29	20	-9	-31%
CAUSE DISTURBANCE	15	18	3	20%
MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS	8	17	9	113%
FALSE ALARMS	25	15	-10	-40%

3. Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall & Area

13% of all GOs to the Downtown area occurred in the Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall & Area. GOs decreased 15% to this area in Q3 2023 when compared to Q3 2022 primarily due to a decrease in *Shoplifting* files (-59%/-78 incidents). Despite the decrease *Shoplifting* remains the number one issue for this area. *Public Intoxication* also remains a persistent issue (unchanged). Of note 8 of the 20 reported arsons for the QTR occurred in this micro area (40%).

Top 10 UCR Groups for Q2 2023 for “Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall & Area”:

UCR Group	Q3 2022	Q3 2023	Difference (count)	% Change
SHOPLIFTING	132	54	-78	-59%
OTHER GO	30	52	22	73%
LIQUOR ACT	51	51	0	0%
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	21	40	19	90%
SUSPICIOUS OCCURRENCES	12	17	5	42%
BREACH OF CONDITIONS	8	14	6	75%
CAUSE DISTURBANCE	13	12	-1	-8%
MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS	14	10	-4	-29%
FALSE ALARMS	11	10	-1	-9%
OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES	10	9	-1	-10%

4. Cowichan Commons

The Cowichan Commons area made up 11% of the volume of files for the Downtown area (polygon pg. 3). File volume decreased 4% to this area in Q3 2023. Disturbances, loitering/unwanted person, and suspicious activity were the primary issues police were called to for this area.



Top 10 UCR Groups for Q3 2023 for “Cowichan Commons”

UCR Group	Q3 2022	Q3 2023	Difference (count)	% Change
OTHER GO	38	48	10	26%
SUSPICIOUS OCCURRENCES	40	32	-8	-20%
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	27	27	0	0%
OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES	33	25	-8	-24%
CAUSE DISTURBANCE	9	19	10	111%
MISCHIEF TO PROPERTY	21	19	-2	-10%
SHOPLIFTING	41	18	-23	-56%
ASSAULTS	9	12	3	33%
MUNICIPAL BYLAW	5	10	5	100%
FALSE ALARMS	0	6	6	N.C.

5. Downtown Duncan

This area made up 8% of the area total by volume in Q3 2023. All *Fail to Appear* files occur in the area (Duncan Courthouse) which is the primary UCR Description under OTHER GO for this area. *False alarms* and *Suspicious Activity* are the next most frequent issue reported for the Downtown Duncan area.

Top 10 UCR Groups for Q3 2023 for “Downtown Duncan”:

UCR Group	Q3 2022	Q3 2023	Difference (count)	% Change
OTHER GO	99	94	-5	-5%
SUSPICIOUS OCCURRENCES	10	16	6	60%
FALSE ALARMS	19	15	-4	-21%
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	8	13	5	63%
CAUSE DISTURBANCE	3	12	9	300%
MISCHIEF TO PROPERTY	9	11	2	22%
OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES	7	10	3	43%
MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS	7	7	0	0%
LIQUOR ACT	2	7	5	250%
ASSAULTS	5	4	-1	-20%

Conclusion

Police attended occurrences in Q3 2023 increased 3% when compared with Q3 2022. Violent Crime is up 27% YTD compared to 2021 and 28% compared to YTD 2022. Property Crime is up 34% YTD compared to 2021 and 17% compared to 2022. Fluctuations in property crime are driven mostly by fluctuations in *Shopliftings*.

Consistent with previous reports *Unspecified Assistance* is the single most frequent UCR code, and as established in previous reports UNWANTED PERSON is the call type that predominantly makes up this category. This QTR saw significant increases in files related to public intoxication (*Liquor Act Files*), *Trespass Act files* and *Arson files*. Increases in *Assaults* was the driver for the overall modest increase to Violence files. Property Crime decreased significantly, however combined *Break and Enters*



and *Arsons* increased significantly. Both Commercial Break and Enters and Arsons had hot spots in the Trunk Rd/TCH vicinity.

There was significant growth in volume of activity in the TCH Corridor with Assaults, Liquor Act files and Trespass Act files being the primary increases for this area.