

St. Albert RCMP Detachment

**School Resource Officer
Program**

&

**Community Policing
Program**

Year End Report

2019/2020



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School Report Summary

St. Albert RCMP, including General Duty Officers and School Resource Officers, continue to have positive relationships with all four School Divisions in the city. 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. General Duty Officers patrol the schools and school grounds during night shifts, weekends and holidays. They are also familiar with school layouts in case of any urgent calls for service and patrol & conduct traffic enforcement during school hours.

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.

This past year the Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) protocol was signed and this crime prevention/reduction model has been effectively used by the School VTRA Teams/Leads. The model follows the protocol steps to assess cases of violence, threats or risk to students & staff. Resources and supports are put in place to assist the individual by developing a safety & reintegration plan to redirect & change their behavior. This process encourages a struggling individual to modify their behaviour(s) so they can return to being a productive citizen, while receiving the supports they require. All St. Albert RCMP School Resource Officers are trained in Level I & Level II VTRA, along with other agency partners.

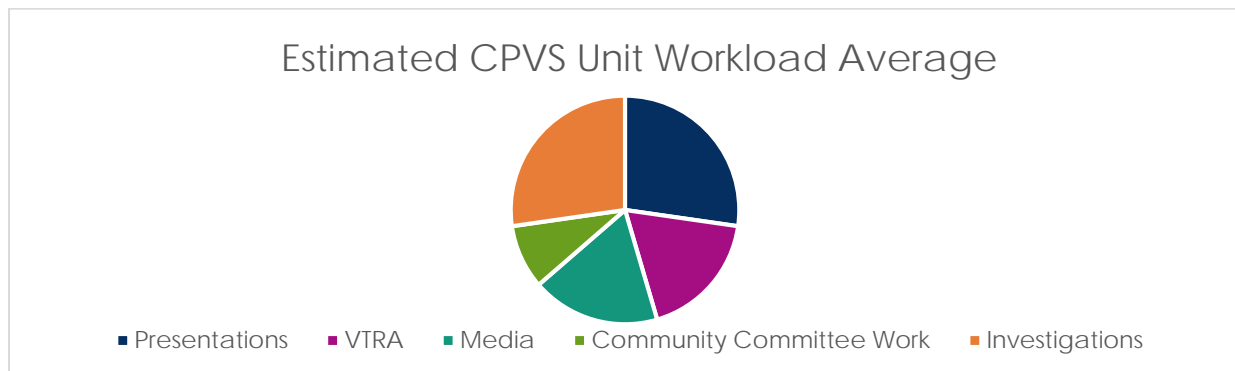
There has been some changes in the Community Policing Unit this 2019-2020 school year. Cpl. Laurel Kading retired, leaving the unit in December 2019. Cst. Jennifer Fraser returned to the unit in January 2020, after being on the Musical Ride for the past 3 years, Cst. Annie Starzynski will be leaving and joining the Domestic Violence Unit in September 2020 and Cpl. Morgan Kyle will be joining the CPVS Unit from Maskwacis September 15, 2020.

The Crime Free Multi Housing program, #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.

This past spring has seen many changes for the schools and community due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Moving forward and conforming to the "New Normal" the St. Albert RCMP Community Policing Victim Services Unit is looking forward to working again with our School Division partners, with all the changes it brings, in 2020/2021.

St. Albert Community Policing/ Victim Services 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 also have a variety of other crime reduction duties including summer suppression 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

In reviewing the calls for service and school client input, the hot spot policing issues at St. Albert Schools continue to be identified as:

- Traffic issues (including speeding and parking problems)
- Vandalism to the buildings, roofs and playground equipment.

The General Duty Officers complete short patrols and/or visits between investigations and calls for service to reduce these hot spot issues. By liaising with School Administration, proactively patrol school buildings/school grounds, increases the officer's effectiveness when responding to emergency calls, lockdowns or threats.

The COVID-19 Pandemic affected school visits the last 3 months of the school year due to school closures. During the school closures, General Duty Officers and Support Units

completed regular suppression patrols of school properties, to help decrease any types of property crime that might occur.

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

St. Albert School Resource Officers continued to deliver a two lesson presentation to all grade 8 students. The lessons focus on Alcohol, Vaping and Cannabis. A few grade 8 classes did not receive these presentations due to COVID and school closures this spring.

