

Couple arrested, stolen jewelry recovered

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By: Patricia Riley

Cochrane RCMP officers arrested a man and a woman on the last weekend in August after a rash of break-ins and theft of jewelry at residences in Didsbury, Carstairs and the surrounding area during the summer.

Didsbury RCMP Sgt. Kim Pasloske said police believe the motive was to sell the jewelry for money to support drug habits.

"The investigation showed that the suspects were in possession of a large amount of stolen property," Pasloske said.

The stolen property included mostly jewelry as well as some electronics.

She believes the couple is responsible for a majority of the break and enters and thefts in Didsbury and Carstairs over the last couple of months.

"Since they were arrested there has been a significant decrease of break and enters, specifically to residences."

Pasloske said break-in victims who have not yet been contacted by police should call RCMP because they may recover items with sentimental value.

Several of the items have been identified from some of the thefts in the area.

Officers are contacting all of the people who reported jewelry thefts in the area over the past couple of months, but Pasloske is asking people who haven't already been contacted to call the detachment at 403-335-3382.

"We've been working our butts off in the last couple weeks to identify if we can return some of this (jewelry) to some of our victims of the break and enters," she said.

"None of the jewelry that we seized was expensive jewelry, that was sold off right away."

The jewelry seized by the RCMP includes charm bracelets and pieces that are meaningful to the owners but aren't necessarily worth a lot of money, she said.

Pasloske said the man and woman arrested by police are currently being held in custody.

"We are working with Cochrane RCMP to identify additional charges that we can place on these people," she said.

The arrest was made following a tip from a member of the public reporting suspicious people in the Cochrane area.

"This is why we're out in the media to ask people to report suspicious persons," she said.

No further details on the two suspects will be released until charges are laid, she said.