



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** September 14, 2023  
**From:** Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2023-Vol  
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01  
**Re:** RCMP Monthly Activity Report – August 2023

### Recommendation from the OIC

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – August 2023”, dated September 14, 2023, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

Dave Chauhan  
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge  
(604-278-1212)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER (ACTING) 	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 
APPROVED BY CAO 	

## Report

### Origin

At the request of the Community Safety Committee, the Officer in Charge will keep Council informed on matters pertaining to policing in the Richmond community. This monthly activity report for the RCMP provides information on each of the following areas:

1. Activities and Noteworthy Files
2. Analysis of Police Statistics
3. Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions
4. Block Watch
5. Community Police Station Programs
6. Crime Prevention Unit
7. Road Safety Unit
8. Victim Services
9. Youth Section

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #1 Proactive in Stakeholder and Civic Engagement:

*Proactive stakeholder and civic engagement to foster understanding and involvement and advance Richmond's interests.*

### Analysis

#### Activities and Noteworthy Files

##### *Assault*

On August 4, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers responded to Moncton Street and Easthope Avenue for reports of an assault. A female victim had been bear-sprayed and hit with a bat-like object by two unknown males. The Integrated Police Dog Section (PDS) and RCMP Helicopter (Air 1) assisted in the search. Two youth suspects were located and arrested nearby.

##### *Assault Arrests*

On August 12, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers responded to Richmond Centre Mall after two people were sprayed with a toxic substance. Two male suspects were observed leaving the scene following the unprovoked attack. The PDS and Air 1 were deployed in the search. Two youth suspects were located and arrested.

##### *Carjacking Arrests*

On August 13, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the 5600 block of Cooney Road after two masked suspects stole a delivery van at gunpoint. With the assistance of multiple police agencies, the vehicle was located in Surrey, and one suspect was arrested. Another suspect later turned himself in to the Surrey RCMP. The investigation is ongoing.

### *Recruiting*

On August 23, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release announcing the start of a local recruiting drive aimed at identifying potential local applicants and increasing the accessibility of the recruiting process. In addition to hosting two upcoming career presentations this fall, RCMP officers will engage with residents at community events.

### *E-Scooter Safety Video*

On August 25, 2023, the Richmond RCMP, in partnership with ICBC and a local Richmond student, launched an educational video to promote E-scooter safety. This initiative continues the Richmond RCMP's proactive public engagement and social media efforts to enhance public awareness of E-scooter use's safety and regulatory aspects.<sup>1</sup>

### Analysis of Police Statistics

#### *Arson*

In August 2023, there were 10 reported arsons, an increase of two incidents from the previous month and a decrease of six incidents from August 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is within the average range.

#### *Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)*

There were 23 serious assault events in August 2023, a 10 per cent increase from the previous month and a five per cent increase from August 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is above the average range.

Thirty per cent of assaults in August 2023 involved family violence. There were two stranger assaults this month, including one incident discussed in this report's Activities and Noteworthy Files section.

#### *Auto Theft*

In August 2023, there were 17 auto theft incidents, a 39 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 21 per cent increase from August 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the average range.

#### *Drugs*

In August 2023, there were 54 drug offences, a 22 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 26 per cent increase from August 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the average range.

Approximately 78 per cent of the files in August 2023 occurred at YVR. This month's increase in drug incidents has been attributed to processing a backlog of drug exhibits originating as Canada Customs seizures at YVR.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bc-cb.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=2122&languageId=1&contentId=80991>

### *Mental Health*

There were 237 mental health-related incidents in August 2023, a two per cent increase from the previous month and representing no change from August 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the average range.

There were 94 police apprehensions, and the average hospital wait time was 144 minutes; these statistics exceeded the average ranges. The excessive wait times have been attributed to eight files with exceptionally long wait times.

### *Residential Break and Enter*

There were 17 break and enters to residences in August 2023, a 55 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 19 per cent decrease from August 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is below the average range.

### *Commercial Break and Enter*

In August 2023, there were 25 break and enters to businesses, representing a four per cent increase from the previous month and a 47 per cent increase from August 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the average range.

### *Robbery*

There were eight robberies in August 2023, an increase of two incidents from the previous month and a decrease of one incident from August 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the average range.

