

# KL OPP clearance rate rises

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KIRKLAND LAKE - The clearance rate for crimes in the Kirkland Lake area increased slightly to 90.6 per cent in the past quarter, according to statistics presented to the Kirkland Lake Police Services Board.

In his report to the board Monday, Kirkland Lake OPP Detachment Commander Staff. Sgt. Rick Witty said during the last three months of the year, police responded to 1126 calls in their catchment area, 830 specifically in Kirkland Lake.

The clearance rate for quarter was 90.6 per cent, which is up slightly from the same quarter in 2015.

Breaking down the statistics as they compare to the fourth quarter of 2015, the number of break and enters were down slightly. The incidents of drug offences dropped a significant 44 per cent. The incidences of assault were up slightly.

The only areas up significantly were incidences of thefts under \$5000 (up 31 per cent) and mischiefs (up 47 percent.)

Staff Sgt. Witty explained to the board, the rise most likely is related to what he referred to as the “drug subculture”.

After providing the crime report to the board he went on to speak about the recent Push for Change event that

occurred at the Civic Park rink.

The hockey skills event was held in conjunction with the OPP, the Kirkland Lake Gold Miners, the Kirkland Lake office of the Canadian Mental Health Association, as well as a number of other sponsors.

The mini-hockey camp allowed a number of kids who could normally not afford to attend such a school, to get on the ice and learn how to better their skills.

The Push for Change is a national awareness and youth empowerment campaign focused on ending youth homelessness. Starting May 1st and continuing until Sept. 30, 2017th, Joe Roberts – a former street youth turned successful entrepreneur – is pushing a shopping cart 9,000 km across Canada to raise awareness of and end youth homelessness.

Witty said he was very proud of his officers and all others who attended the event. He added many people there said they would like to continue it on an annual basis.