P.A.R.T.Y. Program – Grade 9

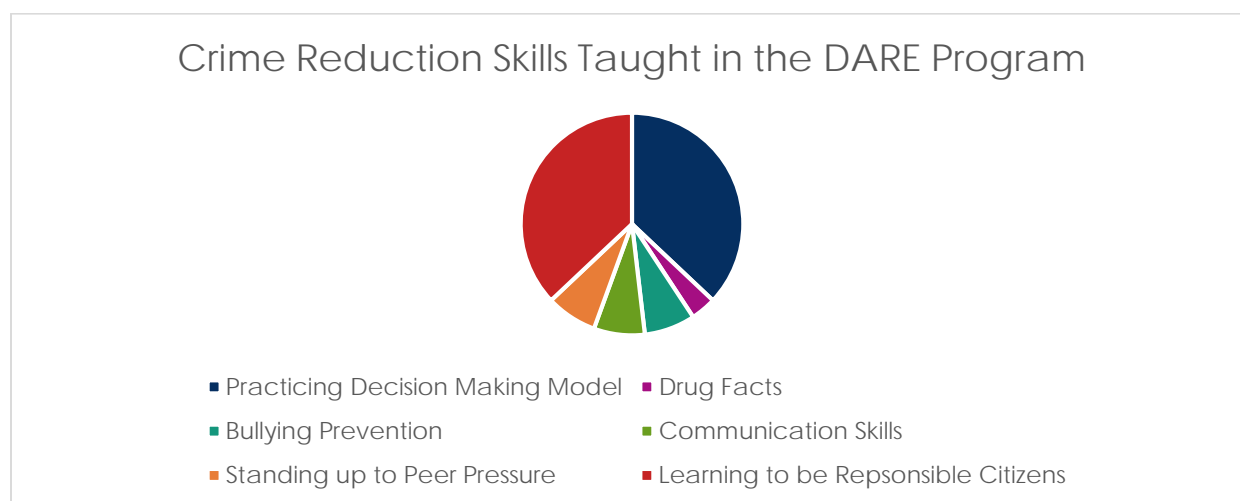
Traffic Services Officers deliver lessons at the Prevent Accident Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) program monthly as part of the RCMP Crime Reduction strategies. This interactive day is designed for grade 9 students, as they are the new driving population and it teaches them how poor choices can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

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Grade 6 Drug Awareness

DARE was offered to all grade 6 classes within the City of St. Albert this year. Although the COVID Pandemic hit March 16th, most St. Albert Schools had completed their DARE classes, with the exception of only a few schools, in which one or two lessons were missed. Students who received DARE in the spring semester missed their DARE Graduation due to the pandemic but some schools made arrangements for certificates to be given out and/or a virtual meet with their DARE Officer.

Breakdown of Grade 6 Drug Awareness curriculum:



Remembrance Day Ceremonies

St. Albert Detachment commemorates Remembrance Day with school partners and on November 11th with the Community. Limited SRO's during that week meant only two members attending school ceremonies at the following schools:

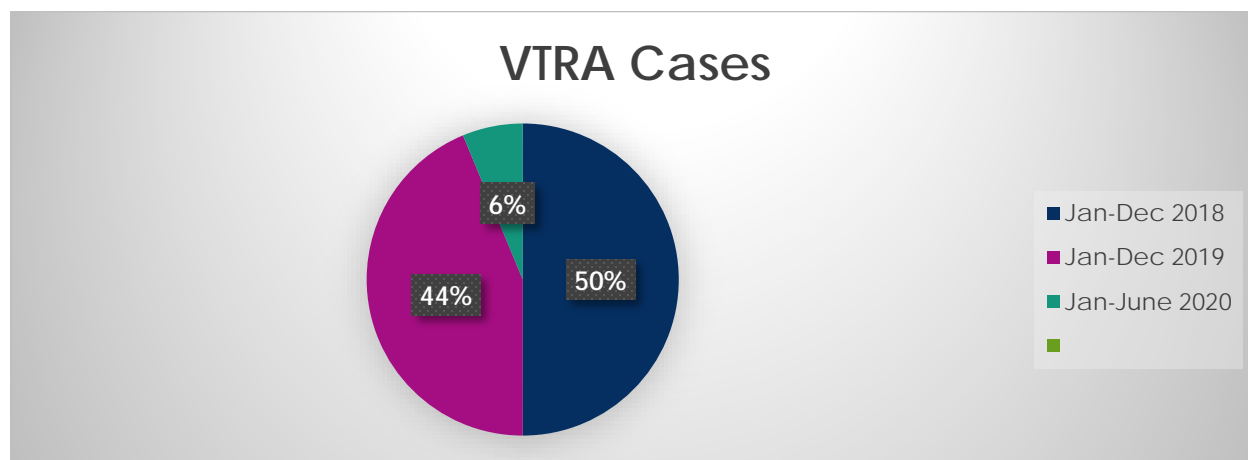
| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Lorne Akins | Vincent James Meloney | Richard S. Fowler | Keenooshayo |
| Neil M. Ross | | | |



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. School Resource Officers work with schools 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 VTRA (Violence Threat Risk Assessment) Protocol was signed by all partners in December 2019.



