

**ST. ALBERT RCMP**  
**Community**  
**Policing**

**Year End Report for**  
**School Boards**

**2020/2021**



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## **School Report Summary**

The St. Albert RCMP partnership with the St. Albert School Divisions continues to grow and develop. The St. Albert RCMP continue to have positive relationships with school administration as well as students. This year, the Covid-19 pandemic made an impact on that relationship and encouraged the St. Albert Crime Prevention/Victim Service – Community Policing (CPVS) officers to think outside the box and develop a virtual relationship with school partners and students.

The St. Albert CPVS team continued to provide education and awareness to students, parents and community members on a variety of topics this year. Many presentations continued to be offered to all school divisions by the St. Albert RCMP. Presentations were held in a variety of ways this year including in person and virtually. CPVS members were able to connect with students who were learning in class or from home. This was made possible by the City of St. Albert as well as the school divisions, who assisted to provide technology so that the RCMP members could log on and participate virtually with the students. Some of the topics spoken about during presentations this year were vaping, cannabis, forensics, communication, stress, internet safety, bullying, peer pressure, and many more.

The St. Albert RCMP continued to be a part of the safety response at all of the schools including participating in Safety Planning and Lockdowns as required. The detachment School Action For Emergencies (SAFE) plans were reviewed and updated in detail this year, in partnership with the school divisions. In addition to that, General Duty members were given the opportunity to walk through some of the local high schools to increase familiarization. This was arranged with administration to be completed when students were not present due to Covid-19 restrictions.

This year with reducing the presence in the schools, and therefore reducing the risk of transmission, CPVS members regularly patrolled outside of the schools, in school zones and playgrounds. CPVS members continued to be involved with investigations involving school aged youth. The unit continued regular communication with school administration and worked with the schools and divisions to continue to promote Restorative Justice in such investigations. Meetings with administration, students, and their families were held either in person or virtually this year.

The St. Albert CPVS unit regularly contributes to the St. Albert Detachment Annual Performance Plan. Initiatives such as the #9PMRoutine and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) are valuable crime prevention programs, in which the CPVS unit continues to promote & educate citizens about, in an effort to reduce property crimes in St. Albert. The CPVS unit also introduced new initiatives this year, such as the St. Albert Camera Registry and the Safe Internet Exchange Zone.

The CPVS unit looks forward to a positive end to this school year and as always, we anxiously await the next school year!

## **St. Albert Crime Prevention / Victim Services – Community Policing Unit**

The Community Policing Unit (CPVS) in St. Albert has a multi-duty responsibility model. Officers are part-time School Resource Officers, part time Crime Prevention Officers, and have a variety of other crime reduction duties including summer suppression green space patrols.

### **RCMP School Division Partners**

Conseil Scolaire Centre-Nord  
Division

St. Albert Public School

Greater St. Albert Catholic School Division

Sturgeon School Division

### **School Resource Officer Program**

During the school year, each school is assigned a primary contact from the CPVS unit to be their School Resource Officer. Schools were contacted by their School Resource Officer at the beginning of the school year to provide contact information.

#### **The Objectives of these Programs are:**

To build positive relationships with youth while maintaining a safe school environment through:

- Classroom interactions
- Problem solving with youth and staff
- Acting as a resource to the School Administrators
- Providing enforcement/ police investigation when needed

## **Grade 8 Drug Awareness Program**

St. Albert School Resource Officers continued to deliver a two lesson presentation to all grade 8 students this year. The lessons focus on Alcohol, Vaping and Cannabis. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the majority of these lessons were completed virtually, though a few were completed in person when restrictions allowed.

## **Grade 6 Drug Awareness Program**

DARE was not offered to grade 6 classes within the City of St. Albert this year. The St. Albert RCMP were selected to participate in a 15 month Pilot Project for Botvin LifeSkills Training (LST), a program to replace DARE.

The LST curriculum covers three broad topic areas:

- **General social skills** – Students gain skills to meet personal challenges such as communicating clearly, building relationships, conflict resolution, and social skills.
- **Personal self-management skills** – Students develop skills that help them enhance self-esteem, develop problem-solving abilities, reduce stress and anxiety, and manage anger for better mental health.
- **Drug resistance skills** – Students learn skills that help them build effective defenses against pressures to use tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, RCMP facilitators participated in online training for the program. LST has also developed a hybrid learning option, so that classes could participate while in-class learning, and also when transitioned to online learning. This gave schools and facilitators the confidence to create a consistent schedule and learning objectives, even with the uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

St. Albert RCMP is excited to Pilot the program with Ronald Harvey Elementary and Sister Alphonse Academy. The program began this school year, and will continue into the 2021/2022 school year.



# Violence Threat Risk Assessment Training

Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) continues to be very useful for officers, schools and community partners to assess violent situations or threats of violence. The St. Albert CPVS team continue to receive training to enhance their knowledge of the process. The team will be attending “VTRA From An Indigenous Perspective” in June.



## Grant MacEwan Student Placement

This year, the Field Placement portion of the Grant MacEwan University’s Policing Studies program was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. Planning is in place to hopefully have this program return for the Winter 2022 semester.