Suspects have been identified in three incidents to date. Handguns were used in four robberies, while two involved knives.

### *Sexual Offences*

In August 2023, there were 19 sexual offence files, a 24 per cent decrease from the previous month and a five per cent decrease from August 2022.<sup>2</sup> No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

Suspects have been identified in 63 per cent of the offences reported in August 2023. Approximately 42 per cent of the incidents were sexual assaults.

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<sup>2</sup> The Sexual Offences category comprises a range of offences including: sexual assault, sexual interference, making and distributing child pornography, possessing and accessing child pornography and indecent acts/exposing.

*Shoplifting*

There were 94 reported shoplifting thefts in August 2023, a 23 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 22 per cent increase in August 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is above the average range.

Shoplifting thefts have been increasing across Lower Mainland jurisdictions. Inflation and labour shortages have been identified as potential driving factors.

*Theft from Automobile*

There were 74 thefts from automobile incidents in August 2023, a 20 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 34 per cent decrease from August 2022. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the average range.

*Hate Crimes and Incidents*

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2019 and August 31, 2023.<sup>3</sup> A “hate crime” refers to any criminal offence targeting an identifiable group. The criteria for an offence to be considered a hate crime, as per the *Criminal Code*, carries a higher threshold and usually involves one or more criminal offences. A “hate incident” may be motivated by the same factors as a hate crime but does not reach the threshold of being a criminal offence. There were five hate crime files in August 2023; four involved racist and anti-LGBTQ+ graffiti near several schools, including rainbow crosswalks, and one involved a Nazi flag at an elementary school. The hate incidents were connected to these events.

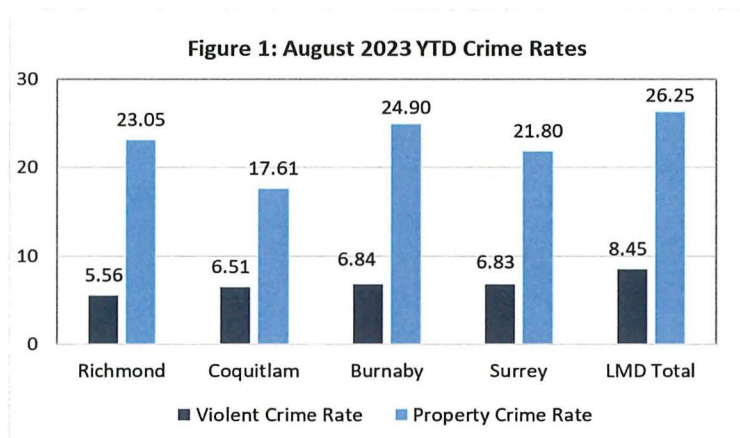
Table 1 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents			
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2019	11	9	20
2020	21	13	34
2021	21	24	45
2022	8	26	34
2023 (YTD)	6	16	22

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.<sup>4</sup> In August 2023, out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond had the lowest violent crime rate. The property crime rate for Richmond was below the LMD average.

<sup>3</sup> The BC Hate Crimes Unit uses the terms hate-motivated crime and hate-motivated incident.

<sup>4</sup> Crime rate is year to date (YTD) and calculated per 1,000 people.



### Block Watch

At the end of August 2023, the Block Watch program had 306 groups, totalling 7,084 participants. Currently, the program includes 442 captains and co-captains.

### Community Police Station Programs

Community police stations continue to enhance the Richmond Detachment's policing services by providing various crime prevention resources and community safety initiatives. City staff and volunteers pursue safety initiatives to improve crime prevention program awareness, community engagement and police accessibility. These initiatives help to reduce anxiety and fear related to crime. The program activities vary from month to month, reflective of weather conditions, seasonal initiatives and the availability of volunteers.

