

**Information Report for the OIC Halifax District
HRM Board of Police Commissioners' Meeting
March 20th, 2017**

Info Item No. 4

February Training:

- 55 Members received some form of training in February 2017, accumulating a total of 893 hours. Examples of training received were Phased Interview, Supervisor Development etc.

Victim Services:

- The RCMP Victim Services program in Halifax District is overseen by a Coordinator and includes a roster of 12 volunteers. They follow up with victims of crime via telephone to offer support and referral services. The range of incidents they respond to is very broad and can include suicide, sudden death, assault, domestic violence, sexual assault, break & enter, etc.
- Preliminary actions have taken place in regards to Victim Services recruitment specific to the Preston area and will continue over the next few months.
- For the month of February - Stats for **Victim Services:**
 - The Victim Services Coordinator reviewed 577 files during this period.
 - Victim Services volunteers followed up on 34 files with 40 victims in total.
 - There were **0** files referred to the Department of Justice's Victim Services.
 - Four high risk files were identified.

Sackville

- Community policing officers in Halifax District have been proactively reaching out to new Syrian Families to do presentations on the RCMP and the laws in Canada.
- A new Egyptian family in Halifax District area attended the detachment with a request by a female officer to do their fingerprints for citizenship and criminal records checks. Arrangements were made for them to come back later in the day when a female officer assisted them. These requests are becoming more common and have been communicated throughout the district.
- Canadian citizen from Montreal entering the country from Dominican Republic had travelled without luggage, and two other males travelling with him had flown to Toronto. This subject had no further travel itinerary and was checked by CBSA They noted multiple credit card ID's on his person and contacted the RCMP. 31 charges laid for Identity Theft and 31 charges for Credit Card Fraud.

Cole Harbour

- Report of gunshots Preston area of Cole Harbour - still under investigation.
- Jewelry theft suspect from Amherst PD identified by District Street Crime member.

Tantallon

- March 8th – Report of residential Break and Enter- Electronics and other items Stolen from residence.
- Intrusion alarm/Break & Enter in Progress: BE&T from the Wilson's Gas Bar in Upper Tantallon at 0137 hrs. Entry gained by smashing the front glass door. Video shows the lone suspect tried unsuccessfully to access the cigarette cabinet & ATM machine. Members were on scene within 4 minutes. K9 attended as well. File is still Under Investigation.

Eastern Shore

Assist Fire Dept.: Shed fire in Ostrea Lake. MH members attended. Shed burned to the ground. Deemed non-suspicious.

Trends

Thefts from MVs is a typical cycle trend this time of year. Strategic communications sent out media release on vacation/march break do list.

Communications:

Knock, knock... anybody home?

March 13, 2017, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia . . . Many Nova Scotians are counting the days until March Break arrives. If you plan to travel during the break, Nova Scotia RCMP would like to offer some tips to home owners to help deter thieves from being tempted by unoccupied homes. "We often see an increase in crimes like mischief and theft across the province at this time of year," says Cpl. Dal Hutchinson of Nova Scotia RCMP. "Thieves are often looking for crimes of opportunity and an unoccupied home can be an easy target." Here are a few things to consider before you head out the door and forget about winter for a while:

Phone a friend - Having someone check on your property while you're away is great to make sure it looks like someone's around, and also, if there's a problem with your home, they can let you know right away.

Lights on? Lights off? - Simple, inexpensive light timers can help keep things looking normal at your home when you're not there. Consider purchasing light timers and use them with lights near windows in your home, particularly ones that are visible from your road or street.

Social media status can wait - As tempting as it is, avoid updating your status on social media with your travel plans. As well, posting selfies from the beach is probably telling a savvy would-be thief the same thing. Save those updates and pics for when you're back home - and back to reality.

Curtain call - If you don't usually close curtains or blinds when you're closer to home, it's probably not a good idea to change things up when you're going to be away for a while. Take a look around your home, and make sure there's nothing really tempting that's visible. For example, car keys are often stored close to the door. It's a good idea to keep them out of sight.

You've got mail - Maybe you've got mail, the newspaper, or other items that have been dropped off while you're away. That helpful friend who's checking on your property would be a great person to ask to make sure mail and newspapers don't get left around. This applies to snow removal too. You might want to consider bringing them a souvenir!

Last but not least - It's about taking steps to make your home look occupied. Many Nova Scotians are proud to call their communities safe - places where you don't need to lock your doors. The reality is, if you make your home look occupied when you're away, and your home and vehicle doors are locked, those opportunistic would-be thieves will take a hike as well.