

CRIME STOPPERS

MAGAZINE

Issue 2, 2020



MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

The Alberta RCMP share an update on this key initiative and its impact on the province.

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Why recording serial numbers is important to keep your belongings safe.

EPS'

MARINE UNIT

Edmonton Police Service patrols not only the streets and the sky but the water too.



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A Message **FROM CRIME STOPPERS**

Dear Readers,

During this world-wide pandemic, we hope that you are safe and healthy. The need for physical distancing has certainly changed the way we all live and work. And of course, many individuals and businesses have been impacted in so many ways.

For us at Crime Stoppers of Edmonton and Northern Alberta (CSEANA), the pandemic has put a pause on our major fundraising event of the year, *Caught By Crime Stoppers*.

Our annual Jail 'n' Bail which was to be held at the end of May 2020, is the major source of our funding (we rely solely on private donations). While we are sad not to have this event this year, we see the bigger picture and are hopeful for future developments to combat and prevent the spread of coronavirus.

We are pleased to be able to share news and information with you through this magazine. And we would not be able to do that without our donors, police partners and those generous businesses that purchase ads in this magazine.

May 10-16, 2020 was National Police Week in Canada and CSEANA would like to salute the men and women in law enforcement for continuing to serve and protect us all. In addition, we recognize the sacrifices that their families and friends undertake so that these police officers can do their jobs.

We would also like to dedicate this issue to the memory of Cst. Heidi Stevenson, who was killed in the line of duty in April 2020. Our thoughts are also with the families, friends and communities affected by the senseless tragedy in Nova Scotia.

~ Crime Stoppers of Edmonton and Northern Alberta

 www.crimestoppers.ab.ca/edmonton/
 www.facebook.com/CrimestoppersAB
 www.youtube.com/CSAENA

THIS IS WHO WE ARE:

THE EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE

MARINE UNIT

The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) patrols the streets, the sky, and yes, even the water.

Hundreds of citizens enjoy the North Saskatchewan River during the summer months, but this recreation can turn dangerous in a matter of minutes. Last summer, EPS' Marine Unit was patrolling near the Terwillegar Dog Park when they came across a large "Floating Island" toy with four people onboard. As police approached, they could see that the toy was partially underwater.

Speaking with the occupants, officers learned that the group left Devon and was heading to the 50th Street Launch in Edmonton, with the intent of a relaxing float down the river for the day.

However, during their float, the inflatable had struck a tree that had fallen partially into the river and punctured one of the bladders. None of the occupants were wearing personal flotation devices, as there were none on board to wear; nor were there any paddles or devices to steer or propel the floating toy in case of an emergency like this one.

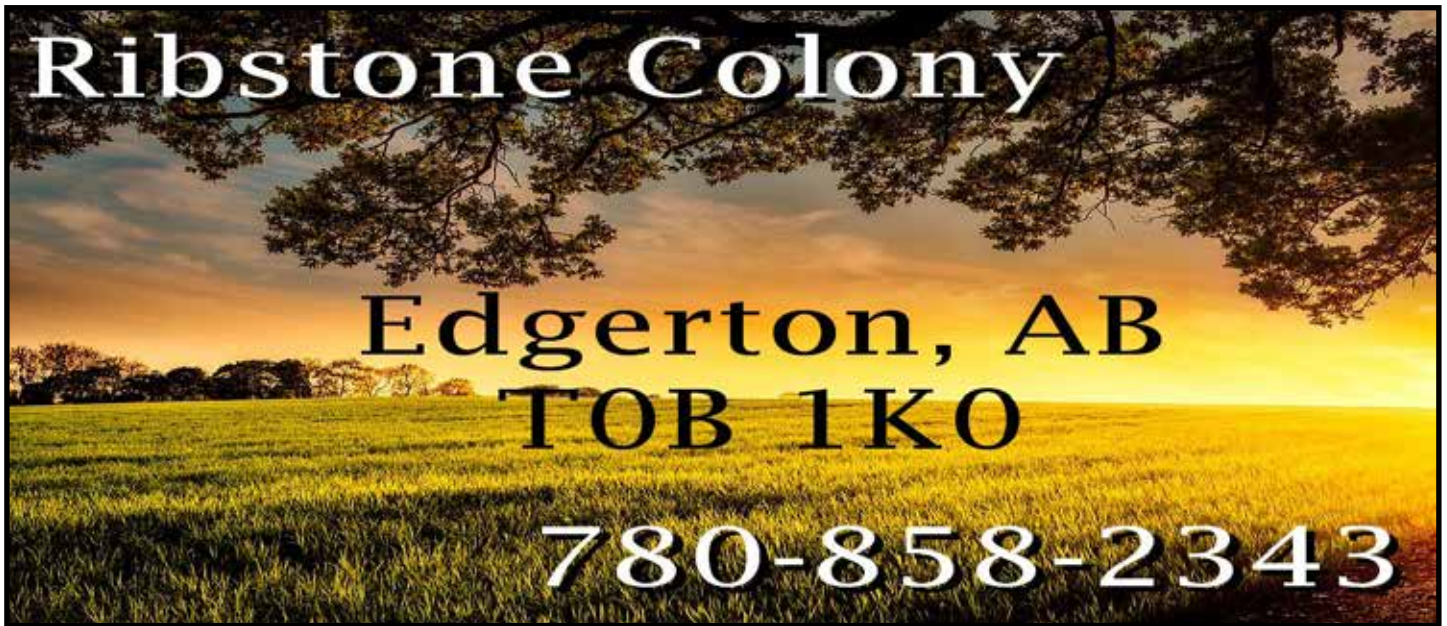
Although it was a nice sunny, warm day, one of the occupants had a blue tinge to her lips, and she was shivering-both signs of onset Hypothermia. Two others were shivering and indicated it was colder than they expected.

