

St. Albert RCMP Detachment

**School Resource Officer
Program
&
Community Policing
Program**

Year End Report

2018/2019



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School Report Summary

St. Albert RCMP, including the General Duty officers and School Resource officers, continues to have a productive relationship with all 4 school divisions in the city. Officers are familiar with school layouts in case of any urgent calls for service and they patrol the schools and school grounds during the nights and weekends when natural surveillance of the properties is reduced. The School Resource officers are a part of the safety response at all of the schools including lockdowns, Safe School planning and enforcement. They continue to provide drug awareness information to students and conduct police investigations to reduce and prevent crime.

In most investigations, the School Resource officer team, working with School administrators, are able to divert youth from the court system. Restorative justice techniques are used to create learning from poor decisions, and the Drug Free Protocol continues to be the standard for drug possession cases.

While the Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) protocol committee is planning a signing ceremony for this prevention/ crime reduction model, the schools and RCMP are using the protocol steps to assess cases of violence, threats or risk to others. Resources and supports are connected with risky youth to change their behavior and encourage a return to being productive citizens. The School Resource officers are now all trained in Level 2 VTRA, along with agency partners.

There have been more changes in the Community Policing Unit this year. The Domestic Violence Case Coordinator has moved from the unit to the General Investigation Section and a new bilingual School Resource officer transferred into the Community Policing Unit. Safe in 6 was piloted in some classes, but did not fully meet the RCMP expectations, so DARE will be offered again in all grade 6 classes in the coming school year. K Division continues to examine the drug awareness programming that will be chosen for the coming years.

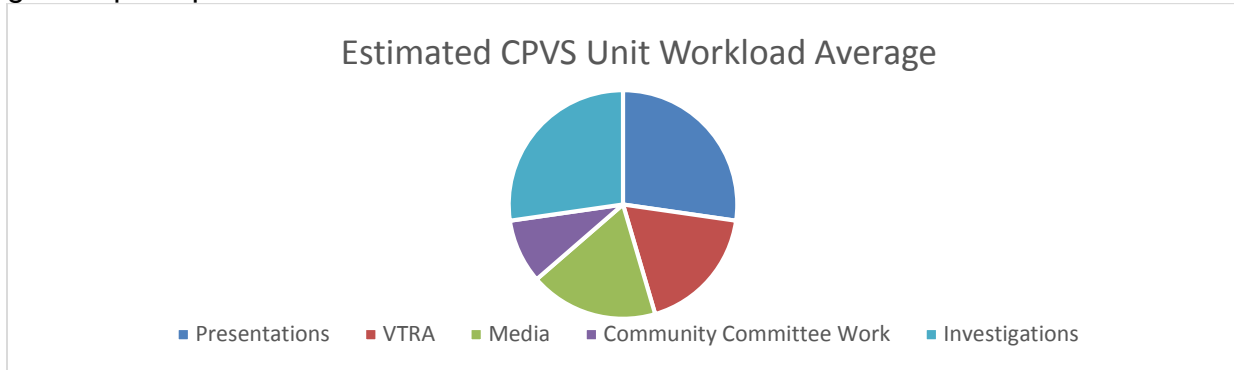
The CPVS unit worked with the School Divisions to create updated Grade 8 Drug Awareness classes that include information about vaping and cannabis. All grade 8 classes received this new curriculum and it received positive reviews from the teachers.

The Crime Free Multi Housing program continues in the city and the RCMP have introduced the #9PMRoutine and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design projects in an effort to reduce property crimes in St. Albert.

The St. Albert RCMP Community Policing Victim Services Unit is looking forward to working with our School Divisions partners again in 2019/2020.

