



BONNYVILLE RCMP TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

November 26, 2024

From week to week, the Bonnyville Detachment is responsible for investigating anywhere from 150 to 200 investigations per week. The following is a snapshot of some of the more prominent offences that keep the Bonnyville members busy.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS:

Thefts of all kinds of motor vehicles continue to occur throughout the Bonnyville Detachment area, and Alberta as a whole. Many motorists take the necessary steps to help prevent vehicle theft such keeping their doors locked at all times, never leaving the keys inside and keeping valuables out of sight. That being said, thieves remain as motivated as ever and the thefts remain a consistent part of police investigations. The following stats include the theft of trucks, SUVs, cars, minivans and motorcycles:

2022 = 160 vehicles were stolen

2023 = 192 vehicles were stolen

2024 YTD = 151 vehicles have been stolen to date

Detachments all across Alberta launched the annual “Operation Cold Start” in January which is designed to have RCMP work with the public to reduce the theft of idling vehicles during the Winter months. Bonnyville RCMP members checked on unattended, idling vehicles to see if the keys were in them, and whether or not they were properly secured, and in cases where they weren’t, the member called the registered owner and had an educational conversation with them about taking more preventative steps to keep their vehicle safe. The head of K Division Traffic Services commended the Bonnyville Detachment for making the most contacts with motorists during the operation than any other Detachment in Alberta. The Bonnyville RCMP took this initiative one step further and teamed up with K Division Traffic Services and the K Division Community Safety & Wellbeing Unit and set up an information table in the C2 Hub during a Jr. A hockey game and handed out several “Clubs” for free to anyone that wanted one for their steering wheel.

THEFT UNDER & OVER \$5000 (everything but motor vehicles)

2022 = 463

2023 = 418

2024 YTD = 300 (up to November 21, 2024)

POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY (PSP) UNDER & OVER \$5000:

2022 = 107

2023 = 126

2024 YTD = 129 (up to November 21, 2024)

BREAK & ENTER BUSINESS:

2022 = 117

2023 = 86

2024 YTD = 60 (up to November 21, 2024)

MENTAL HEALTH:

2022 = 176

2023 = 181

2024 YTD = 172 (up to November 21, 2024)

Unfortunately, mental health issues remain a prevalent part of day to day policing. While this is an overall societal issue, the RCMP find themselves involved with clients that have mental health issues because of their behaviour, whether it be of a criminal nature or because of addiction. The RCMP have adopted some strategies over the past few years that have proven to be beneficial to mental health clients and policing in Alberta in general. A mental health App known as "Health IM" was developed to assist police officers in the field when dealing with mental health clients in real time. The App collects real time data as entered by the officer and helps to triage the client to determine whether they should be transported to a designated mental health facility. When this is the case, the information the officer has entered into the App is immediately uploaded to the nearest AHS designated facility and informs nursing staff at that location about the current situation and that a police officer is currently en route to their facility with that client. The other initiative adopted by the RCMP has been the creation of a specialized unit called the Regional Police And Crisis Team (RPACT). These units have been popping up all over rural Alberta. Bonnyville Detachment relies on assistance from two RPACT teams, one stationed out of St. Paul and the other out of Cold Lake. RPACT teams are comprised of one RCMP member and one security cleared AHS nurse that rides along in the police car with the RCMP member. Their mandate is to assist Detachments with their calls for dispatch involving mental health clients and can take over that call which means they will be the one transporting the client to the nearest designated facility thus freeing up the local member to remain in their Detachment area to continue taking calls and policing proactively. Additionally RPACT will conduct follow up with mental health clients after they've been released from the designated facility to see if they are utilizing community services or require any further assistance from RCMP, which Detachment members simply do not have the time to do. Having the use of an RPACT team has helped to free Detachment members up on more than one occasion and has proven to be very beneficial.

DRUGS: Possession Of, Trafficking of & Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking:

2022 = 54

2023 = 57

2024 YTD = 60 (up to November 21, 2024)

ASSAULTS, ASSAULTS W/ WEAPON, AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS: (does NOT include Sexual Assaults)

2022 = 298

2023 = 287

2024 YTD = 304 (up to November 21, 2024)

GENERAL INVESTIGATION SECTION (GIS):

The Bonnyville GIS is comprised of 3 positions, one Corporal NCO and two Constables. For more than the last year there has been a vacancy, and this was compounded by a second long term vacancy last Spring. Fortunately, we are now back to having two of those positions staffed with just the one vacancy that we expect to fill this Winter. The previous NCO transferred out this past Summer and the new NCO arrived at the end of August and hit the ground running and has adapted well to keeping up with the specialized mandate of the Bonnyville GIS Unit which includes a heavy focus on drug trafficking as well as the more serious criminal offences such as aggravated assaults, aggravated sexual assaults involving adult and child victims and other persons crimes. The following is a snapshot of what has been keeping the Bonnyville GIS Unit busy this fall.