Continued on page 8





-Anonymous



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Officers explained that with the punctured bladder, the river water was constantly flowing in, around, and then out of the “island”, so the water never had a chance to warm up from either the sun or their body heat. It was simply flowing through and sapping all the heat from the occupants. EPS’ Marine Unit took three of the occupants on their jet boat, with the fourth staying aboard the float while the jet boat pulled it to the shores of the Terwillegar Dog Park.



Prior to departing, officers discussed the need for the required safety equipment such as PFDs, whistles, paddles, and a bailing bucket.

With the potential dangers and bylaws in place for users, the Marine Unit patrols over 70km of the North Saskatchewan River by jet boat and Sea-doo's to provide emergency assistance, education, and enforcement of offences relating to river use, liquor, and noise.

Officers check that boat operators have the proper licence, and all river users have the required safety equipment, such as a life jacket with a whistle so citizens can avoid an emergency like in our story above.

The Marine Unit patrols over 70km of the North Saskatchewan River by jet boat and Sea-doo's.

In recent years, EPS’ Marine Unit has also joined nationwide public education campaigns, such as Water Safety Week and ‘Operation Dry Water’, held by the Canadian Safe Boating Council.

Operation Dry Water is a nation wide awareness and enforcement

campaign, which began in 2013. It is focused on reducing the number of alcohol and drug-related accidents and fatalities on Canadian waterways.

The EPS Marine Unit joined these safety campaigns because of how serious any incident on the river can be or how quickly it can escalate to an emergency.

Unfortunately, many Canadians simply don’t realize that there are intensifying factors, such as sun, wind, waves, and the rocking motion of the boat that can greatly increase the effects of alcohol, cannabis or prescription drugs while out on the water.



Continued on page 11



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It's a long stretch of river, so the Marine Unit isn't the only boat in the water. The Marine Unit partners with local park rangers, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Transport Canada, and Edmonton Fire Rescue Services to make sure everyone gets along and uses the water responsibly.

Members of the Marine Unit know that working together is a powerful tool, so we can coordinate efforts and have a physical presence at events to ensure the safety of our citizens as they enjoy the luxury of our city's main river.

"We want the public to know that we take their safety seriously and partnering in these initiatives

"We want the public to know that we take their safety seriously and partnering in these initiatives increases our visibility among water users and partners."

- Constable Joe Spear

increases our visibility among water users and partners," explained Constable Joe Spear of the Marine Unit.

"It also allows us to provide more education for local water users on the dangers of impaired boating and the importance of safety equipment when heading out on the river. We just want users to know they can still have fun while being safe and prepared if conditions change."





ALBERTA RCMP SHARES

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TIPS

As we welcome spring weather across the province, the Alberta RCMP reminds Albertans to minimize non-essential/recreational travel as all health orders and advice about physical distancing remain in effect.

We also want to remind motorcyclists as they dust off their bikes after a long winter, to adopt safe riding behaviours that reduce the risk of collisions.

