



GRANDE PRAIRIE RCMP NEWSLETTER

Serial Numbers to Combat Serial Thieves

On February 13, 2022, RCMP received a call about a suspicious person in a Southside parking lot of Grande Prairie. RCMP officers attended the scene and located a male who was subsequently found in possession of a stolen bicycle. The bicycle was determined to be stolen after its serial number was checked in a database and was determined to have been reported stolen four months prior. The bicycle was returned to the owner.

The Grande Prairie RCMP is encouraging home owners to take a few extra steps to protect their valuables. There are several things that can be done to deter would-be thieves. One of the most important, and often overlooked, is to copy down the make, model and serial numbers of your property. If there is no serial number available, then the property should be marked in some way to identify the owner. It only takes a few seconds to write down the information that could result in you getting your property back in the unfortunate event that it is stolen.

Recording the serial number is vital if you become a victim of property crime. Serial numbers are entered into a national database that any police officer in the country can check. If police catch someone with suspected stolen property, the serial number can confirm that it is stolen and the property can be returned to the rightful owner.

What you should do:

- Create a home inventory list. Record info such as make, model, serial number, value and purchase date.
- Photograph equipment valuables.
- Keep all documentation in a safe secure location in your home or security deposit box.

Victim of Theft?

- Report your stolen property to police, otherwise it makes it more difficult for us to find you if we find your property first
- You can look on social media/buy and sell sites for your property.
- If you find it, do not make contact with the seller, call the police.
- If you post your property as stolen on social media and you receive information, contact police with the information and do not attempt to retrieve your property yourself.

Serial number:



100001

When Scams Happen....

Grande Prairie RCMP have received approximately 96 fraud complaints since the beginning of 2022.

The impact of frauds on individuals, families and businesses can be both financially and emotionally devastating.

March is Fraud Prevention Month and the Grande Prairie RCMP will be sharing tips throughout the month to help you and your loved ones recognize fraud and reduce your chances of being victimized.

The best way to help prevent these scams is through awareness and education. Sharing this information with others may help someone from becoming a victim. For information about common scams and ways to protect yourself, visit the Government of Canada's [website](#).

If you have been the victim of a fraud, report it to your local law enforcement and to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre online at: www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca or call 1-888-495-8501.

Also contact your bank and credit card company if you believe your personal or financial information has been compromised.





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The RCMP and Black History Month

As a part of RCMP history, in 1967 Alberta RCMP welcomed Cst. David Harding, the first Black member to join the force. Cst. Harding began his career with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police through his training at "P" Division, the former training facility in Penhold, Alberta.



For more information, visit the RCMP [website](#).

Did you know that that the Grande Prairie Detachment has a Facebook page?

Check it out at:

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

Extortion Thru Social Media – Keeping You and Your Loved Ones Safe

Grande Prairie RCMP has recently received several complaints where social media platforms were used in an effort to extort money from individuals.

In these cases, the victims received friend requests, or other messages on Facebook, Snapchat, twitter, Instagram and/or on a dating application, that subsequently moved to direct messaging on various platforms. The victims involved have sent a nude image(s) and the suspect(s) subsequently made demands that the victim sends them money, or their image(s) will be sent out to all of their contacts, friends and/or family. It is common for offenders to follow a victim's friends and family on social media platforms to demonstrate that they can follow through on threats to share the image(s) if the victim does not comply. As an additional warning, beware that offenders can utilize filters available on certain apps that allow them to appear younger than they are on images and on live streams.

Prevention Tips:

- Do not accept friend requests from individuals who are unknown to you
- Do not send nude images
- Immediately stop all communication if someone is demanding money
- Do not comply with the threat and report to your local police
- Keep the correspondence

For further information, visit:

<https://dontgetsexorted.ca/> and needhelpnow.ca for resources on how to manage instances of sextortion and sexting, as well as where to turn for support.

For more information on offender tactics and warning signs, go to cybertip.ca/sextortion

Grande Prairie At A Glance

Offence Type	City		Rural	
	February 2021	February 2022	February 2021	February 2022
Break & Enter	14	28	7	3
Theft of Motor Vehicle	24	11	2	5
Theft From Motor Vehicle	21	44	0	5
Possession of Stolen Property	24	11	3	4

*Crime statistics cover the period of February 1 through February 28, 2022 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	
	February 2021	February 2022	February 2021	February 2022
Total Police Events	1579	1919	330	399

*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.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*.