



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** November 10, 2023

From: Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2023-Vol
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01

Re: **RCMP Monthly Activity Report – October 2023**

Recommendation from the OIC

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – October 2023”, dated November 10, 2023, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

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

Att. 4

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| REPORT CONCURRENCE | |
| CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER | |
| | |
| 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

Pedestrian Safety Campaign

On October 12, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release reminding pedestrians and drivers to use increased caution on the roads during the fall months, as these are typically the most dangerous times of the year for pedestrian injuries and fatalities. The month-long campaign featured public outreach events with the collaboration of multiple partner agencies.

Fatal Collision

On October 14, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the 7000 block of Granville Avenue for a vehicle collision involving a pedestrian. The female pedestrian was transported to hospital but succumbed to her injuries. The driver remained at the scene and is cooperating with police. The Richmond RCMP Criminal Collision Investigation Team is investigating.

Serious Collision

On October 27, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a business in the 6000 block of No. 3 Road after receiving several reports of a serious vehicle collision. A vehicle had driven into a restaurant, resulting in serious injuries to a woman who was inside the business at the time. The collision remains under investigation.

Halloween Candy Warning

On October 29, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release reminding parents about the importance of inspecting trick-or-treat candy. In 2022, the Richmond RCMP investigated one incident involving a child accidentally ingesting an edible cannabis product, which was among their Halloween candy.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In October 2023, there were three reported arsons, a decrease of four incidents from the previous month and a decrease of seven incidents from October 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 14 serious assault events in October 2023, a 22 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 30 per cent decrease from October 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the average range.

Approximately 57 per cent of assaults in October 2023 involved family violence. There were two stranger assaults reported this month. Both assaults remain under investigation; a suspect has been arrested in connection with one of the incidents.

Auto Theft

In October 2023, there were 19 auto theft incidents, a six per cent increase from the previous month and a 42 per cent decrease from October 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is below the average range.

Drugs

In October 2023, there were 45 drug offences, a 10 per cent increase from the previous month and a 61 per cent increase from October 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the average range.

Approximately 71 per cent of the files in October 2023 occurred at the Vancouver International Airport.

Mental Health

There were 251 mental health-related incidents in October 2023, a six per cent increase from the previous month and a 21 per cent increase from October 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the average range.

There were 76 police apprehensions this month, which is within the average range; however, the average hospital wait time remained high at 155 minutes. The extended wait time has been attributed to six files with exceptionally long wait times.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 26 break and enters to residences in October 2023, a four per cent increase from the previous month and a 63 per cent increase from October 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the average range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In October 2023, there were 31 break and enters to businesses, representing a 41 per cent increase from the previous month and a 15 per cent increase from October 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 12 robberies in October 2023, an increase of eight incidents from the previous month and an increase of 12 incidents from October 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is above the average range.

Six persons of interest have been identified to date. Five of the robberies involved the use of burning liquid/caustic spray.¹

Sexual Offences

In October 2023, there were 13 sexual offence files, representing no change from the previous month and is a 43 per cent decrease from October 2022.² No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

Approximately 62 per cent of the incidents were sexual assaults. Suspects have been identified in 77 per cent of the offences reported in October 2023.

Shoplifting

There were 135 reported shoplifting thefts in October 2023, an eight per cent increase from the previous month and a 67 per cent increase from October 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is above the average range.

The top targeted location remained consistent with previous months. Suspects, including eight youths, have been identified in 28 percent of files.

¹ The category of burning liquid/caustic spray includes a wide-range of liquid substances, including bear and pepper spray.

² 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.

Theft from Automobile

There were 163 thefts from automobile incidents in October 2023, a 54 per cent increase from the previous month and a 42 per cent increase from October 2022. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is within the average range.

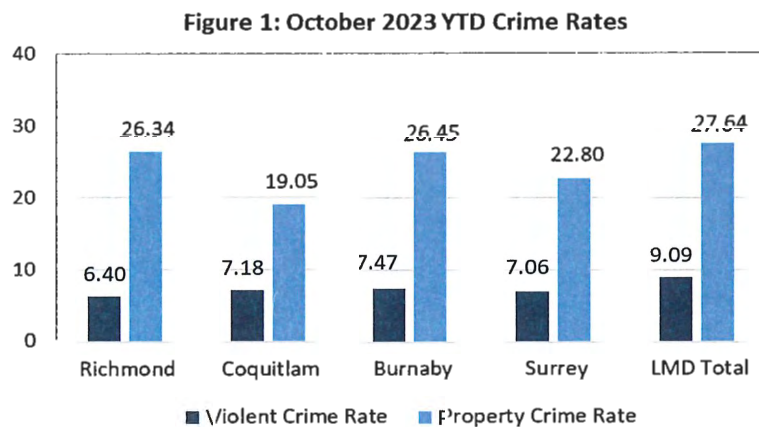
Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2019 and October 31, 2023.³ 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 two hate incidents in October 2023; one involved a woman uttering racist comments to a driver, and the other was related to vandalism to a rainbow crosswalk.