Alberta RCMP encourages you to practice the following motorcycle safety tips:

- ✔ **Gear up.** Along with a helmet, riders should wear shatter-proof eye protection and durable weather-proof clothes to remain comfortable while riding.
- ✔ **Stay bright and in sight.** Staying out of blind spots on roadways and in parking lots will help keep other drivers aware of your presence.
- ✔ **Showing off does not pay off but driving defensively does.** Remember, motorcycles are smaller than most vehicles. Be aware of your surroundings, share the road and change lanes with extreme caution.
- ✔ **Practice makes perfect.** Riders should practice on safe roads away from high-traffic areas and highways to make sure they are comfortable and confident in their skills on the road

The Alberta RCMP will continue to work with Alberta Sheriffs and other law enforcement and safety partners to ensure Albertans make the right driving and riding decisions.

Follow our traffic safety tips on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and Twitter @RCMPAlberta.

An aerial photograph of rolling hills in a rural landscape. The hills are covered in a mix of vibrant yellow and green crops, likely canola and alfalfa. The terrain is undulating, with gentle slopes and valleys. In the distance, a few small buildings and a fence line are visible on a hillside. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a clear day.

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HAVE INFO ABOUT A CRIME?

REPORT IT ANONYMOUSLY

HOW DO I REPORT A CRIME?

Crime Stoppers exists primarily as a means of collecting information from the public – anonymously. Tipsters contact Crime Stoppers by phone or online through the p3tips website or by downloading the app.

When you use any of these methods, you will be given a unique tipster number. This number should be kept secret and recorded, as it is how you will be able to follow up on your tip to either add additional information or check to see if there was a reward.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT TO MY TIP?

Crime Stoppers takes the information given by the tipster and distributes it to the appropriate law enforcement agency (i.e. to the Edmonton Police Service in Edmonton and the RCMP in Northern Alberta).

AM I REALLY ANONYMOUS?

We do everything we can to protect your anonymity because we know that by disclosing important information about a crime, having your identity revealed might put you at risk. The only time your anonymity may be open to challenge is in the following situations:

- A call to Crime Stoppers made with the intention of “furthering criminal activity or interfering with the administration of justice”.
- A party who is guilty of a crime cannot use Crime Stoppers to try to divert the blame onto someone else.
- Crime Stoppers cannot be used to try to “frame” an innocent person.
- There is evidence that disclosure of some or all of a tip is necessary to establish someone’s innocence.
- A tipster having received the benefit of full legal advice may, for his or her own reasons, elect to waive the privilege.
- A full and more detailed explanation of these principles can be found on the Canadian Crime Stoppers website – canadiancrimestoppers.org.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN ARREST IS MADE?

If the tip information helped the police make an arrest, the officer on the file will submit a form to the Crime Stoppers board stating this.

The board meets monthly to review the solved cases and determine a reward amount (between \$50 and \$2,000) for the tipster. At this point, a note is made on the file.

HOW DO I CHECK MY TIP?

To check whether your tip has become eligible for a reward, you must call the tipline (1-800-222-8477) and provide your tipster number. The call taker will check to see if a reward has been authorized for that tip.

IF MY TIP RECEIVES A REWARD, HOW DO I PICK IT UP?

Crime Stoppers works with ATB Financial to distribute the tip rewards. If your tip received a reward, you will be able to choose any ATB branch in Alberta to pick up your reward.

The branch will prepare an unmarked envelope with cash. You can walk into the branch, simply provide your tipster number, and walk out with the money. Your tipster number is the only information they ask for – another reason why it is important to keep this number secret so that no one else can pick up your reward.



