

CHESTERMERE MUNICIPAL RCMP DETACHMENT

Detachment Commander Report



QUARTER 1 Report
April 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020

Prepared by
S/Sgt. Mark WIELGOSZ
Detachment Commander
Chestermere Detachment
K Division



DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

Detachment area estimated population: 21,417
Authorized Police Strength: 17 Regular Members
Authorized Support Staff: 5 Municipal Employees

2020-2021 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN INITIATIVES AND QUARTERLY RESULTS

1. Reduce Property Crimes – Reduction of theft from motor vehicles, theft of vehicles, and break and enter.

The goal of this priority is to reduce crimes in this area by 7% this year through use of the following strategies.

Habitual Offender Management

A habitual offender management program remains in place to target habitual or high impact offenders residing in our detachment area. Enforcement and monitoring efforts are undertaken to ensure offenders comply with ordered conditions or face consequence for non-compliance. Offenders are selected based upon the following factors:

- Volume of crime they commit;
- Seriousness of the crimes they commit;
- Likelihood of reoffending; and
- Impact of their crime on the community.

This program has proven to be successful over the past five years in Chestermere which has contributed to successive reduction in crime over the past three years. During this quarter Chestermere detachment was monitoring four individuals for compliance with court ordered conditions. All of the identified offenders were found to be in compliance with their conditions when checked.

Persons of Interest

Outside of the offender management program, Chestermere RCMP monitors persons in the community involved in organized crime or at large on various types of release such as parole, probation, and interim release on open criminal matters. Persons are identified on the potential risk to the community, severity of offences they are accused of, or likelihood to reoffend. Partnerships with Calgary Police Service, Federal Parole Board, Provincial Probation Officers, and RCMP intelligence units are leverage to remain cognizant of offenders moving in and out of Chestermere.

Chestermere RCMP is monitoring six persons of interest. Persons of interest are continually reassessed by the detachment General Investigation Section to determine suitability for monitoring. This includes additions for new persons in the community, or removal of those who





have demonstrated they are maintaining a law abiding lifestyle in the community.

Voluntary Registry of Home Surveillance

Effort remains under way to establish a CAPTURE program to replace the Voluntary Registry of Home Surveillance. The CAPTURE program will add online registration capacity for residents to either participate or cancel registration with the program. The added convenience may see added participation and enhance timely access to information by members while investigating property crimes in Chestermere.

Security Screw Program

The Chestermere RCMP – Security Screw Program remains active where residents can obtain security fasteners from select locations in Chestermere. Installation of these security fasteners prevent theft of license plates and by extension other property crimes.

Chestermere residents can obtain these fasteners from the Chestermere RCMP detachment, Chestermere Municipal Enforcement, Jiffy Lube, Tire Craft, and Chestermere Lake Registry.

Chestermere Theft Prevention Program

Chestermere detachment in partnership with Chestermere Citizens on Patrol (CCOP) rolled out a theft prevention program within Chestermere in an effort to raise awareness and reduce property crime in the City. The program commenced in April, 2018 involving CCOP members under the supervision of Chestermere RCMP. There has been limited participation in this program by CCOP to date as a result of lower participation rates.

Chestermere RCMP has designated a liaison officer to assist in exploratory measures to see if the program can be revived with renewed interest and a canvass of the community to seek additional volunteers.

