



Monthly Update to Members of Cochrane Foothills Protective Association

**In our rural areas**, with spring warmth and sunshine, criminals continue to look for things to steal. Thefts from residences continue as intruders seek ‘opportunities’ for valuable articles. Unlocked and running vehicles are prime targets. So please be aware, be prepared, lock up and look out for your family and your neighbours.

**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. **REPORT** incidents or suspicious activity promptly to law enforcement. Often information from several sources is used to discern a pattern or location of a thief. How much investigation of something suspicious is appropriate? “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 or using binoculars. 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.

**Fraud schemes continue.** A person comes uninvited to the door. Perhaps they offer driveway paving or resurfacing. Or possibly they offer to sell some items. Provincial licensing is required for many door-to-door sales and services, especially if asking for deposits. Search “dealing with door-to-door sales Alberta” and “prepaid contracting license” for a good summary and tips. Be cautious about all people who just turn-up at your door. All legitimate suppliers have identification. Beware of persons coming to the door seeking directions. Very likely they could be scouting for property ‘opportunities’, or to determine if anyone is home.

**Security Chain and Lock** Sometimes we have bulky assets that we want to secure. A chain and lock works well to prevent, delay or deter a thief, provided the materials are designed for security. A chain is flexible and well suited to gates, equipment, RVs and some doors. If not frequently moved, the weight of heavy chain is less of an issue. Look for hardened steel that cannot be cut by bolt cutters. Steel hardness and security reflect the alloys, quality, shape, process and size. The goal is to thwart bolt cutters. A heavy-duty grinder might breach the lock or chain, however a grinder is very noisy. If outside, consider corrosion resistant coating. Have the chain inserted snugly into the lock so the pin on the lock may not be cut. Be prepared to pay for quality to help protect valuable items. And keep a duplicate key!



**Overhead Garage Doors** with remote control access are really convenient. A garage is a critical target for thieves as it provides lots of items, access at convenience to any adjoining residence and less likely to have people present. Some tips: Install a zip tie to the emergency latch so that a thief cannot fish the cord from

outside. When away, unplug the drive or lock the track. Include inside garage security cameras and alarms. Block sight through windows. Use a “rolling code” type of radio frequency in the drive control and remote.

### Project Lock Up and Trace Pens

The RCMP and Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association (APRCWA) have teamed up with Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association (ACOPA) to announce a new program, Project Lock Up. One focus of the program is RCMP strategy to focus on offenders and areas of most concern. See <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2019/new-initiative-turns-the-focus-repeat-victims-break-and-enters>



Another part of the program encourages all Albertans to lock-up their valuables, tools and possessions and mark these belongings with an identifiable mark made by a Trace Pen. If the RCMP recover any marked stolen property, they will have the ability to read an invisible mark, which contains a code that, when registered, will identify you as the owner of the item. The trace pens are available to ACOPA and RCW members at a 25% discount by entering the code **RURALCW** in the discount code tab and you will be able to purchase a pen at \$29.99 + shipping & GST. The supplier web site is [www.traceidentified.com](http://www.traceidentified.com). The website has detailed information and a video on effective use

Remember to shake the pen well before use, to evenly distribute the micro dots, and to apply the clear material to a flat surface that is accessible, and not in an area that receives harsh abrasive treatment like a bumper on a quad. Once dry, the application will harden to a clear line on an object. This tool is especially useful for small items or those you do not want to engrave, such as jewellery.

**APRCWA** is continuing to engage in programs that will provide tools to all Albertans to make our communities safer. See the website <https://www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca/> for lots of information and links. APRCWA is the joint effort of 17,000 rural members in 56 local chapters throughout Alberta. We share experiences and tips through newsletters, websites and community meetings. Check out the website of our local chapter - **Cochrane Foothills Protective Association**, <https://cfparcw.ca/>. Ask your neighbours to also become part of our community movement to send a message to would-be intruders. “Beware. These rural people are informed, prepared and connected to deter crime.”



**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 as good rural neighbours.

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