

Report to Committee

To:

Community Safety Committee

Date:

November 3, 2015

From:

Rendall Nesset, Superintendent

File:

09-5000-01/2015-Vol

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Re:

RCMP's Monthly Report - October Activities 2015

Officer In Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled "RCMP's Monthly Report – October Activities 2015," – dated November 3, 2015 from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP, be received for information.

Rendall Nesset, Superintendent

Officer In Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment

(604-278-1212)

Att. 2

| REPORT CONCURRENCE | _ |
|---|-----------|
| CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER | |
| REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE | INITIALS: |
| APPROVED BY CAO | |

Staff 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 report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #1 A Safe Community:

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #1 A Safe Community:

Maintain emphasis on community safety to ensure Richmond continues to be a safe community.

Analysis

Below is the RCMP's monthly report for October 2015 activities.

Noteworthy Files and Activities

Attempted Home Invasion

On October 6, shortly after 11:30 pm, officers responded to a residence in the 4000 block of Blair Drive where an attempted home invasion was reported. Four suspects planned to enter the residence by force, beginning with two suspects approaching the front door. Two other suspects waited around the corner of the residence and both were armed with weapons. One of the weapons was a shot gun and the other was an assault rifle. All four of the suspects were dressed in gray or light coloured hoodies and gray sweat pants. Two were wearing light coloured caps and face masks. One of the suspects is Caucasian, with dark brown straight hair, in his late teens or twenties, medium build and possibly 5'10" or taller.

The home owner in this incident was very conscious of what was about to happen, slammed the door quickly and called the police. The home owner's actions may have prevented serious injury. The Detachment's Serious Crimes Unit has been tasked with the case and the investigation is ongoing.

The following safety tips are provided:

- Report suspicious persons, vehicles, or activity to the police immediately.
- Be aware of persons wearing hoodies, head gear, sunglasses or utilizing other methods to conceal their identity while approaching you or your home.
- Never open your door for people you do not recognize or people that are unable to produce proper identification.
- Utilize the emergency alarm if your home is equipped with a security system.

Suspicious Fire

On October 16, shortly before 2:00 am, officers assisted the Richmond Fire Rescue with an apartment fire in the 8000 block of Bennett Road. Over 20 people were evacuated from their

homes. Buses were utilized from the Coast Mountain Bus Company to keep people warm while temporary housing could be arranged by the City of Richmond Emergency Social Services. No injuries or fatalities were reported. The Detachment is working with Richmond Fire Rescue to determine the cause of the fire. Although the investigation is in preliminary stages it is being treated as suspicious.

Richmond RCMP Arrests Show Multi-Jurisdictional Crimes Have no Bounds

On October 27, Detachment officers from the Property Crime Unit (PCU) and Quick Response Team (QRT) joined forces with fellow RCMP officers from across the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley. It began with a stolen vehicle spotted in Richmond and led to a multi-jurisdictional investigation involving four RCMP municipalities, Air Services, and the Police Dog Service. It ended near Manning Park with multiple arrests.

Prior to the arrest, the suspects attempted to flee in a dark coloured Jeep SUV and rammed a police vehicle resulting in two Richmond RCMP officers being injured. The officers were shaken up but will fully recover. During the course of 3 ½ hours, the suspects changed vehicles three times to avoid apprehension by the police.

It started at approximately 1:00 pm, when the suspects were observed in a stolen BMW sedan in Richmond. This vehicle was reported to have been stolen from a residence in Squamish. The suspects then made their way to Burnaby where they transferred into a waiting Nissan SUV. This second vehicle was reportedly stolen from the same residence in Squamish. The suspects travelled towards the Fraser Valley and transferred into a third vehicle, a dark Jeep SUV, near Hope. This Jeep was discovered to have been rented using fraudulent means.

RCMP Air Services Air One was instrumental in maintaining a watchful eye from the sky while multiple police units on the ground safely followed and tactically arrested the suspects. This provided for a fluid and seamless, deployment of multiple police resources across multiple jurisdictions. Those police units included Surrey RCMP Auto Crime Target Team, Burnaby RCMP Community Response Team, Lower Mainland Police Dog Services Unit, and Hope RCMP.