Construction Site Safety / Crime Prevention Program

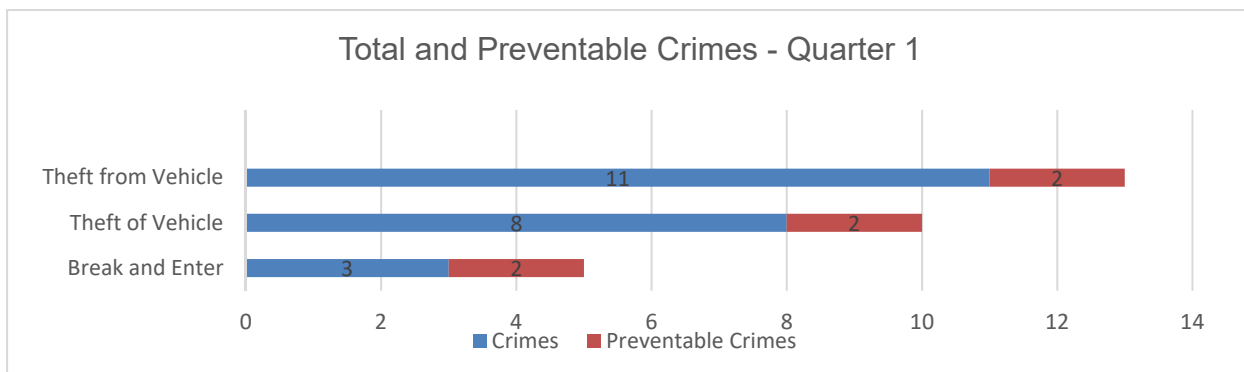
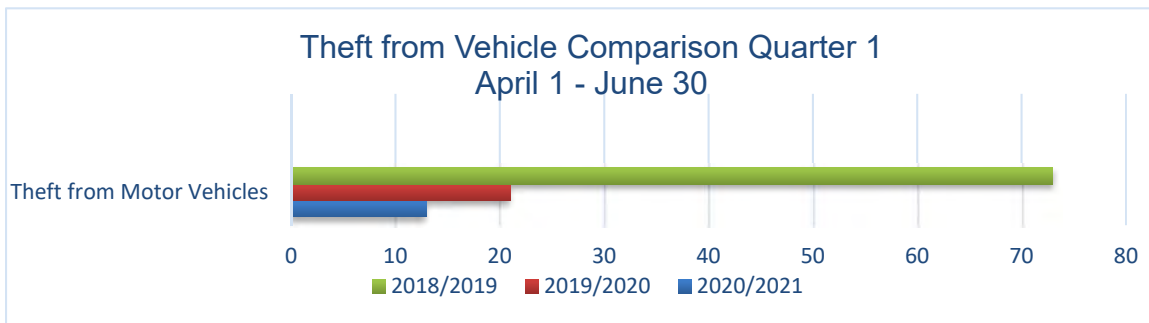
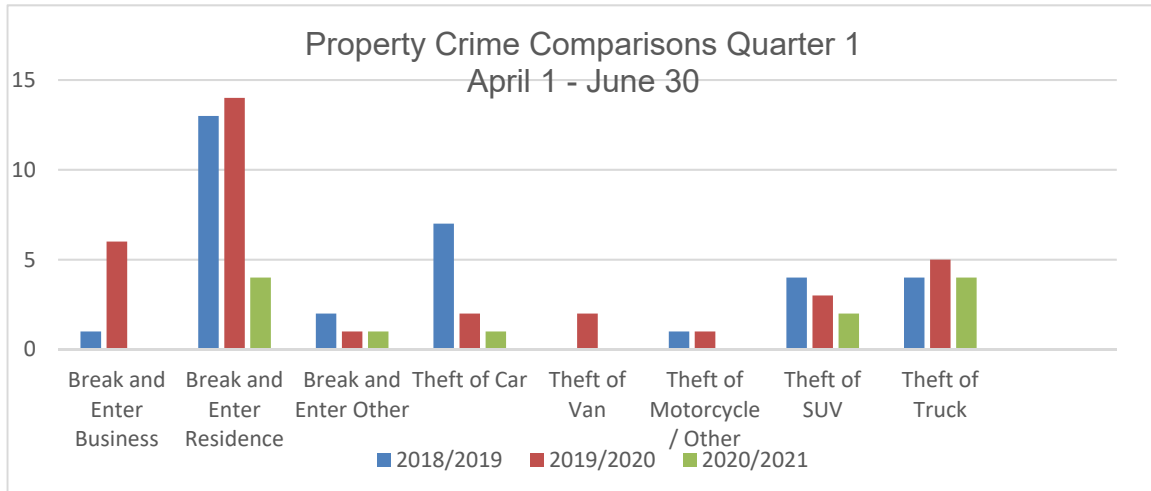
This initiative was added in the last fiscal year to initiate and maintain contact with area developers with a goal to reduce and prevent theft from work sites. Communication efforts involve maintaining after hours contacts for each development site, ability to provide information on current and emerging construction site theft trends, consultation on site crime prevention through environmental design, and advance notice for delivery of high value items.