St. Albert Community Policing/ Victim Services Unit

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



RCMP School Division Partners

Conseil Scolaire Centre-Nord

St. Albert Public School Division

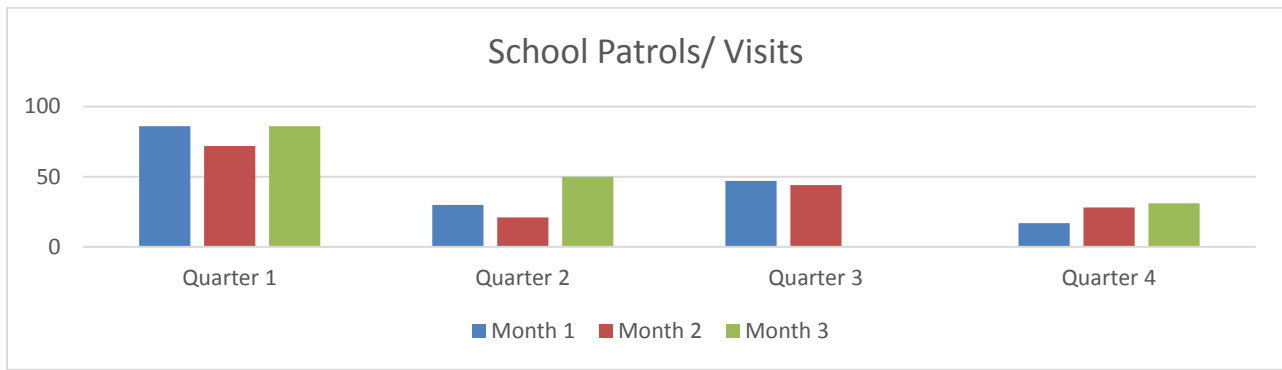
Greater St. Albert Catholic Separate School Division

Sturgeon School Division

School Liaison Program

The School Liaison Program familiarizes General Duty Officers to school buildings, school grounds and school personnel to increase officer effectiveness when responding to emergency calls, lockdowns or threats. Patrols are short in duration and are fit into the officers' schedules between investigations and calls for service.

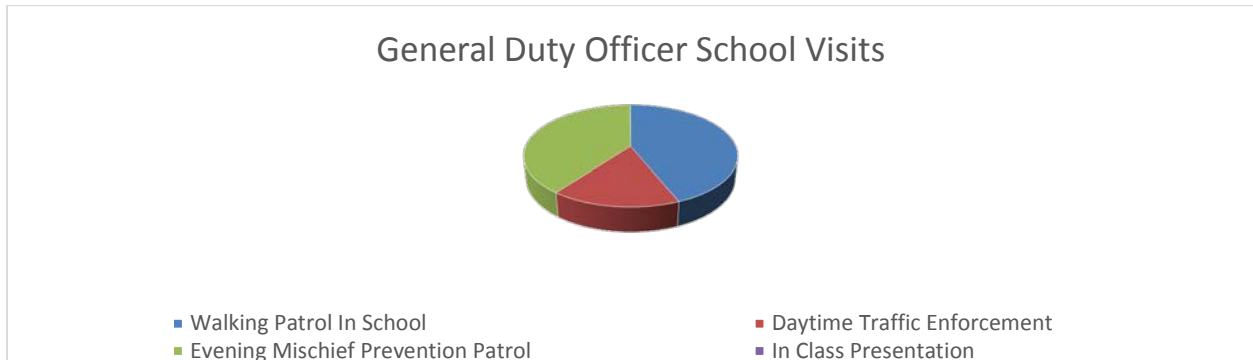
The breakdown of the numbers of visits is as follows:



Through analysis of calls for service and school client input, the hot spot policing issues at St. Albert schools are identified as:

- 1) traffic issues (including speeding and parking problems), and
- 2) vandalism to the buildings, roofs and playground equipment.

The General Duty Officer visits to the schools work to reduce these hot spot issues. The following chart shows the breakdown of these patrols.



School Resource Officer School Zone Project

Using input from school partners, the St. Albert Policing Committee and calls for service, a project was selected by the School Resource Officer team to increase visibility in the school zones before and after school for the month of September and to increase safety for students. The objectives of the project were to:

- 1) increase compliance of students in riding bikes properly and wearing helmets
- 2) students crossing streets properly in the crosswalks
- 3) vehicle drivers were complying with the speed zones
- 4) vehicle drivers stopped at crosswalks and parked legally

Officers parked their vehicles and stood in the school zones interacting with the students, teachers and parents.

81 school zone foot patrols were completed in the month of September 2018 by the School Resource Officers.

