



Rural Crime Watch – February 2020

Monthly Newsletter to Members of Cochrane Foothills Protective Association

CRIMES WITHOUT PHYSICAL ENTRY

We are overrun by unwanted calls and scams through phones.

A recent example is theft of cell phone identity. Years ago the phone number was contracted with a mobile service and could not be transferred for use with another service. Now 'porting' is optional to subscribers. Thieves request a 'port' the identity connection without having the phone. The information on the SIM card



goes to the new service as your identity. This includes password, links to financial institutions, credit cards and social media. The thief then has the equivalent of your phone and begins accessing your links and may use included identity information for other thefts. What to do? Secure passwords help. Minimize identity information on the phone. Reply promptly to a porting inquiry from your mobile service, while being aware that impersonating mobile services is common phishing. Appreciate dual authentication for online access.

Local number spoofing is now a common tactic for scammers to get you to answer the phone, and extract something from you. The number on call display may be hijacked to trick you. Just answering provides information of an active number, the time of day when people answer and the probable gender and age of the voice. What to do? If a call is not expected, let voicemail do the work. No voicemail message means probably the call is not important to you. Do not engage or provide any information such as name, number called or address. Politely state something like "I did not call and do not participate in any sales or surveys, etc. over the phone". Hang up. Sad to accept this is the consequence of immediate and far reaching communications. Thieves use the features of the worldwide communication network for their exploitation. Phone based scamming is likely to accelerate as more people use more phones with more capability.

The Canadian Antifraud Centre has many descriptions and resources for scams, including the 'SIM card swap scam' mentioned above. This is also one of best links to report if you may have been scammed or defrauded.

BEING AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF RURAL CRIME WATCH MEANS...

Being a member is joining and having a membership card. Being an ACTIVE RCW MEMBER means also posting a 'MEMBER OF RCW' sign on your property to state "we care" and "we work with neighbours and watch each other's property". ACTIVE means watching for suspicious activity and reporting to the police. ACTIVE means we research and share RCW information. We promote RCW wherever practical in our community. ACTIVE RCW membership means joining with neighbours to form mutual support groups and participating in community meetings. Dispel the notion to thieves that we are passive. As an Active RCW community, we reduce the thieves' perception of easy rural opportunities.



REMINDERS FOR CRIME PREVENTION

- Identify your items that might be easy targets. Consider an inscriber, or trace pen, or special paint marker. Record the serial numbers using a camera. Post signs stating items are marked.
- Use tracking devices on automobiles, tractors, RVs, quads or anything that is frequently left unattended. Follow the practice of construction and rental firms in using tracking devices.
- Use security cameras to keep track of access points. Many are now monitored using cell phones. Coming soon are apps to share doorbell camera results with neighbours and police.
- Locks work. They secure and deter. Much easier than the hassle of missing items.



SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 25, 2020 FOR AGM

Members' annual meeting time! The AGM cycle includes summaries by leaders and partners in the March newsletter along with the formal notice of meeting. At the AGM, there are displays, oral reports, presentation of the financials, speakers on current topics, and the election of directors. This year members will be asked to consider and approve new bylaws revised to be comparable to versions of comparable groups. If you are interested please check the Members Only section of the website, or contact info@cfparcw.ca for a copy by email. Join us at the AGM for fellowship, good information and your ideas on RCW activities.

CFPA has been incorporated as a society since May 1970. Many of the early leaders were part of Range Patrol for farms and ranches. Fifty years as CFPA! Please share your experiences in RCW. This is a special invitation to pioneer members to share your incidents and insights.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

To provide continuity and new ideas, the Board is seeking members with a variety of leadership skills, energy and commitment. Various levels of engagement are possible, such as volunteer (limited time and scope), super-volunteer (more variety and longer term) and board (focus on governance, planning and implementation). Members who might be interested in more engagement are invited to chat about opportunities. Engaging is about sharing our time and talents – to make a difference in our rural communities. We are all volunteers. If interested, or for more information please contact the general email info@cfparcw.ca. Or contact one of the directors.

RCW PARTICIPATION

Check out the news and links on our website <https://cfparcw.ca/>. Invite your neighbours to also become part of our community crime prevention movement to send a message to would-be intruders. "Beware. These rural people are informed, prepared and connected to deter crime."

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 as good neighbours.



Writer – Jim Willson