Area developers have been supportive of encouraging new home buyers to install home surveillance options and considering participation in the CAPTURE program once active.





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

QUARTER 1 PROPERTY CRIME		PREVENTABLE	%
Break and Enter	5	2	40
Theft of Motor Vehicles	14	5	20
Theft from Motor Vehicles	21	13	15

Break and enters dropped from 22 to 5 (-77%), theft of motor vehicles fell to 10 from 13 (-23%), and theft from motor vehicles were reduced to 13 from 20 (-35%) from the same time frame last year.

Overall progress in this area at the close of quarter one remains ahead of expected levels by 11% (14% of objective of reaching a 7% reduction in the selected crime groups).

While ongoing crime prevention measures and police visibility have been effective in reducing and maintaining low levels of crime, the significant reductions in this quarter can also be attributed to the social effects of Covid-19.

During this quarter there was a significant increase in home occupancy during lock down measures and alternative work arrangements. Residents were mainly home and in a position to keep a close eye on their properties. Occupied homes and reduced travel had a significant impact on the opportunity for would be property offenders to perpetrate their crimes.

The reduction in percentage of preventable crimes can also be attributed at least in part to this increased level of occupancy and vigilance with securing property.

2. Traffic Safety – Reduction of both injury and overall collisions.

The goal of this priority is to maintain low levels of overall and injury collisions as established in FY2018/2019 as a baseline. Resulting reportable collisions in this period represent a reasonable baseline to maintain or exceed in this year’s plan.

Impaired Driving Initiatives

In quarter one, three drivers were charged with impaired driving offences. Proactive patrols and check stops remain in effect.

Traffic Safety/Enforcement

In quarter one, 162 violations were issued despite the initial response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Police efforts were refocused on community health and awareness initiatives to help flatten the curve and contribute to preventing the spread of the virus. Despite the shift in police activities, road safety was not impacted and violations were issued to those who engaged in unsafe driving practices.

Increased visibility in the community remains a priority for Chestermere RCMP. Consistent resourcing will have a positive impact in this area. Year to date results for road safety initiatives:





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

- A total of 162 violations were issued by detachment members;
- 3 impaired drivers were removed from Chestermere roads; and
- 2 drivers were issued alcohol/drug suspensions.

Enhanced Road Safety Initiative

The Chestermere Enhanced Road Safety Initiative commenced in August 2017 where additional members were assigned to enhanced shifts targeting impaired, aggressive, and distracted driving within the City of Chestermere. Shifts have been filled by Chestermere RCMP members, RCMP members attached to the Southern Alberta District Traffic Services Unit, Alberta Sheriffs, and Chestermere Community Peace Officers. The aim of the program is to raise awareness with respect to traffic safety, increase road safety through visibility and enforcement, and reduce injury collisions within the City of Chestermere.

There were no enhanced road safety shifts completed in quarter one this year. With the initial shutdown and response to the Covid-19 pandemic, enhanced activities were suspended. This temporary measure was taken to maintain public and police safety while recognizing the increased hardships may in Chestermere were facing as a result of shutdown measures.

Road safety was closely monitored during this initial stage which saw significant drops in vehicle traffic and corresponding decreases in reported collisions.

Check Stop Program

In quarter one, 15 documented check stops were conducted which resulted in:

- 371 vehicles checked.
- 2 suspensions issued.