## Media

The St. Albert RCMP continues to work with media partners to report the crime trends in the community. Articles on prevention strategies and on the “Good News” policing stories in St. Albert are also released to the media. The Media Team prepares the media releases and complete interviews as required for the detachment.

<b>St. Albert RCMP Media Resource Officer Team</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cst. Burroughs</li><li>• Cst. Tran</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cpl. Kyle</li></ul>

## Crime Stoppers

The St. Albert CPVS unit participates in the Crime Stoppers Program by receiving and distributing the Crime Stoppers Tips to various units in the detachment, and ensuring that information is reported back to Crime Stoppers at the conclusion of the investigation. The CPVS unit also promotes the program during media releases, to ensure community members have the information they need to report crimes anonymously.

## **Crime Free Multi Housing Program**

Crime Free Multi Housing (CFMH) is a program which combines CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles with other Crime Prevention techniques to reduce crime in apartment buildings, condos and multi-family complexes.

CPVS officers continue to promote the program, educating building management and liaising with building residents to provide crime prevention information, encourage crime reporting and to discourage criminal behaviour.



## **St. Albert Camera Registry**

St. Albert RCMP launched the St. Albert Camera Registry in August 2020. The registry is intended to assist with obtaining video surveillance for criminal investigations. Residents and businesses in the community were asked to voluntarily sign up for the registry if they are willing to turn over video footage when requested for an ongoing investigation. The RCMP currently has over 50 locations registered, and the CPVS unit will continue promoting the program this summer.

## **St. Albert Safe Internet Exchange Zone**

Many locations across Alberta have begun to introduce Safe Internet Exchange Zones at local Police Detachments. Locations are open 24/7 for exchange of items purchased off the internet on Kijiji, Facebook buy/sell sites, Marketplace, etc. providing buyers and sellers with the knowledge that the site is under video surveillance.

At the St. Albert RCMP detachment, we do not have the capacity for this initiative in our parking lot so the St. Albert RCMP partnered with the City of St. Albert to have this set up at Servus Place. The site is easily accessible in a less busy area of the parking lot, and has few obstructions, ensuring continuous surveillance. This site can also be used for child custody exchanges.



This initiative was launched mid May and initial feedback from the community on the St. Albert Safe Internet Exchange Zone has been positive.

## **Victim Services Liaison**

The CPVS unit provides one member as an RCMP Liaison to the St. Albert Victim Services Unit (VSU). The member works closely with VSU to ensure the needs of Victims of Crime and Tragedy are met and that referrals are made from the RCMP to the VSU program. The Liaison member attends VSU board meetings and advocate meetings to provide information to VSU and address any concerns. Many challenges were navigated this year due to the pandemic and restrictions, including ensuring appropriate Personal Protective Equipment was obtained for staff and volunteers, and navigating the impact the restrictions would have on referrals and service delivery. The St. Albert RCMP continues to have a positive working relationship with St. Albert Victim Services.

## **Community Work**

In addition to all the work at the schools, the CPVS unit is very active in Community initiatives including participating in the following:

- Neighbourhood Watch
- Citizens On Patrol
- Mental Wellness Working Table
- Welcoming and Inclusive Working Table
- Elder Abuse Case Conference
- Neighbourhood Connections and Crime Prevention
- Inter-agency Information Sharing
- Housing Coalition
- Outloud & PFlag Committee
- Wrap Around Committee
- Neighbourhood Development Committee
- SAIF – New Directions Group
- School Community Resource Team Meeting
- Strategy And Mobilization Committee
- VTRA Committee



## **40 Developmental Assets**

St. Albert RCMP continues to support the 40 Developmental Asset Model and the use of Positive Tickets to reward youth for healthy choices and positive behavior. Positive Tickets are given to local youth by RCMP, Mayor and Council, Public Works, Block Party organizers and Community Social Development. This Crime Reduction Strategy allows youth to use these tickets for free access to city recreation facilities, while building healthy relationships with adults in the community. The redemption of Positive Tickets has been challenging for community members during the pandemic, but the tickets have no expiry so they can be kept by individuals and redeemed when they are able to.

## **Block Party Attendance**

As supported by the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, and as part of the City of St. Albert Social Master Plan, Block Parties are part the RCMP Crime Reduction strategies.

These events allow Officers to:

- Speak about steps citizens can take to reduce crime in their neighbourhood
- Encourage residents to watch out for each other
- Empower residents to report suspicious people or incidents
- Allow citizens the opportunity to ask officers questions

St. Albert RCMP partners with St. Albert City Neighbourhood Development and St. Albert Neighbourhood Watch to encourage residents to host Block Parties. The past year, block parties still occurred with Covid-19 protocols in place. The CPVS unit attended many of the scheduled block parties and will continue to do so this year.



## **Enhanced Green Space Patrols**

St. Albert CPVS continue to proactively patrol the green spaces in St. Albert from May – October as weather permits. The St. Albert Crime Map (not shown) determines hotspots or crimes trends occurring on or near green spaces in St. Albert, which supports the need for patrols on the trails and in the parks within the community. To provide these enhanced green space patrols, the unit's schedule changes from June until the end of August. These patrols have continued during the pandemic, ensuring safe spaces for all the community. This year's patrol locations will be dependant on restrictions and activity within the community. We encourage community members to engage with members while they are on patrol!