High School & Junior High School Resource Officer Program

The Objectives of these Programs are:

- To build positive relationships with junior high and senior high school 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

Types of Investigations Undertaken by School Resource Officers

Distribution of Inappropriate photos	Thefts	Suspicious people
Drug Possession & seizures	Criminal Harassment	Uttering Threats
Dating violence	Family Disputes	Bullying
Assaults/ Physical Fighting	Verbal Student Disputes	Missing Youth
Mischief/ graffiti	Smoking/ vaping underage	Threats to Schools/ Lockdowns
Unregistered/ Uninsured vehicles	Suspicious vehicles	Children Services Investigations
PCHAD Youth Apprehension	Possession of weapons	Distracted Driving

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Grade 8 Drug Awareness Program

Intelligence gathered from School Administrators, School Division Trustees, St. Albert Policing Committee and parents identified the top issues to be addresses at the junior high level as:

- Vaping
- cannabis and other drug misinformation
- peer pressure to get involved in negative behavior

Intelligence gathered from community committees indicated that the community is also concerned about:

- youth mental wellness
- homelessness or couch surfing
- and safety of diverse populations through a welcoming and inclusive community.

With these topics in mind, the RCMP, teachers, school counsellors and Alberta Health Services - Mental Health and Addictions developed new lessons for the grade 8 Drug Awareness presentations that specifically focuses on vaping and cannabis education, as well as discussing youth supports and community resources they can access if needed.

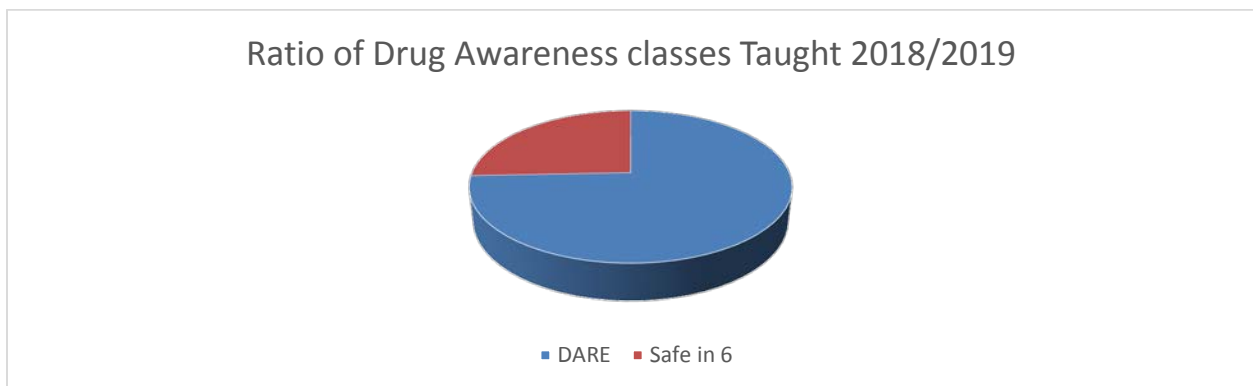
P.A.R.T.Y. Program – Grade 9

Traffic Services officers deliver lessons at the Prevent Accident Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) program monthly as part of the RCMP Crime Reduction strategies. This interactive day is designed for grade 9 students, as they are the new driving population and it teaches them how poor choices can result in collisions and lifelong consequences.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