| 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 | 19 | 25 |

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.⁴ In October 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.



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

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

Block Watch

At the end of October 2023, the Block Watch program had 308 groups, totalling 7,112 participants. Currently, the program includes 442 captains and co-captains. Block Watch training was provided to a new group of participants in October.

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 October, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of one volunteer bike patrol, totalling 16 hours and three volunteer foot/van patrols, totalling 45 hours.
- A total of nine Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 230 information letters issued.
- There were 20 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 478 information letters issued.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 3,405 vehicles, resulting in 109 information letters issued.
- October 5 – Nine volunteers participated in the Activate! Positive Aging Fair at the Minoru Centre for Active Living. They promoted road safety and crime prevention programs, including the Community Safety App and Block Watch, and provided various crime prevention resources.
- October 11 – In partnership with ICBC, volunteers participated in a Walk Richmond event at the Horseshoe Slough Recreational Trail.⁵ Pedestrian safety was the event's focus, which included road safety messaging and the distribution of safety reflectors.
- October 18 – Speed Watch training was delivered to 10 volunteers.
- October 20 – Volunteers conducted a Project 529 bike registry event, during which 19 bicycles were registered.
- October 23, 25 and 26 – In collaboration with ICBC, volunteers provided short road safety presentations to approximately 350 City Works Yard staff. Topics discussed included pedestrian safety, sharing the road and fall/winter driving tips.
- October 24 – In partnership with ICBC, volunteers assisted RCMP officers and Metro Vancouver Transit Police with a Pedestrian Safety outreach event at the Brighthouse Canada Line station. A total of 2,800 safety reflectors were distributed.
- October 31 – Volunteers attended fireworks events in Burkeville and Minoru Park, conducting foot patrols and distributing over 1,200 safety reflectors.

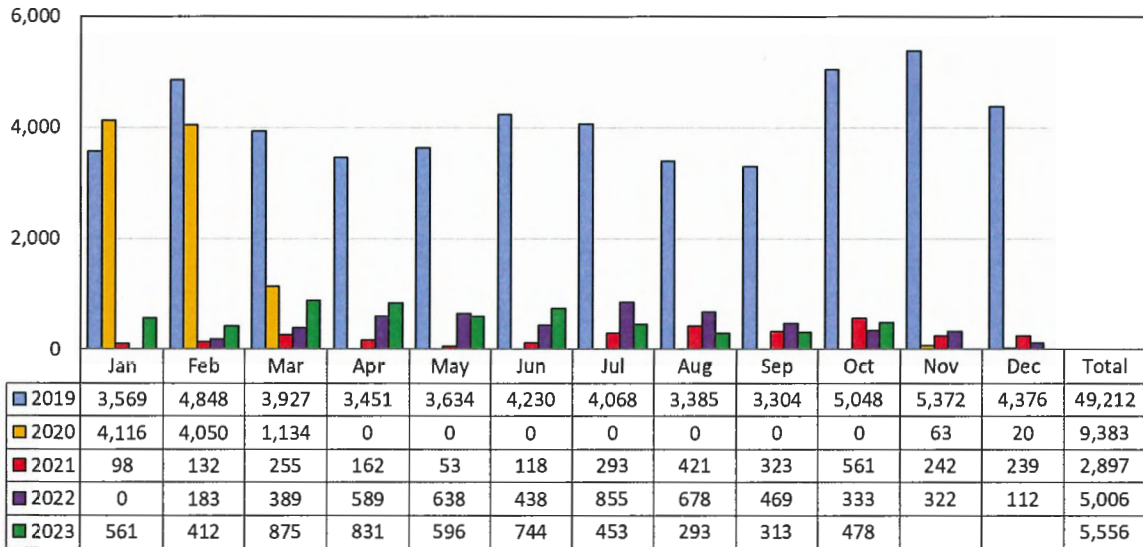
⁵ Walk Richmond is a City initiative promoting physical activity by offering free walks and resources throughout the year.

