

Regina Police Service

North District Newsletter

Hello. I hope all had an enjoyable summer even though the weather did not always cooperate. The Regina Police Service had a very busy summer but I am pleased to report that we have seen a decrease in several crime categories. As of the end of September, Break and Enters are down 20%, Theft of Autos is down 26%, Mischief's are down 9%, and Theft from Auto is down 22%. Also our Communications Center has handled over 47,000 calls for service. We are happy with the decrease in crime but I feel with the support of the communities we can lower this number even further.

Now with school back in full swing I encourage you to obey the speed limit in all school zones and to be watchful for young children who may unexpectedly dart out into traffic. Also with the winter season closing in and roads becoming slippery with ice and snow I would like to offer some advice. The Regina Police Service urges motorists to take extra care when driving in winter conditions. Clear all snow off your vehicle so you can see and be seen. Make sure your license plate and lights are free of snow. Reduce speed; while the posted speed is a maximum, motorist must drive for the road conditions. Allow more distance between your vehicle and the one ahead; stopping distance increase with icy road conditions. Pay careful attention to all vehicles and pedestrians around you; don't allow distractions.

Lately you may have noticed the speed trailer in your area. After several unfortunate mishaps the speed trailer has a clean bill of health and will be set up daily in the city. During the month of September the speed trailer was deployed a total of 20 times. If your community is experiencing a speeding problem, please call Sgt Ubell 777-6628 who will add your location to the deployment list.

In early July we noticed a spike in theft from autos with a large number from the Normanview Mall Lot near the Galaxy Theatre. We determined that many of the thefts were taking place on a certain day. We had 2 patrol members set up surveillance and we were successful in apprehending 2 culprits in the act. They admitted to breaking into 11 vehicles in total. Please remember to lock your vehicles and do not leave anything of value in clear sight.

A Crime Stoppers report in late July requested the public's assistance in helping solve and reduce Break and Enters in Regina. In the report it identified that many of the occurrences were taking place during the day and evenings when people typically are not home and in residential streets where there is little or no traffic. The suspect will often approach a residence that appears unoccupied and knock on the door or ring the doorbell. When the suspect is met by someone at the front door, they may ask if a particular person is there, or

some other excuse for being there. When the suspect is sure no one is home they will look for the easiest point of entry. The most common point of entry is the front door. However they will also go into the back yard where they will be sheltered from the view of neighbours. Entry is gained in a few different ways, which may include the use of tools and/or physical force.

Once inside the residence the suspects act very quickly. They most often take items that are easily assessable and easy to carry, such as money or jewellery. Often there is little evidence left at the scene. Sometimes the suspects may have a vehicle which may be left in the driveway running, while the break and enter is in progress.

The Regina Police Service asks you to be observant and report suspicious activity, people or vehicles in your neighbourhood. Witness information such as a suspect or vehicle description, or a license number may be valuable information needed to solve the crime.

It is important to remember to ensure your doors and windows are kept secure even when you are at home, particularly when you are sleeping, or working in the yard etc. Also the number of break and enters into sheds and garages are on the rise, and in most incidents the shed or garage was unlocked.

On September 1st after an extensive and often frustrating investigation into a spree of business break and enters, an adult male and an adult female were arrested and charged with 45 and 46 charges respectively. They were responsible for 28 business break and enters the first occurring in November, 2008 followed by a string of similar offences in June, July, and early August 2009. The suspect targeted restaurants, hair and tanning saloons and pharmacies. In most cases illegal entry to the premises was gained by smashing a glass door or window. Many of the break and enters occurred in the early morning hours. These business break and enters were the focus of the investigative efforts by Patrol and Street Crimes section of the Regina Police Service.

Graffiti continues to be a nuisance in our community but steps are being taken to help minimize this type of mischief. The Regina Police Service has established partnerships within the city and outside agencies including crown corporations, public and private sector, communities groups and private citizens. We encourage the public to report incidents of graffiti as soon as it happens. We ask that you call our Admiration number 777-6500 and if possible take digital photos which have proven to be very helpful in the investigation.

The Regina Police Service along with the city promotes the 4-E, s approach when it comes to graffiti: eradication (quick removal) education, enforcement and engagement (partnerships) this is an ongoing process that will take the efforts and patience of all involved. Since January, 2009 10 youths have been charged with graffiti related incidents, totaling over 150 charges.

As Halloween is fast approaching I would like to offer some safety tips : ensure costumes are bright and reflective, remember that masks can limit

eyesight so consider non-toxic makeup, provide flashlights with fresh batteries, remove anything from your yard that a child could trip over, check outside lighting, always accompany younger children, if older children are going by themselves pre-plan a route and an agreed upon time when they should be home, pedestrian injuries are the most common so remind them to remain in well lit areas and always use the side walk, if possible have them carry a cell phone and please report anything suspicious to the police.

Be safe and enjoy the holiday season and if you will be attending events where alcohol may be consumed please don't drink and drive. Plan a safe ride home.

S/Sgt. Doug Matheis
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Regina Police Service