

THE EYES AND
EARS OF THE
COMMUNITY

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Next Meeting is March 16th at 7 pm at Freson Brothers in Drumheller.
- Membership fees are now due.

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Drumheller & District Rural

Crime Watch

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MARCH, 2016

A Message From The RCMP

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Drumheller & District Rural Crime Watch (RCW) Association newsletter. To see that our local program has advanced to the point where members can look forward to a newsletter at various times throughout the year, is exciting indeed.

Cst. Tom Boden, who has served as the Drumheller RCMP liaison officer for the Drumheller and District Rural Crime Watch Association for the past two and one half years has accepted a transfer to Ponoka Integrated Traffic Services. I would like to say thank you to Cst. Boden for his dedication and commitment to supporting our RCW and wish him well in his next post. I have consulted with Cst. Boden and Drumheller RCMP will announce soon who will be the

new RCW liaison officer - stay tuned.

On February 5th and 6th, 2016, Cst. Boden and myself attended the 2016 Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association Symposium held in Hanna. It is fair to say, that it was obvious that a tremendous amount of time and effort went into planning and organizing of this event as was evidenced by the positive feedback I have received from those attending, in addition to our own personal observations from the weekend. On behalf of all Members and Employees of the Drumheller RCMP Detachment, I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to all those involved from the Drumheller and District RCW, the Hanna

Rangeland RCW and the Brooks & Area RCW, in making this a very successful event. I look forward to attending next years Symposium and continuing to build upon the success of this years event.

With Spring just around the corner, it will not be long and farmers will be busy again preparing their fields for another growing season. Given that we continue to experience economic uncertainty, and that we continue to deal with unprecedented unemployment around Alberta, police anticipate seeing increased trends associated to property crime. Police encourage the public to be vigilant within their area of the County and should you witness any suspicious people/activity, to report this to the Drumheller RCMP at 403-823-2630.

S/Sgt Grant A. MacDonald
Detachment Commander
Drumheller RCMP

RCMP CRIME REDUCTION TIP OF THE DAY:

Since January, Drumheller RCMP have seen a spike in the number of reports related to people getting phone calls and e-mail from people alleging to be from the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) and being aggressive, suggesting if you don't pay money owing to the CRA, the police will come and arrest you. This is

NOT how the CRA conducts business - these people are fraudsters. With tax season on the horizon, police anticipate the number of people being called or receiving e-mail similar in nature will rise. What to do if you become a victim of Fraud/Scam: i) Contact the Drumheller RCMP and file a report; ii) Contact your

bank/financial institution and credit card company; iii) Contact the two national bureaus and place a fraud alert on your credit reports. Equifax Canada Toll Free: 1-800-465-7166 and TransUnion Canada Toll Free: 1-877-525-3823; and, iv) Always report Identity Theft and Fraud. Contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre Toll Free: 1-888-495-8501.

Rural Crime Watch Signs



Signage is an important part of our program.

Have you paid your membership fees for 2016?

Be a Wise Owl



Making people aware that our area is actively involved in the Rural Crime Watch program is one of our top priorities. One of the most important ways that we do that is through our sign program.

There are highway signs, gate signs and post signs.

In 2015, we were one of the fortunate recipients of the Drumheller and District Chamber of Commerce's Worlds' Largest Dinosaur Legacy Fund.

We received a grant of \$1,915 which was used to help purchase 8 highway signs. These signs were placed in strategic locations around the area.

As well as highway signs, we have gate signs and post signs to help identify Rural Crime Watch members.

When a person signs up as a member of the Rural Crime Watch, they receive a gate sign and a post sign as part of their initial membership.

We are in the process of or-

dering signs for those new members who signed up in 2015 and 2016. If any other members wish to get new signs, they need to contact Howard McKee at 403-823-9856 to place an order at their own expense.

Membership Fees Are Now Due

Membership fees of \$20 are due November 1st of each year. For those of you who have not sent in your membership fee yet, please send it to:

Drumheller & District Rural Crime Watch Association
Box 671
Drumheller, AB T0J 0Y0

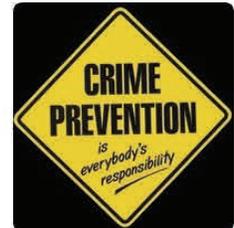
Plan to Attend Our Next Meeting

Our next regular meeting will be held on March 16th, commencing at 7 pm, in the upstairs meeting room at Freson Brothers in Drumheller.

