

CHESTERMERE MUNICIPAL RCMP DETACHMENT

Detachment Commander Report



QUARTER 4
January 1 2021 - March 31, 2021

Prepared by
S/Sgt. Mark WIELGOSZ
Detachment Commander
Chestermere Detachment
K Division



DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

Detachment area estimated population: 21,417
Authorized Police Strength: 17 Regular Members
Authorized Support Staff: 5 Municipal Employees

2020-2021 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN INITIATIVES AND QUARTERLY RESULTS

1. Reduce Property Crimes – Reduction of theft from motor vehicles, theft of vehicles, and break and enter.

The goal of this priority is to reduce crimes in this area by 7% this year through use of the following strategies.

Habitual Offender Management

A habitual offender management program remains in place to target habitual or high impact offenders residing in our detachment area. Enforcement and monitoring efforts are undertaken to ensure offenders comply with ordered conditions or face consequence for non-compliance. Offenders are selected based upon the following factors:

- Volume of crime they commit;
- Seriousness of the crimes they commit;
- Likelihood of reoffending; and
- Impact of their crime on the community.

During this quarter Chestermere detachment was monitoring seven individuals for compliance with court ordered conditions. A total of 124 checks were completed.

Offender 2: The subject was monitored for compliance, no violations were found during the checks. During this period the offender was arrested for drug related offences in Calgary which resulted in their incarceration. The offender will be monitored again once released from custody.

Offender 7: The subject was monitored for compliance, no violations found however one warning was issued where a breach of release conditions appeared possible but unable to prove.

The remaining subjects were found in compliance with their conditions when checked.

Persons of Interest

Outside of the offender management program, Chestermere RCMP monitors persons in the community involved in organized crime or at large on various types of release such as parole, probation, and interim release on open criminal matters. Persons are identified on the potential risk to the community, severity of offences they are accused of, or likelihood to reoffend. Partnerships with Calgary Police Service, Federal Parole Board, Provincial Probation Officers,





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

and RCMP intelligence units are leverage to remain cognizant of offenders moving in and out of Chestermere.

Chestermere RCMP is monitoring 19 persons of interest. Further new persons of interest are under review for periodic monitoring.

Voluntary Registry of Home Surveillance

Effort remains under way to establish a CAPTURE program to replace the Voluntary Registry of Home Surveillance. The CAPTURE program will add online registration capacity for residents to either participate or cancel registration with the program. The added convenience may see added participation and enhance timely access to information by members while investigating property crimes in Chestermere.

Approval of the project was received and the site is under construction. It is anticipated the CAPTURE program will go live for the public in quarter one of the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Security Screw Program

The Chestermere RCMP – Security Screw Program remains active where residents can obtain security fasteners from select locations in Chestermere. Installation of these security fasteners prevent theft of license plates and by extension other property crimes.

Chestermere residents can obtain these fasteners from the Chestermere RCMP detachment, Chestermere Municipal Enforcement, Jiffy Lube, Tire Craft, and Chestermere Lake Registry.

Community safety awareness events were limited due to the colder winter months and in compliance with public health orders. The security screws remain available at the mentioned locations.

Chestermere Theft Prevention Program

Chestermere detachment in partnership with Chestermere Citizens on Patrol (CCOP) rolled out a theft prevention program within Chestermere in an effort to raise awareness and reduce property crime in the City. The program commenced in April, 2018 involving CCOP members under the supervision of Chestermere RCMP. Foot patrols within the community are made to check vehicles to ensure they are secure. Vehicles found insecure have informative pamphlets left behind on the seat and members will lock the vehicle. If a vehicle is found running and insecure, the member will knock on the resident's door to provide preventative information.

Effort remains under way with the assigned RCMP liaison to CCOP and existing executive to restart this program. Limitations with Covid-19 has caused delays.

Construction Site Safety / Crime Prevention Program

This initiative was added in the last fiscal year to initiate and maintain contact with area

