

CHESTERMERE MUNICIPAL RCMP DETACHMENT

Detachment Commander Report



QUARTER 2
July 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020

Prepared by
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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.

Offender 1: Remained in custody stemming from a robbery and stabbing incident which occurred in quarter one, and will remain in custody until their trial in December, 2020. This offender management matter will be concluded until their status is determined with the trial results.

Offender 2: Compliance checks were completed throughout this quarter until their incarceration from a conviction from a firearm related incident which occurred in Chestermere. This offender was sentenced to 30 months in gaol, as a result this offender management matter will be concluded.

Offender 3: Compliance checks were completed until the release conditions expired. This offender was moved into the Persons of Interest program.

Offender 4: Compliance checks were completed on this offender who is residing in Chestermere while on charge status for matters in Calgary.

Offender 5: Compliance checks were completed until the release conditions expired. This offender was moved into the Persons of Interest program.





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Offender 6: Compliance checks were completed as this offender was added to this program in late September. Further compliance checks will be completed into the next quarter.

All of the identified offenders were found to be 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, and RCMP intelligence units are leverage to remain cognizant of offenders moving in and out of Chestermere.

Chestermere RCMP is monitoring 18 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.

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.

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.





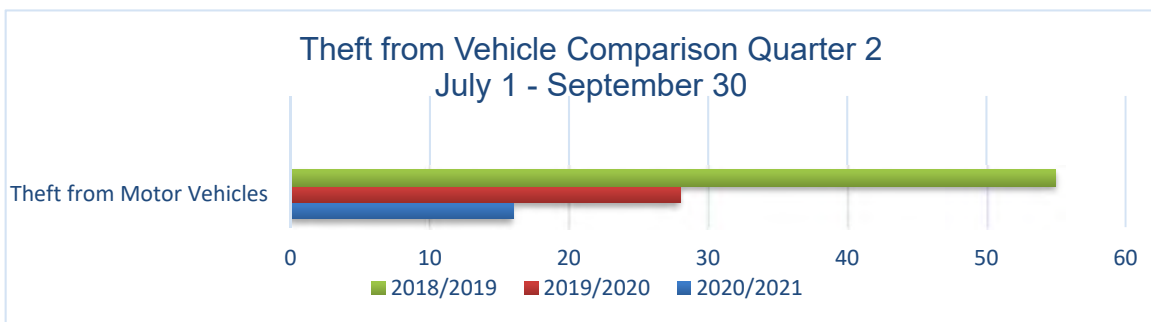
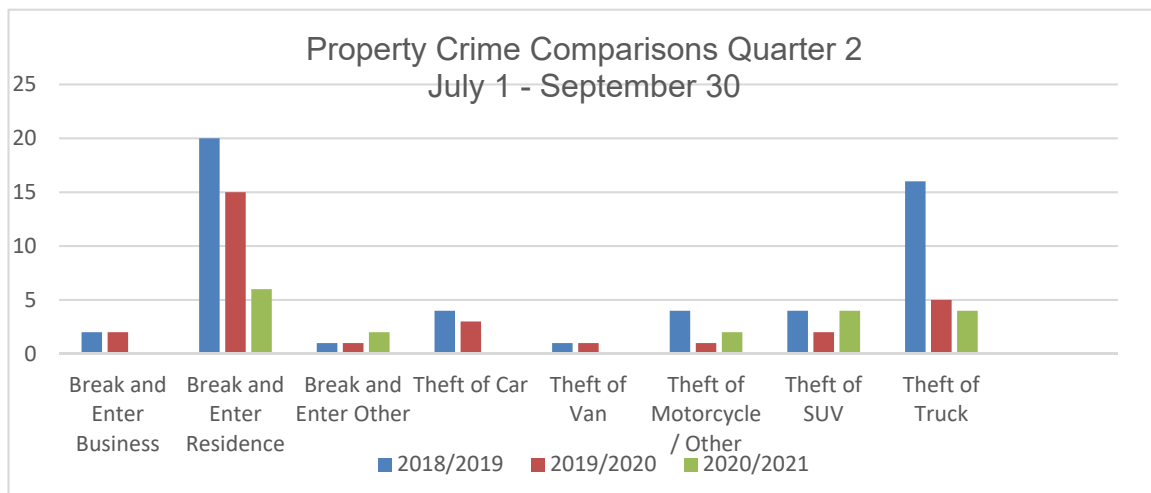
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Effort remains under way with the assigned RCMP liaison to CCOP and existing executive to restart this program. Limitations with Covid-19 has caused delays.