Five people are now in police custody for their involvement in numerous break and enters, possession of stolen property, and mail theft. A considerable amount of evidence was recovered: two stolen vehicles, credit cards, cheques, loyalty cards, identification, mail, computer equipment, a card skimmer and passports. Three males and two females, ages 20-31, were arrested and charges are pending. They are from the lower mainland and well-known to police.

Auxiliary Constables

The primary mandate of Richmond's Auxiliary Constables is to support community police activities relating to public safety and crime prevention.

Total Auxiliary Constable Volunteer Hours

Total Auxiliary Constable volunteer hours include community policing activities as well as hours spent in training, court, ride-along and call-outs. As of the end of October 2015, Richmond Detachment's complement of Auxiliary Constables was 42. The Auxiliary Constables volunteered 630 hours during the month of October.

Figure 1 compares the monthly hours of service for the years since 2011.

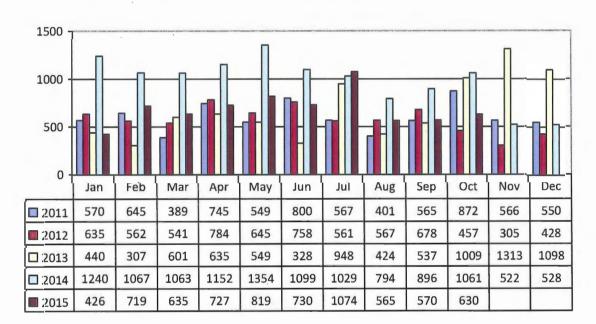


Figure 1: Auxiliary Constable Volunteer Hours

Auxiliary Constables Activities for October 2015 include:

- <u>Crime Watch</u> provided uniformed support to Crime Watch volunteers on weekend patrols.
- <u>Mental Health Initiatives</u> attended the Pathways Clubhouse to provide support and encouragement to Pathway clients that have mental illness and also to create positive client relationships with police.
- <u>Home Security Checks</u> provided support to RCMP officers in conducting assessments of residences to promote crime prevention best practices.
- Youth Program B&E Awareness Initiative provided support to RCMP officers in conjunction with CPO volunteers by canvassing neighbourhoods with increased break and enter activity to promote crime prevention awareness and the Block Watch program.
- <u>Crime Prevention Awareness/Engagement</u> assisted RCMP officers and community
 partners by engaging the public in the Minoru area to promote crime prevention programs
 and awareness.

- <u>Ride for Refuge</u> assisted police officers in the Road Safety Unit to provide traffic control and ensure participant safety at this bike ride event throughout Richmond.
- <u>Halloween</u> 11 Auxiliary Constables were on duty and each partnered with an officer to provide additional patrols through Richmond during the evening.
- Ride-alongs Auxiliary Constables continue to provide assistance to officers with Traffic and General Duty shifts.

Block Watch

Block Watch is a crime prevention program aimed at helping residents organize their neighborhoods to help prevent crime in the community.

Activities for October 2015 include:

- Alerts/Letters There were 47 residential and 26 business break and enter email alerts
 and 217 residential and 22 business letters sent during this period to registered Richmond
 residents and businesses. These emails and letters inform home and business owners that
 a break and enter has occurred, provide crime prevention information, and direct
 residents and business owners to the crime prevention web pages.
- Block Watch As of the end of October, there were 9,675 Block Watch participants in 409 groups with 540 Block Watch Captains and Co-Captains. This is an increase of 22 Block Watch participants.
- Block Watch Advisory/email alert was sent to inform registered residents about a recent trend in arsons that have occurred at: communal garbage bins, playgrounds, near fences, and tree lined areas. Residents were asked to report all suspicious activity to police. The area of concern is bordered by Bridgeport Road and No. 5 Road – Knight Street and Cambie Road.
- Block Watch Advisory/email alert was sent to inform all registered Richmond residents and businesses to inform them of two emergency preparedness presentations being held in October/November. The Crime Prevention Team participated in the event and promoted the Block Watch program.

