



15th June 2010

North District Newsletter

With summer emerging from the cold of winter and rains of spring, it is time to share some insight as to the activities of the Regina Police Service over the past several months.

Did you know?

- The Regina Police Service responded to more than 62,000 calls for service in the past year.
- Crime in Regina is at its lowest rate in the past decade, overall crime is down 26.7% since 1999, while property crime is down 39.2% and crime against the person is down 15.2%.
- In 2009 the North District police members responded to 29.4% of all the calls for service in the City.
- Property crime is the primary crime type in the North District. When comparing frequency of types of calls for service, crime against the person is at a distant position appearing in fifteenth spot.

First, the North is an excellent place to live, play and conduct business. As identified, in the North District the primary type of crime committed is property crime, (thefts, damage to property, shoplifting). Many of these are crimes of opportunity. If we as property owners take a little extra time and a few extra steps to remove the opportunity or to 'target harden' our property it will go a long way to deterring and reducing this activity. For example the next time you are at the Normanview Crossing or Northgate Mall while walking through the parking lot, glance as you pass by vehicles next to you, observe the items of value left in plain view inside the vehicles. I did this yesterday, this is a partial list of the first four vehicles I walked past; Oakley sunglasses, GPS on the dash, purse on back seat, laptop computer on the floor of the front passenger seat and in each of the vehicles there was an abundance of change in the cup holder or ashtray beside the front seat. To a potential offender this is like a shopping list. In fact, youth now call the act of attending a parking area to steal from vehicles as "car shopping". Please take the time to target harden your property, remove items of obvious value from plain view, "out of sight is out of mind".

The Regina Police Service recently did a media release in regards to tips to protect you during the summer months; I have attached the release to this letter.

The Regina Police Service continues to work with our community partners at the identification of problem issues, locations to develop both proactive and reactive responses to them. In April there was a spike in theft from vehicles at the Normanview Crossing Mall parking lot and adjacent areas. Good police work helped to identify possible suspects and a variety of

operational plans put in place, inclusive of the surveillance of this location by police members in plain cloths. The result, a number of young persons were arrested, some property recovered and the problem activity was significantly reduced. To provide longer term resolution to this problem a business stakeholder meeting was hosted on the 5th of May where this and other concerns were discussed. Cooperation from the business community has resulted in changes to the lighting, private security patrols, individual store operating practices and all ready this has had an impact on this and other property crime issues. This project continues.

Since January there has been significant analysis, and consultation with the community. Action has been taken on a variety of identified problem issues, below are some of these;

- Normanview Crossing, property crime issues ongoing project.
- Dewdney Avenue West, large truck traffic concerns, increased enforcement, and police presence in this area and discussions with the Global Transportation Hub Authority in regards to alternate access to their facility other than Dewdney Ave.
- Damage and theft from vehicles at vehicle dealerships along North Albert and Broad streets. In cooperation with several of the stakeholder businesses, efforts were made to target harden the locations. As well operational projects were initiated that have led to several arrests of several young persons and an adult male who we feel has been responsible for a significant number of these offences.
- Coop Upgrader Expansion and subsequent traffic problems. Working with the management team of the Coop Upgrader it was identified that during the late afternoon traffic in the area of Winnipeg Street North and 9th Avenue North was being back logged and tied up for extended time periods. The volume from workers coming off shift was backing traffic up, police members were placed at this intersection for several weeks to direct traffic through the bottleneck locations, and helped ease the problem.
- Drinking Drivers, a focus of the North District management team. Increased police resources have been applied to this problem. The traffic safety unit has been working an altered shift since January to better address this and other traffic specific concerns. Innovative projects involving high visibility road checks with a mobile breath testing station and more covert enforcement in cooperation with local fast food outlets have helped detect and arrest drinking drivers. Sending a message that the Regina Police Service is serious about removing drinking drivers from our streets and holding them criminally responsible for their actions. This project continues.

My approach to addressing problem issues is to conduct analysis of the location and or persons identified, determine the cause of the problem, then utilize resources of the Police Service and partner agencies in ‘ problem solving’. This method of preventative or proactive policing is highly successful in reducing crime.

