



Rural Crime Watch News – November 2018



Monthly Update to Members of Cochrane Foothills Protective Association

Website launch for RCW Members and the public

We are pleased to announce that our new Rural Crime Watch website serving the Cochrane and West Airdrie RCMP detachment areas (i.e., our CFPA region) is now up and running at <https://cfparcw.ca>. Please take the time to check it out and feel free to offer suggestions for further improvements by emailing us at cochraneruralcrimewatch@gmail.com. We expect to continue to refine it as needed to best serve our Members and the public.

Please note that we are in the process of arranging for Member log-in to our Reporter tool through the website's Reporter page - so expect this addition will be coming soon. Once completed, all CFPA Members will have direct access to the Reporter to record and monitor suspicious or criminal activities in our area. Our Education & Resources page also includes a link to the recently developed RCMP Crime Map for our area, which shows RCMP reported criminal events and related statistics. We've also included many useful links to key resources and tips to protect against rural crime. We trust you will find these helpful tools. Happy surfing....

Rural Security in many forms

We appreciate our rural peace, space, quiet and freedoms and accept the responsibilities that come with the rural way of life. Whether a ranch, farm, acreage, multi family residence, to a would-be thief the residence is the primary target. Thieves are in business with an implicit risk/reward approach. So we reduce the rewards and increase the risks! Many things we can do on our own and other things with neighbours. Where to start? Before choosing among many solutions, we need to pause and consider the practices of thieves. A list is likely to include:

- Use of a vehicle or two, with two or more thieves, probably stolen
- Some form of scouting to size up the community or residences
- Likely some articles for theft and resale. Light to carry and valuable
- Access to property by vehicle, with intent of quick entry, load up and vamoose
- Indication no one is home
- Probability of getting in and out without being identified
- Enough remoteness to make quick police response unlikely

To help with sorting out what to do, we need to focus on our goals/strategies. To deter? To detect? To catch the thief at the property, or later? To recover the stolen goods? To minimize the personal experience of the intrusion? We may do some things that will accomplish many goals, however often the more strategic approach will do a better job. A simple example. What will a trail or surveillance camera do? You get a different result if obvious and visible than if hidden. Likewise, what about cameras, motion sensors, gates, dogs, signs, timers, etc.?

Surveillance systems

These are now readily available and may be installed on a DIY basis. Many options and factors:

- Provide real time alert – alarm, computer screen or cell phone
- Provide record of movements on secure hard drive
- Quality of picture, focus, field of view, colour
- Sound and voice capable
- Night capability (infrared)
- Wireless easier to install, needs batteries, reliance on modem. May be jammed
- Wired are reliable, harder to hide wires. May be thwarted by cutting wires
- Digital competence, time to learn and maintain
- Capability of modem and internet service
- Range of reliable cell service

Hardening the Target to Thief

Apart from digital solutions, other things are often very effective also. There are so many things, any list will leave out many. The following links provide checklists:

The Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association is the umbrella organization for the 56 Alberta RCW chapters. The link is a general checklist of tips. <https://www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca/resources/safety-tips>

For a website with many principles and samples of suppliers of technology, see <https://www.safehome.org/resources/community-safety-guide/>

Reporting

The primary resource for RCW is ORR. **Observe** diligently what is normal in your area or travels. **Record** accurately what you see and hear, using writing and photos and where possible. **Report** promptly to RCMP any intrusion as well as suspicious activity. The details may help solve the incident your report, and be linked to other descriptions of activities in the area.

Invitation to Members If you have any information to share in the next newsletter, please submit to the general RCW email address cochraneRuralCrimewatch@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.