



Rural Crime Watch News – September 2018



Monthly Update to Members of Cochrane Foothills Protective Association

Report on SPFAS and Bearspaw

RCW participated in the Fall Fair of Springbank Park for All Seasons on September 8. There were lots of discussions among neighbours about crime prevention and means of setting up mutual support groups. On September 15, Councillor Samanntha Wright invited Bearspaw residents to a Town Hall meeting. Presentations were given by RCW, RCMP, Fire Chief and Law Enforcement Services. Questions centred on residence security i.e., (self protection, cameras for local traffic, and who to call for an emergency or suspicious activity). Welcome to new members, two of whom (Springbank and Bearspaw) won the draws for a timer. Timers are good tools for resident convenience and projecting someone is home. Better than a light that runs continually.

A town hall meeting for Springbank is being planned.

Fire Protection

Fall is here. This is the season when grass stems die and provide very combustible fuel. Fires along Highway 1 have been started by traffic. In the fall of 2017, a wheel from a pickup started a fire that ran one mile through a hay field that had been recently cut. Heavy winds fanned the flames and made control by fire fighters almost futile. Be aware of fuel near or on your property. Catalytic converters may start a fire in grass. Be careful when in fuel laden areas such as pastures, fields, woods. Implement FireSmart strategies and tactics. Links for the FireSmart program: <http://wildfire.alberta.ca/firesmart/default.aspx> and https://www.firesmartcanada.ca/images/uploads/resources/FS_Begins_at_Home_Manual_final.pdf

Membership

CFPA has 250 members throughout west Rocky View, with concentrations in Bearspaw and Springbank. Memberships cost \$20 per year effective Jan 1, 2019. New memberships in the last calendar quarter are processed to expire at the end of the following calendar year. Think of your neighbours that will also benefit from being members –and be part of your mutual support group. Joining now - \$20 to the end of 2019. Contact cochraneruralcrimewatch@gmail.com for brochures, membership application and other information.

Digital and Online Security

We rely on many digital devices. Our online and device security depends on access by login and password. If a thief steals your devices, how secure are your passwords to banking, credit cards, utilities, telephone, investing, etc.? One password makes it easier to recall. Many passwords are very hard to remember. There are password apps, and the use of the cloud, and just having a paper list that is not a file on the computer. Stolen access and related losses are largely preventable.

Municipal Address Signs

Municipal signs are required for all residences in Rocky View County. These signs are the primary verification to emergency services (fire, EMS and police) as well as being the address to visitors and couriers. When driving and seeing suspicious activity, what would you use or hope others would use to pinpoint the location of specific activity? <https://www.rockyview.ca/CountyServices/MapsAddressing/MunicipalAddressing.aspx>

The required sign is to be at least 3" reflective letters on a dark background. The most common and durable is aluminum with green background. The Springbank Rawhides 4-H club is offering to arrange for the purchase and delivery of signs to residents as a fundraiser. For more information, contact Sue Gatenby at rodsue@telus.net.

RECENT INCIDENTS AND POSSIBLE MESSAGES

It's not only vehicles that thieves are looking for - gas is also a hot commodity. If you have jerry cans they will take those. For farms they will 'fill up' for free. As well, tools are really easy to sell.

A residence had a gate and the owners left on vacation. Accumulated snow in the driveway was dead give-away no one was home. Thieves drove through the gate in the middle of the night and cleaned out valuables. With snow approaching, it is super important to have a neighbour drive down the driveway a couple of times. Walk to the door and back enough to make footprints confusing for a thief to interpret if someone is home. Blinds shut and no tracks indicate likely no one is home.

Thieves often ring the doorbell to check if anyone is home. This could be just before breaking in. Or during the day when the common ploy is to ask for directions or ask if you need work done. A genuine caller will have identification, a brochure and a vehicle with a logo. Beware if they park away from entry where the licence is not visible. Do your best to note the car they're in and call the police and report it. We have choices when considering how to respond to door-to-door calls. Assert being present and prepared.

A white van with a ladder was circulating among subdivisions. Residents contacted neighbours and collectively, got a good description. When the driver became aware of being watched and recorded, the vehicle hurried away. The suspicious activity was called in to police.

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.

LAST WORD TO AND FROM MEMBERS If you have any information to share in the next newsletter, please submit to the general RCW email address cochraneruralcrimewatch@gmail.com.

Submitted by

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