

# Drumheller and District Rural Crime Watch Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

JUNE, 2017

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Next meeting is June 21st at the BCF in Drumheller

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Door to Door 2  
Salesmen

Protect Sen- 2  
iors Online

Summer Has 2  
Arrived

Keeping Up 3  
with Modern  
Technology

Spring Expo 3  
A Success

Can You 3  
Hear Me?

The Last 4  
Word

## Kijiji Scams

Selling items online seems like an easy way to get rid of unwanted TVs and cars, etc but as usual the scammers have found ways to fool people.

If you receive a suspicious reply to an ad you have posted, be careful. If the reply does not make specific reference to the item you have listed or it says they are ready to pick up the item and you have never been in contact with them, then you need to step back and be careful. If you are buying something and they ask that you send the money by Western Union, be very suspicious. If you ever receive a suspicious reply, contact Kijiji immediately so they can remove their access to the site. Of course, the scammers will create a new identity but it may

help others who might currently be getting scammed. The best rule of thumb is to meet up with the person you are communicating with face-to-face.

One other thing to watch for is an overpayment for the transaction and they then ask you to send the extra money to someone else as a "favour" to them. The original payment will not go through and you will have sent money to them for nothing.

Even meeting face-to-face has its hazards. Always take someone with you and meet in a public place. Some towns have set up safe places to do transactions.



## Ross Rawlusyk Retires

We just wanted to say congratulations to Ross Rawlusyk on his retirement after 30 years of being the CAO for Starland County. He was very helpful in getting the Phone Tree program for us and allowing us to run it out of the

Starland County office. We hope that he enjoys his well deserved retirement. He will be missed.





## Beware Of Door-to-Door Salesmen

In the good old days, a door to door salesman would be trying to sell you household cleaners or vacuum cleaners. But even back then, there would be the ones who would try to sell you bottles of mysterious concoctions that were supposed to cure you of any illness you might have. Nowadays, the door to door salesman is trying to get you to buy a new furnace, pretending they are from the gas company or

the city or they are trying to get you locked in to a special rate for your utilities which really isn't very special.

A good rule of thumb would be to never buy anything from anyone who knocks on your door or calls you on the phone, except maybe for Girl Guide cookies.

Beginning January 1, 2017, the province prohibited the solicitation of door-to-door sales of energy products.

That has not stopped the people who are still trying to do it though. There have been several reports of people being signed up for Direct Energy services without their knowledge or consent. It has been alleged that their signatures were forged.

If you have been contacted by anyone trying to get you to sign up for a different utility company, please contact the RCMP at 403-823-2630

*"We are raised to be trusting and that is what scammers are counting on."*

## Protect Seniors Online

Home Instead Senior Care in Saskatoon has partnered with Public Safety Canada to create a website that seniors can use to learn about staying safe online.

The most common scams include requests to fix your computer for free, tax scams that pretend they are from the Canada Revenue Agency and ransomware.

The website address is: [protectseniorsonline.ca](http://protectseniorsonline.ca)

There is a quiz you can take about online activities and after each question there is an explanation about the question.

There is another section called Protect Yourself that is quite informational.

We are raised to be trusting and that is what the scammers

are counting on. If you ever feel unsure about an email or a website just step back and think about it for awhile. Resist the urge to click on a link to another page. Never click on a link in an email if you aren't sure about it. Don't give out your personal information to anyone. Your bank or credit card company isn't going to ask you for anything by email.



## Summer Has Arrived

Summertime - out working in the fields or the garden, doors left unlocked because the kids are home but they are out playing somewhere, shop doors unlocked because you are just too busy to lock them up plus it is so inconvenient. The quads and motorcycles are parked in front of the

house ready to go. It's a perfect scenario for the thieves who drive around looking for anything they can grab. They are even bold enough to come into your yard and drive around and if they are caught, they say they are lost and looking for someone else's house.

This is where a Rural Crime Watch program can be very beneficial. If you see anything suspicious, record license plates and type of vehicles. Then if someone is robbed, you might be able to provide valuable information.