Community Police Stations

The Community Police Stations enhance the Detachment's community policing service by providing an array of crime prevention resources and community safety initiatives. City staff and volunteers pursue community safety initiatives which have led to a greater awareness of crime prevention programs, enhanced community engagement, accessibility, and reduced fears of crime. The demographics of the programs vary month to month based on weather conditions, seasonal initiatives, events and the availability of volunteers. Programs and activities for the month of September include:

Fail to Stop

Volunteers monitored areas where drivers are not making a full stop at prominent intersections with stop signs and red lights. In October, 375 information letters were sent to the registered owners of vehicles advising them of the fine if they were pulled over by a police officer. In October, the areas of focus were:

- No. 4 Road and River Drive
- General Currie and Heather Road
- River Road and Cambie Road
- · Kwantlen Road and Alexandra Road
- No. 5 Road and Vulcan Way

Lock-Out Auto Crime Statistics

Co-sponsored by the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC), this program involves volunteers patrolling city streets and parking lots for automobile security vulnerabilities. Lock-Out Auto Crime Program notices supplied by ICBC are issued to every vehicle inspected indicating to the owner what issues, if any, need to be addressed in order to keep the vehicle and its contents secure.

Figure 2 provides a comparison by year for the number of vehicles issued a notice.

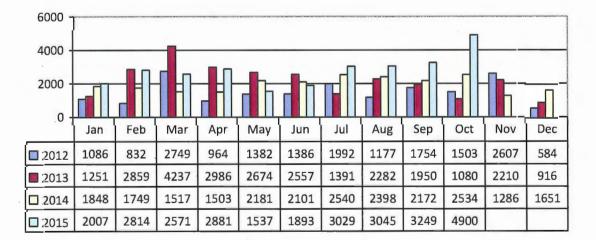


Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice

Speed Watch Statistics

Speed Watch promotes safe driving habits by alerting drivers of their speed in school zones and on roadways. Trained volunteers are equipped with radar and a speed watch reader board that gives drivers instant feedback regarding their speed. The volunteers record the license plate number and the speed, and a letter is sent to the vehicle's registered owner when there is an

infraction. The letter includes the date, time, location and what penalty would have been issued if the driver had received a violation ticket.

Figure 3 provides a comparison by year of the number of letters sent.

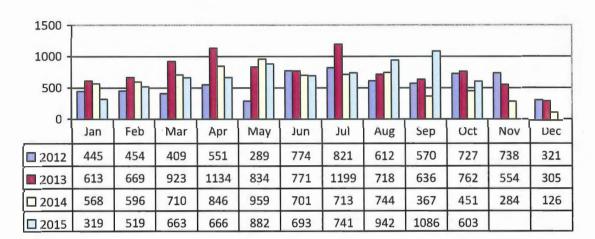


Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent

Distracted Drivers Statistics

Trained volunteers monitor intersections and observe distracted drivers. While volunteers are performing bike/foot patrols or Speed Watch duty, they note drivers that are on their cell phones, using other electronic devices, reading a newspaper, shaving or putting on makeup. The registered owner of the vehicle is sent a letter with the date, time and location of the observed offence. Also, the letter includes the type of driving infraction and the potential fine amount had the driver received a violation ticket.

Figure 4 provides a comparison by year for the number of letters sent.

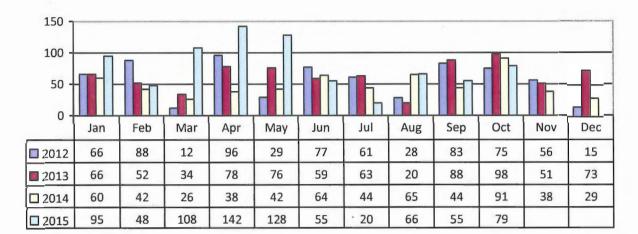


Figure 4: Distracted Drivers Letters Sent

Volunteer Foot/Van Patrol and Bike Patrol Program

Trained volunteers patrol Richmond neighbourhoods, report suspicious activities and provide a visible deterrent to crime. In October 2015, there were 17 foot/van patrols, totaling 235 hours and 9 bike patrols totaling 81 hours. The volunteers assisted the public with directions, general questions and minor vehicle collisions. They also reminded jaywalkers to use the crosswalks, noted any distracted drivers and queried license plates to see if any vehicles were stolen. The volunteers patrolled local parks and schools to make sure these areas were safe and looked for possible grow ops and abandoned houses.