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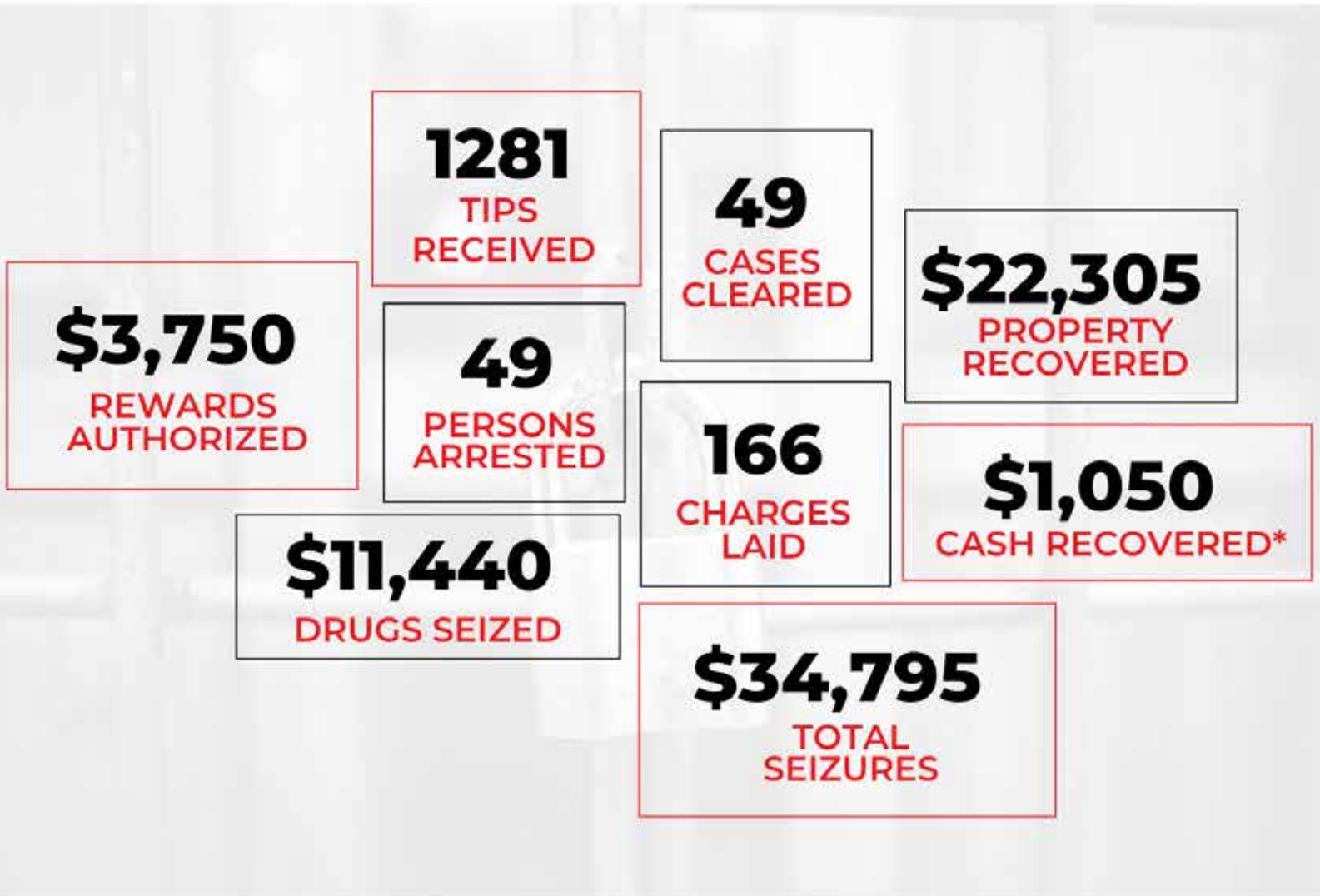
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CRIME STOPPERS

2020 Q1 STATISTICS

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*Since Crime Stoppers moved to the P3 tip system, we have been able to track cash recovered separately. This stat represents this number since 2018.

Remembering Constable Heidi Stevenson, Regimental #45161

On April 19, Nova Scotia RCMP lost a hero. Cst. Heidi Stevenson was killed while protecting others during an active shooter incident.

Heidi graduated from Depot, the RCMP Training Academy, on February 2, 1996. She spent most of her career in Dartmouth, Cole Harbour, Halifax County, Halifax District and Enfield, Nova Scotia. She also served three years with the Musical Ride.

Cst. Stevenson was loved by many in the communities she served. The flowers delivered to detachments and vigils across the country were testimonies to the many lives she touched locally, nationally and internationally.



The RCMP is a family and we have lost one of our own. Every RCMP employee in Nova Scotia and across the country feels the loss. We are grieving with Cst. Stevenson's family and will continue to support them. While a private funeral has been held, a more formal celebration of life with a full regimental component will happen when it is safe to do so. Our employees and communities across the province are finding their own ways to honour her memory.

A cherished mom, wife, daughter, friend and colleague, Heidi will be deeply missed. Her obituary can be read at <https://www.arbormemorial.ca/atlantic-dartmouth/obituaries/heidi-stevens>.



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Crime Stoppers Needs You

*Did you know that we are
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Since its inception in 1983, **Crime Stoppers of Edmonton and Northern Alberta** has provided an anonymous tip line for citizens to safely report crime or suspicious behavior. Over 130,000 tips have come in since then, resulting in over **8,000 arrests, 5,700 charges laid and \$89M in property, drugs and cash seized**. To date, Crime Stoppers has authorized over **\$1.5M in rewards** to thank the public for coming forward with these tips that are critical in solving crime.

And while the way in which to report crime has evolved over the years—from being strictly a phone number to today, which now includes a website and an app, our mission remains the same. Crime Stoppers is committed to assisting police in the reduction and prevention of crime.

