

# **Report to Committee**

To:

Community Safety Committee

Date:

December 11, 2018

From:

Will Ng, Superintendent

File:

09-5000-01/2018-Vol

01

Re:

**RCMP Monthly Activity Report – November 2018** 

Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment

### **Staff Recommendation**

That the report titled "RCMP Monthly Activity Report – November 2018", dated December 11, 2018, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

Will Ng

Superintendent, Officer in Charge

(604-278-1212)

Att. 3

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 monthly activity report for the RCMP provides information on each of the following areas:

- 1. Activities and Noteworthy files
- 2. Analysis of Crime Statistics
- 3. Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions
- 4. Auxiliary Constable Program
- 5. Block Watch
- 6. Community Police Stations and Programs
- 7. Crime Prevention Unit
- 8. Road Safety Unit
- 9. Victim Services
- 10. Youth Section

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**

#### Activities and Noteworthy Files

# Toy Drive

On November 17, 2018, the Richmond RCMP held its fourth annual Toy Drive and Pancake Breakfast in support of the Richmond Christmas Fund. The event was hosted at Ironwood Mall and included the participation of local community partners and sponsors. Members of the public who donated to the cause received a free pancake breakfast. The Richmond RCMP raised \$11,000 for the Richmond Christmas fund, in addition to collecting a large quantity of toys for the cause.

#### Police Officer Injured

On November 18, 2018, a Richmond RCMP officer stopped a suspicious vehicle near No. 3 Road and Steveston Highway. The officer approached the vehicle on foot, however the vehicle fled the scene, dragging the officer in the process. The officer was transported to hospital for treatment and was later released. The incident is under investigation.

# Volunteer Appreciation

On November 22, 2018, the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held at the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel in Richmond. The event recognized the 224 Richmond Detachment

volunteers from the Auxiliary Constable program, Victim Services and the three community police stations: City Centre, South Arm and Steveston. These volunteers contributed 22,440 hours from September 2017 to September 2018, which is a 17 per cent increase from the same period the year before. Victim Services was also recognized for its 30th year of serving the community in Richmond.

# Protest at Postal Facility

On November 28, 2018, Richmond RCMP members from the Vancouver International Airport attended the postal facility on Sea Island after demonstrators attempted to block access to vehicles exiting the facility. Protestors were generally respectful with police and were advised of the possible consequences of blocking postal operations and roadways. The RCMP is monitoring the situation.

#### Analysis of Police Statistics

#### Arson

In November 2018, there were six incidents of arson, which is four more incidents than were reported the previous month. There were no incidents of arson in November 2017. The number this month is within the five-year statistical average range.

# Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were eight assault serious events in November 2018, which represents a 33 per cent decline from the previous month. The number of reported serious assaults this month is within the five-year average range and represents a 38 per cent decline from November 2017. Year to date totals are down 20 per cent from the same period last year.

#### Auto Theft

There were 26 auto theft incidents this month, which is a 21 per cent decrease from October 2018 and represents no change from November 2017. After two consecutive months of elevated numbers, auto thefts are currently within the five-year average range. Criminal analysis identified a number of crime trends and persons of interest, which led to significant arrests. Year to date totals indicate there has been a six per cent reduction in the number of auto thefts compared to the same period last year.

# Drugs

In November 2018 there were 20 drug incidents, which is a 20 per cent reduction from the previous month. This number represents a 68 per cent reduction from November 2017 and is significantly below the five-year average range. Year to date, drug offences have declined by 17 per cent from the same period last year.

The significant reduction observed this month occurred primarily as a result of the decline in cannabis related offences, coinciding with the legalization of cannabis on October 17, 2018.

#### Mental Health

There were 119 mental health incidents in November 2018, which represents a 15 per cent decrease from October 2018 and a six per cent increase from November 2017. After two consecutive months of elevated mental health calls, the number of mental health incidents is within the five-year average range. Year to date totals indicate there has been a five per cent increase in mental health-related files over the same period last year. A file review indicates no patterns or trends are prevalent.

#### Residential Break and Enter

There were 88 break and enters to residences in November 2018, which is a 54 per cent increase from the previous month and represents a 28 per cent increase from November 2017. Although the year to date total of residential break and enters is 22 per cent higher than during the same period last year, the number this month is within the expected range.