- October 31 – Volunteers conducted a Crime Watch deployment, resulting in 131 kilometres of patrols.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 2 provides a yearly comparison of the number of vehicle notices issued.⁶

Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice

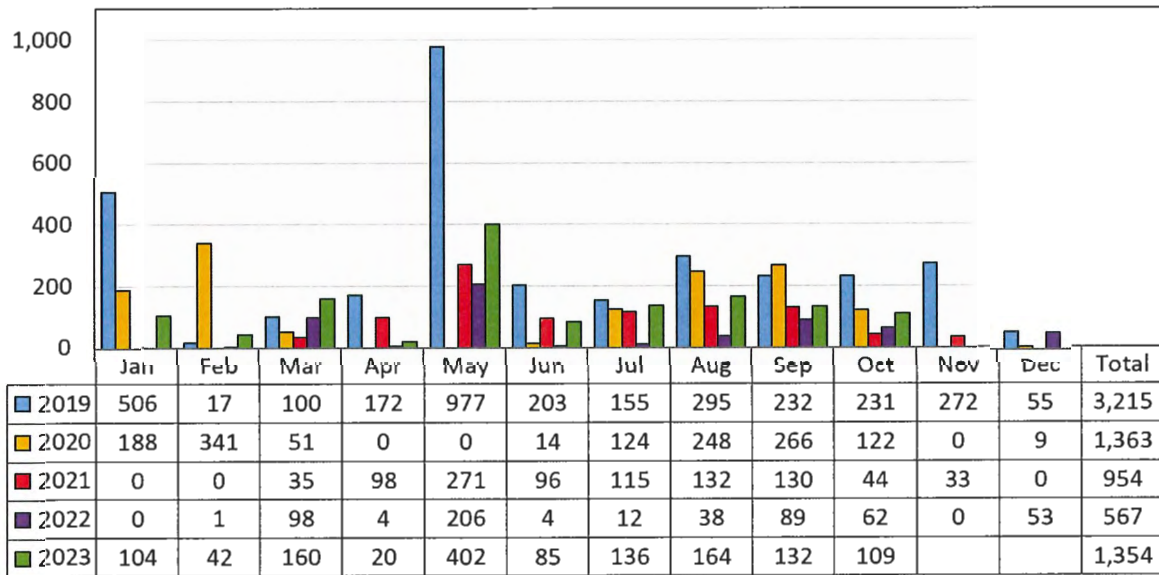


⁶ Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices. Letters are only issued to vehicles displaying security vulnerabilities; whereas previously, notices were issued to all vehicles. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of letters issued.

Speed Watch

Figure 3 compares the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners yearly.

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 October, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in the following events/activities:

- Business Outreach
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Foot Patrols
- Pedestrian Safety
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Supercar Toy Drive Fundraiser

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 October 2023 to both September 2023 and August 2023. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

| Infraction | August 2023 | September 2023 | October 2023 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Distracted Driving | 97 | 89 | 73 |
| Driver License | 178 | 175 | 179 |
| Impaired | 32 | 28 | 22 |
| Intersection Offences | 38 | 47 | 38 |
| Moving Infractions ⁷ | 79 | 56 | 73 |
| Speeding | 180 | 195 | 282 |
| Seatbelts | 14 | 6 | 10 |
| Vehicle-Related ⁸ | 151 | 112 | 139 |
| Other ⁹ | 29 | 20 | 8 |
| Total | 798 | 728 | 824 |

Victim Services

In October 2023, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 81 new clients and attended eight crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 84 files. In October, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, family conflicts and frauds.

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 October, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 50 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 42 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with students during recess, lunch, and morning and afternoon supervision.
- DARE classes were delivered to 280 elementary school students in 11 classes.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In October 2023, the Richmond RCMP conducted several noteworthy investigations and activities, including two serious vehicle collisions. Police statistics for this month indicate that

⁷ Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

⁸ Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

⁹ Other refers to miscellaneous charges including failing to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

November 10, 2023

- 10 -

most crime types were within the average ranges, except for robberies and shoplifting thefts, which were elevated, and auto thefts, which were below average.