During August, volunteer highlights included:

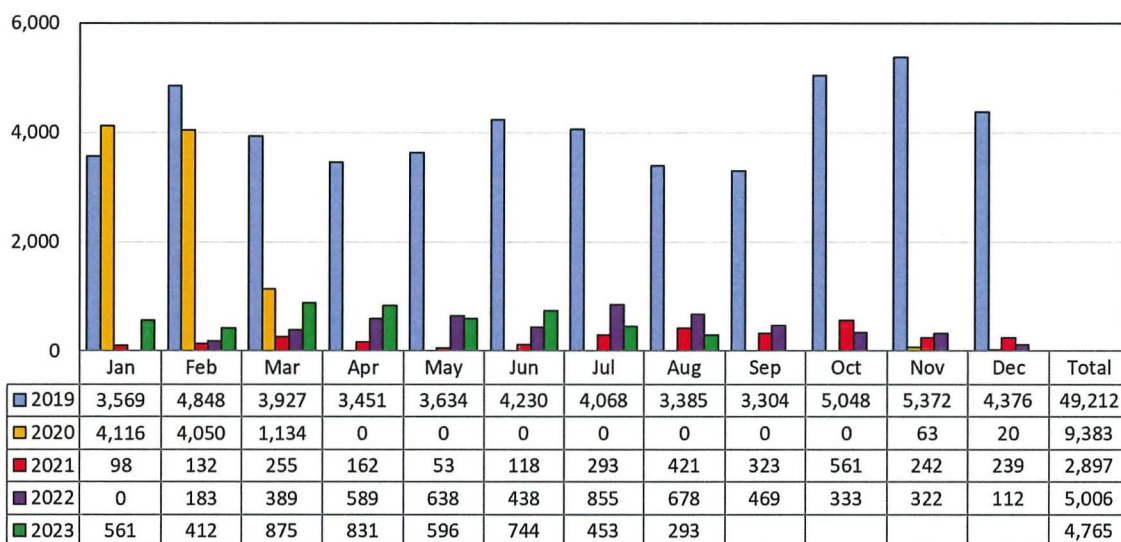
- The deployment of four volunteer bike patrols, totalling 28 hours and nine volunteer foot/van patrols, totalling 165 hours.
- A total of 13 Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 539 information letters issued.
- There were 19 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 293 information letters issued.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 2,511 vehicles, resulting in 164 information letters issued.
- August 1 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with the annual Pathways BBQ and engagement event. Pathways Clubhouse is a non-profit mental health community services organization offering support services to its members and creating a meaningful community for people with mental illness.
- August 5 – Volunteers and RCMP officers, in partnership with ICBC and Transport Canada, participated in the 3rd Annual McDonald Boat Launch to increase awareness of prevention and enforcement measures associated with boating safety and impaired driving.
- August 8 – Volunteers attended the Steveston Boardwalk to distribute E-scooter/E-bike safety cards and engage with residents.

- August 19 – Volunteers conducted foot patrols at the Richmond Dragon Boat Festival, promoting the Community Safety App and distributing E-scooter safety cards.
- August 26 and 27 – Volunteers conducted foot and bike patrols at the Richmond Maritime Festival and supported RCMP officers with the Community Engagement Team booth. They provided recruiting information, crime prevention resources, and E-scooter safety cards.
- August 30 – Volunteers assisted RMCP officers with engagement efforts at the Cambie Community Centre End of Summer BBQ. Volunteers provided tours of RCMP vehicles and interactive activities, in addition to providing crime prevention and road safety resources.

*Lock Out Auto Crime*

Figure 2 provides a yearly comparison of the number of vehicle notices issued.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice**