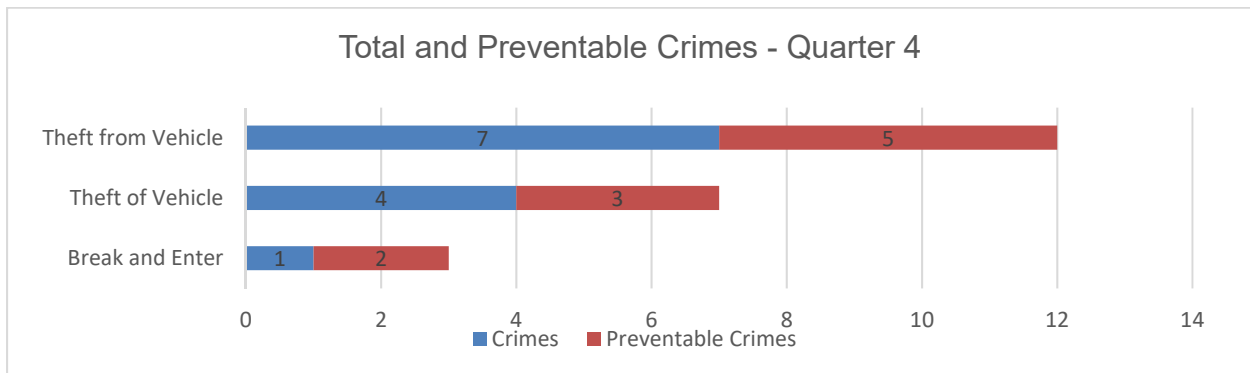
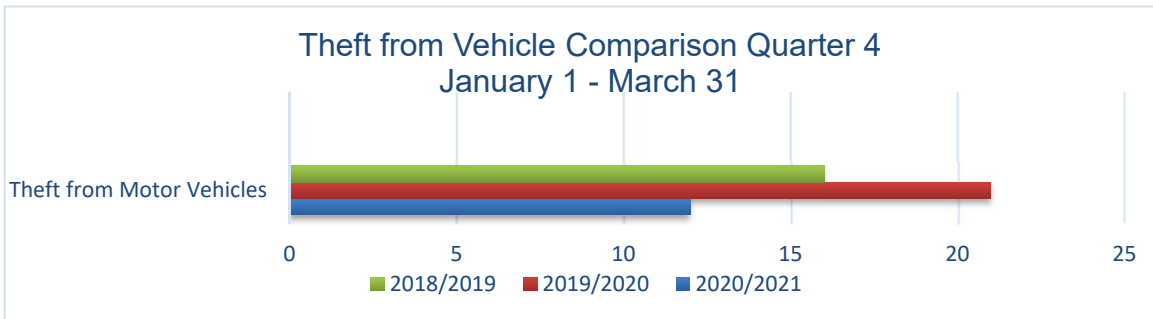
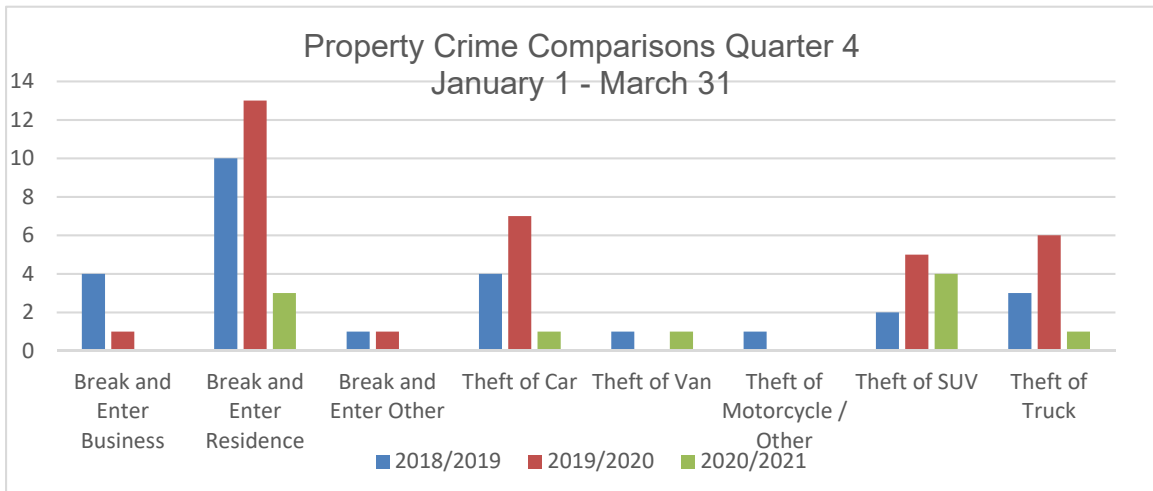




DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

developers with a goal to reduce and prevent theft from work sites. Communication efforts involve maintaining after hours contacts for each development site, ability to provide information on current and emerging construction site theft trends, consultation on site crime prevention through environmental design, and advance notice for delivery of high value items.

Area developers have been supportive of encouraging new home buyers to install home surveillance options and considering participation in the CAPTURE program once active.





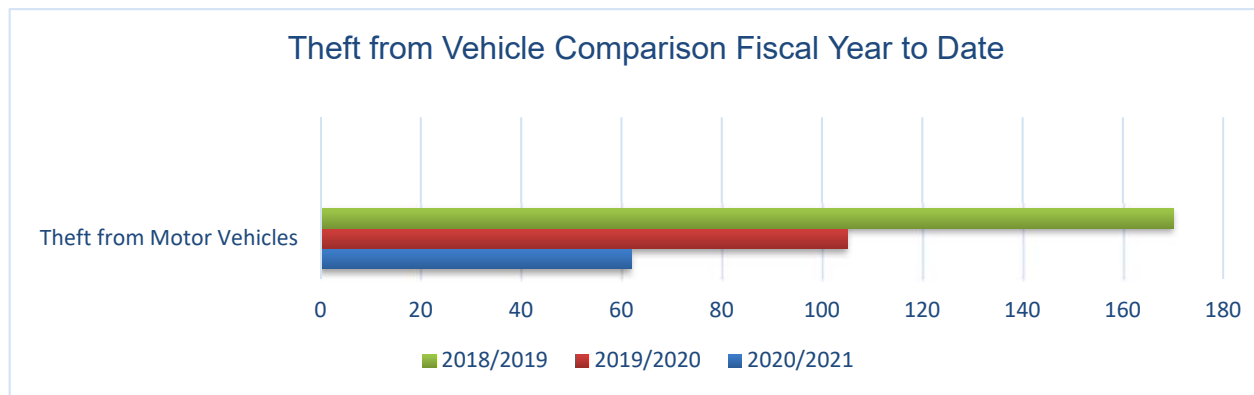
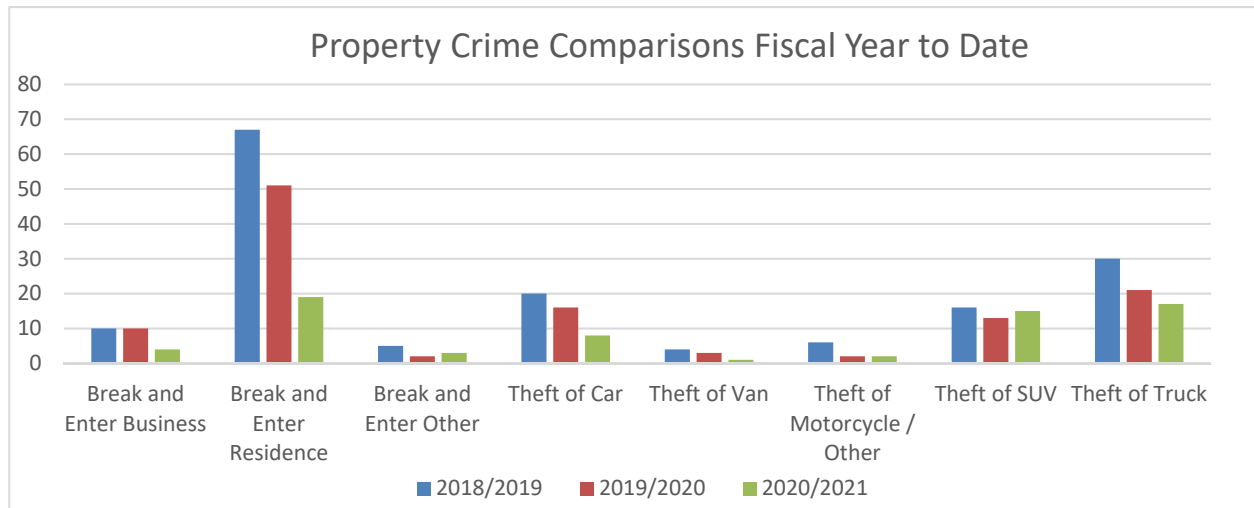
DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

