



Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Redwater Detachment



August, 2020 Release

Submitted by Sgt. Jeff Sehn

Redwater RCMP Detachment

Reporting Period: August 1 to August 31, 2020.

During the month of August the Redwater detachment responded for 200 calls for service. These calls consisted of 7 break and enters, 2 Assaults, 1 aggravated assault, 1 uttering threats, and 1 assault causing bodily harm.

In one instance, one of our observant citizens called and reported someone sleeping in a truck outside of the Thorhild County Transfer Station. Our members, with assistance from the Redwater traffic unit arrived on scene to locate 3 individuals (2 males and 1 female) passed out sleeping in the truck. Through further investigation it was determined that 1 of the 3 suspects had broken into the Transfer Station but prior to fleeing the area stopped to gain some much needed rest. He is facing charges of break and enter and possession of break-in tools.

On Aug. 20, 2020 at approximately 10:50 a.m., Redwater RCMP responded to a report of a male committing an indecent act while parked on the side of the road near the Opal water station. Several victims reported the male was allegedly performing the indecent act while exposing himself to vehicles passing by. Police immediately attended the area and located the suspect driving in the reported vehicle. He was arrested without incident after a traffic stop was initiated. A small amount of what is believed to be methamphetamine was also located in the vehicle. Andrew Hawkins (38) from Redwater has been charged with committing an indecent act in public and possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine). He was released after a judicial hearing and will be appearing in Fort Saskatchewan Provincial Court on Sept. 17, 2020.

Over the last month the Redwater detachment has employed a number of crime reduction strategies as part of this year's crime reduction strategy. During the month, members were deployed on crime suppression shifts where they utilized data and intelligence to target repeat offenders and target crime hotspots. During these suppression shifts, Redwater members conducted roving traffic stops, traffic enforcement, conducted surveillance of repeat and habitual offenders, conducted condition compliance checks on repeat and habitual offenders, and conducted high visibility and covert proactive patrols in all of the communities in the Redwater Detachment area. These proactive shifts will continue to be used in order to suppress repeat offenders.





Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Redwater Detachment



In addition, the Redwater detachment utilized a “Bait vehicle” within Sturgeon County, Thorhild County, and the Town of Redwater to target repeat offenders. Although not stolen, the Redwater RCMP are warning would be criminals that if you steal a vehicle, or enter it to steal items, it may be a “Bait Vehicle” and you will be caught. In conjunction with the RCMP Auto Theft Unit, an initiative to use a “Bait Vehicle” will continue to be utilized at various times and places in the town of Redwater and Thorhild County, and Sturgeon County. Targeting people who steal vehicles or who attempt to steal from vehicles, is just one component of the ongoing crime reduction strategies employed by the Redwater Detachment and across the province of Alberta.

Jan. 1, 2020 to present the Redwater detachment has responded to 138 motor vehicle collisions. 3 of these collisions have resulted in fatalities, 14 with injuries, and 55 involving wildlife on the roads. During the month of August, we responded to 16 motor vehicle collisions, 2 of which ended in fatalities and one in serious injuries. The Redwater detachment and the Redwater Traffic unit issued a total of 283 violation tickets and gave 33 warnings for traffic offences such as fail to stop at a stop sign, speeding, careless driving, pass when unsafe, improperly cross double solid line, drive unauthorized, no insurance, failing to wear seatbelt, and distracted driving. Believe it or not, one of these drivers was using their laptop while driving. Road safety is something that all drivers, regardless of experience, can contribute to in ways such as:

- Obey all traffic and speed signs.
- Share the road responsibly, and provide extra space for motorcyclists and cyclists.
- Practice proactive driving to anticipate hazards and reduce or avoid dangers (SafeRoads 2020).
- Never drive impaired or under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Abide by the zero-tolerance law.

Over the last month members of both the Redwater Detachment and Traffic unit were very active in the community. August 12, 2020 was the Tim Hortons Camp Day and our very own Cst. Quintin Sokulski participated by serving customers at the local Redwater Tim Hortons during the day. This appeared to shock some customers who were frantically reaching for and putting on their seatbelts when being served their coffee. No one was burned with hot coffee as a result. The detachment has also began a “Positive Ticketing” campaign where if you are caught doing something positive you may be issued a “positive ticket” from an RCMP member. Young and old alike will then be able to take their “Positive Ticket” to the Redwater Esso and redeem it for either a free small





Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Redwater Detachment



coffee or slush. Some examples of where “Positive Tickets” were issued were children properly looking both ways and crossing the road, children wearing their bicycle helmets, an older brother taking his younger sister for a walk, and an adult picking up litter on the side of the road. Over 20 “Positive Tickets” have been issued in the community so far, with more to come. Leading up to the start of school, the members and support staff at the Redwater Detachment and Traffic unit decided to donate some money to purchasing

backpacks and filling them with school supplies. 2 grade 5-6 students, 2 junior high school students, and 2 high school students were selected to receive these supplies, along with a Subway gift card for good measure.

The Redwater Detachment is seeking community feedback. In the current world of COVID-19 community engagement events have become a challenge due to social distancing requirements. In order to seek important input from all stakeholders, the Redwater RCMP will be completing monthly police briefs (like this one) in order to keep the public aware of our activities in the communities. In addition we encourage interaction and anyone with any inquiries, questions, comments can contact us at Kredwatercommunityfeedback@rcmp-grc.gc.ca . All email submissions will remain anonymous. During each monthly police brief members of the detachment will answer a few of the questions asked. We look forward to hearing from you.