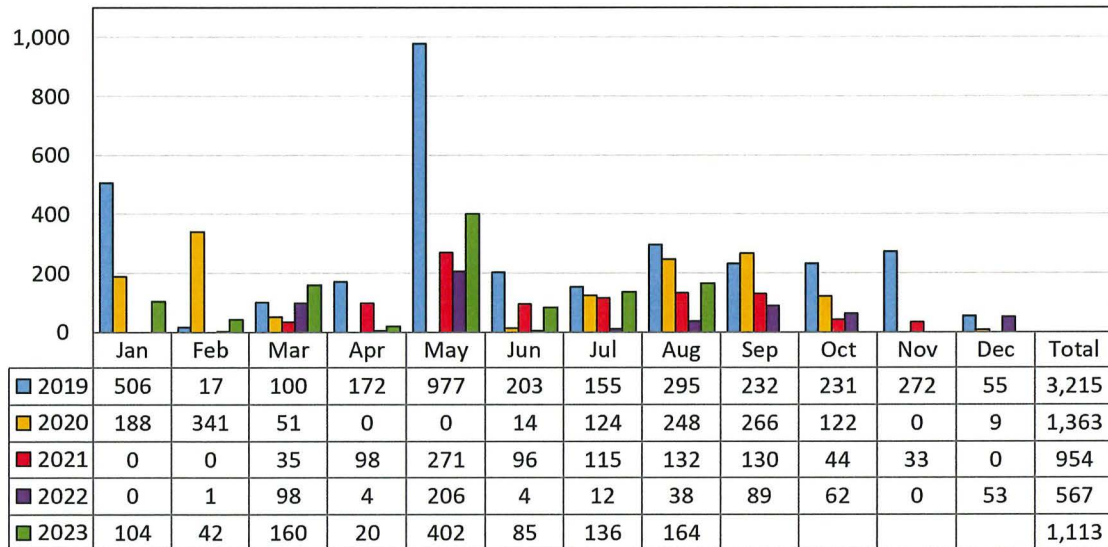


<sup>5</sup> Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices. Letters are only issued to vehicles displaying security vulnerabilities; whereas previously, notices were issued to all vehicles. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of letters issued.

*Speed Watch*

Figure 3 provides a yearly comparison of the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners.

**Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent**



Crime Prevention Unit

The Crime Prevention Unit reduces crime and enhances community engagement through public awareness and education initiatives. During August, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in the following events/activities:

- Business Outreach
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Dragon Boat Festival
- Maritime Festival
- Pathways Clubhouse BBQ
- Place of Worship Patrols

Road Safety Unit

The Road Safety Unit makes Richmond’s roads safer through evidence-based traffic enforcement, investigation of serious vehicle collisions and public education programs. Table 2 compares statistics for August 2023 to both July 2023 and June 2023. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:



Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

<b>Infraction</b>	<b>June 2023</b>	<b>July 2023</b>	<b>August 2023</b>
Distracted Driving	130	106	97
Driver License	210	226	178
Impaired	36	41	32
Intersection Offences	55	45	38
Moving Infractions <sup>6</sup>	75	105	79
Speeding	167	198	180
Seatbelts	20	21	14
Vehicle-Related <sup>7</sup>	133	132	151
Other <sup>8</sup>	10	27	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>798</b>

Victim Services

In August 2023, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 68 new clients and attended three crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 100 files. In August, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, property crimes and family conflicts.

Youth Section

The Richmond RCMP Detachment’s Youth Section focuses on strategies contributing to safe and healthy behaviours essential to developing productive and civic-minded adults. During August, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted increased patrols at three secondary and two elementary schools following racist and anti-LGBTQS+ graffiti and vandalism.
- RCMP officers in the Youth Section attended multiple summer camps throughout the city and presented on various topics, including the role of police in the community.

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

In August 2023, the Richmond RCMP conducted several noteworthy investigations and activities, including two stranger assaults and the launch of a recruiting drive. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges, except for serious assaults and shoplifting, which were elevated, and residential break and enters and thefts from vehicles, which are below average.

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<sup>6</sup> Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

<sup>7</sup> Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

<sup>8</sup> Other refers to miscellaneous charges including failing to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

September 14, 2023

- 10 -

In August, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers continued promoting crime prevention and road safety initiatives. The Officer in Charge of the Richmond RCMP Detachment will continue to ensure that Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.



Edward Warzel  
Manager, Police Services  
(604-207-4767)

- Att. 1: Community Policing Programs
- 2: Crime Statistics
- 3: Crime Maps

### Block Watch

- Community-based crime prevention program aimed at helping neighbors organize themselves to prevent crime.
- Residents can receive email alerts of neighbourhood residential break and enters by registering their email addresses at: [blockwatch@richmond.ca](mailto:blockwatch@richmond.ca)
- For more information, visit [www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/blockwatch.htm](http://www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/blockwatch.htm)

### Distracted Driving Program

- Trained volunteers monitor intersections and observe distracted drivers.
- A letter is sent to the registered owner of the offending vehicle with information on the safety risks associated to the observed behaviour and applicable fine amounts.
- For more information, visit [www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/programs.htm](http://www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/programs.htm)

### Fail to Stop

- Trained volunteers monitor areas that have been referred to the program by local businesses or residents where drivers are not making a full stop at the stop sign, or running a red light.
- An information letter is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle advising them the date, time and location and applicable fine amounts if the driver received a violation ticket.