Volunteer Highlights include:

- October 6 volunteers participated in a community engagement event at the Minoru Library/Cultural Centre complex. Volunteers were participating in a theft from autos/Lock out Auto Crime event when an elderly female was reported missing. Volunteers patrolled the surrounding area and she was located by a bystander at the Richmond Oval at 6:00 pm.
- October 7 volunteers played basketball with some of the students at Talmey Elementary School in conjunction with RCMP officers.
- Volunteers participated in a project throughout October which included focused patrols in several areas of Richmond for suspicious activity related to arson and theft from autos.
- October 29 volunteers, police officers from the Road Safety Unit and Youth Section
 participated in a pedestrian safety blitz from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The volunteers and police
 officers handed out reflectors to students a block away from the school to engage the
 youth while walking home.

The following elementary schools were included in the campaign:

- o General Currie 200 reflectors
- o Kingswood 300 reflectors
- o Cook 250 reflectors
- o Whiteside 100 reflectors
- Thomas Kidd 200 reflectors
- Volunteers participated in a project throughout October which included focused patrols in the South Arm area of Richmond, who were looking for suspicious activity related to theft from autos. Volunteers check vehicles, issued notices and engaged with the public.
- Halloween During October 29 -31, volunteers focused on bike, van and foot patrols throughout Richmond to promote: 'Be a safe pedestrian. Wear the reflector to be seen in the dark!' The volunteers observed and patrolled for any suspicious activity in conjunction with Crime Reduction initiatives including theft from auto. Approximately over 1000 reflectors were handed out during this period.

Road Safety Unit

| Name | Act | Example | Aug 2015 | Sep 2015 | Oct 2015 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Violation Tickets | Provincial Act Offences | Speeding | 862 | 1078 | 1099 |
| Notice & Orders | Equipment Violations | Broken Tail-light | 221 | 279 | 273 |
| Driving Suspensions | Motor Vehicle Act | 24 hour driving prohibition for alcohol or drugs | 0 | 27 | 38 |
| Parking Offences | Municipal Bylaw | On or off the street Municipal parking offences | 10 | 19 | 19 |
| MTI's | Municipal Ticket Information | Any other Municipal Bylaw offence | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Victim Services

Victim Services provides victims and witnesses with professional and timely support to lessen the impact of trauma resulting from crime.

- During October, Richmond RCMP Victim Services provided services to 52 new clients and attended 13 crime and trauma scenes, in addition to maintaining an active caseload of 192 on-going files.
- Victim Services provided on-going emotional support to help victims of property crimes, robberies, family conflict and a significant number of medical related sudden deaths.
 Referrals were provided for long term help. Victim Services provided support to victims of crime by providing court orientations and accompaniments to trial.
- Of note this month, Victim Services provided support to family of a victim involved in a fatal car crash as well as supporting a young person, who by her quick actions, avoided

becoming a victim of a home invasion by locking the attackers outside of the house. The investigation is continuing.

Youth Section

Collaborative Opportunity for Resources

The Detachment's Youth Section members and Youth Intervention Program counsellor attended an interagency event: 'Connecting the Dots', which was held on October 28 at the City Centre Community Centre. This event is provided to service professionals and volunteers who would like to learn more about how they can work together to support clients and what resources are available to help.

After the keynote presentation, 'Creating A Connected Community', attendees had the opportunity to visit several information booths to learn more about free community services that support youth and family wellness: Richmond Mental Health & Addictions, Richmond Addiction Services Society, Roving Leaders, Chimo Community Services, Touchstone Family Association, Pathways Clubhouse, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Immigrant Services Society of BC, FORCE Society, Richmond Cares Richmond Gives, BC Schizophrenia Society, Strength in Unity, Supporting Families, Richmond Youth Services Agency, Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Richmond Family Place, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education

Term 1 - September to December:

- Total students 537 per week
- Total schools taught 14 per week
- Total classes 18 per week

On-Side Program

On October 23, two Youth Section members accompanied sixth and seventh grade students to the BC Lions football game as part of the On-Side sports program initiative. The BC Lions were victorious over the Hamilton Tiger Cats.