In October, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers continued promoting crime prevention and road safety initiatives, including a month-long Pedestrian Safety campaign. The Officer in Charge of the Richmond RCMP Detachment will continue to ensure that Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Warzel". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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

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

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
- For more information, visit 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

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

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.



OCTOBER 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 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 | | | |
|---|-------------|----------|------------|---------------------|-------|----------|----------|
| | Oct - 23 | October | | 2022 | 2023 | % Change | # Change |
| VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences) | 154 | 135.2 | 123-151 | 1383 | 1534 | 11% | 151 |
| Robbery | 12 | 4.0 | 1-5 | 52 | 52 | 0% | 0 |
| Assault Common | 45 | 51.0 | 46-56 | 491 | 492 | 0% | 1 |
| Assault Serious | 14 | 14.8 | 11-18 | 176 | 201 | 14% | 25 |
| Sexual Offences | 13 | 15.8 | 11-21 | 175 | 187 | 7% | 12 |
| PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences) | 722 | 640.4 | 551-730 | 5726 | 6550 | 14% | 824 |
| Business B&E | 31 | 34.2 | 21-47 | 301 | 257 | -15% | -44 |
| Residential B&E | 26 | 41.8 | 23-61 | 251 | 242 | -4% | -9 |
| Auto Theft | 19 | 30.6 | 26-35 | 216 | 211 | -2% | -5 |
| Theft from Auto | 163 | 155.4 | 117-194 | 1167 | 1259 | 8% | 92 |
| Theft | 90 | 78.2 | 57-99 | 881 | 1132 | 28% | 251 |
| Shoplifting | 135 | 71.0 | 54-88 | 692 | 1058 | 53% | 366 |
| Fraud | 92 | 79.8 | 73-86 | 679 | 827 | 22% | 148 |
| OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences) | 255 | 218.0 | 181-255 | 2508 | 2698 | 8% | 190 |
| Arson (UCR 1000-3100) | 3 | 6.8 | 2-11 | 78 | 60 | -23% | -18 |
| SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series) | 1131 | 993.6 | 914-1073 | 9623 | 10786 | 12% | 1163 |
| DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences) | 45 | 44.8 | 15-75 | 428 | 470 | 10% | 42 |
| MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag) | 251 | 262.2 | 207-317 | 1646 | 2398 | 46% | 752 |

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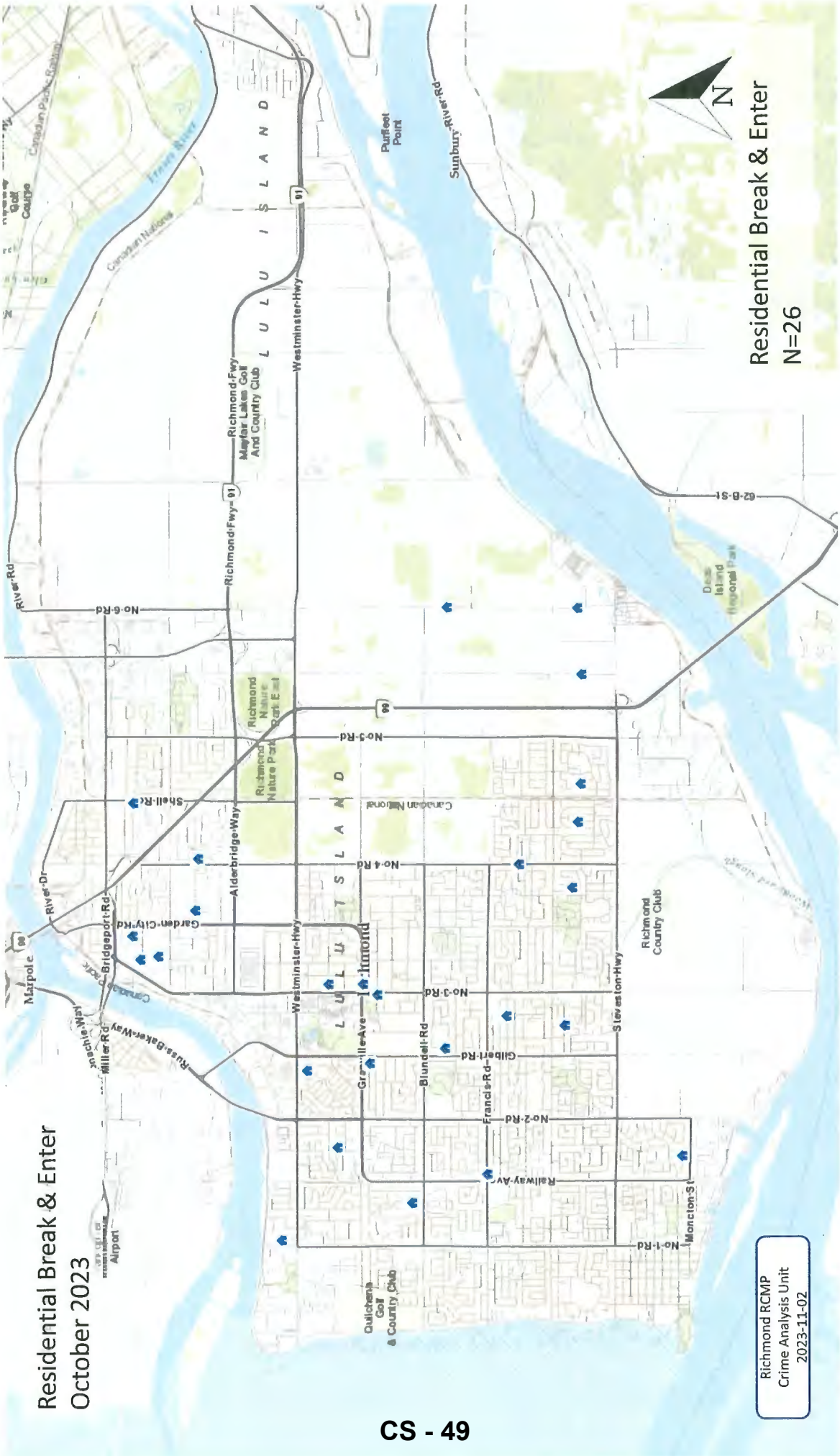
Commercial Break & Enter October 2023