Construction Site Safety / Crime Prevention Program

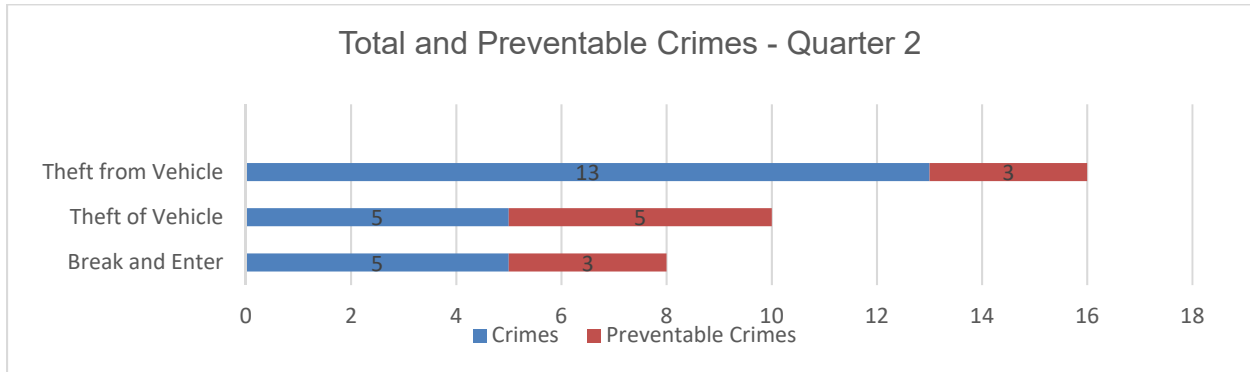
This initiative was added in the last fiscal year to initiate and maintain contact with area developers with a goal to reduce and prevent theft from work sites. Communication efforts involve maintaining after hours contacts for each development site, ability to provide information on current and emerging 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.





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QUARTER 1 PROPERTY CRIME		PREVENTABLE	%
Break and Enter	8	3	38
Theft of Motor Vehicles	10	5	50
Theft from Motor Vehicles	16	3	19

Break and enter files were reduced from 18 to 8 (-56%), theft of motor vehicles fell to 11 from 13 (-15%), and Theft from MV fell to 16 from 28 (-43%) compared to quarter two last year. Ongoing crime prevention programs have contributed to this reduction. Overall year to date, objectives in this area are on average at 24% of our planned goal at the mid point of this fiscal year.

A significant driver this quarter remained 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.

Preventable crimes have been dropping in part of the increased public vigilance and presence at home.

Theft of license plates continues to be problematic. Half of the theft from vehicle occurrences this quarter involved theft of license plates. Effort to seek greater participation in the *License Plate Security Screw Program* will continue. Security screws are available to Chestermere residents free of charge at Jiffy Lube, Tire Craft, Chestermere Lake Registry, and at the Chestermere RCMP detachment.

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

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.





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Traffic Safety/Enforcement

Quarter two enforcement results:

- 298 violations were issued by detachment members;
- 7 impaired drivers were removed from Chestermere roads; and
- 2 drivers were issued alcohol/drug suspensions.
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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.