QUARTER 4 PROPERTY CRIME		PREVENTABLE	%
Break and Enter	3	2	66
Theft of Motor Vehicles	7	3	57
Theft from Motor Vehicles	12	5	58

Break and enter files decreased from 15 to 3 (-80%), theft of motor vehicles decreased from 18 to 7 (-61%), and Theft from MV decreased from 21 to 12 (-43%) in comparison to quarter four last year. Ongoing crime prevention programs have contributed to this reduction.

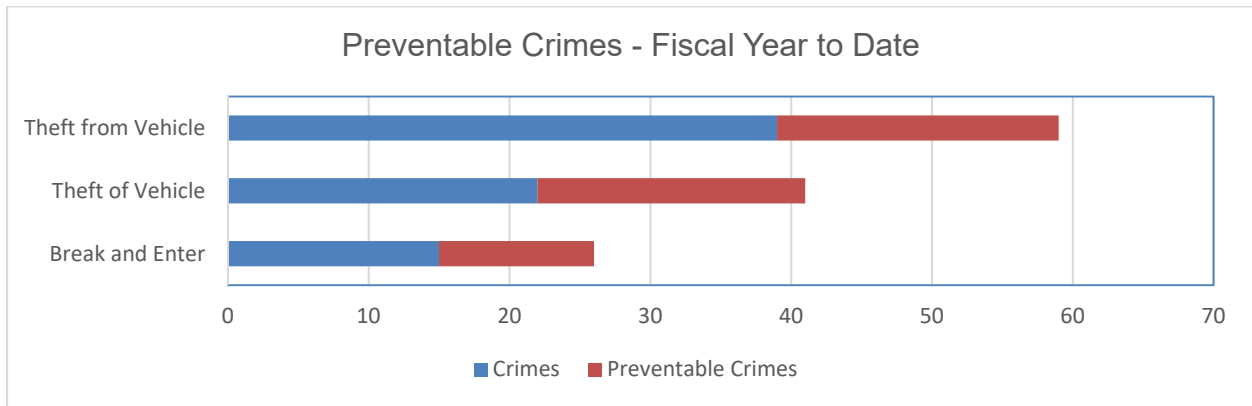
Secondary drivers for the noted reductions remain the current state of the Covid-19 pandemic. Work from home arrangements and lack of travel options increase occupancy of residences thereby reducing opportunity for would be property criminals.

The percentage of preventable crimes this quarter remain consistent with historical measures however at present it is difficult to place a high level of accuracy given the low numbers reported.

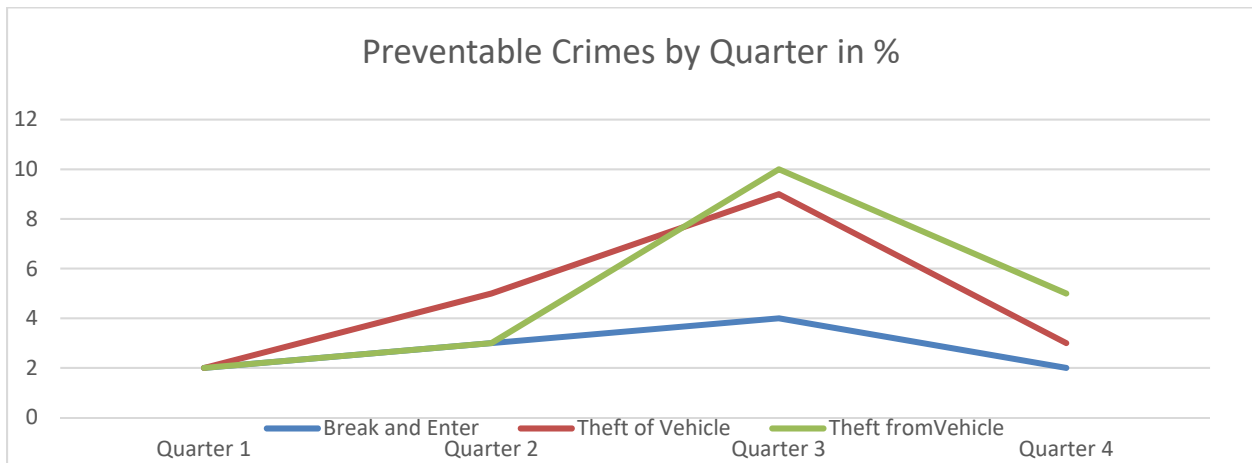




DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT



FISCAL YEAR TO DATE PROPERTY CRIME	PREVENTABLE	%
Break and Enter	11	73
Theft of Motor Vehicles	19	86
Theft from Motor Vehicles	20	51