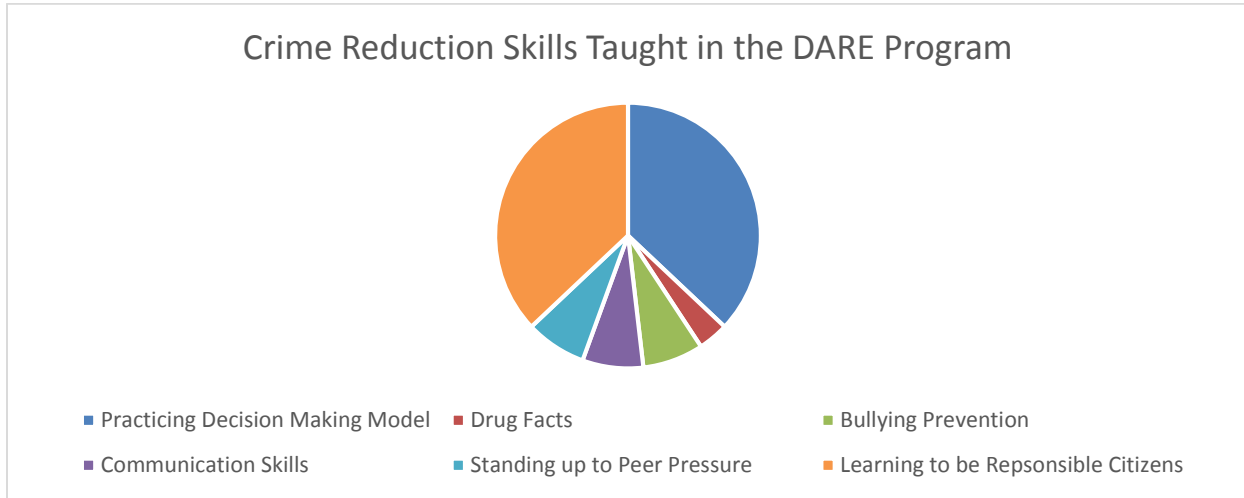
Grade 6 Drug Awareness

DARE was offered to most of the grade 6 classes within St. Albert this year, while a portion of the schools received the Pilot Project “Safe in 6” program. Evaluations were received from students, teachers and officers to determine if this would become a permanent program. Although some positive feedback was received, improvement were identified and Safe in 6 has not been chosen to continue in St. Albert.



This DARE curriculum was developed by Dr. Michael Hecht of Penn State University and is listed on the USA National Repository of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices. Its lessons align well with the St. Albert Social Master Plan goal of a thriving, caring, connected St. Albert and DARE will be the curriculum taught in the coming year.

Breakdown of Grade 6 Drug Awareness curriculum:



Remembrance Day Ceremonies

St. Albert Detachment celebrates Remembrance Day with the schools and again on November 11th with the community. The schools attended for the Remembrance Day ceremonies were:

Bellerose	Bertha Kennedy	Ecole Secondaire Sister Marguerite D'Youville	JJ Nearing
Keenooshayo	Lorne Akins	Neil M. Ross	Paul Kane
Richard S. Fowler	Sir Alexander MacKenzie	Sir George Simpson	Vincent J. Maloney

Community Remembrance Day Ceremonies attended were:

- No Stone Left Unturned
- Chartwell Seniors' Centre
- St. Albert Community Remembrance Day ceremony

Safe School Planning

The Safety plans and lockdown procedures are being updated throughout the year. These plans would be used by RCMP in the event of a threat or armed intruder at a school and would allow the RCMP to quickly access building plans, contact numbers and roadblock plans to provide maximum protection for youth. The two newest schools are being added to the plans.

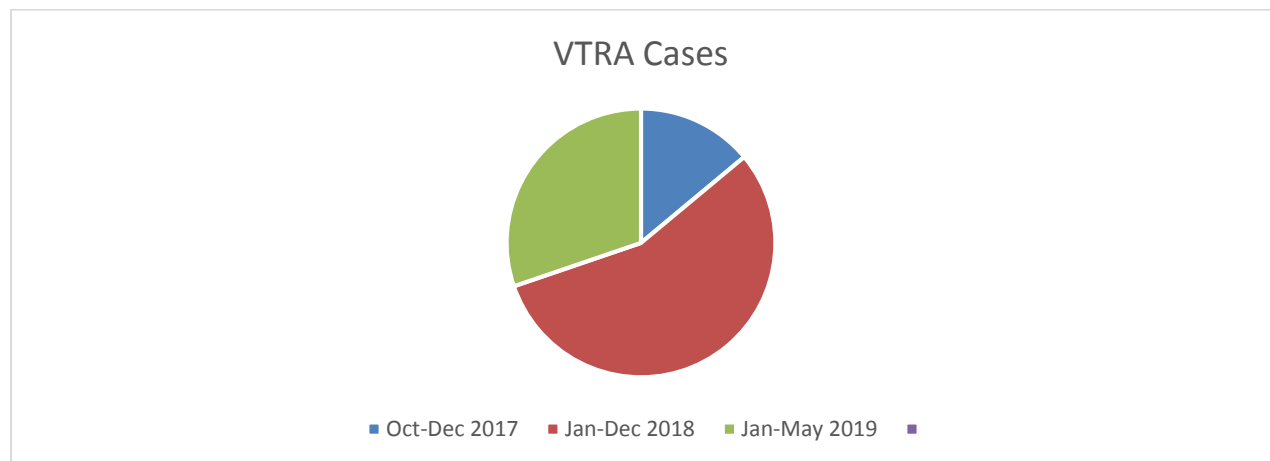
The Safe School plans coordinate with the Hour Zero Lockdown plans created for each school in St. Albert.