SAFE Schools

Richmond Youth Section members have supervised a number of lock down drills at secondary and elementary schools throughout the District.

Youth Squad

The Youth Squad program provides and eight-week course to Richmond students in Grades 10 to 12. Students are introduced to facets of policing. Under the program, 32 students are given the chance to meet police officers working in specialized units and learn about their day-to-day work in Road Safety, Police Dog Services, Emergency Response, and Forensic Services. The Canadian Armed Forces, BC Ambulance Service, and the Richmond Fire-Rescue also participate in this program which began on October 22.

Financial Impact

There is no cost associated with this report.

Conclusion

The Officer in Charge, Richmond Detachment continues to ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.

Greg Lindenbach

Manager, Information Technology

GL:jl

Att. 1: Crime Statistics

2: Crime Maps



OCTOBER 2015 STATISTICS

This chart identifies the monthly totals for all founded Criminal Code incidents, excluding Traffic Criminal Code. 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 are included.

The Average Range data is based on activity in a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence is above average, it will be noted in red, while below-average numbers will be noted in blue.

Year-to-Date percentage increases of more than 10% are marked in red, while decreases of more than 10% are blue. Please note that percentage changes are inflated in categories with small numbers (e.g.: Sexual Offences).

| | CURRENT MONTH | 5-YR AVERAGE | 5-YR | YEAR-TO-DATE TOTALS | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|----------|---------------------|----|------|-------------|--------------------------|--|
| | Oct-15 | October | | 2014 | | 2015 | % Change | Change in # of Incidents | |
| VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences) | 100 | 111.8 | 99-125 | 101 | 2 | 1013 | 0.1% | 1 | |
| Robbery | 4 | 11.4 | 7-16 | 56 | ; | 54 | -3.6% | -2 | |
| Assault Common | 37 | 39.6 | 34-45 | 35 | 5 | 388 | 9.3% | 33 | |
| Assault w/ Weapon | 10 | 11.2 | 9-14 | 10 | 3 | 104 | 1.0% | 1 | |
| Sexual Offences | 4 | 2.6 | 2-4 | 75 | 5 | 52 | -30.7% | -23 | |
| PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences) | 700 | 674.8 | 584-765 | 694 | 19 | 6871 | -1.1% | -78 | |
| Business B&E | 43 | 41.0 | 28-54 | 32 | 3 | 302 | -6.5% | -21 | |
| Residential B&E | 44 | 66.4 | 56-77 | 71 | 9 | 589 | -18.1% | -130 | |
| MV Theft | 38 | 26.8 | 17-37 | 29 | 1 | 312 | 7.2% | 21 | |
| Theft From MV | 182 | 194.2 | 145-244 | 211 | 9 | 1931 | -8.9% | -188 | |
| Theft Other | 116 | 115.0 | 100-130 | 111 | 3 | 1299 | 16.7% | 186 | |
| Shoplifting | 65 | 56.0 | 51-61 | 56 | 2 | 543 | -3.4% | -19 | |
| Fraud | 43 | 42.2 | 34-50 | 46 | 8 | 581 | 24.1% | 113 | |
| OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences) | 188 | 176.8 | 154-199 | 190 | 00 | 2013 | 5.9% | 113 | |
| Arson - Property | 4 | 6.2 | 3-9 | 56 | ; | 49 | -12.5% | -7 | |
| SUBTOTAL (UCR 1000- to 3000-Series) | 988 | 963.4 | 886-1041 | 986 | 1 | 9899 | 0.4% | 38 | |
| DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences) | 55 | 83.2 | 67-99 | 53 | 8 | 587 | 9.1% | 49 | |

Prepared by Richmond RCMP.

Data collected from PRIME on 2015-11-13. Published 2015-11-13.

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