The average level of preventable crime cumulatively this fiscal year was 70% compared to 57% the year prior. The increase can be attributed to the significant reduction in reported crimes this fiscal year which can cause significant variance with lower numbers. As depicted in the preventable crimes by quarter, break and enter occurrences remain consistent throughout the year. As in years past, theft from vehicle and theft of vehicle occurrences increase in quarter three which corresponds with colder winter months and vehicles left idling while insecure.

For current information on property crimes committed within Chestermere, please visit the Chestermere RCMP Crime Map on the City of Chestermere web page at www.chestermere.ca/RCMP





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

Measures implemented over the previous four years have proven effective with the observed annual reductions in the selected crime groups. These measures include but are not limited to:

- Enhanced intelligence gathering and sharing relationships with partner law enforcement agencies;
- Habitual offender and persons of interest initiatives;
- Enhanced public consultation through the Police Communications Committee;
- Enhanced awareness initiatives such as social media releases through the Police Communications Committee and regular news releases in the *Chestermere Anchor*;
- Crime prevention programs which include the lock it or lose it program, security screw program, and the voluntary residential surveillance registry (soon to become the CAPTURE Program);
- High visibility within the City between regular patrol and the Enhanced Road Safety Initiative;
- Southern Alberta District crime reduction unit initiatives targeting regional habitual offenders;
- Support from Southern Alberta District criminal analysts who identify crime series, crime trends, and tracking of habitual offenders;
- Community engagement through the various liaison programs offered by the detachment to raise awareness of crime prevention measures; and
- Increased vigilance by residents who take steps to secure their property and reporting of suspicious activity.

Year end outcomes: Overall annual progress was positive with reductions in all areas from previous year values. Break and enters were reduced by 60%, auto theft was reduced by 23%, and theft from vehicles was reduced by 43%. The year end results exceeded the goal of 7% reductions in the selected areas in support of the City of Chestermere's vision to *Champion a Safe Community*.

2. Traffic Safety – Reduction of both injury and overall collisions.

The goal of this priority is to maintain low levels of overall and injury collisions as established in FY2018/2019 as a baseline. Resulting reportable collisions in this period represent a reasonable baseline to maintain or exceed in this year's plan.

Traffic Safety/Enforcement

Quarter four enforcement results:

- 304 violations were issued by detachment members;
- 3 impaired drivers were removed from Chestermere roads; and
- 14 drivers were issued alcohol/drug suspensions for:
Drive while Disqualified: 4





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

- Impaired IRS Sanctions: 5
- 24 Hour Suspension – Drugs: 1
- 24 Hour Suspension – Alcohol: 1
- IRS 72 Hour Suspension: 2
- Alberta Zero Alcohol Tolerance – GDL Driver Suspension: 1
- 67 Bar Walks.

On December 1, 2020 the Immediate Roadside Sanction Program took effect with respect to impaired driving investigations. For impaired driving matters where aggravating factors are not present, the investigator may elect to proceed with the matter as an administrative penalty alone. Drivers suspended under these sanctions will now face significantly higher fines, increasing suspensions for repeat offences, and expanded penalties for novice and commercial drivers.

For more information on the Immediate Roadside Sanction Program, please visit <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/immediate-roadside-sanctions-irs-program-information-sheet-2020>.

Year end enforcement results:

- 920 violations issue by detachment members:
- 17 drivers were charged for impaired driving under the Criminal Code;
- 26 driving suspensions were issued; and
- 210 bar walks were recorded.

Enhanced Road Safety Initiative

The Chestermere Enhanced Road Safety Initiative commenced in August 2017 where additional members were assigned to enhanced shifts targeting impaired, aggressive, and distracted driving within the City of Chestermere. Shifts have been filled by Chestermere RCMP members, RCMP members attached to the Southern Alberta District Traffic Services Unit, Alberta Sheriffs, and Chestermere Community Peace Officers. The aim of the program is to raise awareness with respect to traffic safety, increase road safety through visibility and enforcement, and reduce injury collisions within the City of Chestermere.

In quarter four, 48 enhanced shifts were completed which produced:

- **1057 Total infractions**
- 498 Speed
- 112 Seatbelts
- 73 Distracted Driving
- 45 Intersection Offences
- 143 Vehicle Deficiency Violations
- 33 No Drivers License / Fail to Produce
- 119 No Registration and/or Insurance (includes fail to produce)
- 36 Other Moving Offences





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

- 4 Liquor Offences
- 1 Liquor Seizures
- 2 Suspensions
- 5 Impaired Driving Charges
- 0 Bylaw
- 0 Cannabis Infractions
- 0 Roadside Screening Tests
- 188 Mandatory Alcohol Screening Tests

A total of 856 drivers were issued violations. 593 (69%) were non-residents of Chestermere, 263 (31%) were residents of Chestermere.

