



Monthly Update to Members of Cochrane Foothills Protective Association

In our Rural Area Criminals continue to look for opportunities. Of note recently are thefts from mailboxes, of copper wire, and thefts of and from vehicles. Unlocked and running vehicles are easy targets. Thefts from residences continue as intruders seek opportunities for light and valuable articles. So please, please be aware, be prepared, lock up and look out for your family and your neighbours.

Our Rural Crime Watch website is fully operational. Check out <https://cfparcw.ca>. With the website, we now have more options for email. The general email is being changed to [info@cfparcw.ca](mailto:info@cfparcw.ca). You may wish to change your contacts list. The email from the current address [<cochraneruralcrimewatch@gmail.com>](mailto:cochraneruralcrimewatch@gmail.com) is being handled by auto respond / auto forward during the transition.

Leadership Opportunities

To provide continuity and new ideas, the Board is seeking RCW members with a variety of leadership skills, energy and commitment. Various levels of engagement are suggested, such as volunteer (limited time and scope), super-volunteer (more variety and longer term) and board (focus on governance, planning and implementation). This is a new initiative for CFPA and how it is rolled out will reflect the potential leaders.

Members who might be interested in more engagement are invited to be part of discussions about opportunities and possible fit among the attendees. In many ways, it is about giving back, fit and focus - to make a difference. The current board developed a framework at the February 11 meeting, and is available on request. Come to the Monday March 11 board meeting at 7pm in Cochrane in the Cochrane Legion to meet other RCW members and discuss possibilities.

If interested, or for more information please contact the general email [info@cfparcw.ca](mailto:info@cfparcw.ca). Or contact one of the directors.

Save the Date for AGM The Annual General Meeting of members is planned for the afternoon of Saturday April 6 in Frank Wills Hall in Cochrane at from 1 - 4 pm. This includes the usual reports on activities, and featured speakers on self protection. Book the time to come, and meet and share experiences with other members. See more information later.

Nightingale Floors provide a simple alert!. Whether intentionally installed or a factor of age, you may have a feature that will likely deter prowlers! lol <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJThECzA1bc>

Some links for updates on crime For the area generally

<https://www.canadapolicereport.ca/edition/cochrane/>

And for incidents in CFPA area only

<https://rcmp-k-kiv.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b93cbaf4d7d946c0a0d9a69c2341743a>

### Suspicious properties and reporting anonymously

As rural RCW residents, we primarily look for vehicles as indications of suspicious activity. However, we also know our communities well. Sometimes we have information about a property where we believe some illegal activity may be present. Real examples follow. A rented house next door has one occupant. Most nights a van comes at approx 10:30, backs up to the garage door and leaves 20 minutes later. When the property vacated, remnants of black plastic were found on basement windows. Residents in a community believed there was something illegal in the community. Eventually they found a meth lab in a garage at the back of a property. A farmer has old buildings on an old unused farmstead. A padlock appears on an outbuilding. A closed and locked trailer appears just off an approach. A rented rural property has increasing numbers of vehicles and use of a shop. Each of these may be enough to investigate. A resource is to report the property. Full information on the anonymous reporting is on the SCAN website. <https://www.alberta.ca/report-suspicious-property.aspx>

Suspicious activity Central to a safer community is the practice of **ORR. OBSERVE** intentionally what is going on in the neighbourhood, critically considering what is normal and what is not. **RECORD** details accurately using cell camera, notebook, etc. And **REPORT** incidents or suspicious activity to law enforcement so that information may be used with other reports.

How much investigation of a suspicious is suitable? "It depends'!" Most intruders use vehicles. Make, model, colour, licence are basic information that may be obtained at a distance. A description of occupants usually means getting closer. If you are in a vehicle, driving by slowly provides a good opportunity. Genuine visitors welcome directions. Intruders usually scurry away. Remember personal safety is highest consideration. Consider working with neighbours using your mutual support group.

Invitation to Members If you have any information to share in the next newsletter, please submit to the general RCW email address: [info@cfparcw.ca](mailto:info@cfparcw.ca) 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.

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