



GRANDE PRAIRIE RCMP NEWSLETTER

Back to School

The hustle and bustle of a new school year with in-person learning will begin at Grande Prairie Schools as early as August 31, 2021. RCMP are reminding motorists to slow down, pay attention and obey all school zones speeds that will be in effect. *School zone speed limits are 30 km/hour from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on school days.*

As always, some students will be walking or biking to school and buses will be returning to the roadways. We remind motorists to be mindful of the increased traffic and practice safe driving.

In an effort to make back to school safer for everyone, Grande Prairie RCMP are sharing the following tips:

-  *Familiarize yourself with school or playground zones throughout the city. By paying attention to your surroundings and slowing down, you will decrease risks and could avoid getting a hefty fine.*
-  *If you see a school bus flashing its alternating red lights, stop and do not pass. Always remember that children may be getting on or off the bus.*
-  *Remember to give space and share the road with cyclists.*
-  *When pedestrians are waiting to cross the street, come to a complete stop and allow the pedestrian to cross the street completely before proceeding. If a crossing guard is located at the crosswalk, always follow their direction. Keep in mind that children can sometimes be distracted and less aware of their surroundings.*

By following these few simple tips, we can ensure a safe and healthy return to school.



Road Construction Zones Continue

Even with cooler weather arriving, construction work continues in and around Grande Prairie. The Grande Prairie RCMP remind motorists to continue to take precaution and stay alert through construction zones, which continue throughout the end of summer and often until mid- October.

Construction zones and traffic delays are a reality but yearly road work keeps our roadways maintained. Although the delays may be irritating, rushing through the construction zones and surpassing the speed limit is never acceptable.

The reduced speeds are in effect 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, **even if workers are not present**. While travelling through construction zones, drive carefully and watch for detours or lane diversions, which can change as the construction work progresses.

Construction crews often work within a close proximity to the open travel lanes and have to deal with distracted driving, speeding, and road rage. By following the directions of sign flaggers, keeping your distance between your vehicle and the construction workers, their equipment and vehicles, and following posted signage, we can protect workers from injury.

Do not forget that speeding fines double if there are workers present when travelling through a construction zone.



Catching the Last Rays of Summer

Labour day weekend often marks the end of summer and is the last long weekend before the cooler weather arrives. The Labour day weekend is a busy one and many people are traveling on the roadways trying to enjoy the last days of summer.

The Grande Prairie RCMP encourages all drivers to practice safe driving habits and exercise caution when travelling. By practicing safe driving habits; such as planning your route and giving yourself plenty of travel time, having a designated driver, following posted speed limits, and paying attention to the road; the risk of being involved in a collision is greatly reduced.

Having safe roadways is a shared responsibility for all Albertans. Remember to be aware of your surroundings, don't let yourself get distracted, be patient as many motorists will be travelling with trailers and campers, and roadway construction areas are still ongoing.

Did You Drop It? Wallet Me See...

The residents of Grande Prairie are utilizing full use of community areas since the easing of restrictions, which include restaurants, retail stores, and shared public places. With more people out and about, the Grande Prairie RCMP have noticed a recent increase of incidents in August 2021, as compared to August 2020, involving the loss of wallets and other personal items at malls and in retail parking lots.

We remind visitors and residents to secure wallets, purses and keys by following these tips:

- **Remember to put your purse or wallet away following all transactions.**
- **Carry your purse or wallet against your body or in a pocket as opposed to leaving it in your shopping cart unattended.**
- **If possible, leave your purse or wallet at home and carry only your ID, cards and necessary cash in your pocket.**

Here are some tips on what to do if you discover your wallet is missing:

- **Notify your bank and any issuers of credit cards/debit cards to prevent any unauthorized uses.**
- **Notify institutions of the loss related to cards kept in your wallet, such as health care card.**
- **Call the RCMP to report the loss/theft.**

As a proactive measure, record all contents of your wallet, including licence and credit cards numbers, and store this information in a safe location outside of the wallet. This information will be useful should you ever have to report a loss and request replacement cards or documents.





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RCMP Officers in the Community



Members of the Grande Prairie RCMP patrolling the community with staff from the Mobile Outreach Program



Several RCMP officers stop for refreshment at a lemonade stand ran by Grande Prairie youths.
-photo credit to Tony Eisan



Sgt. Graham and Cst. Ralph spending time at the Swan City FC's Soccer Saturdays

Train Yourself on Road and Locomotive Safety

In August, Grande Prairie RCMP assisted CN Police with a person who had sustained an injury while trespassing on railway property. Rail traffic is used for the transport of goods and products, and trains can be seen travelling through areas of Grande Prairie, crossing roadways that are marked with both controlled and non-controlled railway crossings.

Although trains appear to travel slowly, they can travel fast and they are extremely quiet. There is an ever present danger that comes with rail traffic, for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists travelling near or crossing the tracks. Here are some tips for the public to stay safe near rail traffic:

- Pay attention when approaching railway crossings as some vehicles are required to stop, such as school buses. Look both ways and listen for trains. It is difficult to tell how far away a train is or its speed.
- Do not race the train to avoid stopping at a railway crossing. They are unable to stop quickly or avoid an object blocking the tracks.
- Obey posted signage and warning devices. Before proceeding through a railway crossing, ensure you have a clear view of the tracks and that no other trains are coming.
- Never walk, cycle, or drive along railway property or tracks. You could find yourself in an area where you are unable to get off the tracks. Walking on railway property, including crossing a rail track without a designated rail crossing is trespassing and illegal.
- Do not walk under, around or between train cars, even when the train is stopped, as they can begin moving at any time.
- Keep your distance from trains as they can overhang railroad tracks on either side and there is a risk of being hit if you are too close.

By following these simple tips, a tragedy can be avoided. Always remember the trains do not run a set schedule, can come from any direction or travel on any track.

Grande Prairie At A Glance

Offence Type	City		Rural	
	August 2020	August 2021	August 2020	August 2021
Break & Enter	38	33	14	5
Theft of Motor Vehicle	33	27	17	14
Theft From Motor Vehicle	90	45	3	2
Possession of Stolen Property	44	19	8	6

*Crime statistics cover the period of June 1 through June 30, 2021 and are compared to the same period of the previous year. Note: The figures in the chart are raw and may be changed by our review process. They do not represent our final, official crime statistics.

All Events	City		Rural	
	August 2020	August 2021	August 2020	August 2021
Total Police Events	2623	2339	567	469

*Police events represent all police calls for service, officer generated files and traffic infractions. Note: These do not represent our final, official crime statistics

Online Crime Reporting
<https://ocre.sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/alberta/en>

Crime Mapping
 Grande Prairie City
<https://www.cityofgp.com/city-services/emergency/rcmp/rcmp-crime-map>
 County of Grande Prairie
<https://rcmp-k-div.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=572cd3cf20ed45b7bc09065bf79ce0ac>



TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
 call the **Grande Prairie RCMP at 780-830-5700**
 or your local police detachment.



IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS
 you can contact **Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)**, online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the *Apple App* or *Google Play Store*.