For the year, 106 enhanced shifts were completed which produced:

- 2,221 Total Infractions
- 1,108 Speed
- 212 Seatbelts
- 250 Distracted Driving
- 98 Intersection Offences
- 219 Vehicle Deficiency Violations
- 72 No Drivers License / Fail to Produce
- 245 No Registration and/or Insurance (includes fail to produce)
- 44 Other Moving Offences
- 47 Liquor Offences
- 3 Liquor Seizures
- 2 Suspensions
- 11 Impaired Driving Charges
- 2 Bylaw
- 8 Cannabis Infractions
- 15 Roadside Screening Tests
- 464 Mandatory Alcohol Screening Tests

A total of 1,827 drivers were issued violations. 1,232 (67%) were non-residents of Chestermere, 595 (33%) were residents of Chestermere.

Check Stop Program

In quarter four, 4 documented check stops were conducted which resulted in:

- 149 Vehicles Checked
- 1 Driving Suspension

In total, 50 check stops were conducted this fiscal year which resulted in:

- 1401 Vehicles Checked
- 1 Impaired Driving Charge
- 9 Driving Suspensions

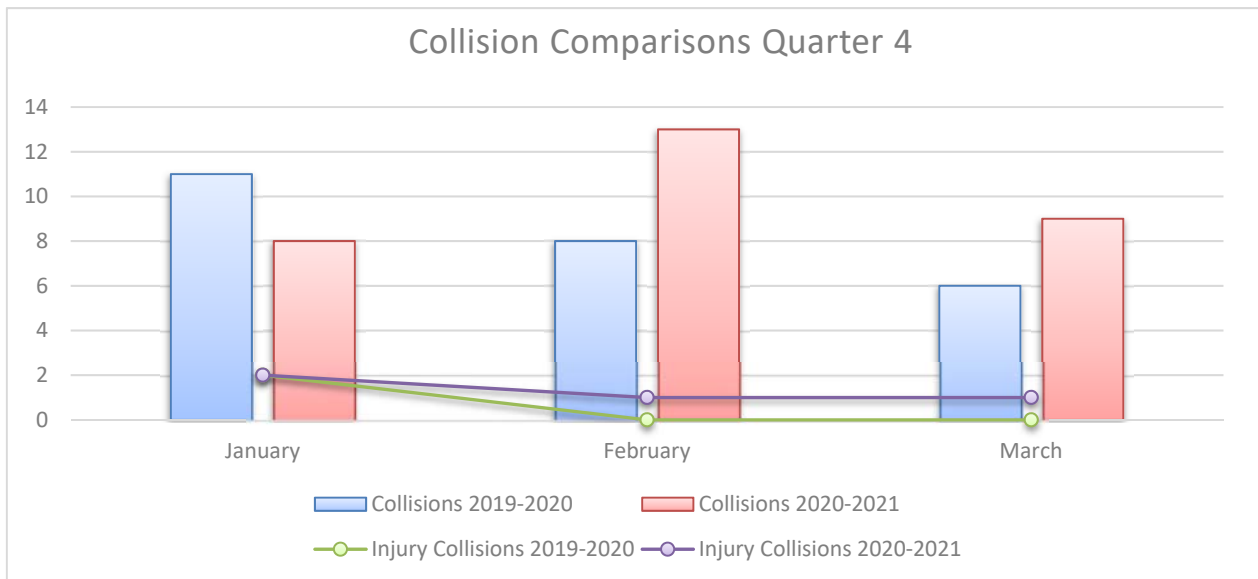




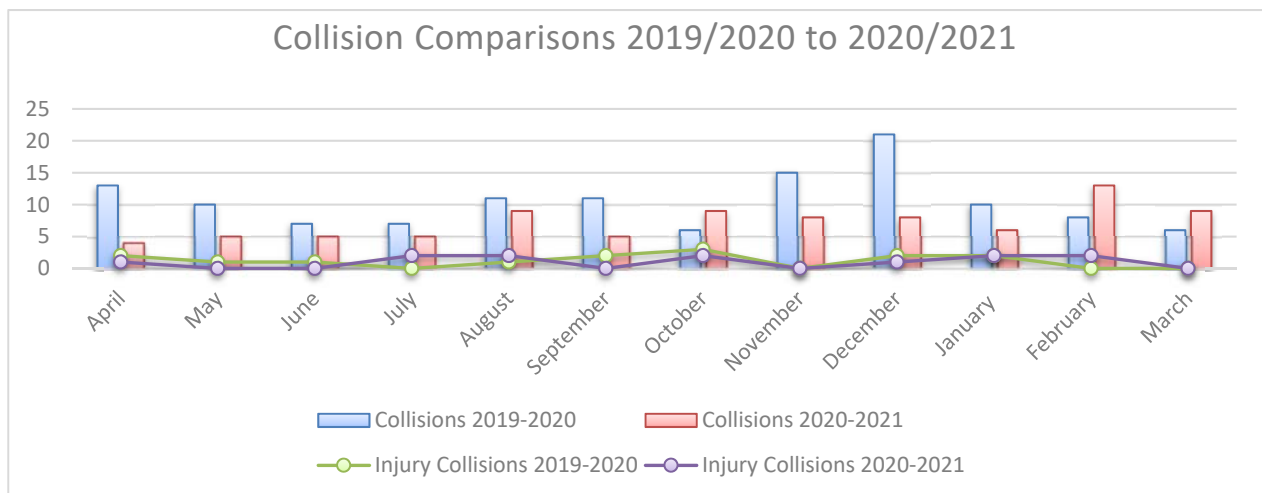
Bar Walk Program

Chestermere members conduct foot patrols through licensed establishments to maximize visibility in an effort to prevent, detect, and deter criminal activities. Criminal activity may include Gaming Liquor and Cannabis Act infractions, Illicit drug offences, or impaired driving. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Chestermere members have also focused on promoting voluntary compliance with Public Health Restrictions. During quarter four, Chestermere members documented 67 bar walks, and 210 for the year.