Bonnyville GIS assisted General Duty members with a kidnapping with a firearm related file by authoring and obtaining a tracking warrant which assisted members with electronic surveillance on the suspect who is a known violent prolific offender in the area who was on warrant status (13 charges) and was believed to be carrying a firearm. Approximately one week later the GIS unit also assisted with covert surveillance on the offender which resulted in the offender's arrest without incident. The GIS unit also authored and obtained a warrant to search the property where the suspect was located in the St. Paul area which resulted in the recovery of a stolen vehicle from the Bonnyville area, ammunition, stolen identification and stolen vehicle plates resulting in an additional 8 charges being laid. The offender was remanded into custody.

On October 18, 2024 A prolific violent offender who has been on warrant status and at large since September 2024 in relation to another kidnapping with a firearm related file was arrested. The Bonnyville GIS unit has charged the offender with over 15 offences including forcible confinement, pointing a firearm, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and assault with a weapon. The offender has been remanded into custody and the matter is still under investigation. Additional charges are expected.

Bonnyville GIS conducted surveillance at a property in the Bonnyville area known for drug activity and observed a suspicious truck leave the property. Covert surveillance was conducted and with the assistance of Bonnyville General Duty members a traffic stop was conducted at a local gas station which resulted in the arrest of one male and the seizure of 93.3g of methamphetamine, money, a home made taser and drug paraphernalia. The male's vehicle was

also impounded as he was driving without a licence. The male has been charged with the following offences:

- Possession of property obtained by crime less than \$5000
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking – Schedule I: Methamphetamine (Crystal Meth)
- Unauthorized possession of a prohibited weapon.
- Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

The Bonnyville GIS unit is still actively and diligently investigating a former Duclos School teacher who has been charged by the Bonnyville GIS unit in September 2024 for sexual interference and sexual assault. A Justice of the Peace released her from custody with strict conditions and within days the offender breached those conditions and a new charge of Breaching a Release Condition was laid by Bonnyville Detachment. Additionally, while out on release from custody on these Bonnyville matters, the offender was arrested in the Wainwright area for similar offences and was remanded into custody. Her next court date for Bonnyville matters is set for December 5, 2024.

YOUTH & SCHOOLS:

Last fiscal year there were 45 documented school / youth contacts. Our school engagement consists of attending and participating in various functions such as Family Health and Wellness night, selling ice cream, helping out with the handing out of the lunches for the hot lunch program, class presentations on bullying, cyberbullying & vaping, participating in Cancer Walks, helping with traffic control for the Terry Fox run/walk, as well as Hungry for the Homeless campaign. School liaisons also engage with staff regarding any crimes committed at the school and are available to engage with staff and parents regarding students when the student is involved in a police investigation for example. Since the start of the school year in September 2024, every RCMP school liaison has participated in their designated school's Fall Lockdown Drill. Additionally, every school in the Detachment area had an RCMP member attend their respective Remembrance Day ceremonies.

POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Community Engagement remains an integral part of RCMP policing in general and is no different in Bonnyville where the RCMP are regularly involved in various community events. Last fiscal year there were 52 documented community engagement events. The goal for the current fiscal year is 60 and currently the Bonnyville Detachment sits at 46 community engagements and should meet and exceed the goal by March 2025. These are a few of the community events the Bonnyville RCMP participated in since the Summer:

- On November 11th several members turned out in red serge to participate in the annual Remembrance Day ceremony.
- On November 14th a member was invited to the Kehewin School to set up a table/booth for a

fair and promote the RCMP and engage with students.