Violence Threat Risk Assessment Training

The Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) process allows officers, schools and community partners to assess violent situations or threats of violence in an objective, fact based approach. The School Resource Officers work with school and community partners to diffuse the threat and find resources to move the at-risk youth away from this negative behavior.

VTRA is a parallel process to the General Duty investigation – each side being an equally important process in maintaining safety for St. Albert.

- The inter-agency VTRA (Violence Threat Risk Assessment) committee has prepared the VTRA Protocol, which is being legally reviewed before it is signed in 2019.
- In October 2018, a Level II VTRA training was held in St. Albert for 80 representatives of the partner agencies, including officers from the RCMP. This level of training provides the expertise needed to properly assess the threat level of situation through objective lenses and to intervene with meaningful resources.



Grant MacEwan Student Placement

CPVS and the St. Albert Victim Services program shared 2 Field Placement students from Grant MacEwan University's Policing Studies program this year. From January to April, the students supported clients in crisis with Victim Services and worked at the Detachment front counter as part of the St. Albert RCMP recruiting plan.

Community Work

In addition to school work, all SROs are very active in Community activities such as:



Crime Free Multi Housing Program



There are currently 8 St. Albert properties certified as part of the Crime Free Multi Housing (CFMH) program that originated in Arizona. It combines CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles with other Crime Prevention techniques to reduce crime in apartment buildings, condos and multi-family complexes.

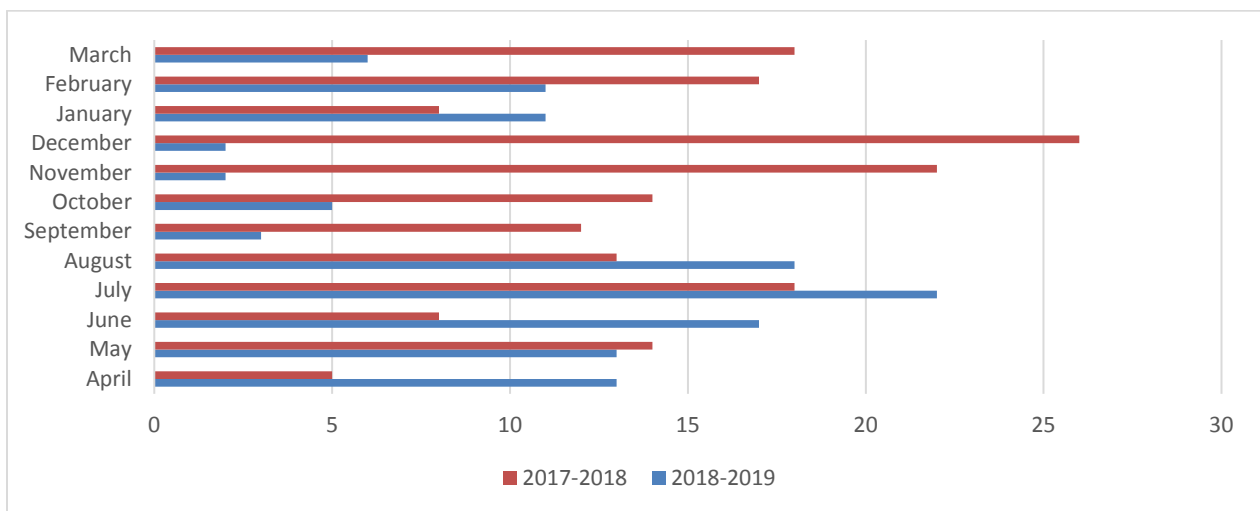
To certify properties as part of the CFMH program, the Community Policing Unit conducted CPTED audits, and prepared reports for the building owners that promoted improved lighting, locks and security. The officers continue to liaise with building residents to provide crime prevention information, encourage crime reporting and to discourage criminal behaviour.

Media

St. Albert RCMP continues to work with their 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.