Community Work

In addition to all the work at the schools, all SRO's are very active in Community initiatives including attending the following:

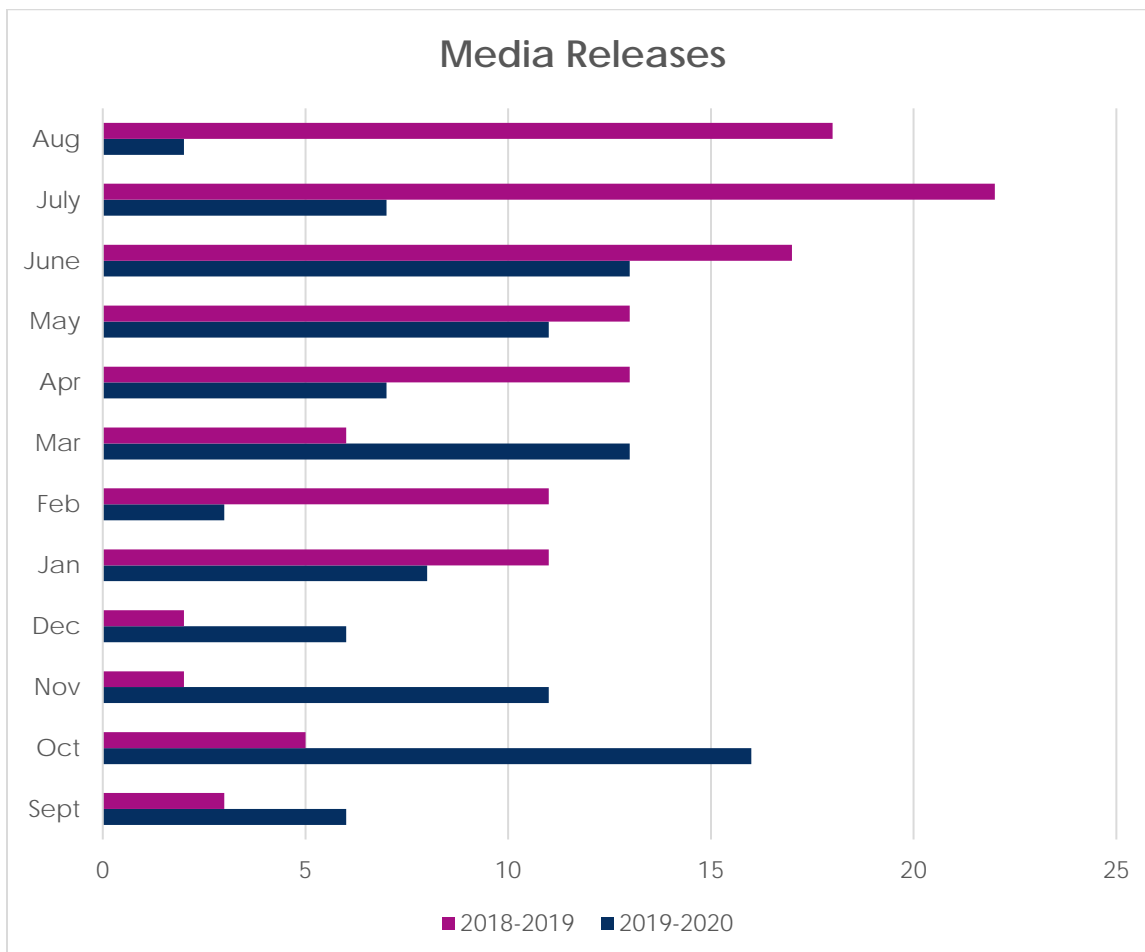


Media

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">• Cst. Burroughs | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cst. Starzynski |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cst. Tran | |

The Media Team prepares the media releases and complete interviews as required for the detachment. A comparison of number of media releases between the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 school year is shown below.



Crime Free Multi Housing Program

Crime Free Multi Housing (CFMH) is a program that originated in Arizona in 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.



To certify properties as part of the CFMH program, the Community Policing Unit conducts CPTED audits, and prepares 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, attend safety socials and to discourage criminal behaviour.

There are currently 8 St. Albert apartment/condo properties certified as part of CFMH.

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, while building healthy relationships with adults in the community.



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. This summer block parties are still occurring but with restrictions reflecting the pandemic.

Enhanced Green Space Patrols

St. Albert Community Policing continue to proactively patrol the green spaces in St. Albert from May – October. 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 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. These patrols have continued during the pandemic, ensuring safe spaces for all the community.

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

- 1) Skateboard Park (under construction)
- 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

Positive messaging received by green space users inform officers that the police presence on the trails and in the parks allows them to enjoy this part of the city and to feel safe.