Bar Walk Program

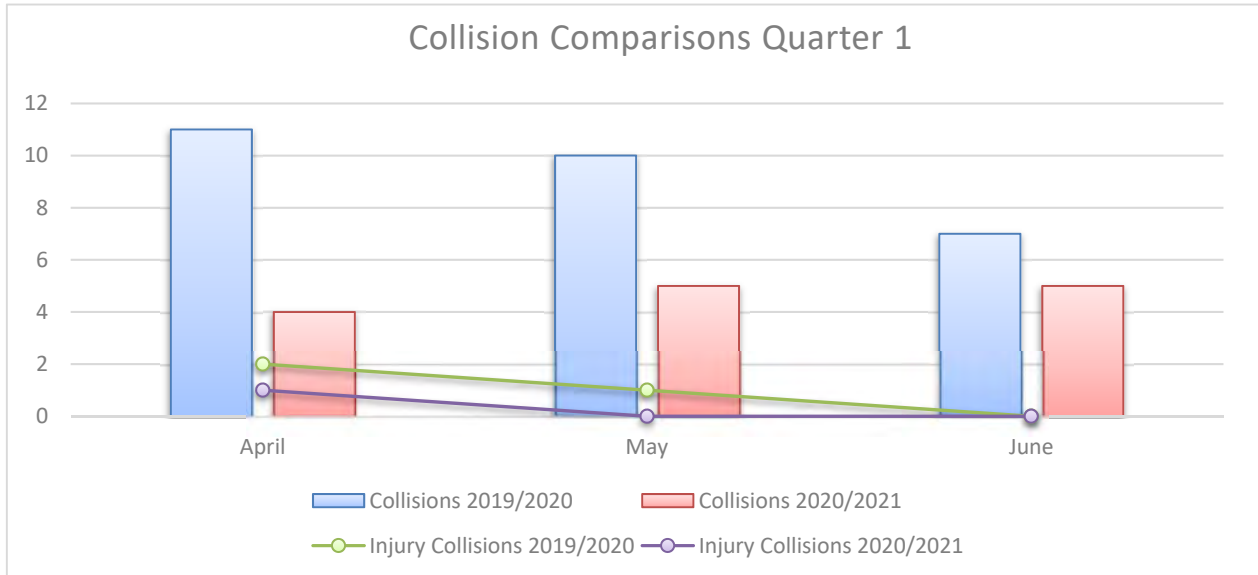
Chestermere members conduct foot patrols through licensed establishments to maximize visibility in an effort to prevent, detect, and deter criminal activities. Criminal activity may include Gaming Liquor and Cannabis Act infractions, Illicit drug offences, or impaired driving. During quarter one, Chestermere members documented 46 bar walks.

Presence in licensed establishments also focused effort on public health and awareness during the initial stages of the Covid-19 pandemic and gradual reopening strategy. Member presence in the establishments was intended to encourage safe public health practices to minimize and prevent spread of the virus.





Collision Comparisons



13 reportable collisions were reported during quarter one compared to 29 the year before representing a decrease of 55%. One injury collision was reported in quarter one compared to four the year before, a 75% reduction.

3. Community Involvement and Engagement

Community involvement and engagement remains a priority for Chestermere RCMP to form positive relationships in our community and ensure our police services are meeting the needs of our residents.

School Visits

During quarter one, Chestermere members documented 12 school visits which is a reduced number from the year prior due to the Covid-19 shutdown. Throughout the shutdown, members maintained contact with school administration to offer assistance or virtual attendance during classes if needed. Highlights of these visits involved:

- Attendance during text book returns
- Presence and participation in socially distanced graduation ceremonies
- Regular patrol of school grounds

Attendance at Community Events

During quarter one members attended 49 community events. Details of the events were:





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

April Birthday Parades with the Fire Department and Community Peace Officers: 17 appearances occurring on April 8-14, 16-19, 21-23, 26-30, and 30.