In 2019 alone, Crime Stoppers received over **5500 tips, leading to 238 arrests, over \$1.14M in drugs seized and over \$1M in property and cash recovered**. These statistics were substantially higher than 2018—which for us, reinforces the incredible need for us to continue to provide an anonymous tip line for individuals to report crime and suspicious behaviour.

In addition to helping our police partners by providing this tip service, Crime Stoppers also works hard to educate the public about crime prevention by providing this free magazine. It is our hope that our readers find the articles informative and useful. We understand that times are tough right now for many and we hope that if you need it, you are finding support. For those that might be able to, we would encourage to donate to us.

EVERY DOLLAR makes a difference. You can donate online, by mail or phone—see the next page for all those details. We thank you in advance for your support. Because of donors like you, we are able to help solve crime and take criminals and drugs off the streets.



HOW TO DONATE:

Our work helps police in obtaining valuable information about the whereabouts of unlawfully at large individuals, stolen property, illicit drugs and illegal weapons. **Please consider a donation to help Crime Stoppers:**

- 1** Donate online at crimestoppers.ab.ca/edmonton
- 2** Call **780-421-1122**
- 3** Or **cut out the card below** & mail it to our address.

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ALBERTA RCMP CRIME REDUCTION UNIT

Alberta RCMP Crime Reduction Units Rely on Intelligence Gathering, Citizen Reporting and Partnerships to Find Repeat Offenders

Since the inception of the RCMP Crime Reduction Units (CRU) in each of Alberta's four districts in the spring of 2018, CRUs have made more than 1,300 arrests and recovered a staggering amount of stolen and illicit property across the province.

WHAT ARE CRIME REDUCTION UNITS?

Crime Reduction Units originated from a successful Alberta RCMP pilot project, which began in the fall of 2017, aimed at targeting prolific, multijurisdictional offenders. In the spring of 2018, the Government of Alberta provided the RCMP with funding to start up and run four district teams of officers with operational support consisting of administrative staff, intelligence analysts and district criminal intelligence coordinators.

Continued on page 24

INTELLIGENCE COMES FIRST

Knowing that a “white 2003 Chevrolet Silverado” was stolen is not enough for a police officer to recover it. What kind of rims do the wheels have? Are the windows tinted? Does the vehicle have other special accessories? Is the car damaged at all? These are the questions RCMP members must answer in order to disrupt and reduce crime.



Above: Stolen firearms, heroin, methamphetamine, cash, illegal cannabis and cigarettes seized in Central Alberta in 2020

Intelligence-led policing allows the CRUs to identify and target, through enforcement, those offenders who most harm our communities. The intelligence used to support CRU operations comes from a myriad of internal and external sources.

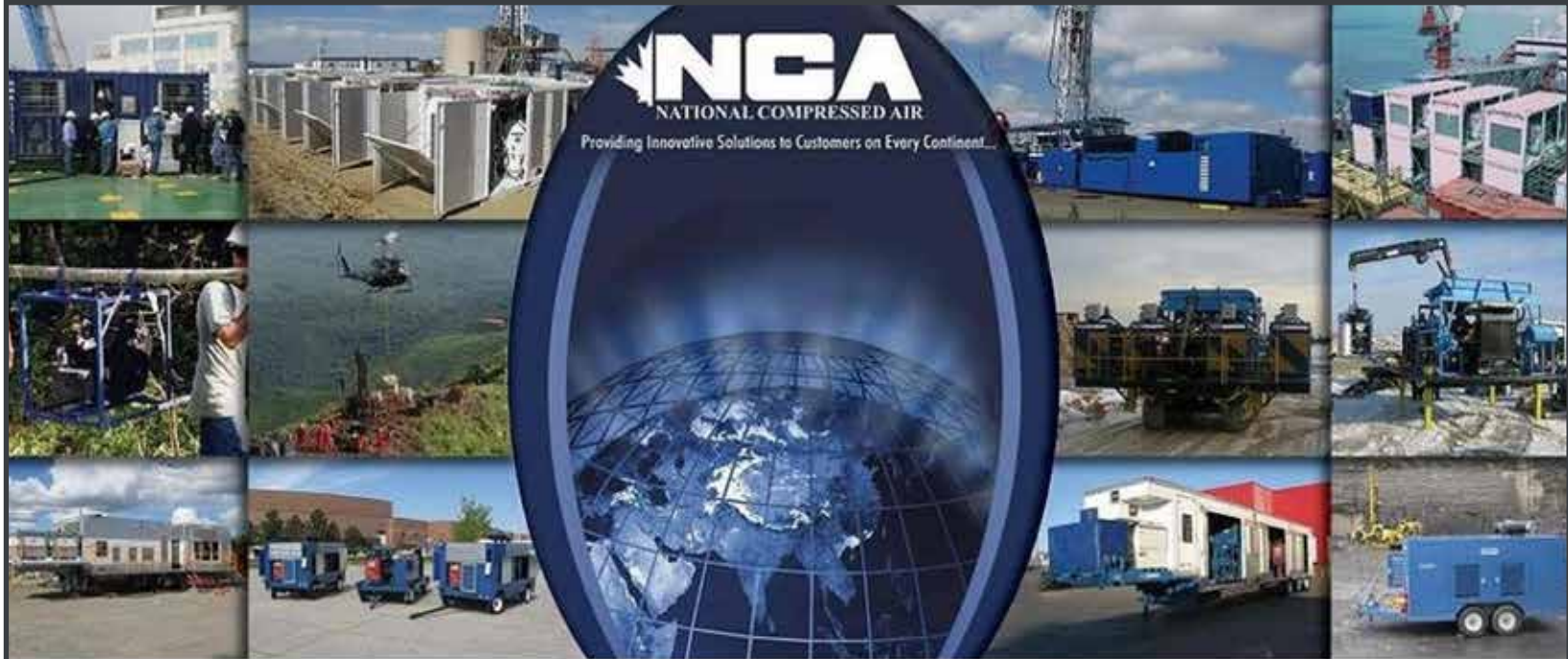
Some information is generated by the RCMP or other police services through investigations, human source information or other analysis. Our crime analysts synthesize the information which, in turn, allows investigators to identify hotspots where CRU teams can focus operational efforts to address local crime issues.