Commercial B&E
N=31

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-11-02

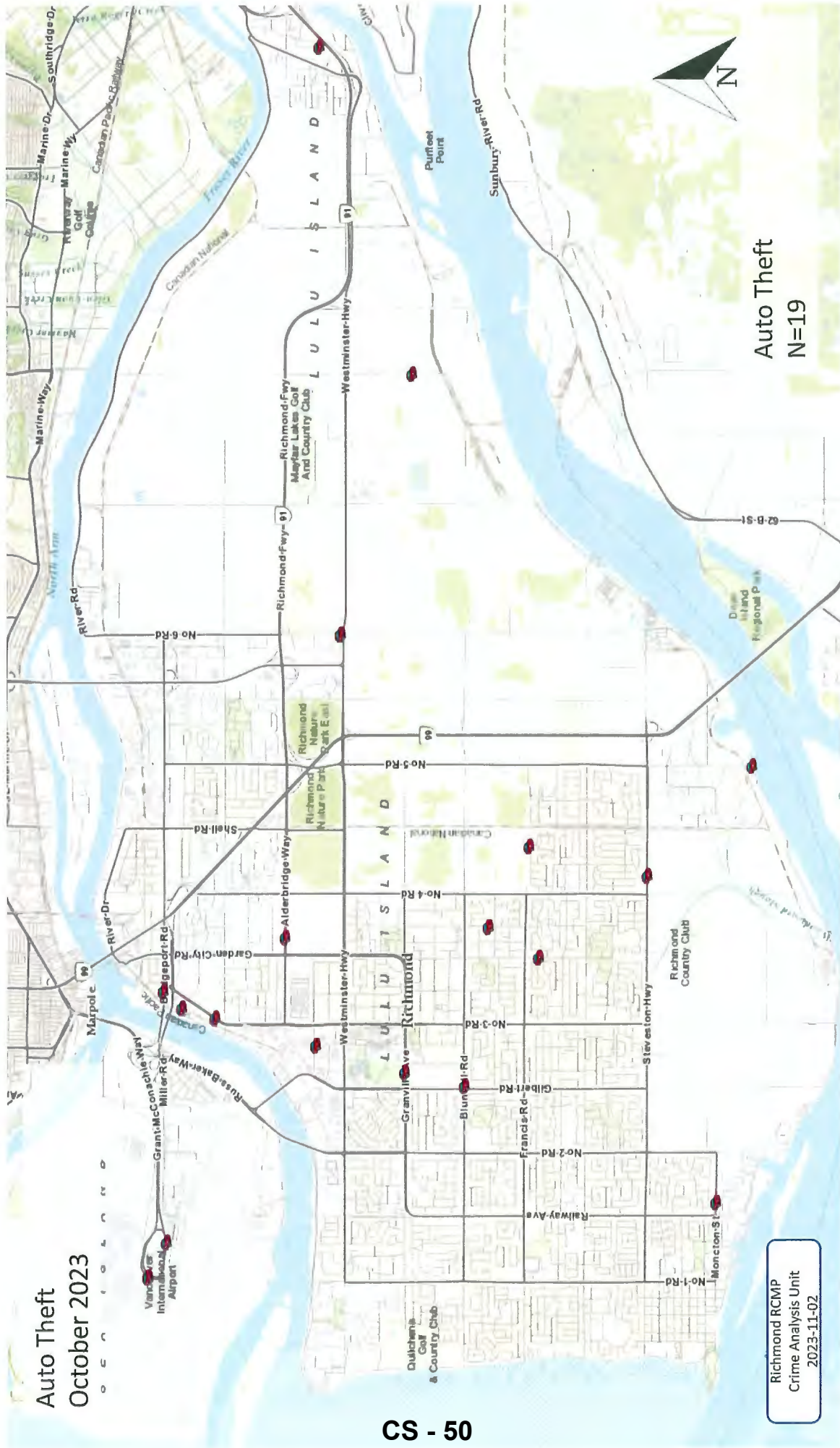
Residential Break & Enter October 2023



Richmond RCMP
 Crime Analysis Unit
 2023-11-02

Residential Break & Enter
 N=26

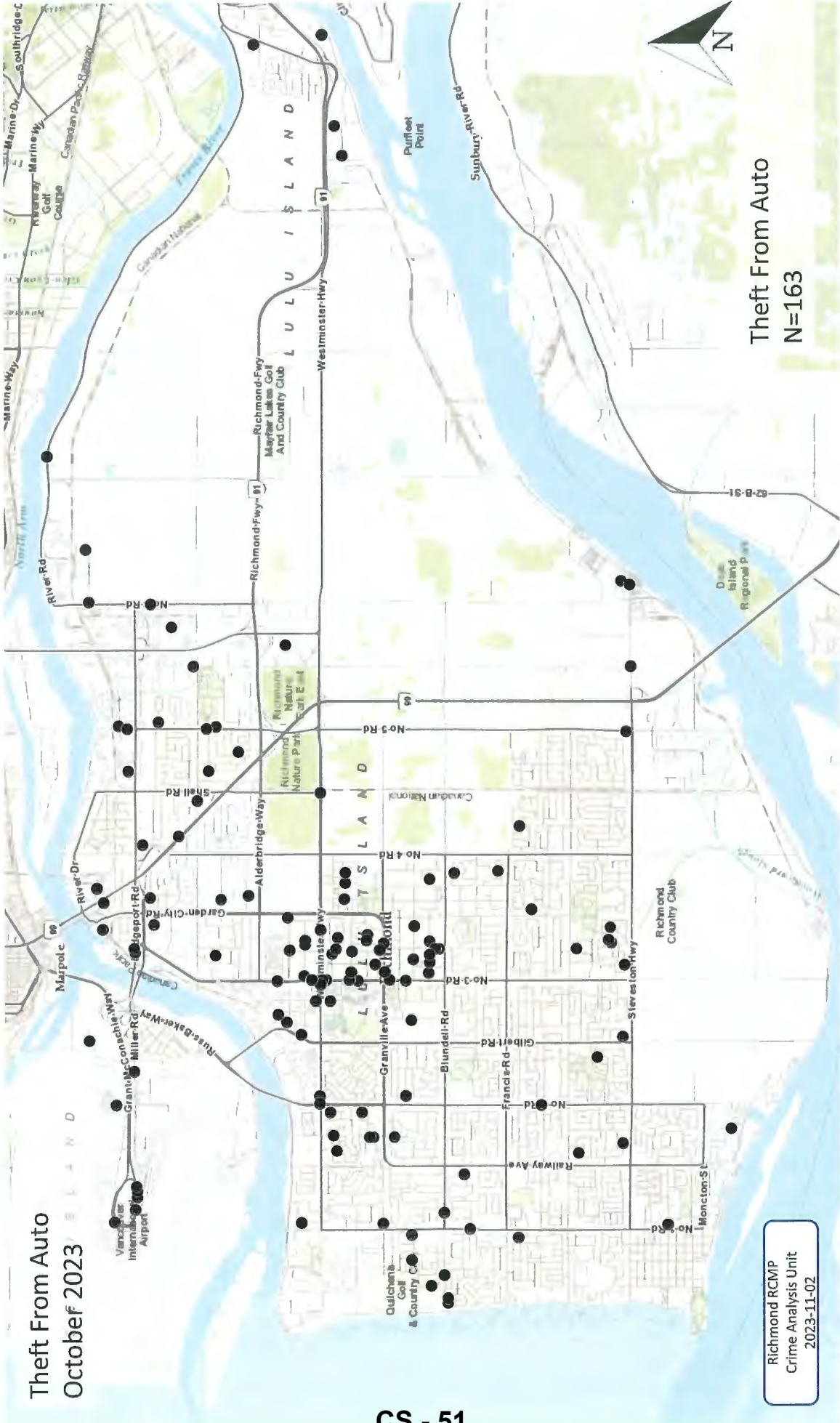
Auto Theft October 2023



Auto Theft
N=19

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-11-02

Theft From Auto October 2023



Theft From Auto
N=163

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-11-02

CRIME PREVENTION

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME NEWSLETTER

Sharing on Social Media

Holiday season is approaching and during this time, we may want to share pictures of our decorated home, gifts, or holiday destinations. Social media is an easy way to share with everyone. Although it is a fun area for sharing with our family and friends, it can also be a risky area as thieves use the platforms to take advantage of people sharing too much.

One way thieves create opportunity is by using social media to browse people's post. If you share photos of holiday gifts you received or purchased from holiday deals, it shows everyone that you have valuables in your home. The best way to secure your new valuables is avoid posting about them online. Another way to protect yourself is set your profile to private. Comb through your friends list and filter out or unfriend anyone you do not know. By switching to a private profile and filtering your friend list, you make your online profile safer.