May Birthday Parades with the Fire Department and Community Peace Officers: 18 appearances occurring on May 1, 4, 5, 8, 10-12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21-23, 25, 26, 29, 30.

One June birthday parade appearance with the Fire Department and Community Peace Officers on June 1st.



June 15: Cst.'s WOOD and AIT BENLAARBI attended the grad ceremonies at St. Gabriel the Archangel High School. Both monitored traffic and partook in photo opportunities with the graduates.

June 19: Cst.'s NEUFELD and LEWIS attended the ECI Academy School graduation and took photos with the graduating class.



1



June 29: Cst.'s KNEZEVIC and NEUFELD stopped to play basketball with the kids at the Aspenmere Ball court.

¹ Photos with youth modified in absence of model release waiver.





Public Education / Engagement

Public education is undertaken with monthly meetings with Police Communications Link Committee and made public with the consent agenda at Council meetings. Information on crime prevention measures is also disseminated through the committee’s Facebook page which continues to grow in followers.

Consultations continue on a yearly basis with elected officials, other service providers, area schools, feedback through the Police Communications Committee Facebook account, community groups, and inter agency meetings. This year additional public consultations are planned in a town hall format in an effort to enhance community engagement.

Community Liaison Program

Chestermere RCMP has initiated a community liaison program where a member is assigned to a community group. The purpose of this program is to form a link with community groups to seek feedback on concerns and open channels of communication with respect to education, how to reduce or prevent victimization, and early identification of community cultural issues. Liaisons continue monthly contact with 15 local community groups as listed.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Chestermere White Cappers | Chestermere Food Bank | Chestermere Library |
| Synergy | CRCA | Camp Chestermere |
| Chestermere Chamber of Commerce | Chestermere Army Cadets | The Lions Club |
| Chestermere Ag. Society | Rotary Club of Chestermere | Calgary Yacht Club |
| Citizens on Patrol | The Lakefront Owners Assoc. | |
| Stepping Stones to Mental Health | | |

4. Other Initiatives

Proactive Park, Green Space, and Business Patrols

Through the years Chestermere RCMP has conducted regular patrols of our parks and green spaces in a number of different formats such as the Community Standards Initiative, bike patrols, and regular foot patrols. During the initial stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, these patrols were enhanced which also included regular presence in public spaces and businesses.

The goal of the enhanced presence in public and business areas was to promote a sense of normalcy, demonstrate despite the uncertainty of the pandemic police services remained unchanged, and promote healthy habits as outlined by provincial and municipal guidelines. A particular focus was placed on presence around businesses during the initial shutdown to protect property while not in operation.

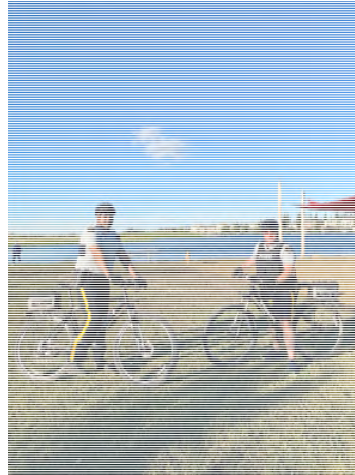
A goal of 4020 individual patrols through these areas was set for this fiscal year with a primary focus on quarter one and two. During these patrols, our members engaged with the public in





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

positive ways and participated in open area events as they occurred. During the warmer months an additional focus was placed on our beaches while working with the City of Chestermere to promote safe and healthy usership of public amenities.



During this quarter 205 man hours were invested in 1975 documented patrols through our parks and green spaces with approximately 6,642 contacts.

Water Safety Program

The Water Safety Program commenced in May with involvement of the Chestermere Peace Officers as part of an overall Lake Safety Management Plan. During this quarter Chestermere RCMP conducted four of seven scheduled patrols. The remainder of the scheduled patrols were cancelled either due to weather or unavailability of resources. During these patrols:

- 70 Vessels were checked
- 4 Safety inspection decals were issued

The majority of vessels were found in non compliance mainly for missing safety equipment, or failure to licence vessels with Transport Canada.