*Since the inception of the RCMP Crime Reduction Units (CRU) in each of Alberta's four districts in the spring of 2018, CRUs have made more than **1,300 arrests** and recovered a staggering amount of stolen and illicit property across the province.*

PARTNERSHIP AND REPORTING MATTER, TOO

Some of the information used by CRUs in their investigations and enforcement activities come from outside sources, mainly public tips directly from citizens and citizen-led community partners such as Rural Crime Watch, Citizens On Patrol and Crime Stoppers. Police officers often hear statements like “there is no point in reporting the crime.” It is imperative for citizens to report

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Above: Stolen firearms, methamphetamine, cash and firearms seized in Central Alberta in 2019

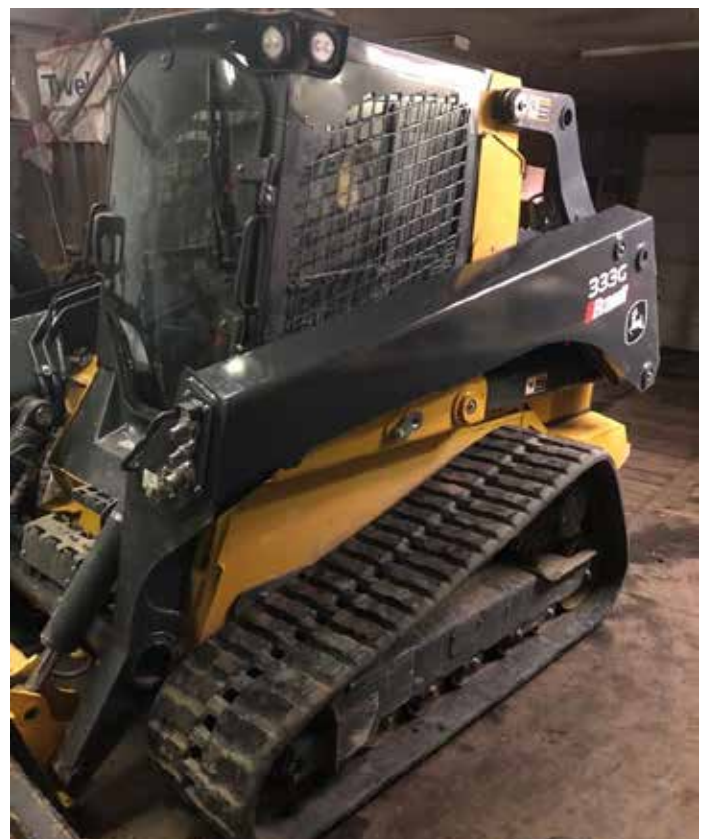
all crimes. If individuals do not report property crimes, then police will not have full awareness of suspicious activity taking place.

As a result, our analysts may be deprived of the vital information police can use to paint a picture of what crimes are occurring in the area, and potentially highlight those areas for hotspot patrols or other operations. The minor detail that the victim deems unimportant to report may be the missing piece that allows police to arrest the offender.