### Lock Out Auto Crime

- Co-sponsored by the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC), volunteers patrol city streets and parking lots looking for automobile security vulnerabilities.
- Notices supplied by ICBC are issued to every vehicle inspected indicating to the owner what issues need to be addressed in order to keep the vehicle and contents secure.
- For more information, visit [www.richmond.ca/safety/police/personal/vehicle.htm](http://www.richmond.ca/safety/police/personal/vehicle.htm)

#### Project 529

- This program allows riders to easily and securely register their bikes. This up-to-date database of bikes alerts its registrants if a fellow 529 bike is stolen.
- Project 529 is a unique, multi-national registry that holds a database of all registered and stolen bikes.

#### Speed Watch

- Co-sponsored by ICBC, promotes safe driving habits by alerting drivers of their speed.
- Trained volunteers are equipped with radar and a speed watch reader board that gives drivers instant feedback regarding their speed.
- Volunteers record the license plate number and the speed, and a letter is sent to the registered owner of the offending vehicle. The letter includes the date, time and location and applicable fine amounts if the driver received a violation ticket.

#### Spot the Target

- This initiative consists of frequently stolen items being placed in the volunteer van for participants to identify in order to enhance awareness of thefts from automobiles.

#### Stolen Auto Recovery

- Co-sponsored by ICBC, trained volunteers equipped with portable computers identify stolen vehicles.
- These volunteers recover hundreds of stolen vehicles each year throughout the Lower Mainland.

#### Volunteer Bike and Foot Patrol Program

- Trained volunteers patrol Richmond neighbourhoods reporting suspicious activities and providing a visible deterrent to crime and public order issues.

## AUGUST 2023 STATISTICS

### RICHMOND RCMP

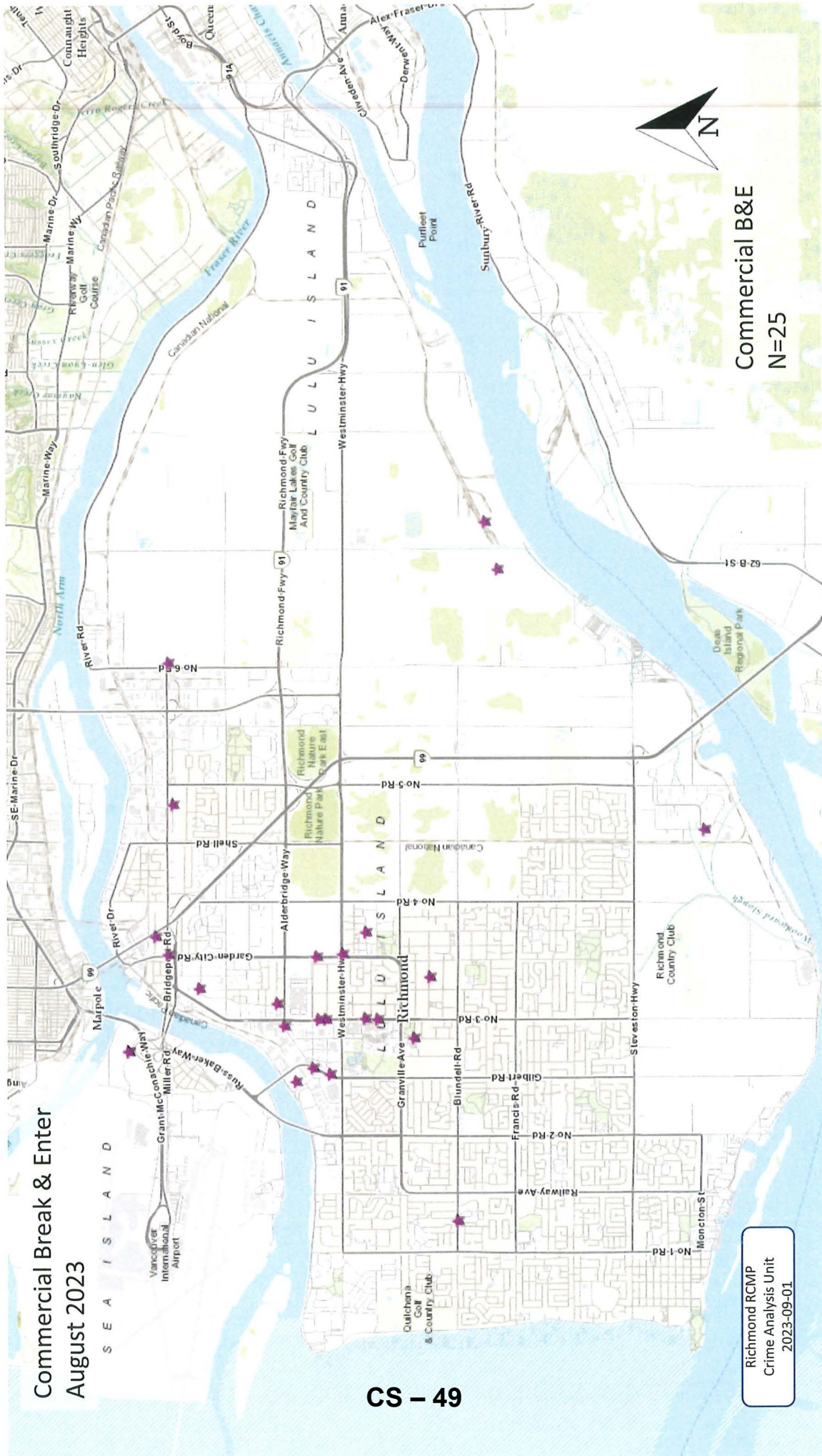
The following information is a limited list of select crime-type samples, which does not comprise the entirety or assortment of all crimes captured by the RCMP. The statistics in this chart should be considered independently of the analysis provided as the data is unrelated to the research provided earlier in this report.