The Enhanced Road Safety Program resumed operations on July 25, 2020 with Alberta Sheriff resumption of participation occurring on August 25, 2020. In quarter two, 26 enhanced shifts were completed which produced:

- **491 Total infractions**
- 270 Speed
- 53 Seatbelts
- 45 Distracted Driving
- 21 Intersection Offences
- 26 Vehicle Deficiency Violations
- 34 No Drivers License / Fail to Produce
- 11 No Registration and/or Insurance (includes fail to produce)
- 45 Other Moving Offences
- 0 Liquor Offences
- 0 Liquor Seizures
- 6 Bylaw Offences
- 3 Suspensions
- 0 Cannabis Infractions
- 15 Roadside Screening Tests
- 84 Mandatory Alcohol Screening Tests

A total of 429 drivers were issued violations. 287 (67%) were non-residents of Chestermere, 142 (33%) were residents of Chestermere.

Check Stop Program

In quarter two, 23 documented check stops were conducted which resulted in:





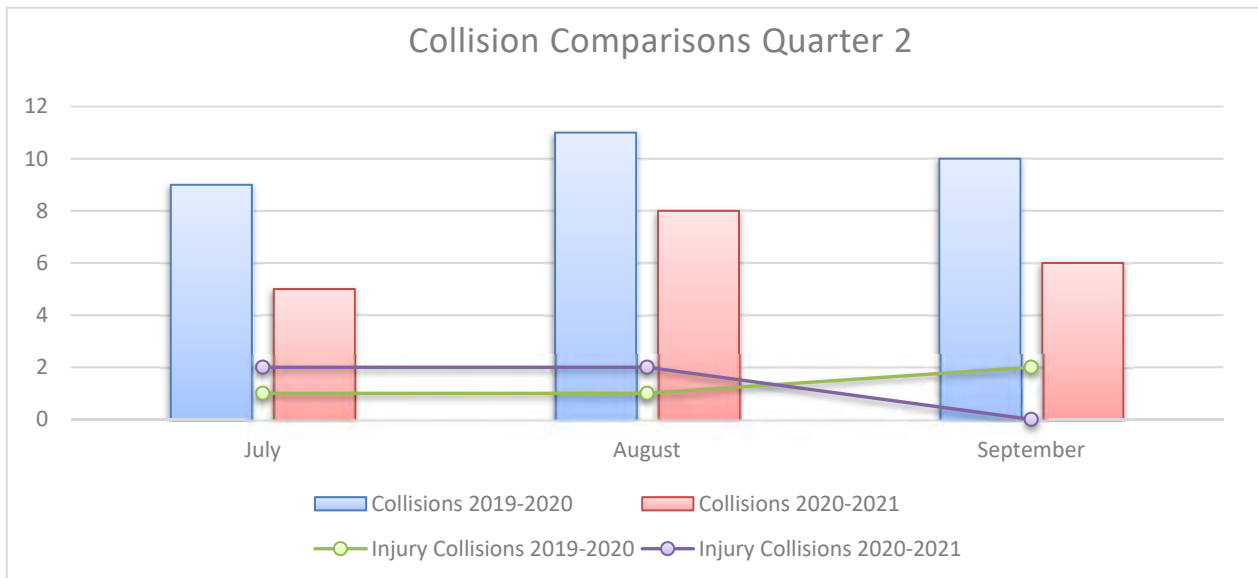
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- 601 Vehicles Checked
- 0 Violations Issued
- 0 Impaired Driver(s)
- 1 Driving Suspensions

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 quarter two, Chestermere members documented 46 bar walks.

Collision Comparisons



Collisions were reduced this quarter from 30 to 19 (-37%) and injury collisions remain unchanged at four compared to the same time frame last year. Current high visibility initiatives and road safety enforcement remains the main drivers in these reductions. Other contributing factors are related to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic with higher levels of unemployment and work from home arrangements.

3. Community Involvement Activities

School Visits

During quarter two, Chestermere members documented 21 school visits, a reduced number as a result of the summer break. The majority of the visits were conducted during September for back to school activities, update of SAFE plans, and introductions of school liaison members to staff and students.





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Attendance at Community Events

During quarter two members attended 11 community events. Details of the events were:

July 13: Cst. KNEZEVIC stopped to play basketball with kids in the park.