Collision Comparisons



Collisions increased this quarter to 30 from 25 (+20%) and injury collisions increased from 2 to 4 (+50%) compared to the same time frame last year.





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

Current high visibility initiatives and road safety enforcement remains effective in reducing and maintaining low collision rates. Other significant contributing factors related to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic have had an impact with higher levels of unemployment, work from home arrangements, and imposed lockdown measures. All of which reduce the need, ability, and reason for travel.

Year end outcomes: The goal set for this priority was to maintain or exceed baseline levels of reportable and injury collisions. Reductions were achieved with a 45% drop in reportable collisions, and a 21% drop in injury collisions. The progress in this area represents a third consecutive year with reductions of collisions and increases in road safety in support of the City of Chestermere's vision to *Champion a Safe Community*.

3. Community Involvement Activities

School Visits

During quarter three, Chestermere members documented 78 school visits, a reduced number as a result of disrupted in person learning. During school visits, Chestermere members conducted foot patrols to interact and meet with students, issued positive tickets via referral to students who displayed leadership and good citizenship, and participated in lock down drills.



On February 10, Cst. RAJPOOT was at Prairie Waters School where two positive tickets were presented to students who set good examples. Cst. RAJPOOT followed up with answering questions from students about policing.

Attendance at Community Events

During quarter four, Chestermere detachment members attended six community events. Details of the events were:





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

- January 5: Sgt. STUBBS, Cpl. BIBEAU, and Cst. CARRIER attended the funeral procession for CPS Sgt. Andrew HARNETT on Memorial Drive.
- January 9: S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ and Cst. SADR attended the funeral services for Sgt. Andrew HARNETT at Calgary Police Headquarters (Westwinds). Cst. RAJPOOT attended John Peake Park for the jet fly by. During that time he interacted with members of the public as well as current/former CPS members.
- January 21: S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ, Sgt. STUBBS, Cpl. TREPANIER, Cst. CARRIER, and ME POTTS attended for a blood donation as part of Sirens for Life.
- January 27: Cst.'s NEUFELD and SADR attended a Positive Ticketing Event at East Lake School to hand out recognition to identified students for good citizenship.
- February 13: Cst. LEWIS attended a Farmer's Market at the Rec Centre. Cst. LEWIS interacted with vendors and community members while there.
- February 23: Cst.'s RAJPOOT and SADR conducted foot patrols along the lake and took time to play hockey with local youth on the ice.



- March 3: Cst.'s LEWIS and SANDHU were involved in a Zoom meeting with teachers and parents at Chestermere Lake Middle School and RVS Learning Centre. Topics of discussion included police responses near schools and need for parents to maintain distance to allow police/school officials manage the situation.
- March 8: Cst. SADR attended Synergy to obtain more positive tickets. When complete, Cst. SADR liaised with Synergy who requested a birthday drive by for one of the youths in attendance. Cst. SADR and other members working that day completed the drive by.





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT



March 12: Chestermere members assisted Strathmore detachment when a complaint of loose cows on Inverlake Road was received. With the assistance of a nearby resident, members corralled the cows into a fenced area. Unfortunately, three horses were spooked by their new pen mates and escaped. Chestermere members located and secured the horses near Highway 791 and Highway 1. The owner arrived shortly thereafter to transport them home.

March 18: S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ attended for a blood donation as part of Sirens for Life.

March 29: A report was received from a local business employee who was locked inside when the security shutter malfunctioned. Members on shift attended to disengage the drive motor and roll up the shutter to let the employee out.

March 30: Cst. RAJPOOT noticed a new convenience store open in Kinniburgh Plaza. He stopped to meet the owner and discuss various security measures for the business.



Public Education / Engagement

Public education is undertaken with monthly meetings with Police Communications Committee and made public with the consent agenda at Council meetings. Information on crime prevention measures is also disseminated through the committee's Facebook page which continues to grow in followers.

Consultations continue on a yearly basis with elected officials, other service providers, area schools, feedback through the Police Communications Committee Facebook account, community groups, and inter agency meetings.

This quarter two opportunities for expanded community consultation/engagement occurred. Between February 25 to March 12 a public survey was available on the City of Chestermere website which attracted 255 participants. Input was received with respect to policing priorities





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

over the next year and feedback was sought with respect to public satisfaction of police services. Focus on community engagement ranked highest followed by mischief/disturbance of the peace, traffic safety, drug/alcohol issues, and property crimes. Persons crimes was rated the lowest. Overall a high level of satisfaction was expressed with the quality of policing services in Chestermere.

On March 11 at 7:00 p.m., S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ and the City of Chestermere Communications Department co-hosted a virtual town hall. The purpose of the event was to expand community engagement and seek input on what residents wanted their police service to focus on over the next year. A City Counsellor, members of the Police Communications Committee, and general members of the public were in attendance. Property crime focusing more on construction zones, road safety focusing on school zones, and community engagement was identified as elements to be included in the next Annual Performance Plan.

