

RCMP POLICE REPORTS – DECEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 31, 2015 (PARTIAL LIST)

December 28th, 2015 - Wetaskiwin - Large amount of Marihuana seized at traffic stop

On December 28th, 2015 at approximately 8:00 pm an Alberta Sheriff with the Wetaskiwin Integrated Traffic Unit conducted traffic stop on highway 2A that led to the seizure of over 800 grams of a controlled substance believed to be Marihuana.

The south bound vehicle was pulled over a couple miles north of Millet for speeding at which time the Sheriff noticed what appeared to be marihuana in the vehicle. The RCMP members were called to attend. The male driver, lone occupant of the vehicle, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking.

Thirty year old Aaron McDAVID of Edmonton will be in Wetaskiwin Provincial court in January of 2016.

Blackfalds, Alberta - On December 25, 2015 - Blackfalds Officers busy Christmas Day

Blackfalds, Alberta - On December 25, 2015 at approx 1100 am the Blackfalds RCMP responded to a complaint of three males walking in the middle of Highway 11, east of Range Road 270. Police attended the area and located one male walking on Highway 11. While speaking with the male the police officer observed two other males approx 500 metres away flag down and enter a taxi. The taxi was subsequently stopped and one of the males fled on foot from police. The male was located a short time later, with the assistance of the RCMP Police Dog Services.

The male was identified as 33 year old Lyndon William Olsen. He had outstanding warrants for his arrest in relation to an armed robbery and an attempted armed robbery in Red Deer. Olsen is also facing additional charges in relation to this incident:

- Criminal Code 348(1)(b) - Break and enter
- Criminal Code 264.1(1)(a) - Uttering Threats

Olsen has been remanded in custody until his next court appearance on January 4, 2016 @ 0930 hrs in Red Deer Provincial Court. The second male in the cab was also arrested and charges are pending. The investigation is ongoing.

On December 26, 2015 - Blackfalds RCMP arrest three in a stolen truck

Blackfalds, Alberta - Blackfalds RCMP arrested two men and one woman in a stolen truck, that attempted to flee from police. On December 26, 2015 at approx 1245 pm the owner of a stolen Ford F350 located his truck travelling on Highway 21. An initial attempt was made by Bashaw RCMP to stop the truck, however, it fled from police. Ponoka RCMP later located and followed the truck providing updates on its location. The Blackfalds RCMP along with Lacombe Police Service were able to position themselves on Highway 2. As the driver of the truck approached the police vehicles, he attempted to flee from the police by driving in the ditch. At that time, the police were able to stop the truck and arrest the two men and 1 woman inside.

The driver was identified as 22 year old Jake Terry Pinder of Red Deer. Pinder's next court date is January 12, 2016 at the Red Deer Provincial Court. He has been charged with:

- Criminal Code 354(1)(a) - Possession of stolen property over \$5,000

- Criminal Code 249.1(1) - Flight from police officer
- Criminal Code 249(1) - Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle
- Criminal Code 351(1) - Possession of break-in Instrument

The other man was identified as 21 year old Logan Lane Mitchell of Penhold. Mitchell's next court date is January 15, 2016 at the Red Deer Provincial Court. He has been charged with:

- Criminal Code 335(1) - Found in motor vehicle without consent
- Criminal Code 145(3) - Fail to comply

The woman was identified as 26 year old Brandy Lynn Desjarlais of Red Deer. Desjarlais remains in custody and her next court date is January 8, 2016 at the Red Deer Provincial Court. She has been charged with:

- Criminal Code 335(1) - Found in motor vehicle without consent
- Criminal Code 145(3) - Fail to comply

December 30, 2015 - Red Deer RCMP Death Ruled Homicide (UPDATE #3)

Red Deer, AB – An autopsy was completed December 29, 2015 regarding the death of 46-year-old Thomas Patrick Braconnier which occurred on December 25th, 2015. The Medical Examiner has concluded that this death is as a result of a homicide. The Red Deer RCMP and RCMP Serious Crimes Branch (South) continue to investigate.