Attending our meetings is an excellent opportunity to see what is happening with the Rural Crime Watch program as well as giving you a chance to contribute ideas.

Meet Our Executive

President - Ken Leonhardt
Vice-President: Steve Wannstrom
Secretary: Bill Eremko
Treasurer: Howard McKee



Wise Owl Program - Fraud Prevention

One of the programs offered by Alberta Crime Watch is the Wise Owl program. This program has been set up to provide fraud prevention for seniors.

We are hoping to provide a Wise Owl presentation in Drumheller soon. There are

many different types of fraud that people need to be aware of and this will be an excellent opportunity to find out more about it. As soon as we know when it will be held, we will let you know. This program is not just for Rural Crime Watch members. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Some of the different types of fraud discussed are:

- Fake Names
- False Intentions
- Telemarketing Fraud
- Cheque Fraud
- Mortgage Fraud
- Investment Fraud
- Pyramid Schemes
- Employee Theft Fraud
- Home Renovation Fraud

The Power of Social Media

In the constant search for ways to contact our members and make people aware of the Rural Crime Watch Program, we have utilized different ways to share information.

We have a website, www.drumcrimewatch.com, which is still evolving. You can find a map of our rural crime watch area as well as membership forms. We are hoping to have a quarterly report from the RCMP on there as well in the near future.

We also have a Facebook page called Drumheller & District Rural Crime Watch. We post meeting dates and any other pertinent information on there as well. Anyone is welcome to join the page.

We opened a twitter account as well. Our account is @drumrcw and if you would like to follow us on Twitter, please feel free to do so.

Although a newsletter is not necessarily a form of social media, our

newsletter is a new addition to the communication network we are trying to achieve.

Lastly, none of this will work without you. Our members are a vital link to getting the word out to the community about Rural Crime Watch.

If you see or hear anything suspicious, please contact the RCMP as soon as possible. Never attempt to confront anyone. You are the eyes and ears only.

Message From Jeff Zimmer - Fish and Wildlife

Hello Rural Crime Watch members, my name is Jeff Zimmer, I am the District Fish and Wildlife Officer in Drumheller. My district includes both Starland and Kneehill Counties.

As an officer for Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch, working under the Public Safety Branch of Justice and Solicitor General, my primary mandate is conservation law enforcement; so basically checking fishermen and hunters, responding to complaints of illegal activities that negatively impact our natural resources or threaten public safety and investigating suspected poaching incidences.

We also deal with problem wildlife complaints so things like large ungulate issues such as elk in hay stacks as well as large carnivore problems concerning public safety and predatory kills of livestock.

As the seasons change so does my focus when it comes to my patrols. Spring and summer are busy with river patrols checking anglers and various other river users. Fall is the busiest with hunting season, this is typically when I am seen the most out in the rural areas patrolling. The Report A Poacher program is a very important when it comes to reporting illegal activity, much like Crimestoppers, callers can remain anonymous and they do offer a cash reward for information that leads to charges. Like I said earlier I am the only officer in the area and the more eyes and ears I have out there the better.

The Report A Poacher number, 1-800-642-3800 is also linked into our central dispatch so if you need to reach an officer in a timely fashion don't hesitate to call this number and you will be put in contact with an officer.

To reach me you can call the office at 403-823-1670 or stop into the office which is located in the Provincial Building, across from the town office in Drumheller.





The Eyes and Ears of the Community

Drumheller & District Rural Crime Watch Association

Box 671

Drumheller, AB T0J 0Y0

Email: crimewatch@starlandcounty.com

Website: www.drumcrimewatch.com

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

Emergency #: 911

RCMP Non-Emergency #: 403-823-2630

Report A Poacher: 1-800-642-3800

Crime happens everywhere. In a rural area, where there are fewer people to see what is going on, it is essential to have as many eyes and ears out there to observe suspicious activities and report them to the RCMP. The purpose of the Rural Crime Watch program is to improve awareness of the potential for crime and promote crime prevention through communication of information after observing a criminal act or potential one. It is not a law enforcement program, nor does it encourage confrontation of offenders or vigilantism. Instead, the purpose is to observe and make note of information that can be passed on to the RCMP which can be helpful in the investigation of criminal activity and help lead to arrests and charges being laid.

Be Prepared

Our memories aren't always that reliable so it's a good idea to carry a pad of paper and a pen in your vehicle so you can write down details of what you may have observed. Also, since most of us have smart phones now, remember to take some pictures (if it is safe to do so).