Community Liaison Program

Chestermere RCMP has initiated a community liaison program where a member is assigned to a community group. The purpose of this program is to form a link with community groups to seek feedback on concerns and open channels of communication with respect to education, how to reduce or prevent victimization, and early identification of community cultural issues. Liaisons continue monthly contact with 16 local community groups. Our current liaisons and groups are:

Chestermere White Cappers/Seniors Coalition	-	Cpl. BIBEAU
Chestermere Food Bank	-	Cst. NANTEL
Synergy	-	Cst. SAYKILI
Chestermere Library	-	Cst. NEUFELD
Chestermere Regional Community Association	-	Cst. PICHACH
Chestermere Chamber of Commerce	-	Cst. SANDHU
Camp Chestermere	-	Cst. SADR
Chestermere Army Cadets	-	Cst. RAJPOOT
Chestermere Agricultural Society	-	Cst. PICHACH
Chestermere Lions Club	-	Cst. AIT BENLAARBI
Rotary Club of Chestermere	-	Cst. AIT BENLAARBI
Calgary Yacht Club	-	Cst. LEWIS
Chestermere Citizens on Patrol	-	Cst. QUIGLEY
Chestermere Mental Health and Addictions	-	Cst. CARRIER
Chestermere Mental Health Coalition	-	Cpl. TREPANIER
Chestermere Women’s Group	-	Cst. DHALIWAL

4. Other Initiatives

Proactive Park, Green Space, and Business Patrols





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

Through the years Chestermere RCMP has conducted regular patrols of our parks and green spaces in a number of different formats such as the Community Standards Initiative, bike patrols, and regular foot patrols. During the initial stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, these patrols were enhanced which also included regular presence in public spaces and businesses.

In this quarter, public visibility and presence has been centered around public areas and businesses to promote voluntary compliance with Public Health measures. During periods of business shutdown, a focus has been paid to patrolling around closed businesses to deter property crimes when not in operation.

Water Safety Program

Not in operation during this quarter. Results for the year are:

- 985 Vessels checked;
- 61 Safety inspection decals issued;
- 9 Vessels where liquor was seized;
- 2 Vessels ejected from the lake for lack of vital safety equipment and inability to produce vessel operator competency card, and the other as an unseaworthy vessel.

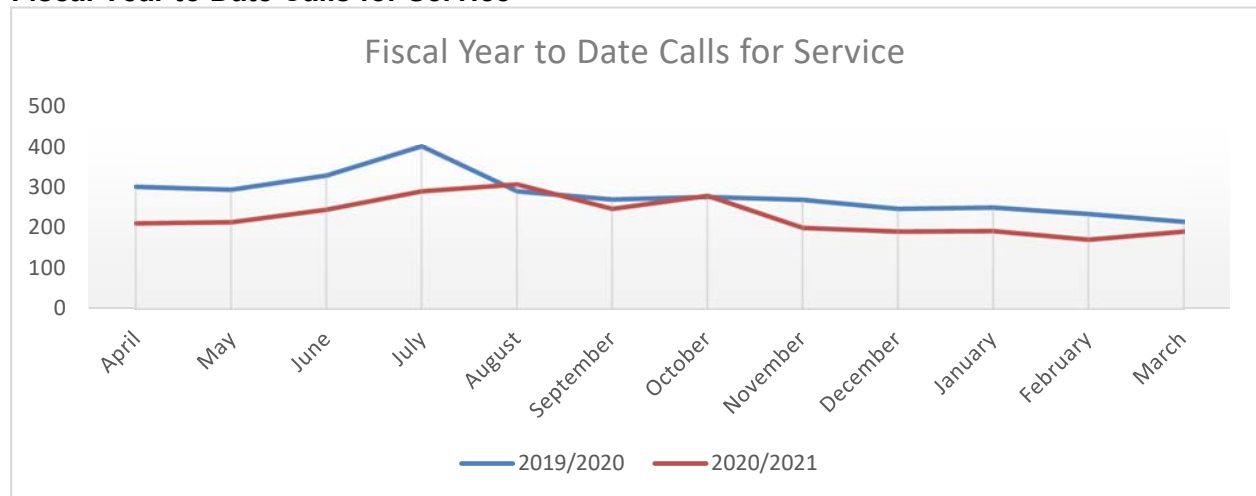
Citizens on Patrol

The program remains inactive for this quarter. A RCMP liaison is assigned to this program to assist as required.

Positive Ticketing Program

The positive ticketing program has continued and members have been identifying worthy candidates in their regular patrols, by referral through the community group liaison program, and referral through area schools.

Fiscal Year to Date Calls for Service





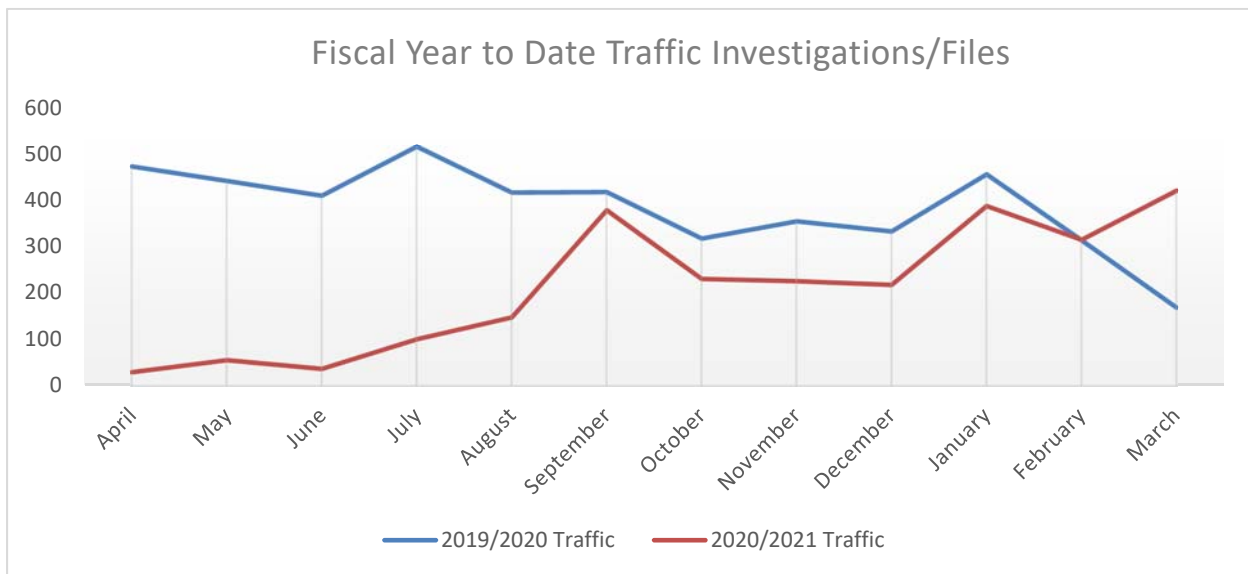
DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