Crime Reduction Unit Successes

Recovered stolen property and illicit items consist of skid steers, gooseneck trailers, excavation equipment, picker truck, tractors, quads, ATVs, motorcycles, cars, trucks, bicycles, boats, ATM machines, electronics, cellphones, licence plates, copper wire, batteries, credit cards, identification documents (including

fraudulent ones), tools, law enforcement uniforms and badges, navigational devices, generators, furniture, appliances, firearms, drugs



Above: Skidsteer stolen from Okotoks and recovered by Southern Alberta District CRU near Langdon

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and currency. Some items such as heavy-duty equipment are estimated to be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Although often used to solve drug-related crime, the Alberta RCMP has used public tips on numerous occasions over the last year to recover stolen property, uncover chop shops, as well as locate and seize firearms and drugs. For example, Eastern Alberta District CRU has recently recovered more than a dozen vehicles from an Elk Point chop shop and over \$200,000 in stolen property from a Two Hills chop shop.

Last but not least, the Alberta RCMP reminds victims and witnesses of crime, especially rural

residents, of the importance of reporting crime, no matter how seemingly trivial. Our officers also reiterate the importance of following crime prevention practices, which include documenting serial numbers and taking photos of property items. These practices have allowed the Alberta RCMP to recover and return numerous items such as power saws and welders to their rightful owners.



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CRIME STOPPERS SPOTLIGHT

The Crime Stoppers Magazine, which is brought to you by the Edmonton and Northern Alberta Chapter, is proud to highlight the important work our police partners, stakeholders and volunteer groups do in the prevention and reduction of crime.

As such we are pleased to shine a light on two amazing volunteer-led groups that are dedicated to helping the “K” Division RCMP. These organizations are Alberta Citizens on Patrol (COP) and the Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association. Please take a moment and read more about each group below.

CITIZENS ON PATROL

There are over 60 COP groups in Alberta that are a part of the Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association (ACOPA) which was formed to assist Citizens On Patrol (COP) groups through support, development and sustainability of COP programs. Their mission is “to build safer communities by mobilizing citizens throughout Alberta to participate in a community-based crime prevention initiative in co-operation with their local law enforcement agencies.”

Volunteers with COP participate in a community-based crime prevention programs in co-operation with their local law enforcement agency. COP members act as extra “eyes and ears” of local police in their communities. Their work includes observation, documentation and reporting, and they provide a presence in their community while patrolling by vehicle, on foot, by bicycle or other means. These dedicated volunteers go through training such as using safe practices at all times, in order to increase the awareness of suspicious and dangerous or unusual activities happening in the community.

Learn more or find a local a COP group near you by visiting acopa.ca or find them on Facebook @ACOPA16.



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ALBERTA PROVINCIAL RURAL CRIME WATCH ASSOCIATION

The Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association (APRCWA) aims to reduce the incidence of crime in all rural areas and to create a more thorough understanding and awareness of the law and best safety practices. In the eyes of the members of APRCWA, protecting Alberta's rural communities is a collective responsibility and this association provides opportunities and resources for citizens to take action in protecting what is most important to them. Together with local RCMP detachments, they "create a strong awareness and presence of the law and help reduce crime."

Recently, the scope of the APRCWA has expanded. Their dynamic member associations are now consolidating their efforts on farmstead, acreage and rural property security, property identification and general rural crime awareness. Also included in the work done by APRCWA is the "Report A Poacher" program. Additionally, APRCWA has a Crime Watch App to help with reporting crime or suspicious activity directly to police.



To learn more about APRCWA, visit ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca.



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PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Recording Serial Numbers

Edmonton Police Service

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 then the property should be marked in some way to identify the owner.

Serial numbers given to police after a crime are entered into an Edmonton-based computer system and a Canada-wide police computer system, which can cause real problems for thieves.

If a person is found with suspected stolen property, the serial number can confirm that it is stolen. This then allows police to solve current and past crimes and gather information about who is doing what.

Sometimes pawn shops are used to get rid of stolen property. However, the EPS checks serial numbers in all pawn shops in Edmonton before the property can be sold. If a person pawns stolen property at a pawn shop then he/she will be charged.

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What you should do:

Create a home inventory list!

- ✓ Catalog your belongings with detailed information such as make, model, serial number, value, purchase date.
- ✓ Take photos, create a video walkthrough of your home, write a list of your property in a notebook, a computer file like a Word or Excel document, and keep your list in a safe, secure location in your home or a security deposit box.
- ✓ You can download a Personal Property Inventory checklist from the Insurance Bureau of Canada to help you keep track of your property.

