

## **Airdrie / County of Rocky View collaborate to form successful Crime Reduction Unit**

*Posted July 27, 2018*

*(Summary sheet outlining the highlights of the CRU for the last six months below)*

Recognizing a need to work across jurisdictions, Rocky View County teamed up with the City of Airdrie to increase the RCMP Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) team and the results have proven to be extremely successful with an 11% decrease in property crime in Airdrie and the surrounding Rocky View County area.

In January 2018, the City of Airdrie doubled the size of what was originally only a city focussed Crime Reduction Team bringing it from 3 members to 6. Recognizing that crime knows no borders, the Rocky View County joined forces for a pilot project in supplying a resource to the CRU team, bringing the team to a total of seven members. The Airdrie/Rocky View CRU team works within Airdrie and the surrounding Rocky View County area to implement "K" Division's crime reduction strategies.

Within three days of the full team becoming operational, the Airdrie/Rocky View County CRU team executed a search warrant and effected Airdrie's first carfentanil seizure. Two suspects were charged and a vehicle was seized as offence related property. An application for a forfeiture order has been made.

This first success has proven to be just the start. The CRU Team has since taken numerous serious offenders off of Airdrie and Rocky View County streets and put these offenders before the courts. The crimes these offenders are in jail for include carjacking, theft, drug trafficking, aggravated assault, and drive by shootings.

Since its launch, the team has conducted undercover operations, surveillance, overt investigations and warrant round ups. The CRU team has laid 67 new charges, executed 128 outstanding warrants, executed 11 judicial authorizations, seized a variety of drugs valued at \$183,000, recovered \$70,000 in stolen property and seized 19 weapons (firearms, prohibited weapons, edged weapons and conducted energy weapons).

Quotes:

“Whether it be making one of the largest drug seizures in Airdrie RCMP history or apprehending offenders as they were stealing bait vehicles, the CRU team has been relentless in their pursuit to make our community safer” says Inspector Kim Pasloske, Officer in Charge of Airdrie Detachment. “Property crime is lower than it has been in years. Partnership between the City of Airdrie and the County of Rocky View has been instrumental in contributing to these successes.

“We are pleased to see an increased police presence in our area, and the success of the bait car program to deter would be criminals.” says Elise Shorting, General Manager of the Days Inn Calgary North Balzac. “As a new business in Balzac, we welcome and appreciate the work of the RCMP to try to service a huge geographical area efficiently with operations like this.”

“Safety in Airdrie continues to be a top priority and it is encouraging to see that our efforts and decisions are having a positive impact in reducing crime within the City,” says Mayor Peter Brown. “Feedback from this year’s Citizen Satisfaction Survey tell us that residents continue to feel Airdrie is a safe place to live and we are dedicated to ensuring that sense of security is maintained.”

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## **Highlights, by month, of Airdrie and Rocky View County’s Crime Reduction Unit Team:**

### **January 2018**

- CRU conducted a vehicle stop on a known drug trafficker. A search of the vehicle located fentanyl, carfentanil/heroin mixture, and methamphetamine. A subsequent search warrant was executed on a motel room. A second drug trafficker from Calgary was located in the room, and arrested on outstanding warrants. \*Note – this is the first known seizure of carfentanil in Airdrie. Carfentanil is 100 times the potency of fentanyl, and 5000 time the potency of heroin\*
- CRU conducted a vehicle stop in an Airdrie business park. Two males arrested in possession of cocaine. Charges were laid, and convictions obtained.

### **February 2018**

- Following an undercover operation at Cross Iron Mills Mall a targeted male suspect was located and found in possession of stolen property being trafficked on-line. Stolen property to the value of approximately \$1,000 was recovered.
- CRU conducted a vehicle stop where two drug were arrested and charged. Carfentanil and methamphetamine was seized.

- CRU conducted vehicle stops in Airdrie. Four vehicle occupants were arrested in possession of cocaine. Charges were laid, and convictions obtained.

### **March 2018**

- A four-day warrant round-up operation with General Duty, Domestic Violence Unit, and intelligence analyst members was conducted. 20 arrests were made resulting in the execution of 45 warrants relating to 61 criminal and provincial charges.
- Surveillance of two known drug traffickers in Rocky View County led to arrests, a seizure, and charges of possession of carfentanil.
- A Controlled Drugs and Substances Act search warrant was executed on a high-level drug supplier known to supply drugs to Rocky View County and Airdrie drug traffickers. This was one of the largest drug seizures in Airdrie RCMP history (total of \$175,000 worth of methamphetamine, fentanyl, carfentanil and morphine).
- A search warrant was executed at a rural property in Rocky View County with assistance from the Southern Alberta Auto Theft Unit. A stolen dump trailer was located and recovered.
- Surveillance of a stolen vehicle and the arrest of a known property offender led to the recovery of a stolen car in Rocky View County.

### **April 2018**

- The utilization of 'bait property' during a proactive investigation of known Rocky View County property thieves resulted in the arrest of one suspect. Criminal charges were laid and property stolen from De Winton was recovered.

### **May 2018**

- A joint surveillance operation with Calgary Police Service (CPS) resulted in the arrest of a known offender, recovery of a stolen vehicle, and seizure of an undetonated explosive device at Crossiron Mills Mall.
- Surveillance of a wanted high risk domestic violence offender resulted in the safe execution of his arrest.
- CRU assisted Airdrie General Investigation Section in a drive by shooting investigation involving repeat offenders. Two search warrants were drafted resulting in arrests and 6 criminal charges.
- Curfew checks were conducted on a known repeat offender resulting in criminal charges being laid.

### **June 2018**

- A joint operation with CPS resulted in the arrest of a robbery suspect and the recovery of a stolen vehicle in Rocky View County.
- A joint operation with CPS that involved a pursuit through Rocky View County of two armed carjacking suspects. The suspects were arrested near Crossfield. A stolen vehicle, a weapon, and methamphetamine were recovered.
- Surveillance of a crime 'hot spot' resulted in the recovery of a stolen Ford F350. The driver was arrested and Carfentanil was seized from inside the vehicle.

- Surveillance and the interception of a stolen vehicle resulted in the arrest of a drug impaired driver and the recovery of stolen property.
- Surveillance of a known gang member /drug trafficker resulted in driving and breach charges.

### **July 2018**

- Surveillance of a gang member / drug trafficker resulted in driving, breach, and pursuit charges. Further surveillance led to an arrest and a Controlled Drugs and Substances Act search warrant being executed on a vehicle and apartment. Counterfeit currency and cocaine were seized
- Two successful 'bait vehicle' deployments in Rocky View County led to the arrest of a known property and drug offender. Warrants of arrest were obtained for a second known, repeat, offender.
- A joint operation with Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) and Federal Serious and Organized Crime (FSOC) led to an undercover operation regarding illegally imported conducted energy weapons. The CRU unit arrested a male from Rocky View County. A search warrant was executed on his address which led to the seizure of further weapons. (reported previously to the media)