

Det. Sgt. James Frank closing out 30-year career

Peel News - FRANK, James

Pioneer undercover drug cop turning in his shield

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One of the city's first undercover drug officers is retiring after 30 years of police work.

Detective Sergeant James Frank, 52, will leave his post as Staff Officer to the Deputy Chief of Operations at the end of this week.



FRANK

Frank spent his entire career in this area, starting with the Township of Toronto Police Department in December, 1963.

He became a member of the Criminal

Investigation Bureau in 1967 where he and now-retired Superintendent Chris O'Toole worked together in the first undercover drug unit.

"Marijuana was a big thing back then," recalls Frank. "The offenders would get a \$100 fine on the first conviction even for a tiny amount and jail on a second conviction."

Nowadays, Frank says it's crack, powdered cocaine and the hard drugs that cause undercover investigators the most concern.

Frank was promoted to Detective Sergeant in 1974 with the new Peel police force and in 1984 was placed in charge of the Public Complaints Bureau. He held that position until 1986 when he moved to

Officer in Charge of Records. He has been in his current position since 1991.

Frank said his most satisfying experiences on the job occurred early in his career and resulted in the arrest of a dangerous suspect.

"The daughter of one of my co-workers was brutally raped," Frank said. "I was able

to locate the suspect's car in an underground parking lot and that eventually lead to the arrest of the man responsible."

Deputy Police Chief Jim Wingate said Frank is one of the most dedicated officers to have ever worked in this area.

"Not only has he been a tenacious investigator but he was instrumental in the

development of our disaster manual, a document that still stands today and has served as an example for other agencies throughout the world," says Wingate.

Frank says he plans on spending his retirement in warmer climates during the winter and return to his Mount Forest home to golf in the summer.

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