If you are sharing pictures of your home decorations, try to avoid capturing any details that give away your exact location. For example, if you take a picture of your Christmas tree next to a window with your new gifts, the outside window may show the street sign or a distinctive tree. Thieves may see the post, identify your location, and steal your gifts.

Other posts people like to share are their vacation photos. While it may be fun and interesting to share your holiday with your friends and family, it poses a potential danger to you. Tech-savvy thieves can pick out certain details to find out where you are. A way they do so is by looking at the geo-tagged details in your picture. Geo-tagging happens when the location data is saved into a picture or a video with a smartphone, tablet, or GPS connected camera. The information shows your exact location and time of where you took the photo. Thus, if you are away from home and post a picture on social media, thieves can use the combined information on social media to determine if you are away and where your valuables are stored. Luckily, it is possible to turn off this feature. Head over to your camera settings and turn off the location services or GPS service in the camera app. The best way to protect your valuables and home when you are away is to wait until you are home before you post pictures of your getaway. By adjusting the settings of your profile and limiting what you post online it can help reduce the chances of a thief seeing your valuables or knowing that you are not home. Changing your habits and taking a proactive approach to social media can make your online presence safer.



CITY OF RICHMOND CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER



Fending off the Parcel Theft Grinch

At the end of the year, there are many deals and online offers, which can be wonderful for consumers because they can get their items straight to their door. Online shopping is convenient but it lacks security if consumers do not do their due diligence to protect their valuables. Parcel theft is an opportunistic crime and thieves know that during this season people online shop because of the deals. Thieves will look for easy and quick methods to steal parcels. However, people can proactively remove the opportunity of parcel theft by changing the delivery methods for their valuables.

When purchasing something online, pay attention to your notification settings. Most of the delivery services send a email or push notification when the package has been delivered. Do not ignore the notification and arrange to pick it up as soon as possible. Sign up for tracking notifications if you have not done so. The notifications you receive are a powerful tool as a reminder to plan for its arrival. When the package arrives, you are the first to know. Take advantage of that detail and pick up your package quickly. If you are not able to pick up the package right away, ask a trusted neighbour or a family member to retrieve it. By knowing when your package arrives, you stay one-step ahead of opportunistic thieves.