- On October 4th - The Bonnyville Friendship Centre held its annual MMIWG Vigil and Truth & Reconciliation Event at the C2. Detachment Commander was invited to give opening remarks and was gifted a ceremonial ribbon skirt by the Chief Executive Director of the Friendship Centre for ongoing support.
- On October 18th 7 members attended the Bonnyville Friendship Centre's Annual Fundraiser Gala. The Detachment donated an item for the cause. There was lots of networking with stakeholders and community members.
- For the last week of September several marked police vehicles of the Bonnyville RCMP fleet had orange hand magnets attached to them in recognition of Truth & Reconciliation and Every Child Matters.
- On September 6th - Lakeland Credit Union hosted a Fall Drive-In Movie at the Ag Grounds free for all community members and they requested members drive through. Members made patrols and chatted with movie goers.
- On September 15th the Bonnyville Sport Shooting Association (BSSA) held its annual Youth Shoot and invited RCMP to attend and chat with the youth and let them check out the Police vehicles etc. Members attended and the shoot attracted 45 youth registrants and all were happy to be able to ask members questions and check out the inside of a police "cruiser".
- On September 21st - the annual Fall Market Garden was held at the Community Garden and members were invited to attend. Members were able to drop in during the afternoon but were not able to stay long due to calls for service.
- On September 23rd- Detachment Commanders from across the district were invited to a Pipe Ceremony to commemorate the official opening of the newly redesigned Eastern Regional Victim Serving Society (EARVSS) in St. Paul. Commander and Operations NCO attended in the meaningful ceremony and engaged with partners from VSU.
- On August 10 a member attended and participated in the Glendon parade which was followed by the annual Glendon Derby.
- On August 23-25 - Kehewin held its annual Pow Wow which included the Grand Entry Ceremonies whereby Bonnyville RCMP was invited to participate in Red Serge.
- During the a/n Kehewin Pow Wow an Elder provided the annual blessing on the Detachment Eagle Feather.
- Members of the Town Police Committee attended the Detachment on two occasions this Summer & Fall to provide recognition to two Bonnyville members who reached the Cpl. Cummings' Watch threshold in 2023.
- On July 1 five off duty members attended and volunteered in the annual Canada Day Parade. A high-risk file involving scene security at a search warrant residence came in during the morning which prevented more members from being able to participate.
- On July 5-7 - Bonnyville Gear Grabbers held its annual Drag Races at the Bonnyville airport. The races went well and even included two RCMP racing cars as part of the entertainment.
- On July 11 the Commander and a Corporal were invited to attend a Kind Man Breakfast at the Bonnyville Friendship Centre which is an initiative whereby men and boys show their

appreciation for women and stand up against violence against women.

- On July 14th members of the Detachment were invited to participate in Camp Day at one of the local Tim Horton's. Members worked alongside Bonnyville Fire Dept at the drive-thru window as well as outside in the physical drive thru washing windows and visiting with customers as they made their way through. Police and Fire presence was well received by customers.

- The weekend of June 7-9 had the annual Bonnyville Rodeo & Chuckwagons at the rodeo grounds. Additional resources were on hand for the increased calls and proactive checkstops etc. Walk throughs of the grounds were well received by rodeo spectators.

- On June 7 - the Bonnyville RCMP entered the Chamber of Commerce's annual Chili Cookoff. Members, Staff & VSU set up a tent/booth and decorated it with RCMP materials and came a close second place in the Team Spirit category. The RCMP booth was very well received by all attendees and generated lots of casual conversation and photo opportunities. RCMP will venture to enter this event on an annual basis.

- On June 14 - VSU hosted its annual Open House BBQ in the Detachment parking lot. The weather was rainy and cool but it didn't stop several community members from attending. BRFA assisted with BBQing.

- June 21st was National Indigenous Day and the celebration was held once again at the C2 and organized by the Bonnyville Friendship Centre who invited RCMP to attend and participate in the Grand Entry and delivering some opening remarks.

BODY-WORN CAMERAS:

In the Government of Canada's Fall Economic Statement (November 30, 2020), funding was provided to implement a National BWC program for frontline RCMP officers to improve transparency and accountability and respond to concerns about policing from racialized and Indigenous communities. Starting in November 2024, approximately 1000 frontline RCMP officers per month will begin using body-worn cameras across Canada with a goal of over 90% of frontline officers being trained & equipped by November 2025. Bonnyville RCMP members will receive the training and start wearing body-worn cameras in January 2025. RCMP members must activate their camera when they come into contact with a member of the public for the purpose of a police investigation, to take statements in the field, to record interactions with a person in custody, and any situation the member believes capturing audio and/or video evidence would support them in their duties. They will NOT be used during strip searches or internal body cavity searches or in areas where there is a high expectation of privacy such as washrooms, hospital rooms, treatment centres and religious places. They will also NOT be used for facial recognition, surveillance or covert recording.

- See attached Information poster & wallet cards.

- For more information visit: www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/body-worn-cameras

- For a video on Body Worn Cameras visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G670cilb0AA>

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The Bonnyville RCMP is comprised of 23 designated positions for police officers and 7 for support staff, 3 of whom are Public Servants and 4 are Municipal Employees.

- Two new Constables were posted to Bonnyville in August and September from the RCMP Training academy and are well reported on by their Field Coaches and should be able to be relied upon to consistently contribute to our minimum coverage standards by Christmas.
- One Constable transferred on November 20th while another departs in January. This will bring the Constable hard vacancy rate up to 4. K Division Staffing continues to work on backfilling these positions.
- Of the 7 Support Staff positions, there is 1 hard vacancy that is in the process of being backfilled.

Submitted by:

S/Sgt. Sarah Parke
Detachment Commander
Bonnyville Detachment