During quarter four (excluding traffic offences) Chestermere detachment responded to 554 calls for service, down from 699 the year prior (-21%). Fiscal year to date, overall files have dropped

by 19%. The reduction of investigational files can be attributed to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. As noted from April through June, ongoing restrictions were present. Reported matters intersect in August and remain relatively consistent until November with new imposition of restrictions. Factors which have contributed to this reduction remain:

- Work from home arrangements, self isolation, and significant distancing between individuals;
- Less resulting traffic and close interactions;
- Closed businesses or businesses just reopening after lifting of restrictions;
- Decreased recreational activity and travel options;
- Inability to host social gatherings; and
- Unemployment or under employment adding to decreased social activity.

Fiscal Year to Date Traffic Offences and Reports



Traffic files increased this quarter to match historical average performance from last year. Initial performance in this area was impacted during the first months of the Covid-19 pandemic. As restrictions and infection rates reduced going into the summer months, a corresponding increase in these numbers occurred nearly reaching levels of the year prior. Overall, numbers in this area are down 34% but are returning to normal performance.

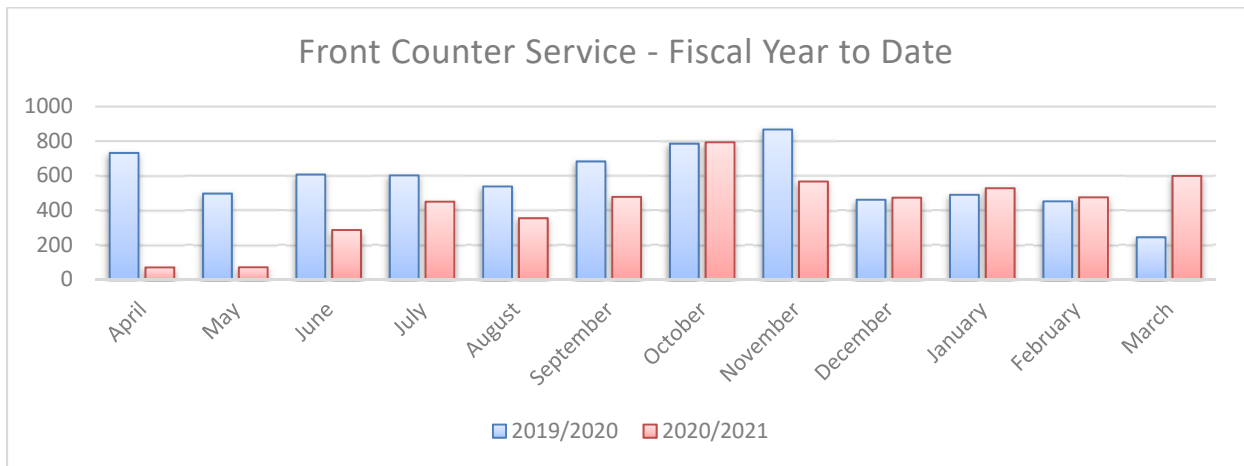
*** Traffic offences were removed as Chestermere detachment continues use of e-ticketing. E-ticketing creates a file for each roadside stop. While not all members are using e-ticketing, inclusion of traffic stats may give the appearance of artificially high occurrence numbers. ***





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

Chestermere Detachment Front Counter Service Delivery



In quarter four (January - March) Chestermere detachment front counter recorded 1,599 contacts for service compared to 1,183 the year before (+35% increase). Year to date there have been 5,131 front counter contacts compared to 6,948 the year before (26% decrease).

Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has influenced most of these reductions. Implemented efficiencies have also contributed to reduced contacts. Service delivery contacts increased in October, decreased in November as a result of imposed restrictions, and met historical levels through to February. March saw increased demand mainly from criminal record checks related to AHS employment, food delivery services, security guard applications, and practicum students.

Despite the changing restrictions and Public Health Orders, service delivery has not been impacted. All calls for service and requests from the public have been answered in line with Chestermere detachment’s commitment to provide a high level of service to our community.

**** Front counter contacts do not include other administrative functions in support of operations such as data quality, data entry, charge preparation, document preparation, and disclosure to name only a few areas. Fewer contracted activities have been engaged such as interview transcriptions with increased availability of resources and to remain fiscally responsible. Virtual, email, and phone contacts have replaced the majority of in person attendances at the detachment. ****

Staff Sergeant Mark WIELGOSZ 2021-04-22
 Detachment Commander
 Chestermere Detachment

