

2017
***Annual Report to Mayor and Council and
Area Directors “C” and “D”
Grand Forks Detachment
Royal Canadian Mounted Police***



Sergeant Jim Fenske
March 2018



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Section 1

Executive Summary

2017 saw a continuation of normal operations at Grand Forks Detachment. We experienced severe resource shortages during almost the entire year, sometimes operating at 50% of our allotted establishment (human resources).

With the assistance and funding granted from Regional District of Kootenay Boundary a Reserve Constable was once again, deployed to Christina Lake for the months of July and August. Area C Director, Grace McGregor worked with Sgt. Fenske to make this partnership agreement occur again. This unique initiative continues to vastly increase presence on the water at Christina Lake with over 121 files generated for vessel checks and infractions in 2017. Ten charges under the Small Vessels Regulations were issued. One Impaired Operations of a vessel charge was pursued criminally. Overall statistics showed minimal changes in criminal activity during the summer months as this deployment is maintaining the decreases previously attained. RCMP presence on the Lake has had a significant impact on boater safety and incidents related to boating.

Reserve Constable Chris Cottrill will be returning this coming summer. Reserve Constable Darryl Hammond will be assisting Cottrill as required.

During the summer of 2017 Seasonal Policing funds were once again allocated from South East District for additional Policing at Christina Lake. This funding was not fully utilized due to the 2017 Interface wildfires.

In 2016 Both Cst. Venema and Cst. Kalnin transferred out and were replaced by two new members, Cst. Tabert and Cst. Forbes. Within a year the Detachment has gone from a fairly senior Detachment to a fairly junior Detachment. In 2018 Sgt. Fenske will be departing and Sgt. Fenske's replacement will be staffed via a promotion process.



Section 2

Grand Forks RCMP

Grand Forks RCMP are responsible for policing a vast geographical area. Stretching from the Trans Canada trail crossing west of Eholt to the east side of the Paulson Bridge. South to the United States/Canada Border to approximately 100 km North on North Fork Road, Grand Forks Rural, Grand Forks City and Christina Lake within the Kootenay Boundary Regional District. We also provide policing services to Granby Provincial Park and Gladstone Provincial Park

In April 2016 Grand Forks and Midway Detachment (Boundary Regional RCMP) were de-integrated making both Detachments, Midway and Grand Forks separate RCMP Detachments. We operate the Detachment in Grand Forks, however we fall under a Regionalized model known as the Kootenay Boundary Regional Detachment. Resource sharing between the Kootenay Boundary Regional Detachment (KBRD) is a reality as we shift people from area to area for special events such as “Shambala”, the Nakusp Music Festival and “Cannafest”.

Currently our established Full Time Employee Strength and distribution is the following:

Grand Forks

- 1 Sgt. Detachment Commander (Sgt. Jim Fenske)
- 1 Cpl. Operations NCO (Corporal Phil Crack)
- 8 Cst. General Duty Investigators
- 2 Public Service Full time Employee/Unit Clerk
- 3 Casual employees
- 2 Victims Services workers (based out of Midway)

The total estimated population in our service area was approximately 8462 in 2016.



We experience a significant increase in seasonal population during the summer months in the Christina Lake Area (triples in population)

Boundary Regional is a Provincial Contract RCMP Unit. All funding for police operations is supplied through the Provincial and Federal Government. Municipalities who do not have Policing contracts now pay a portion of policing costs to the Provincial Government who in turn contracted the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to supply Policing services in the Grand Forks area.

We provide 24 hour emergency response, but not 24 hour policing. General response times can vary throughout the year for non-emergency calls.

Our Detachment buildings are owned and operated by the RCMP, as are all equipment and vehicles.

Primary training for RCMP members is provided by the RCMP in Regina Saskatchewan. Continuing mandatory skills and advanced training is provided by RCMP E Division at Chilliwack at our Pacific Regional Training Centre.

Continuous learning and development of our personnel is an organizational priority. During the course of any given year we invest in training by sending our members on training courses to better their abilities to serve the communities we police. Although training does take members out of the community for brief periods of time the return in improved policing effectiveness is obvious. During the past year our members have participated in training for Investigator Development, Sexual Assault Investigation, Child interviewing, Field Sobriety testing, Intoximeter, PRIME computer training, Drug Recognition Expert Training, Scenes of Crime Examiner as well as mandatory training and re-certifications in Police weapons, Critical Incident Intervention Management, Firearms and First Aid. Members are required to attend Pacific Regional Training Centre every 3 years for a week long Police Skills training course.



Section 3

Planning for 2018

Our efforts in pursuing Prolific Offenders and known Property Crime Offenders continue.

Within the Grand Forks RCMP we are continuing to work on our initiatives regarding Crime Reduction. In the interests of a multi-faceted approach we continue to liaise with agencies in our Communities such as Interior Health, Probation, Ministry of Children and Families, Mental Health and others.

The lack of easily accessible services for addictions, substance abuse and mental health treatment remains a concern in our communities. In many cases we see people dealt with in the Criminal Justice System that would be more appropriately dealt with via by the Health system.

Sgt. Fenske has prepared and forwarded a detailed business case requesting an extra Constable be added to Grand Forks Detachment. The total cost to add a member is \$249,000. The annual cost of a Constable is roughly \$161,000.