July 23: Cst. KNEZEVIC and NEUFELD stopped to play football with kids at Anniversary Park.

August 19: Cst. SADR attended the Rec Centre during a fair event to promote the Security Screw Program and install screws on vehicles per resident request.



August 22: Cst. KNEZEVIC attended and participated in the Synergy Duck Race which raises money for the organization. S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ, R/Cst. ANDERSON, and Cst. NEUFELD attended as well to cheer on the participants

August 25: Cst. NEUFELD attended the Tuesday Night Cruisers at the Landing.





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August 27: In a show of support for policing, the RCMP Veterans Association in Calgary organized a drive by of the Chestermere RCMP detachment.



Sept. 10: Cst. NEUFELD and Cpl. CURRIE attended a Suicide Prevention Vigil at John Peake Park.

Sept. 18: Cst. NEUFELD attended the Mountain View Funeral Home to participate in and show support at a celebration of life for a recently deceased Chestermere youth. Cst. NEUFELD met with family members and expressed condolences on behalf of the Chestermere RCMP.

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 year additional public consultations are planned in a town hall format in an effort to enhance community engagement.

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 15 local community groups.

4. Other Initiatives

Proactive Park, Green Space, and Business Patrols





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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.

A goal of 4,020 individual patrols through these areas was set for this fiscal year with a primary focus on quarter one and two. During these patrols, our members engaged with the public in positive ways and participated in open area events as they occurred. During the warmer months an additional focus was placed on our beaches while working with the City of Chestermere to promote safe and healthy user ship of public amenities.

During this quarter 152 man hours were invested in 2,339 documented patrols through our parks and green spaces with approximately 16,356 contacts.

Year to date, 4,314 individual patrols were documented which consumed 353.6 man hours and involved approximately 22,677 contacts. Presence in open areas, parks, schools, and business parks will continue but will not be recorded for the remainder of this year.

Water Safety Program

The Water Safety Program commenced in May as a continued part of an overall Lake Safety Management Plan. During quarter two Chestermere RCMP completed 21 of 29 scheduled patrols. Cancellations were attributed to either weather or unavailability of crew. During these patrols:

- 653 Vessels were checked;
- 47 Safety inspection decals were issued;
- 6 Vessels where liquor was disposed;
- 1 One vessel removed from the lake due to lack of safety equipment and unseaworthy condition.

On July 26, lake visitors were found attempting to navigate Chestermere Lake with this home made vessel which was constructed from milk crates, milk jugs, zip ties, two electric motors, and three marine batteries. Members conducting their patrols found this vessel and occupants in distress under the Chestermere Boulevard causeway. All were taken aboard and brought back to the boat launch where the vessel was removed from the water.

While the recycling efforts of the vessel builder are commendable, this vessel was unsafe to be on Chestermere Lake as it started to separate from the bottom causing instability causing the occupants to fall overboard.





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Several other instances occurred where patrolling members were needed to tow lake users on paddleboards, or other vessels to shore as a result of inexperience, or weather.

Total numbers for the season:

- 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.

The majority of vessels found in non compliance were non-residents and involved missing safety equipment, or failure to licence vessels with Transport Canada.

More information on the Chestermere RCMP's water safety program, and safety inspection decal program can be found on the City of Chestermere website at Chestermere.ca/RCMP under the Water Safety Program tab.