If you know you will not be home to pick up your package consider picking it up at a secure location. One option is to have the parcel delivered to a trusted friend or family member's house, that way you know it is safely delivered. Alternatively, some businesses offer a physical location for you to pick up. For example, most brand name clothing stores offer in-store pick up for online purchases, and are able to hold items for a couple of days. Moreover, some delivery services have storage lockers, which offers additional protection as you are the only one with access to the locker. Alternate locations are effective in protecting your package because they are stored at a safe place where you do not need to worry about your package being left out in the open - this option offers you peace of mind. Lastly, you can add special instructions to your delivery. For example, you can request delivery to your work place, concierge, or request for a signature when the package is dropped off. This way, your package will not be left at your front door unattended but rather it will be handed over to a trusted individual. One important point to note is that not all delivery services have signature request available so make sure to do your research and pick the best proactive approach that protects your package from being stolen.

Are You a Good Neighbour?

You can pick your friends, but you can't pick your neighbours. Neighbours can play an important role in our lives and in building a safer neighbourhood. It all begins with us being a good neighbour ourselves.

A good neighbour is friendly and considerate. Though good neighbours may live close, they respect your space and privacy. They take time to talk, smile, and wave at you when they pass

by. Good neighbours' actions support community and look out for each other. While you may not be able to change the neighbourhood in which you live, you can change the experience you have by getting more involved with those around you. Knowing the people who live around you provides a strengthened sense of community, pride and safety in your neighbourhood and your home. When neighbours work together, they can reduce crime in their area in the most effective way—before it starts.



To start a Block Watch Group

Interested in starting a Block Watch group? Let us tell you a little about Block Watch! Block Watch is a program that brings the police and the communities together. This program helps you build connections and relationships with people in your neighbourhood and the police while striving for the common goal of crime prevention.

Select a Captain/Co-Captain

- ◇ Each Captain/Co-Captain to submit an application and will be contacted for a suitability interview. Candidates will then need to complete a free Police Information Check.

Recruit and build your group

- ◇ Upon confirmation from the Block Watch office on completing and passing all required steps in becoming a Captain/Co-Captain, you may begin to recruit homes that are near to you with the provided recruiting materials from the Block Watch office. To build an effective Block Watch, try to involve 50-75% of households in your area.

Complete activation of your team

1. **Complete** Block Watch Captain/Participant training – invite everyone in your group to participate in a virtual/in-person training session.
2. **Submit** your participating household list.
3. **Qualify** for Block Watch street signs once above steps are completed.

If you are interested in creating a Block Watch group in your area, email us your name and address at blockwatch@richmond.ca or call 604-207-4829.

BUSINESS LINK

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

Theft of Auto For Business Vehicles

Your vehicle is an important part of your business. Whether you are transporting yourself, tools, or materials the work vehicle is an extension to your business. An act of convenience may put your vehicle at risk of being stolen if proper steps are not taken to secure it. A stolen commercial vehicle not only leads to financial loss, it also adds stress for employees and the business.

To help protect your work vehicle from theft of auto, do not leave your vehicle unsupervised when the keys are left in the ignition. It is a crucial and common mistake many drivers make. With the seasons getting colder, many people make the mistake to step away when they warm up their cars. This creates a favourable moment for opportunistic thieves. The best way to protect your vehicle from being stolen is to keep your keys with you at all times. When you are finished with the day, do a check around the vehicle. Make sure all windows are closed and doors locked, and put the keys back in a secure location that is not easily accessed by people other than your staff.

Lastly, if your business offers a secured parking spot for your vehicle, park in the area as it offers the greatest protection for your vehicle. Observe the surrounding area and take note of the security of any fences or gates. The secureness of the fences and gates are crucial in protecting your vehicle because they are the first layer of protection. If your business does not have a secured parking area, look to improve the visibility in the area. Bright lights are effective in preventing auto thefts because it removes hiding spots for thieves. On the other hand, motion sensor lights directs people's eye to the area as the light shines when there is movement in the area. Also, install surveillance cameras, as it plays a pivotal role in deterring potential auto thieves and aiding in the identification and capture of suspects.

Please report all suspicious or criminal activity to the police.

Richmond RCMP Non-Emergency line **604-278-1212**.

If you witness a crime in progress, dial **9-1-1**.

Online reporting available at bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/richmond/report for the following:

- Damage/mischief to property under \$5,000
- Damage/mischief to a vehicle under \$5,000
- Hit and run to an unoccupied vehicle or property
- Theft of bicycle under \$5,000
- Theft under \$5,000
- Theft from vehicle under \$5,000
- Lost property

