



GRANDE PRAIRIE RCMP NEWSLETTER

Proactive Police Efforts On Impaired Driving

The holiday season is fast approaching, and residents of Grande Prairie will be getting ready to spend time with family and friends, which often involves travelling throughout our community and surrounding areas. The Grande Prairie RCMP would like to remind residents to drive with care and caution.

The Grande Prairie RCMP will be conducting check stops throughout the city and county on various dates throughout the month of December and motorists can expect to see a heightened police presence targeting impaired drivers. When approaching a check stop, Officers are asking everyone to drive safely and obey the direction of the officers at the check-stop.

Impaired driving is a national priority and the Grande Prairie RCMP have a strong focus on safe driving practices and are committed to keeping our communities safe. Officers remind drivers that consuming alcohol or drugs and deciding to get behind the wheel is never a good combination as it is a danger to everyone on the road.

Drivers suspected of drug or alcohol impairment will be subject to roadside tests that could result in criminal charges or license suspension through roadside sanctions.

Here are some tips to enjoy the holiday celebration and to get home safely:

- **If you have consumed alcohol or drugs – Do Not Drive**
- **Plan ahead for safe transportation**
- **Make arrangements for a designated driver**
- **Set money aside to take a taxi**
- **Call a sober friend or family member to pick you up**

If you suspect an impaired driver, call 911 and provide the following information:

- **State your location**
- **Provide a description of the vehicle, the driver, licence plate number, make, model, and colour of the vehicle, if possible.**
- **Provide the direction of travel or the area where the vehicle was last seen.**

Make the right choice so that everyone can have a safe and joyful holiday season!

Confidence From Behind A Computer Keyboard

Grande Prairie RCMP are reminding residents that what they say and do on social media can have very real consequences outside the virtual world.

With many people having access to the internet and social media, it has resulted in people's offline and online worlds intertwining. This can result complex situations that can get out of hand quickly if people are not mindful about what they decide to post, comment, or message to another person online, especially if threatening, harassing or inappropriate in nature. Some situations could result in municipal fines or even criminal charges, such as Uttering Threats, Criminal Harassment, or Extortion.

For more information see <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/bullying>

When Winter Warm Ups Go Awry

Keeping Your Vehicle Warm and Safe

With temperatures dipping below zero, the Grande Prairie RCMP would like to remind residents to be cautious this winter season when starting and letting their vehicles warm up unattended.

Grande Prairie RCMP warn residents to never leave a running vehicle unattended with the keys inside, even if the doors are locked. A window could be easily broken, and a thief could have full access to your vehicle. To avoid vehicle theft, a remote car starter could be used, but if that is not possible, an alternative is to dress warm and wait with your vehicle while it warms up.

Other ways to protect your vehicle is to remove all valuables, use a steering wheel lock, remove garage door openers and spare keys, never leave children or pets in an idling vehicle, and park in well lit areas.

It only takes seconds for someone to get into an idling vehicle and drive away.

Fraud reminder...

Grande Prairie RCMP have recently received reports of fraud via online buy and sell sites. Sellers are asking buyers to pay a deposit on an item to have that item placed on hold, or they are requesting for payment prior to meeting to obtain the item. Buyers then go to an address to pick up their "purchased" item, only to find out the address is a fake and the seller doesn't live there. The seller has then vanished after payment was received.

Grande Prairie RCMP are providing the following tips to avoid being duped:

- **Never send money before receiving items.**
- **Conduct transactions in person, in public, and bring a friend or family member if you can.**
- **Plan to meet in front of the Grande Prairie RCMP Detachment at the Safe Exchange Area.**
- **Conduct checks on the Canadian Police Information Centre database to see if an item has been reported stolen. Items that can be searched include vehicles, property, boats, boat motors, bicycles, and firearms.**
- **If you notice an item's price is suspiciously low, ask the seller why.**

If a person believes they have been a victim to any fraud, it should be reported to the Grande Prairie RCMP or local police and to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Center.





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Detachment Spotlight:

The Community Engagement and Diversity (CEAD) Unit

Even though we have a new name, the Community Engagement and Diversity Unit, formerly known as the Community Policing Unit, will have the same responsibilities and will continue to focus on building and developing relationships with community members, including social and religious organizations, with the goal of encouraging a partnership between the community and the Grande Prairie RCMP on identifying and resolving crime, local concerns and related social issues.

Members of the Community Engagement and Diversity Unit will continue being a resource for local schools and students by identifying and addressing school concerns by developing relationships between school administration, staff, students, parents, and our Community Engagement Officers.

By working together, the RCMP and Community can enhance the safety and security within Grande Prairie.



Not Just a Pretty Face(book)

In September 2021, the Grande Prairie Detachment launched their very own Facebook page. The Facebook page is available in both English and French and provides helpful tips on a variety of topics, as well as providing a look at the police in Our Community.

You can find our pages here:

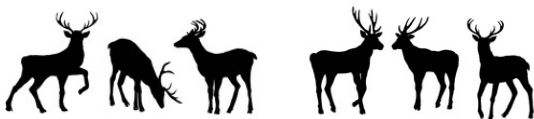
<https://www.facebook.com/RCMPGrandePrairie> and <https://www.facebook.com/GRCGrandePrairie>

Come check it out and hit follow if you like what you see!

Oh Deer!! Ungulates Are On the Move!

Since September, the Grande Prairie RCMP have noticed a rise in the amount of reports involving collisions with wildlife on local roadways.

No matter where you are travelling in Alberta this winter, motorists should be prepared for wildlife crossing the highways, especially during the hours of darkness, as well as in periods of snow or fog, as sometimes animals are not seen until the very last minute.



The Grande Prairie RCMP are providing the following tips to keep motorists and wildlife safe:

- Ensure your vehicle lights are working and cleaned off before driving
- If possible, travel during daylight hours
- Pay close attention and follow posted speed limits while driving
- If an animal is seen near the roadway, remember that there may be more nearby
- Animals can be unpredictable, so slow down accordingly if one is spotted
- If an animal is involved in a collision, or is located deceased on the roadway and could impede the flow of traffic, please contact the Grande Prairie RCMP or local police

Grande Prairie At A Glance

Offence Type	City		Rural	
	November 2020	November 2021	November 2020	November 2021
Break & Enter	22	41	12	14
Theft of Motor Vehicle	24	33	7	9
Theft From Motor Vehicle	42	49	2	2
Possession of Stolen Property	13	19	6	10

*Crime statistics cover the period of November 1 through November 30, 2021 and are compared to the same period of the previous year. Note: The figures in the chart are raw and may be changed by our review process. They do not represent our final, official crime statistics.

All Events	City		Rural	
	November 2020	November 2021	November 2020	November 2021
Total Police Events	2194	2360	467	518

*Police events represent all police calls for service, officer generated files and traffic infractions. Note: These do not represent our final, official crime statistics

Online Crime Reporting
<https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/alberta/en>

Crime Mapping
 Grande Prairie City
<https://www.cityofgp.com/city-services/emergency/rcmp/rcmp-crime-map>
 County of Grande Prairie
<https://rcmp-k-div.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=572cd3cf20ed45b7bc09065bf79ce0ac>



TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
 call the **Grande Prairie RCMP** at 780-830-5700
 or your local police detachment.



IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS
 you can contact **Crime Stoppers** at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.