



GRANDE PRAIRIE RCMP NEWSLETTER

When Deliveries Fail - Front Step Thefts

Online shopping has become a quick and convenient way for Albertans to make purchases. With the holiday season approaching, it is likely more packages will be delivered and left on door steps until homeowners are able to get home and safely store the packages indoors. When packages are left unattended, potential thieves, sometimes known as 'porch pirates,' may take advantage by stealing delivered items.

Grande Prairie RCMP are providing the following tips to help protect your packages from being stolen:

- Track the package shipments by requesting email or text message updates/notifications.
- Where is the best place for a package to be delivered? If you are likely not going to be home during the delivery period, consider having it delivered to your workplace or to a friend's residence.
- Request a signature confirmation. This means that someone needs to sign and accept the package before it can be delivered.
- Provide instructions to the seller or delivery company if you want the package left in a specific area outside your residence out of sight, such as at a back door or side door.
- Ask a friend or neighbour who you know is home to retrieve the package for you if you are not available.
- If you frequently order parcels, consider investing in equipment, such as a parcel drop box, security cameras, or a video doorbell.

If you believe a parcel has been stolen, or you notice suspicious behaviour occurring in your neighborhood, report the activity to the Grande Prairie RCMP by calling (780) 830-5700 or anonymously through 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.

Report A Drug House

You live in a peaceful neighborhood when you begin to notice something odd about a residence located near you. You begin to suspect that the residence may have been turned into a drug house.

Here are some common signs that a house in your area may be dealing or is involved with drugs:

- Residents are unfriendly and appear secretive about their activities.
- Enhanced privacy measures, such as security cameras and blacked out windows.
- There are vehicles and people coming and going at unusual times, frequently late at night.
- There is a high volume of visitors that stay for short durations, often with the residents meeting vehicles near the property.
- There may be a decline in the appearance of the home's exterior and landscaping.

Slip Sliding Away

The snow has already made an appearance in Grande Prairie. Although it did not stay, it is not far away before we have snow cover and slippery road conditions. Snow, ice and longer periods of darkness can all pose driving challenges no matter your experience behind the wheel.

The following are safety tips to keep motorists driving safely:

- Make sure that all four tires are winter rated and are in good condition. Winter tires can improve traction and shorten stopping distance.
- Check driving conditions before leaving in your vehicle. If it's raining, snowy or icy, reduce your speed to match the road conditions, giving yourself more time to slow down and stop.
- Carry a winter safety kit. It should include a flash light, emergency food and water, candles, blankets, booster cables, tow straps, a shovel and sand for traction. A winter kit is especially important if you are planning a road trip away from the city.
- Clear all snow from your vehicle. Snow blowing off a vehicle's roof can become a hazard and can be distracting for other drivers.
- Scrape any ice off of all windows, side mirrors and lights from your vehicle. Drivers need to be able to have an unobstructed view from their vehicle in order to ensure a safe driving environment for themselves and others.
- Consider turning your lights on if conditions are dark and stormy. *A reminder that tail lights don't activate when your daytime running lights are on.*
- Remember that a four-wheel drive vehicle can help reduce your chances of getting stuck but it won't help a vehicle stop any faster in slippery conditions.

By thinking about winter conditions now, motorists will have an easier time transitioning into winter driving conditions once to snow and ice does come to stay.

Why report a suspected drug house? Drug activity can lead to increased violence, addiction, property crime, and can result in producing hostile neighborhoods.

- To report a drug related crime in the community, the following resources can be contacted:
- Grande Prairie RCMP at 780-830-5700.
- Safer Communities and Neighborhoods (SCAN) at 1-866-960-7226 or file a complaint online at www.scan.alberta.ca.
- 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.

The Grande Prairie RCMP remain committed to the safety and well-being of our communities. We would like to thank the public for their assistance and continued efforts to help solve crime in our communities.





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THOR - From Puppy to Police Dog

In September 2018, a litter of puppies was born at the RCMP Police Dog Service Training Centre in Innisfail, Alberta. All RCMP Police Service Dogs are purebred German Shepherds. At 6 weeks of age, these puppies, called "Potential Police Service Dogs (PPSDs)," are put through a structured evaluation. Only PPSDs who display the unique qualities of an RCMP working dog will go forward into the imprinting program. The RCMP Imprinting Program develops PPSDs and prepares them to be successful for their eventual Police Service Dog (PSD) training.

Imprinters are RCMP Members from all across Canada who have career aspirations of becoming dog handlers. They volunteer hundreds of hours every year ensuring the PPSDs are socialized and familiarized in many different environments. They also introduce the PPSDs to tracking humans and criminal apprehension. Once the PPSDs are approximately 1-year-old, they will be evaluated for their suitability to come into formal training to become full Police Service Dogs.

The PPSDs are then teamed up with their handler, who are either current Handlers or Imprinters who were selected for the Police Service Dog Handling course. Upon successful completion of the Police Service Dog Handler course, the new teams are sent to their postings across Canada.



Meet Grande Prairie RCMP's newest RCMP Police Dog, Thor. Thor is a three-year-old German shepherd who graduated in November 2020. Thor and his handler transferred to the Grande Prairie RCMP Detachment earlier this year.

Police Service Dogs and their handlers are highly trained and specialized in their field. Thor is trained in tracking people, searching for lost persons, apprehending criminals, finding firearms and evidence, and searching for narcotics.

Thor's favorite things to do is to play with his 'Chuckit', swimming on a hot day, and jumping in the truck to go to work.

Grande Prairie is also the home of two other Police Service Dogs; Jock and Hoover. Thor, Jock and Hoover are also the role models for PPSDs being imprinted in and around Grande Prairie by RCMP Members.

Residents of Grande Prairie may see Police Service Dogs, their handlers, and RCMP Members raising puppies training in our community as they often train in operational environments both in urban and rural settings. The capabilities of these dogs can be very impressive and interesting to watch. Residents are welcome to stop at a distance to observe training. However, if it appears a police dog and their handler are on an active call for service, please remember to give them space to work.

A New Scam is Coming to Town

Grande Prairie RCMP are warning the general public about reports of fraud associated to social media posts regarding lost pets. Owners of lost pets are posting on social media asking for assistance online to help find their furry friends. The owner is then contacted through the phone number listed on the social media post by an unknown person. This person states they have found the lost animal and request that money be transferred to them in exchange for the return of their pet. This is a scam being reported throughout Alberta and they do not have your pet. Do not transfer them money and report the incident to the Grande Prairie RCMP or local police, and contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Center at www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca.



Leaving the Woods Nothing to Bark About



On October 4th, 2021 at 1:15 p.m., Grande Prairie RCMP officers were called to assist a member of the public who had become lost in the forest while walking their dog near their residence on RR70. With the use of their emergency equipment (the sirens), the officers were able to guide the lost walker towards the road and out of the woods. The walker did not receive any injuries while in the woods and was happy to have had RCMP assistance in finding their way to safety.

Grande Prairie At A Glance

Offence Type	City		Rural	
	October 2020	October 2021	October 2020	October 2021
Break & Enter	28	14	8	1
Theft of Motor Vehicle	29	30	13	10
Theft From Motor Vehicle	72	41	7	4
Possession of Stolen Property	26	22	11	7

*Crime statistics cover the period of October 1 through October 31, 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	
	October 2020	October 2021	October 2020	October 2021
Total Police Events	2413	2683	526	581

*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*.