This chart identifies the monthly totals for founded Criminal Code incidents, excluding traffic-related Criminal Code incidents. Based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) scoring, there are three categories: (1) Violent Crime, (2) Property Crime, and (3) Other Criminal Code. Within each category, particular offence types are highlighted in this chart. In addition, monthly totals for Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) incidents and MHA-related calls for service are included. Individual UCR codes are indicated below the specific crime type.

The 5 year average is based on activity within a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence falls outside the 5 year range (using one standard deviation) due to crime trends, patterns, or spikes, it will be noted in **red** if higher and **blue** if below. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the 5 year range due to primarily non-operational reasons such as the new UCR

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Aug - 23	August		2022	2023	% Change	# Change
<b>VIOLENT CRIME</b> (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	<b>149</b>	<b>147.0</b>	<b>128-166</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>1241</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>288</b>
Robbery <small>UCR 1610 (1-3)</small>	8	6.0	4-8	37	36	-3%	-1
Assault Common <small>UCR 1430</small>	47	53.8	46-62	335	395	18%	60
Assault Serious <small>UCR 1420, 1420</small>	<b>23</b>	12.8	8-18	121	169	40%	48
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 1325, 1320, 1350, 1310, 2450/55/56</small>	19	18.6	16-21	120	161	34%	41
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b> (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	<b>628</b>	<b>613.0</b>	<b>578-648</b>	<b>3886</b>	<b>5194</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>1308</b>
Business B&E <small>UCR 2129-1</small>	25	32.2	24-41	228	204	-11%	-24
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2129-2</small>	17	37.4	21-54	197	191	-3%	-6
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2135 (1-30), 2178</small>	17	22.0	14-30	145	174	20%	29
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2132, 2142</small>	74	150.0	130-170	809	990	22%	181
Theft <small>UCR 2130, 2140</small>	<b>141</b>	81.2	62-100	589	944	60%	355
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2133, 2143</small>	<b>94</b>	71.4	57-86	451	798	77%	347
Fraud <small>UCR 2160 (all), 2165, 2166</small>	73	66.8	55-78	475	642	35%	167
<b>OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b> (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	<b>323</b>	<b>256.4</b>	<b>217-296</b>	<b>1612</b>	<b>2164</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>552</b>
Arson <small>UCR 1626, 2110</small>	10	6.0	1-11	43	50	16%	7
<b>SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES</b> (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	<b>1100</b>	<b>1016.4</b>	<b>980-1053</b>	<b>6457</b>	<b>8603</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>2146</b>
<b>DRUGS</b> (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	<b>54</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>34-62</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>MHA RELATED CALLS</b> (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	<b>237</b>	<b>251.6</b>	<b>232-271</b>	<b>1646</b>	<b>1911</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>265</b>