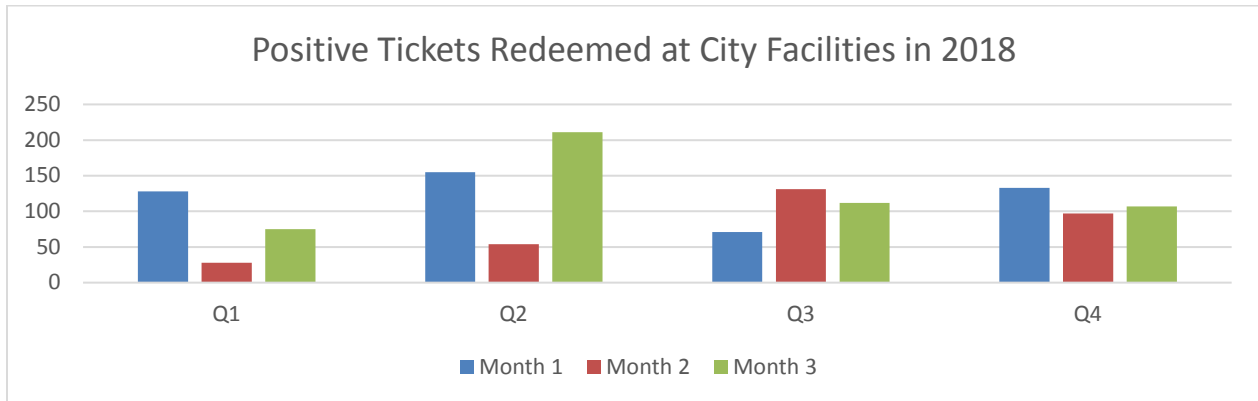
St. Albert RCMP Media Resource Officer Team	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cpl. Kading • Cst. Burroughs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cst. Tran

The Media team prepares the media releases and complete interviews as required. A comparison of number of media releases between the 2017/2018 year to the 2018/2019 year is shown below.



Asset Development

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.



Domestic Violence Case Coordinator

In November 2018, the Domestic Violence Case Coordinator position was moved from Community Policing to the General Investigation Section and it increased to 2 people. These officers continue to review Domestic Violence cases, ensure that all supports are in place for these families, recommend safety plans, and support the families through the Criminal Justice process.

Enhanced Green Space Patrols

Historically, Braeside was a hotspot for calls for service arising from drug and alcohol use, late night parties and vandalism. This hotspot crime problem resulted in extensive community consultation and the implementation of the enhanced green space patrols.

Analysis of the St. Albert Crime Map shows a trend of crimes occurring on or near green spaces in St. Albert, which supports the need for patrols on the Red River Trail, in the parks and in the system of trails that connects neighbourhoods in the city. To provide these enhanced green space patrols, the SROs' work schedule changes mid- June until the end of August to include evening and weekend shifts.

In 2018, 38 cart shifts were conducted in the green spaces. During these patrols:

- 26 adult enforcement tickets were issued,
- 43 adult warnings and
- 12 youth warnings were issued.

Using calls for service and input from green space users, the following key areas are regularly patrolled as part of the Detachment Crime Reduction strategies:

- 1) Skateboard park
- 2) Lions Park
- 3) Ball Diamonds
- 4) In and behind St. Albert Centre
- 5) Lacombe dog park
- 6) Around the Seniors' Association
- 7) Botanical gardens
- 8) Farmers' Market
- 9) Bathrooms at Kingswood park
- 10) School grounds
- 11) Area around Sturgeon Point Villas
- 12) Downtown business core
- 13) Red River Trail and community parks
- 14) Other areas as identified by the crime map and crime trends

St. Albert green space users regularly tell officers that the police presence on the trails and in the green spaces allows them to enjoy this part of the city and to feel safe.

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:

- 1) speak about steps citizens can take to reduce crime
- 2) encourage residents to watch out for each other
- 3) empower residents to report suspicious people or incidents
- 4) allow citizens the opportunity to ask officers questions

61 Block Parties were attended by RCMP officers between May & October of 2018.

St. Albert RCMP partners with St. Albert City Neighbourhood Development and St. Albert Neighbourhood Watch to encourage residents to host Block Parties.