On many fronts we are making a difference by presenting a deterrent to would be offenders and being tough with those that continue to offend. Repeat offenders are placed on court orders when possible and appropriate that include a curfew, in 2009 police members in the North District conducted 1339 such checks. This delivers a clear message to the offender that police are aware of them and will be monitoring their activity.

S/Sgt. Kemp and I have attended a number of Community Association, business and other agency meetings to share information, our observations, action being taken and to listened to concerns of the community in relation to activity and undesired behavior. It is this open, timely communication that demonstrates the community’s support and engagement; we will continue to work to reduce crime further.

This year you will see an increased visibility of police in your neighborhood and a higher presence of traffic safety enforcement. Making the streets safe is a core function of the Police Service. Commencing in June, we will launch the summer park patrol project. You will see uniform police members on bicycle in your lanes, parks and on your crescents. This interactive project is targeted at the many parks and green spaces within the City. It is the spring and summer months that see youth gatherings at various open spaces (parks), the project reduces and deters undesired behavior that disturbs the neighborhood, frequently leads to damage to public and private property and results in associated problems involving assaults, violations of the Liquor and Gaming Act that detracts from the beauty of the summer and has in the past deterred the use of these green spaces by all in the community. Numerous weekends during the summer the Police Service will be deploying members of its Crowd Control Unit, they will be attending to noisy party calls, disturbances and large gatherings. This has been a very effective method of responding to these calls for service without tying up other front line patrol members who are then able to deal with other priority calls for service.

In closing, during the summer, please be considerate of your neighbors. Have a safe and enjoyable summer. If you should have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact either S/Sgt. Curtis Kemp or myself by telephone or e mail.

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Regina Police Service News Release

For Immediate Release

Date: May 31, 2010

Time: 1600 hrs

Release Authorized: E. Popowich

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CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR SPRING AND SUMMER

The Regina Police Service is asking Regina residents to take a critical look at their homes, properties and personal safety practices with the goal of preventing crime in our neighbourhoods this Spring and Summer.

At the recent meeting of the Regina Board of Police Commissioners, the year-to-date statistics presented showed an increase in some property crimes, particularly theft under \$5,000. Many of these offences are incidents where items are stolen from vehicles. Police remind vehicle owners to remove all items of value from plain view in the vehicle, including sunglasses, CD's and loose change. Lock your vehicle and, if you have the opportunity, park in a garage. Lock the garage doors. These practices take time, but taking a few minutes to remove the opportunity for a crime can save damage, dollars and emotional upset in the long term. (Monthly crime statistics are available on the Regina Police Service website at www.reginapolice.ca.)

While working in the yard and spring-cleaning, Regina residents are reminded to ensure their doors are locked. In fact, even when you are in your residence, it is a good idea to lock your doors behind you. Too many people leave valuables like purses, wallets and car keys within easy reach just inside the front door. Locking your doors prevents a thief from stepping inside long enough to grab your purse and disappear.

(more)

Another common scenario is one where a suspect will distract a homeowner with a false report of a suspicious person or damage in the back yard. When the homeowner goes to the back of the property, a second suspect enters the house to steal keys, wallets or other belongings. In this situation, remember to lock your front door or have another household member remain at the front door.

When warmer weather arrives, some residents may leave windows or doors open in order to cool the house. Recognize that these may be common points of entry for would-be thieves. Don't leave your house open while you are away and take steps to minimize your vulnerability while you are at home. Always store bicycles, sports equipment and tools behind locked doors at end of day. Try to view your own house and property the way a thief might see it; identify vulnerabilities and take steps to make things more secure.

Helping Regina residents live in safety is a priority for the Regina Police Service. Every one of us has a role to play in neighbourhood and community safety. Take crime prevention seriously by safeguarding your property and employing good personal safety strategies. Always report any activity that seems suspicious. Anyone who sees a crime in progress should call 9-1-1. Anyone who has information that could assist police is asked to contact the Regina Police Service at 777-6500 or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Distribution:

10-05-31-01
RPS 268 94/09

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