# Keeping Up With Modern Technology

Technology has come a long way in our lifetime. Smart phones make recording and reporting incidents a lot easier. We can now be in contact with several people instantaneously with one email or text. Once upon a time, the phone tree program was a marvelous way to send out information to the members of a rural crime watch but

depending on how many members you are contacting, it can take over two hours for that message to reach everyone. Not everyone is at home when the calls comes in either. Most people have their cell phone with them so any messages sent to them by email or text or an app would get to them sooner. If someone is out work-

ing in the field and gets an alert on their phone, they may be in the right position to see something and then they would be able to notify the RCMP sooner. The RCMP could also be able to send out messages to the Rural Crime Watch members using their cell phones. This would be a lot simpler to do.

*Volunteers help keep a community alive.*

## Drumheller Spring Expo A Success

On the weekend of April 21st to 23rd, we had a booth at the Drumheller Spring Expo. It was a good chance to let people know about our organization.

We would like to thank Steve Wannstrom, Bill Eremko, John and Karen Neill, Elson McDougald, Lyle Rowe, Dave Trentham, Ron Leonhardt, Brenda Gallagher and Dorothy Gwynn for volunteering to run

the booth over the weekend. A few of the volunteers worked multiple shifts.

We signed up a few new members and gave away some door prizes which were donated by Starland County. We also had a draw for a free membership which was won by Leslie Landon of Munson. She was also a winner of one of our door prizes. Other winners were Chris

Bobra and Becky Kowalchuk.

We had several things to hand out to people from Report A Poacher and the RCMP.



## Can You Hear Me?

If you receive a call from someone asking “Can You Hear Me?” hang up immediately. Don’t say anything or you could become a victim of the latest scam. If you say “yes” your answer is recorded by the scammer and used to authorize unwanted charges on a phone or utility bill or on a purloined credit card.

Our parents have raised us not to be rude but there are times when you have to be. Don’t ever feel bad about hanging up on people who are trying to scam you.

Remember to let others know about scams like these so they know what to do.



**It’s ok to be rude once in awhile!**



## Organization

| Drumheller & District Rural Crime Watch Association

| Box 671

| Drumheller, AB T0J 0Y0

| Email: [info@drumcrimewatch.com](mailto:info@drumcrimewatch.com)

| Website: [www.drumcrimewatch.com](http://www.drumcrimewatch.com)

| Twitter: [@drumrcw](https://twitter.com/drumrcw)

| Emergency: 911

| RCMP Non-Emergency #: 403-823-2630

| Report A Poacher: 1-800-642-3800

### THE LAST WORD

This is a test. Do you read the whole newsletter? Do you find it useful? Does it make you think about what we need to do as Rural Crime Watch members. Do you share what you learn from the newsletter? Send me an email at [info@drumcrimewatch.com](mailto:info@drumcrimewatch.com) and let me know what you think of the newsletter!

## How To Contact Us

Thanks to our friends at Netago in Hanna, we now have email addresses for our executive and zone captains.



### General Mailbox

[info@drumcrimewatch.com](mailto:info@drumcrimewatch.com)

### Executive

#### Vice-President

Steve Wannstrom

[swannstrom@drumcrimewatch.com](mailto:swannstrom@drumcrimewatch.com)

#### Secretary

Bill Eremko

[beremko@drumcrimewatch.com](mailto:beremko@drumcrimewatch.com)

#### Treasurer

Howard McKee

[hmckee@drumcrimewatch.com](mailto:hmckee@drumcrimewatch.com)

### Zone Captains

#### Zone 1

John Neill

[jneill@drumcrimewatch.com](mailto:jneill@drumcrimewatch.com)

#### Zone 2

Gerald Foesier

[gfoesier@drumcrimewatch.com](mailto:gfoesier@drumcrimewatch.com)

#### Zone 3

Lyle Rowe

[lrowe@drumcrimewatch.com](mailto:lrowe@drumcrimewatch.com)

#### Zone 4

None appointed

#### Zone 5

Joy McKee

[hmckee@drumcrimewatch.com](mailto:hmckee@drumcrimewatch.com)

#### Zone 6

Geraldine Shadlock