Citizens on Patrol

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

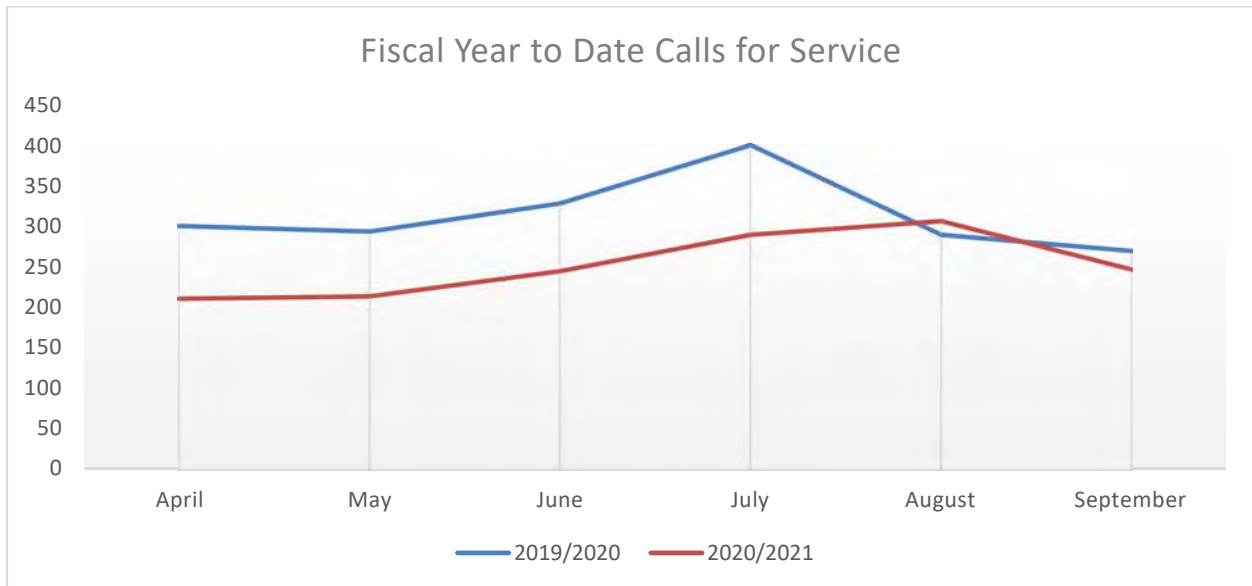




Positive Ticketing Program

The positive ticketing program has continued and members have been identifying worthy candidates in their regular patrols, park and green space patrols, and by referral through the community group liaison program. Despite the challenges imposed through the pandemic, this program maintains full support and continues to foster positive contact between law enforcement and Chestermere youth.

Fiscal Year to Date Calls for Service



During quarter two (excluding traffic offences) Chestermere detachment responded to 844 calls for service, down from 961 the year prior representing a 12% decrease. Fiscal year to date there has been a reduction of 20% in calls for service. Factors which have contributed to this reduction remain:

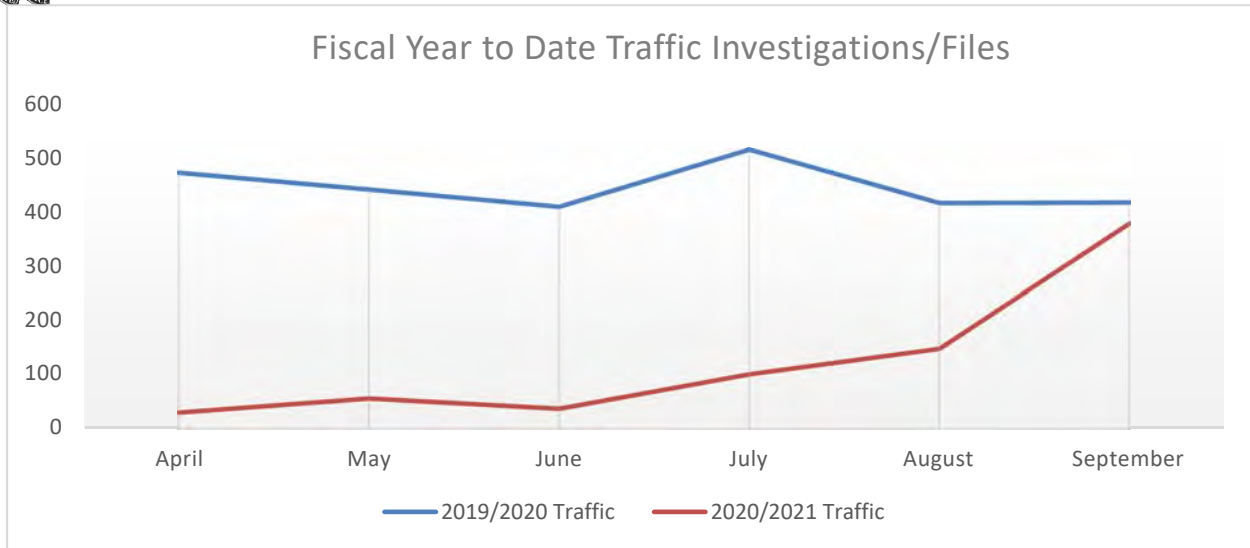
- Work from home arrangements, self isolation, and significant distancing between individuals;
- Less resulting traffic and close interactions;
- Closed businesses or businesses just reopening after phase two of the Provincial re-launch; and
- Decreased recreational activity and travel options.