The RCMP continue to appeal to the public to contact the Red Deer RCMP at (403) 343-5575, or their local police, or Crime Stoppers if they have any information that may assist the police in this investigation.

December 27, 2015 - Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta

FORT SASKATCHEWAN RCMP SEIZE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF METHAMPHETAMINE

On December 27, 2015 at approximately 3:30 p.m., Fort Saskatchewan RCMP responded to a report of a 2006 Chevrolet Avalanche driving erratically on Highway 15 through Fort Saskatchewan. The vehicle was located and the driver, Shane Robert SUTHERLAND, aged 38, was arrested for Driving while Disqualified. During a search of SUTHERLAND subsequent to his arrest, RCMP officers found him to be in possession of approximately 88 grams of methamphetamine. Fort Saskatchewan RCMP also seized \$930 in cash as proceeds of crime.

As a result of the incident, Shane Robert SUTHERLAND faces the following charges:

- One count of Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle
- One count of Driving a Motor Vehicle While Disqualified
- One count of Driving while Uninsured
- One count of Possession of Methamphetamine for the Purpose of Trafficking
- One count of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime

SUTHERLAND was remanded and is scheduled to appear in Fort Saskatchewan Provincial Court on Jan. 7th/2016.

December 30, 2015 - Red Deer RCMP investigate armed robbery at Winners VLT Lounge

Red Deer, Alberta – Red Deer RCMP are investigating an armed robbery early this morning at the Winners VLT Lounge in the Quality Inn North Hill, and ask the public for assistance to identify the man who used a hypodermic needle to hold up the business.

The suspect entered the lounge at approximately 1:30 am on December 30, carrying the hypodermic needle and a white pillowcase in which he ordered staff to place the cash. He left on foot heading west. RCMP responded immediately and Police Dog Services were able to track the suspect to Nolan Street, where it is believed he may have entered a waiting vehicle. No one was injured during this robbery.

The suspect was wearing a blue t-shirt under a white hoodie with the hood up, a black mask over his face, blue jeans and black glasses.

The investigation is ongoing, and RCMP ask anyone with information regarding this incident to contact the Red Deer RCMP at 403.343.5575. If you wish to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1.800.222.8477 or report it online at www.tipsubmit.com.

December 24th, 2015 - Stettler

On December 24th, 2015 at approximately 4:30p.m., a lone male wearing a Santa Claus costume, entered the Ware's Jewelry store located in downtown Stettler. The male produced a firearm and demanded various items including jewelry and precious stones. The male then left the store and drove away in a Black Hummer H2 SUV. No employees were physically harmed during the commission of this crime.

The male is described as follows: **Caucasian, approximately 5'11 - 6'0 tall, blonde hair and 'pock faced'**

On **December 28th, 2015** a vehicle believed to be the one noted above was located in a residential area in Stettler and described as 2005 Black Hummer H2. Video surveillance in the area captured the vehicle pulling into the area where it was left and it is believed a 2nd vehicle may have been involved in transporting the male from the abandoned Hummer H2. The 2nd vehicle is described as follows: An older model pick up truck - possibly a Chevrolet, extended cab or crew cab with chrome running boards. Stettler RCMP encourage anyone with information related to this incident to contact them directly or to call Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

December 29th, 2015 – Sylvan Lake

Sylvan Lake, AB - On December 29th, 2015 at 3:40 p.m., a masked lone male entered the CIBC in Sylvan Lake on 50th Street and robbed the bank of an undisclosed amount of money. The RCMP has determined that the suspect had approached the teller once inside the bank and pulled a white plastic bag out of his pocket and demanded the teller put all the money in the bag. After getting an undisclosed amount of money the male then left the CIBC on foot and was last seen heading west down the back alley behind the bank. No weapon was displayed.

The suspect is described as: Caucasian Male - Early 20's - About 6 foot tall - Build is very skinny with pale skin. When last seen the suspect was wearing a black balaclava, black zip up hoodie coat, black pants, and black shoes.