The Detachment has committed additional resources to combat property crime. Persons/groups of interest are being identified through criminal analysis, allowing for targeted enforcement.

#### Commercial Break and Enter

In November 2018, there were 29 break and enters to businesses, which represents an increase of 32 per cent from October 2018. This number represents a 45 per cent increase from November 2017, during which a statistically low number of commercial break and enters were reported. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the five-year expected range and year to date totals indicate there has been a five per cent decline compared to the same period last year.

# Robbery

There were two robbery incidents in November 2018, which is down five incidents from the previous month and down three incidents from November 2017. This number is below the five-year average range.

# Sexual Offences

There were 12 sexual offence files in November 2018, which is a 50 per cent increase from the previous month. The number of sexual offences this month marks a 58 per cent reduction from November 2017, during which a statistically high number of offences were reported. This month's total remains within the five-year average range.

Year to date totals for 2018 indicate that there has been a 25 per cent increase in the number of reported sexual offences compared to the same period in 2017. This increase is due to high numbers reported in January 2018 and April 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified.

#### Shoplifting

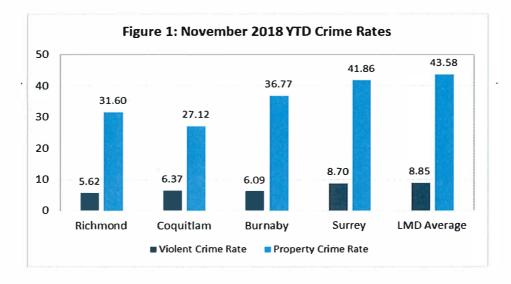
There were 43 shoplifting thefts in November 2018, which is a 39 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 26 per cent reduction from November 2017. This month, reported shoplifting thefts are below the five-year expected range.

#### Theft from Auto

There were 143 theft from auto incidents in November 2018, which represents a 16 per cent decrease from the previous month. This number marks a 32 per cent decrease from November 2017. The total this month is below the five year average range.

# Crime Trends across Jurisdictions

Year to date crime statistics have identified that property crime is down across the Lower Mainland compared to the same period last year. Data on crime rates is presented below (Figure 1). Out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond has the second lowest property crime rate, which represents a three percent decline from the same period in 2017. These low numbers can be attributed to the quick identification of targets and resulting enforcement, in addition to successful collaboration with partner agencies for multi-jurisdictional offenders. Richmond also continues to have the lowest violent crime rate.



# Auxiliary Constable Program

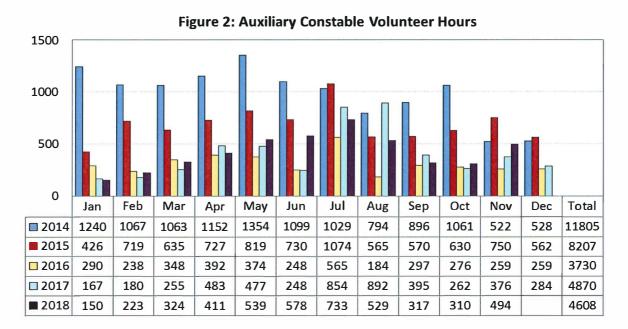
In November 2018, Richmond Detachment had a complement of 38 Auxiliary Constables. Auxiliary Constables provided a total of 494 volunteer hours during the month of November. In the coming months, the Province of BC and RCMP "E" Division are expected to announce the training standards for the new Tier 3 Auxiliary program.<sup>2</sup> Once these details are known, the Detachment will commence recruitment of a new troop of Auxiliary Constables. The RCMP

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people (using 2017 populations)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/auxiliary-program-tiers

recently announced that for the immediate future there will be no changes to the current Auxiliary Constable uniform.

Figure 2 compares the monthly hours of service provided by month from 2014 to 2018.



# Auxiliary Constable Activities

Auxiliary Constables attend events in the community to promote a positive police presence, support RCMP members and provide traffic and crowd control. During the month of November Auxiliary Constables participated in:

- Bait Car Deployments
- Break and Enter Outreach
- Christmas Toy Drive

- Crime Watch
- Home Security Checks
- Remembrance Day

#### **Block Watch**

At the end of November 2018, the Block Watch program had 452 groups totaling 10,407 participants. Currently, the program includes 548 captains and co-captains.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The variance from previous months' data is due to an ongoing database upgrade. Revised numbers will continue to reflect more accurate participation data.