Traffic files decreased this quarter from the same time frame the year before. As noted in the road safety reporting section collisions fell significantly with reductions of vehicles on roadways, reduced travel, and ongoing road safety efforts.





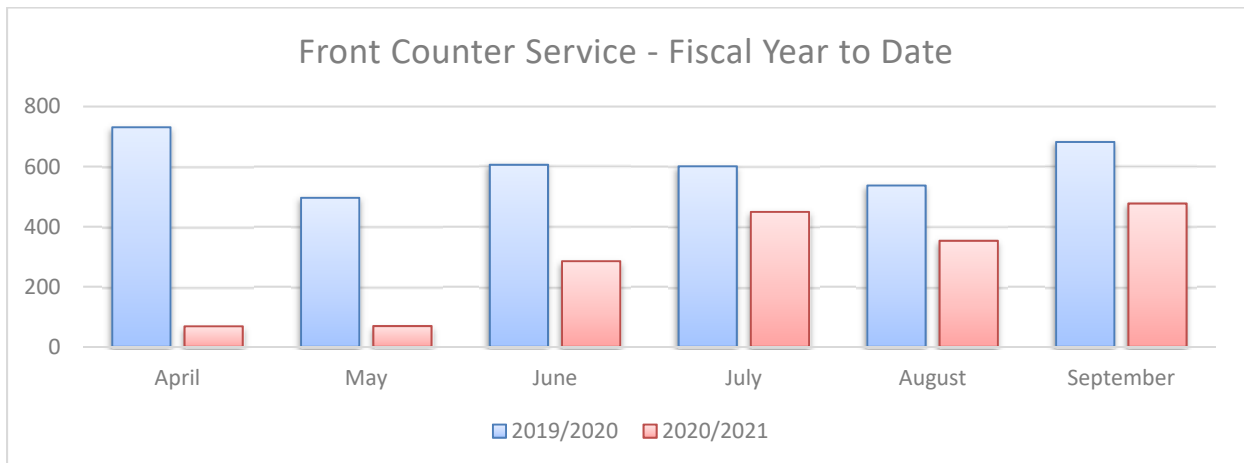
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An observable increase in traffic activity began to occur after phase two of the Provincial relaunch which increased the number of traffic related investigations. The Enhanced Road Safety program resumed on July 25, Alberta Sheriff participation in the program resumed on August 25, and full restoration of regular road safety initiatives are seeing increases through to the end of this quarter. Performance in this area nearly intersects in September between this year and last year.

*** 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. ***

Chestermere Detachment Front Counter Service Delivery



In quarter two (July - September) Chestermere detachment front counter recorded 1,279 contacts for service compared to 1,820 the year before (30% decrease). Year to date there





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have been 1,701 front counter contacts compared to 3,653 the year before (53% decrease).

As noted in the previous quarterly report, significant reductions were experienced as a result of the initial lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Front counter service requests have steadily increased since June after the second phase of the Provincial relaunch. Despite the current status of the reopening, there was less traffic on roadways, fewer collisions, reduced demand for record checks with fewer school/sports activities, and ability to handle some enquires over the phone rather than requiring clients to attend the front counter.

**** 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 2020-10-29
Detachment Commander
Chestermere Detachment