The Sylvan Lake RCMP is appealing to anyone who may have information about this suspect to contact the Sylvan Lake RCMP at 403-887-3333, or call your nearest police service or contact Crime Stoppers.

December 28th, 2015 – Leduc AND City of Edmonton

Leduc, AB- The RCMP and Edmonton Police Service (EPS) investigators have reason to believe that the armed robbery of a Leduc cellphone store yesterday afternoon may be **linked to similar crimes** that have occurred within the City of Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan and Leduc in recent months. Police are asking for the public's assistance in these investigations and also **reminding the public of the potential safety risks associated with buying cellular devices and tablets on-line through unknown sellers.**

On Monday, December 28th, 2015 at 5:30 p.m., Leduc RCMP responded to an armed robbery at the Bell Wireless Store at #109 5411 Discovery Way in Leduc. Three masked men wearing dark clothing entered the store and threatened its two employees with knives. An undisclosed amount of merchandise was stolen. The thieves fled on foot, possibly to an awaiting vehicle. Leduc RCMP is asking anyone who may have witnessed the suspects in the vicinity of the store to contact the detachment at 780-980-7267 immediately.

"Although the store employees were not physically hurt, they were certainly victimized. Being confronted by masked thieves is a traumatic experience – especially when they are armed," said RCMP Superintendent Kevin Murray. "When weapons are involved, the stakes go way up. That is why we need the public's help in finding whoever is responsible for these crimes."

This is the third robbery involving a cellphone store in RCMP jurisdictions near Edmonton in recent weeks. On November 23, the Telus Store in Fort Saskatchewan was robbed by three masked men. On December 16th, the Roger's Wireless store in Leduc was robbed by two masked men who police believed were in the possession of firearms. The investigations into these events continue, with no arrests to date.

RCMP investigators assigned to these files have been working very closely with the EPS in ongoing investigation into a number of similar-style robberies at various retail locations throughout Edmonton in recent months. As part of that investigation, EPS issued a public caution on December 3rd about the risks of associated with purchasing stolen devices on-line and asked the public to report any suspicious property being sold on-line.
<http://www.edmontonpolice.ca/News/MediaReleases/iBanditsdec3.aspx>

"Right now it's clear that some stores selling mobile devices may be vulnerable as there is a demand for these high-priced items; however, we work closely with local merchants and the bigger mobile companies to ensure everyone is communicating about this issue." said Detective Jason Rodberg of the EPS Robbery Section. "

To date, joint investigative efforts have resulted in the identification of Dawit Abraham Atsbaha, age 20, whose last known address is Edmonton, as a person of interest in some of the robberies. Efforts to locate him are ongoing. Anyone with information as to his whereabouts is asked to call the RCMP or EPS immediately. Picture attached.

"Crime involving stolen property serves as an opportunity for EPS and the RCMP to work in collaboration in the greater Edmonton area," said Rodberg. "The **mobile** nature of suspects who move throughout the province can be a challenge, however all police agencies have a vested interest in sharing similar facts and current trends."

December 27, 2015 - Rocky Mountain House, AB - Drug trafficking arrests

In the early morning hours of December 27, 2015, RCMP pulled over a vehicle for numerous violations. The occupants of the vehicle were found to be on conditions to have no contact with each other, and were in possession of drugs for the purpose of trafficking.

Police seized Cocaine, Methamphetamine, Heroin, Marihuana, MDMA (ecstasy) and numerous prescription pills from the vehicle. 1 adult and 1 minor have been charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking.

John Boisvert of Red Deer has been charged with possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, failing to comply with numerous conditions of a Recognizance, Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking Oxycontin, Heroin, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, Oxycodone, MDMA, Marihuana and prescription drugs.

The **minor** cannot be identified due to the Youth Criminal Justice Act, but has been charged with failing to comply with numerous conditions of a Recognizance, Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking Oxycontin, Heroin, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, Oxycodone, MDMA, Marihuana and prescription drugs.

Both have been remanded in custody pending court.

RCMP are reminding people that they can report any suspected drug activity to the Rocky Detachment at 403-845-2881 or through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.