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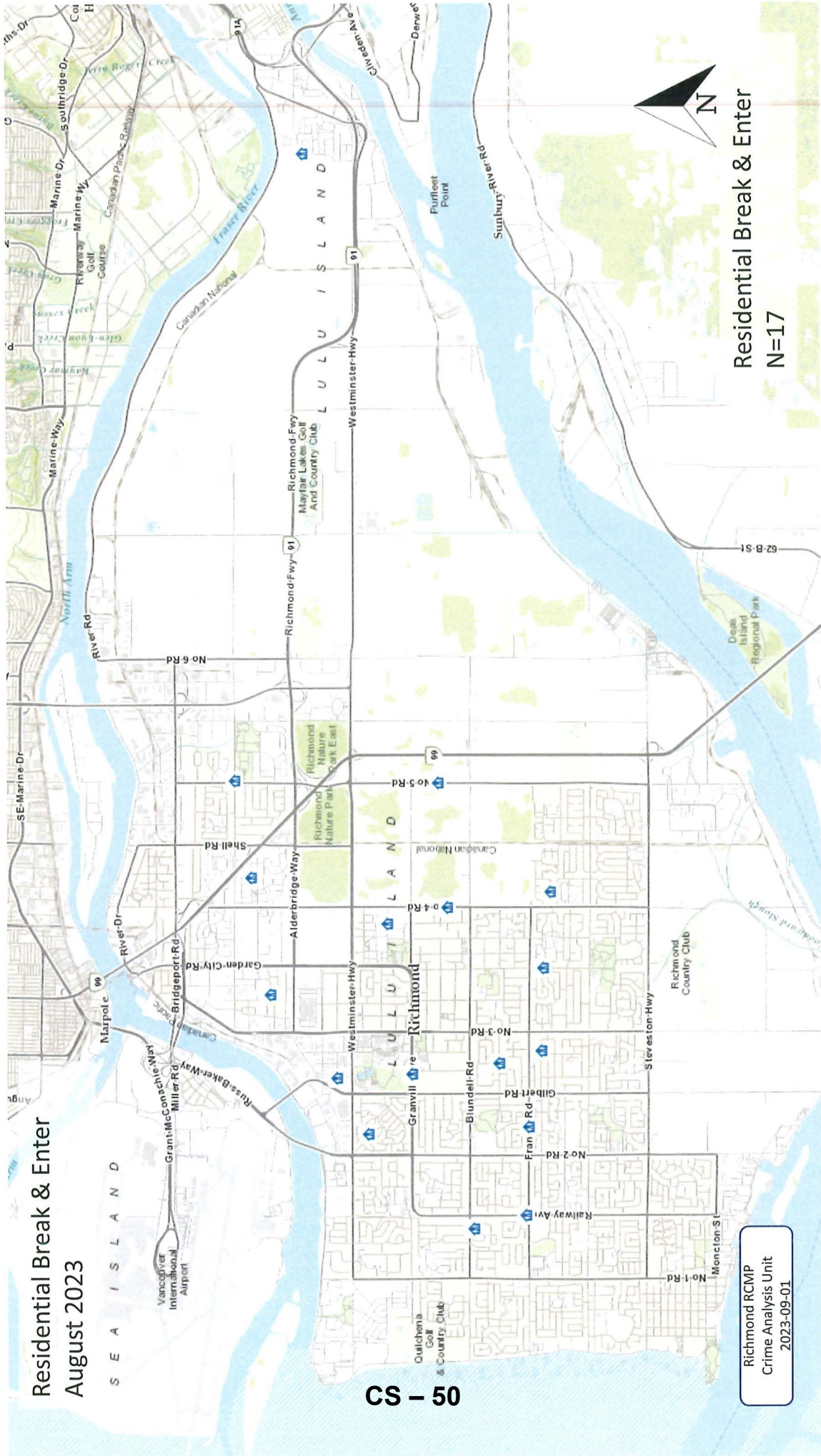
**Commercial Break & Enter  
August 2023**