### Community Police Station Programs

Community police stations continue to enhance the Detachment's policing services by providing an array of crime prevention resources and community safety initiatives. City staff and volunteers pursue safety initiatives to enhance 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, events and the availability of volunteers.

During the month of November volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of 28 foot/van patrols totalling 195 hours and 2 bike patrols totalling 28 hours.
- 48 Fail to Stop deployments took place, which resulted in 1,073 warning letters.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 2,923 vehicles at various locations.
- November 6 In partnership with ICBC, five volunteers, two Auxiliary Constables and an RCMP member were deployed for a Pedestrian Safety Blitz near Bridgeport Road and No. 3 Road. In total 330 reflective arm bands and 882 ICBC reflectors were distributed.
- November 7 Five volunteers were deployed from the City Centre Community Police Station for a Lock out Auto Crime blitz. A total of 104 notices were issued.
- November 14 Six volunteers and an RCMP member participated in a School Sports event at McNeil High School.
- November 16 and 17 A total of 18 volunteers participated with setting up and assisting in the Toy Drive at Ironwood Mall, in support of the Richmond Christmas Fund.
- November 22 The 224 Richmond RCMP volunteers were recognized at the annual Volunteer Appreciation dinner held at the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel.
- November 24 –Volunteers recovered a stolen vehicle while conducting a Lock Out Auto Crime deployment at the River Rock Casino.
- November 24 –Volunteers conducted a Crime Watch deployment at the River Rock Casino, where they recovered a vehicle with a stolen license plate and contacted police. The responding officers located the suspect driver and arrested her.
- November 29 Four volunteers assisted two RCMP members in conducting community outreach regarding break and enters in the Elsmore, Ulsmore and Pacemore neighbourhoods.

#### Distracted Drivers

Figure 3 provides a yearly comparison of the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners.<sup>4</sup>

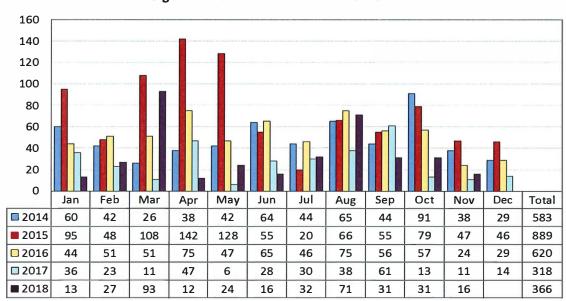


Figure 3: Distracted Driver Letters Sent

#### Lock-Out Auto Crime

Figure 4 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.

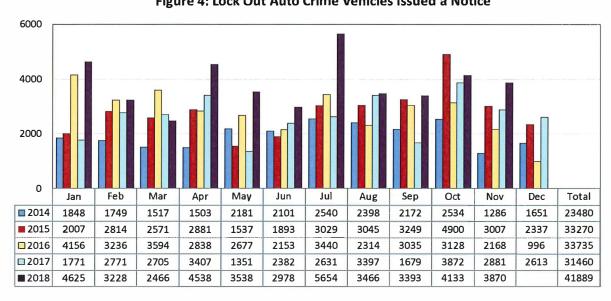


Figure 4: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The total for March 2018 includes 92 warning letters sent as a result of the multiple Distracted Driving Campaign Blitzes which occurred that month.

# Speed Watch

Figure 5 provides a yearly comparison of the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners.

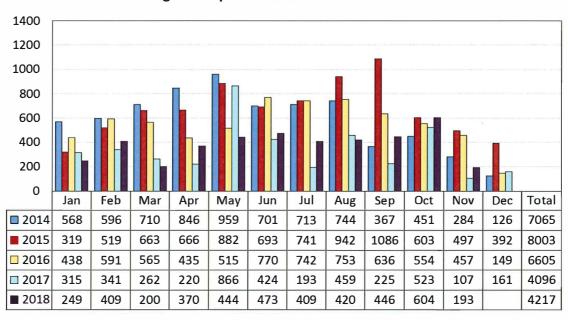


Figure 5: Speed Watch Letters Sent

#### Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Break and Enter Outreach
- Broadmoor Patrols
- Christmas Toy Drive

- School Sports Events
- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- Vulnerable Institution 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. The following statistics compare November 2018 data to both September 2018 and October 2018.

Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 1: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	September 2018	October 2018	November 2018
Distracted Driving	107	43	53
Driver License	233	196	205
Impaired	31	22	38
Intersection offences	106	132	116
Moving Violations <sup>5</sup>	207	201	151
Speeding	229	275	264
Seatbelts	7	10	8
Vehicle Related <sup>6</sup>	62	65	57
Other <sup>7</sup>	15	19	9
Total	997	963	901

# Parking Tickets:

Table 2: Parking Tickets Issued

Name	Act	Example	Sept 2018	Oct 2018	Nov 2018
Parking	Municipal Bylaw	Municipal parking offences	10	9	31

# Victim Services

In November 2018, Richmond RCMP Victim Services attended to 54 new clients and attended eight crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 143 ongoing files. Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving property crime, motor vehicle accidents involving pedestrians, suicide deaths and family conflict.

#### Youth Section

The Detachment's Youth Section focuses on strategies that contribute to safe and healthy behaviours essential to the development of productive and civic-minded adults. During the month of November, Youth Section highlights include:

- Richmond Detachment hosted five Youth Squad sessions, where various guest speakers presented to participating youth. Guest speakers included fire fighters, BC Ambulance personnel, RCMP Tactical Troop and Canadian military personnel. The program is aimed at grade 11 and 12 students who are interested in a career in law enforcement.
- The Youth Section participated in the City Centre Classic Elementary Volleyball Tournament. The event included the participation of 36 elementary school teams.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Moving violations refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

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

# **Financial Impact**

None.

# Conclusion

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

É. Wayel
Edward Warzel

Manager, RCMP Administration

EW: mf

(604-207-4767)

Att. 1: Community Policing Programs

2: Crime Statistics3: Crime Maps

# **Auxiliary Constables**

- The primary mandate of Richmond's Auxiliary Constables is to support community policing activities related to public safety and crime prevention.
- For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/auxiliary.htm

#### 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: <a href="mailto:blockwatch@richmond.ca">blockwatch@richmond.ca</a>
- For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/blockwatch.htm

# Difference Maker Project

• The Difference Maker Project is an off-shoot of the School Sports Programs. Elementary school students are mentored by teachers, police officers and community ambassadors. This activity aims to encourage social and civic responsibility amongst elementary and secondary school aged youth through community projects.

# 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 <u>www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/programs.htm</u>

#### 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.

#### 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.

# NOVEMBER 2018 STATISTICS RICHMOND RCMP

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. For 2017, some inclusion criteria have been modified to improve accuracy and accommodate RCMP scoring regulations. For more information, contact Richmond Crime Analysts.

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 the expected average range (using a standard deviation), it will be noted in red, while below expected 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.

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range		S		
	Nov-18	November		201	7 2018	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	115	110.8	103-119	127	7 1233	-3%	-44
Robbery UCR 18 10 (1-3)	2	8.4	5-12	55	53	-4%	-2
Assault Common	44	36.6	34-39	439	454	3%	15
Assault Serious	. 8	11.2	8-14	149	119	-20%	-30
Sexual Offences UCR 1345, 1330, 1356, 1370	12	12.0	8-16	104	130	25%	26
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	588	652.6	608-697	707	8 6991	-1%	-87
Business B&E	29	30.0	24-36	350	333	-5%	-17
Residential B&E	88	68.2	45-91	583	713	22%	130
Auto Theft	26	29.2	25-34	301	. 284	-6%	-17
Theft from Auto	143	200.2	168-233	195	2 2032	4%	80
Theft UCR 2 ISO, 2 I40	79	98.2	74-122	998	945	-5%	-53
Shoplifting	43	58.0	50-66	598	665	11%	67
Fraud	68	63.0	52-74	816	799	-2%	-17
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	122	159.8	143-176	188	2 1975	5%	93
Arson UCR 1829_2110	6	4.0	2-6	32	30	-6%	-2
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	825	923.2	881-966	1023	7 10199	0%	-38
<b>DRUGS</b> (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	20	61.2	44-78	652	539	-17%	-113
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	119	107.6	89-126	132	4 1396	5%	72

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts.

Data collected from PRIME on 2018-12-03. Published 2018-12-03.

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