The most valuable reason for recording serial numbers is that it allows police to return property to the rightful owner and aids in any insurance claims if you experience an emergency in your home!



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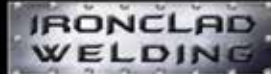
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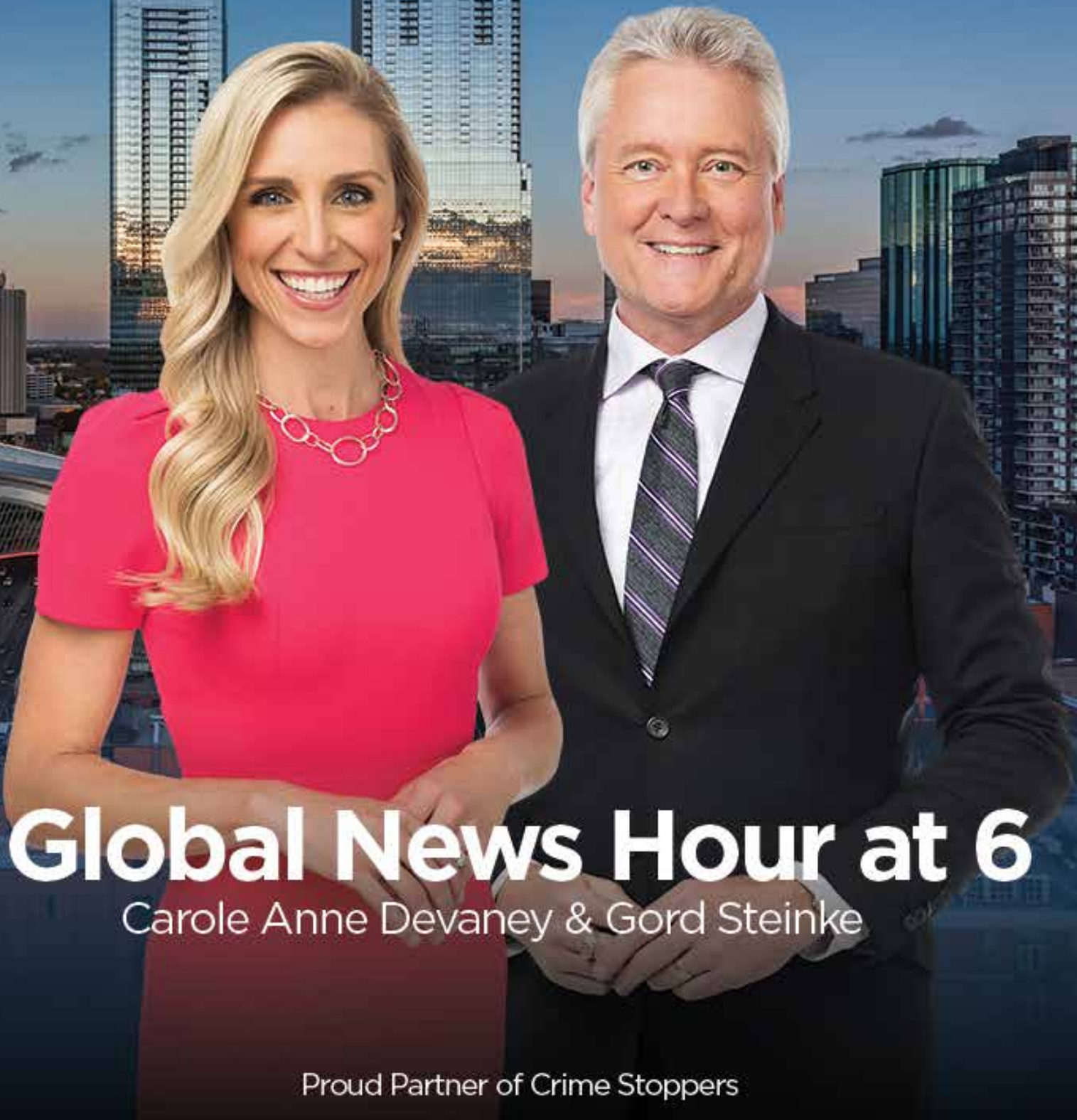
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Our hearts are with our police family.

We offer our condolences to the loved ones of Cst. Heidi Stevenson, the RCMP family in Nova Scotia and across the country.

We also want to send our support to all of the families, friends and communities affected by this senseless tragedy.

#NovaScotiaStrong



~ Crime Stoppers Association of Edmonton and Northern Alberta