S E A I S L A N D

**CS - 49**

**Commercial B&E  
N=25**

Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2023-09-01

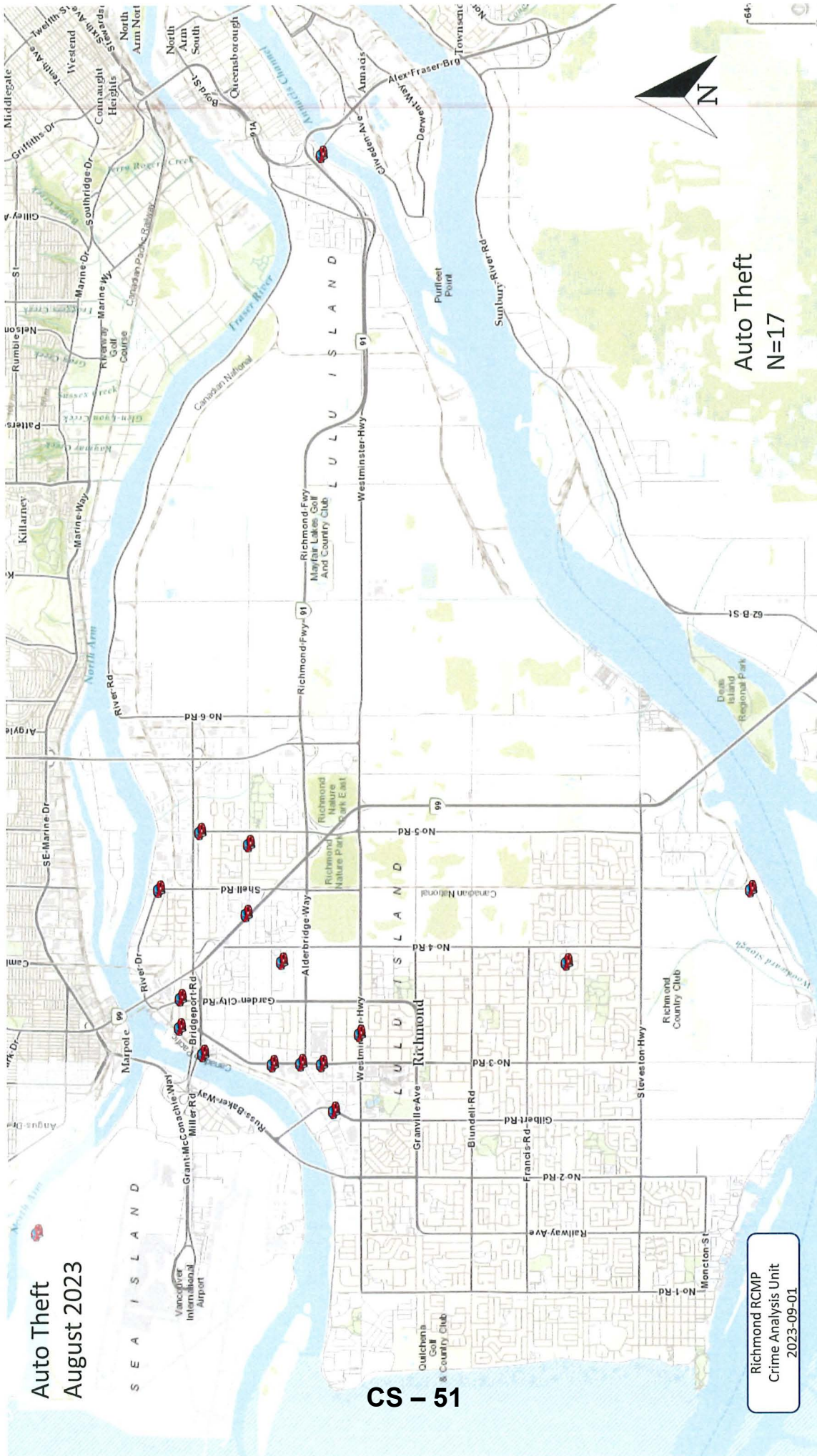


**Residential Break & Enter**  
**August 2023**

**CS - 50**

Richmond RCMP  
 Crime Analysis Unit  
 2023-09-01

**Residential Break & Enter**  
**N=17**



# Auto Theft August 2023

CS - 51

Auto Theft  
N=17

Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2023-09-01



# Theft From Auto August 2023

SEA ISLAND

