



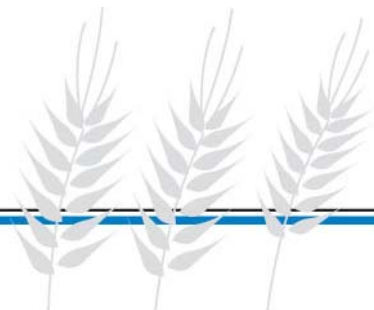
COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE No. 1

PROUD SPONSOR



News Release – For Immediate Release Tuesday, September 1, 2009

County Peace Officers and RCMP Enhanced Police were out in full force patrolling the rural and small community schools on Monday for school zone safety. They were joined by County of Grande Prairie Fire Chief Peter Ensor and Deputy Chief Rural Operations Everett Cooke, along with members of Bezanson fire station who displayed the safety message “Sparky says Schools Back In - Please Slow Down!”



10 school zones were patrolled on the first day of school. The highest speed detected was 89 km/hr in a 30 zone. “The results are typical in the rural school zones year after year” said Sgt. Stu Rempel, Manager of Enforcement Services. “For the most part, statistics show that our local rural drivers get the message and they slow down and drive safely. However, every year we get one or two drivers that are oblivious to traffic safety and school zone signs. I received a phone call only this morning from one of the Officer’s working the morning school zone advising he had just stopped a vehicle doing 111km/hr in a 30 zone – 3.7 times the posted speed limit!”

A total of 16 charges were laid the first day and 7 criminal code arrest warrants were detected by Officers. Speeding up to 1 km/hr over the speed limit in a school zone can cost you two points on your record and a \$57 fine. The faster you are going, the steeper it gets. For 50 km/hr over the limit, it is 4 demerits and a \$351 fine. Anything above 50 km/hr, you will receive a summons and the opportunity to meet a judge. It is also illegal to pass a stopped or stopping school bus that has its stop sign deployed and flashing warning lights activated. The fine for passing a school bus when loading or unloading children is \$402.

County Enforcement Services would like to remind you that Officers will be out in force to make sure that the children are safe in the designated school zones all school year. Please pay attention and slow down in the designated school zones. Motorists are reminded to slow down, obey all the traffic signs and watch for the students both at play and going to and from school.

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Stu Rempel
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