

Central Alberta drug gang busted

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RCMP detectives have thrown down the hammer on the “Bobby and the Kids” street gang – an alleged organized crime group believed to be major drug trafficking players throughout Central Alberta, including in Innisfail and Penhold.

“They were impacting Innisfail, Penhold, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake and Red Deer,” said Red Deer city RCMP Sgt. Eric McKenzie. “They would be considered very significant players in the drug trade and we are definitely hoping it disrupts the drug trafficking going on in the area.”

At about 7:45 a.m. on Nov. 13, the RCMP’s Priority Crimes Task Force simultaneously executed search warrants at a Penhold residence on Harvest Close and two homes in Red Deer, as well as for several vehicles, following a three-week “around the clock” probe into the illicit activities of Bobby and the Kids.

The RCMP task force was comprised of police officers from Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake and Innisfail.

McKenzie said the three executed warrants enabled Mounties to seize 55 ounces of cocaine, nine ounces of methamphetamine, a small amount of marijuana, a stolen 9 mm Ruger handgun, numerous drug trafficking items and about \$30,600 in cash.

McKenzie said the bust resulted in the arrest of three men from the Bobby and the Kids gang, including a Penhold resident.

Steven Michael Temple, 27, of Penhold is charged with two counts of possession of controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking and one of possession of stolen property over \$5,000.

Randy Julius Larson, 25, of Red Deer, is facing two charges of possession of controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking, one count of possession of controlled substance, a charge of possessing stolen property over \$5,000, an additional count of possessing stolen property under \$5,000, one count of careless use of a firearm, one charge of unauthorized possession of a firearm, one count of possession of a firearm on which the serial number was removed and two counts of failing to comply with probation order.

Dustin John Greuel, 22, of Red Deer, is charged with two counts of possession of controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking and one additional charge of possession of stolen property under \$5,000.

“It was a relatively short investigation but we were working around the clock on it for the three weeks we were engaged on this group,”

**Red Deer city RCMP Sgt.
Eric McKenzie**

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said McKenzie.

He said while some drugs were found inside the Red Deer and Penhold residences, a “large majority” was seized from a hidden compartment inside a vehicle parked at the Penhold residence. He said it would be “misleading” to put a dollar value on the total amount of drugs seized as they were cut up differently for various types of clients. McKenzie said it was also difficult to say whether cocaine was the primary product of their operation, as the nine ounces of methamphetamine seized can produce more than 2,500 doses for users.

He said the three arrested suspects were well known on the streets as working together under the moniker of Bobby and the Kids.

“And Randy Larson, his street name is Bobby. One would be led to believe that he was in charge but it is my understanding that Larson and Temple were equals in the organization,” said MacKenzie, adding the accused were “definitely” considered an organized criminal group. “The Criminal Code defines a criminal organization as three people or more working together on a regular basis trying to do serious criminal acts. This definitely meets those requirements, and as our investigation continues, which it is, more charges may be laid.”

The three accused made their first court appearances on Nov. 16 in Red Deer. All three were remanded in custody until their next appearances on Nov. 19.

The RCMP investigation continues.