



Monthly Update to Members of Cochrane Foothills Protective Association

Greetings CFPA Members,

We hope this Newsletter finds you well and getting ready to enjoy the Holiday Season with family and friends. It has been a busy year, again, for the CFPA Board with the launch of the CFPA website, the increase in requests to attend Community Meetings and an increase in membership, again this year. Rural Crime continues to be on the minds of Rural Albertans and our Membership. We are seeing an increase in reporting to the CFPA and encourage you to check out the Reporter APP to capture incidents for the benefit of your neighbors. Check out the information on this, in this Newsletter.

As we all go about our preparations and festivities, it is important to remember to maintain our awareness and be observant of things that “don’t look right” in our Communities. This is an opportunistic time for would be criminals with packages being delivered to the doorstep, increased use of our banking cards and credit cards, and additional packages in our vehicles. Maintain your vigilance and have a safe and happy holiday. Continue to Observe, Record and Report to the RCMP and log it on the Reporter.

I wish to thank the CFPA Board Member for all their work and many contributions this past year. Thanks to your commitment and dedication, the CFPA has grown, yet again, in leaps and bounds this year. Your dedication and support, is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to our liaison officers from Cochrane RCMP, Fish & Wildlife and Rocky View County Enforcement Services. Your input and presence are also greatly appreciated.

Thanks also, to you, our Members, for your reporting, support, feedback and suggestions. Keep them coming in; this is your Association and we thank you for your support and look forward to hearing from you in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year from all of us on the Board of the CFPA.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Lindsay
President.

Mail box thefts

Recently these thefts seem to be increasing. A low risk opportunity for thieves? What to do?

- Residents need to record and report promptly each incident to the RCMP complaint line and to Canada Post. Police can do much more with information that might lead to a suspect. Everyone is invited to watch for suspicious activity at the super boxes. Alert others using the same boxes immediately using your community contact list.
- A complaint about the boxes, security and their placement need to go to Canada Post as they own the boxes.

- There are some security alternatives. Have valuable items sent to a workplace. Set up a box at a post office. Pick up mail frequently to reduce the items in the box. Going paperless is relevant. Also, if you suspect a theft may have affected you, monitor accounts for any unauthorized activity.
- It is unlikely Canada Post or anyone will come up with a break-in proof set of boxes. Is there a more public and highly visible place for the boxes?
- Mail boxes are on municipal property for public service and convenience. Cameras and lights on public property may have privacy questions and municipal approvals. Monitoring would have to come from residents. Who would complain if their picture and pattern is known?
- Canada Post info links – [https://www.canadapost.ca/web/en/kb/details.page?article=how to prevent mail &cattype=kb&cat=security&subcat=identifytheft](https://www.canadapost.ca/web/en/kb/details.page?article=how%20to%20prevent%20mail%20security&cattype=kb&cat=security&subcat=identifytheft)

Members – please contact us with any ideas or experiences you have that may help others.

Welcome to Provincial AGM in February

For a deeper RCW and crime prevention experience, consider attending the Alberta Provincial Crime Watch Association's Annual AGM, the umbrella group for all Alberta chapters. The Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association Crime Symposium and AGM is on February 1 & 2 at Nisku. A broad group of topics and speakers provides knowledge. Meeting many other volunteers from the 56 chapters provides a network of resources and ideas. Some of the directors of CFPA will be attending if carpooling is desired. Registration before Dec 31 is a discounted amount of \$100.00. The link to the registration and current agenda is: <https://www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca/news-events/events-board/agm-registration-forms>

MISC

- Watch for **Membership Renewal** notices by email in early January. **2019** Annual Dues are \$20.00.

- **REPORTER APP**; convenient access information on the Reporter will be sent to current Members in December. Watch for two emails - one to provide information on the Reporter and second with log in information and reset password instructions.

- In January 2019, a **survey** of CFPA Members is planned. The goal is to harness many ideas and comments from Members. Any suggestions what the questions should be?

Vignette for solution (a composite of several reported incidents)

Ralph and Susie were getting breakfast in their rural residence west of Calgary. They had returned two days earlier from a trip in their fifth wheel. Their trailer puller and trailer were still in the driveway while they unpacked. The front doorbell rang, and about the same time there was a ping of a text from a neighbour. The text advised there were 2 suspicious vehicles in the area. Susie went to the front door and there was no one. She noticed an SUV parked near the end of the driveway. She also saw a van backed up to the garage. Then they heard the garage door opening on their attached garage. In a few moments, a stranger in a hoodie came in from the garage, brandishing a pry bar. The stranger shouted "Give me the keys to the ¾ ton in the driveway".

Questions for members – What would you do? Who and how would you call? Your responses will be included in the next newsletter.

A Burglar looks for ...

Sometimes it is interesting to imagine what burglars look for as opportunity. A reporter's documentary:

<https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/crime/we-asked-86-burglars-how-they-broke-into-homes/277-344333696>

Low Budget Crime Prevention/what intruders don't know

We do many visible things to deter and catch thieves. Gates, dogs, surveillance, signs, locks are examples. What thieves do not know are the things we do that are not visible, and inexpensive. Here are examples of having awareness and a family plan for intruders. Steps like carrying a cell phone, having emergency numbers in the contact list. Having the phone numbers of the 'neighbour mutual support group' set up as a group contact. Have an understanding and plan with neighbours about intruder alerts. Using several timers with LED lights for convenience and to simulate presence. Have motion sensors inside and outside with alarms. Hide the key rack so that it is not visible. Carry the remote control to vehicles and use the alarm to alert family and neighbours. Turn on the cell phone camera with two presses to main screen. **Additions from members?**

Invitation to Members If you have any information to share in the next newsletter, please submit to the general RCW email address: cochraneuralscrimewatch@gmail.com. We are Rural Crime Watch, a network of concerned residents, committed to making a safer community through basic crime prevention principles. Our security is greatly enhanced when we work together with neighbours.