Sgt. Fenske prepared a business case and was successful in adding an additional police vehicle and 2 UTV's (side by sides) to the Grand Forks Detachment.

Due to the new safety regulations in regards to fentanyl drug exhibits the Grand Forks Detachment has an Ion scanner and a fume hood (this equipment cost \$75,000). The costs for this were paid by the Province due to our funding formula.

Sgt. Fenske was able to substantially upgrade the Detachment boat.

Resource shortages are being offset by Reserve Constables. Currently the Detachment is down 3 out of 8 Constables (37%). In May that number is supposed



to change to 2 out of 8 (25%). Sgt. Fenske is actively engaged with this issue.

Currently we are looking into a cost recovery process for “Cannafest”. Since 2015 the event has grown from 2000 attendees to the 12000 attendees planned for 2018. The Grand Forks RCMP operational plan indicates that nearly \$11,000 in policing costs is required to properly police this event.

Major initiatives that are currently operating or in progress are:

Citizens on Patrol for Grand Forks and Christina Lake
Restorative Justice MOU with Crown Counsel - Boundary Restorative Justice Society
School Liaison, DARE program and youth safety education.
Block Watch
529 Garage program for bike thefts.
Pawnbroker Bylaw
Prolific Offender program which includes participation of external agencies and services
Case management teams with Probation, Mental Health and substance abuse workers and Domestic violence teams (ICAT)
SKY (safe kids and youth)
Conservation Officer Service
Christina Lake Summer policing. (Small Vessel Regulation Enforcement, Christina Lake)
Training sessions with the local Search and Rescue organization.
SAFE Program

Our major objectives for 2018 are to:

Continue to target property crime related to drug use/abuse.

Continue efforts towards identifying and prosecuting Methamphetamine and Fentanyl Dealers.



Continue to target known prolific/problematic offenders.

Monitor and enforce Bail, Probation and Conditional Sentence orders.

Ensure that our roads are safe with traffic enforcement focusing on speed, distracted driving, impaired driving (both alcohol and drug) and winter tire enforcement/education.

Ensure that complaints of Domestic Violence are treated with priority and fully investigated.



Section 4

CRIME STATISTICS AND CALLS FOR SERVICE

In 2017 several Crime Reduction strategies were introduced at Boundary Regional RCMP. We saw a spike in Property Crime in the area, and we focused on charging the prolific/problematic offenders. Overall calls for service was up 12%. Some of the increase can be attributed to an increasing amount of criminal activity and some can be attributed to file scoring as we encouraged people to report crime and provide evidence for charges. This resulted in an increase in crime statistics (especially property crime).

Overall Criminal offences were up 7% from 2016

Overall Property Crime offences were up 16% from 2016

Overall calls for service was up 12% from 2016

These increases are attributable to several factors. The predominant factors were;

1. Police resources were diminished from 20% to 50% almost the entire year. Approximately 370 hours of policing was lost to the 2017 Provincial interface fire deployments.
2. An increased amount of the travelling criminal element (almost all Detachments along Highway #3 had similar increases).
3. In increase in Mental Health related calls for service kept officers from proactive police work.
4. Members encouraged businesses/employees to provide evidence to support charges instead of just requesting that police temporarily fix the problem. For example, a file that used to be scored as "Breach of the Peace", was properly scored as "Mischief Affecting the Lawful Use and Enjoyment of Property" thus falling under property crime statistics.



5. Enforcement of Bail, Probation and conditional Sentence orders has led to apprehension of prolific/problematic offenders.

Grand Forks RCMP Totals

Calls for Service increased from 3000 (2016) to 3353 (2017)

Of these calls for service:

168 were false/abandoned 911 calls

216 were False Alarms

93 were Animal calls

292 were Traffic calls

Criminal Code offences were up 7% from 2016 (188 to 201 instances)

Violent Crime down 16 % from 2016 (37 to 31 instances)

Property Crime up 16% from 2016 (119 to 138 instances)

In 2016 Grand Forks RCMP responded to 14 Human Deaths, in 2017 we responded to 31 Human Deaths. Most of this increase is related to the opiate crisis.

In 2016 161 files were scored as Mental Health Act. In 2017 179 files were scored as Mental Health Act. This does not include files where there was a Mental Health component to the investigation. Approximately 20% of all files in Grand Forks have a Mental Health component.

In 2016 257 prisoners were lodged in the Grand Forks RCMP Detachment

In 2017 193 prisoners were lodged in the Grand Forks RCMP Detachment



In 2017 members of the Grand Forks RCMP administered naloxone to 3 people to prevent death by drug overdose. Because of a change in response to complaints where an overdose is suspected I do not have any naloxone data from BC Ambulance service.

In 2017 Our 12 most prolific offenders were directly linked to over 380 calls for service (14%) of files. This does not include investigations in which we suspect they are linked, these are investigations in which we know they are linked. Of note almost all of these offenders spent time in jail in 2017, all were arrested at least once and most were arrested on multiple occasions.

Of these 12 offenders, three are currently incarcerated, one is not allowed in Grand Forks for the next 2 ½ years, one has passed on, and all remaining offenders are on release conditions and have pending charges before the courts.

Prepared by:

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