More information on the Chestermere RCMP's water safety program, and safety inspection decal program can be found on the City of Chestermere website at www.chestermere.ca/RCMP.

Citizens on Patrol

Efforts to move this program forward were stalled in this quarter due to the initial stages of the





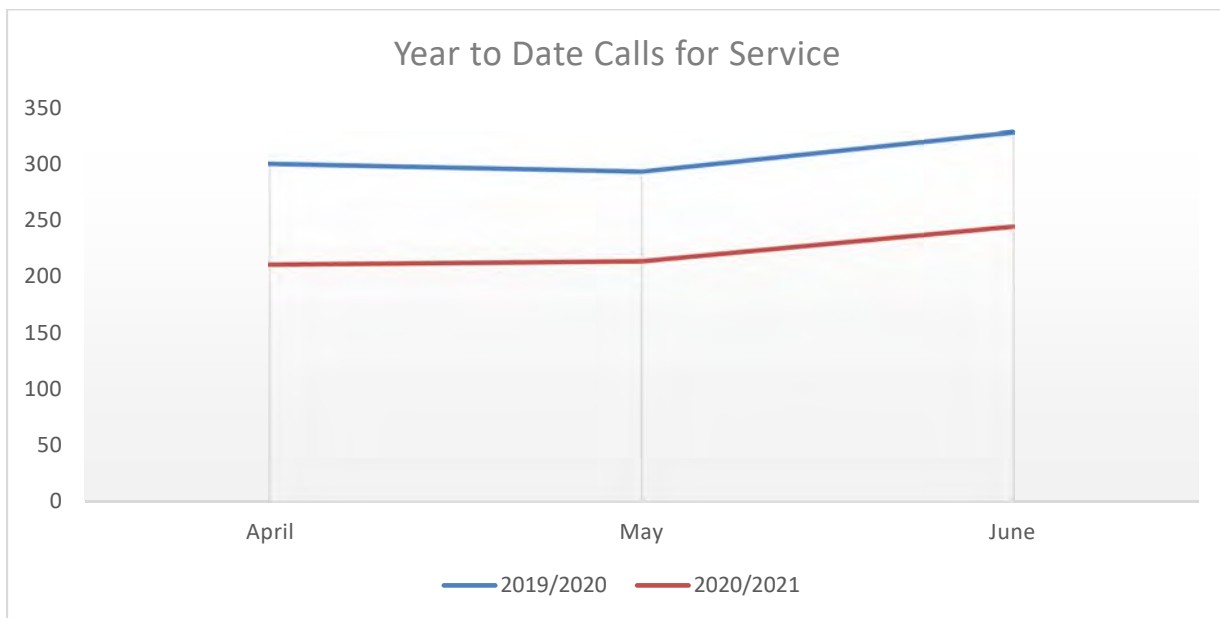
DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

Covid-19 pandemic. Meetings, training, and proactive patrols were affected by public health restrictions and uncertainty around transmission/spread of the virus. Talks with the remaining Citizens on Patrol leadership resumed after stage two of Alberta’s reopening strategy. Further results are expected as the year progresses where it is anticipated this program will resume their activities.

Positive Ticketing Program

The positive ticketing program has continued and members have been identifying worthy candidates in their regular patrols, park and green space patrols, and by referral through the community group liaison program. Despite the challenges imposed through the pandemic, this program maintains full support and continues to foster positive contact between law enforcement and Chestermere youth.

Year to Date / Quarter 1 Calls for Service



During quarter one (excluding traffic offences/investigations) Chestermere detachment responded to 670 calls for service, down from 924 the year prior which represents a 27% decrease. Contributing factors for the decrease can be attributed to:

- Initial response to the Covid-19 pandemic including the economic shut down.
- Work from home arrangements, self isolation, and significant distancing between individuals.
- Less resulting traffic.
- Closed businesses and decreased recreational activity options.

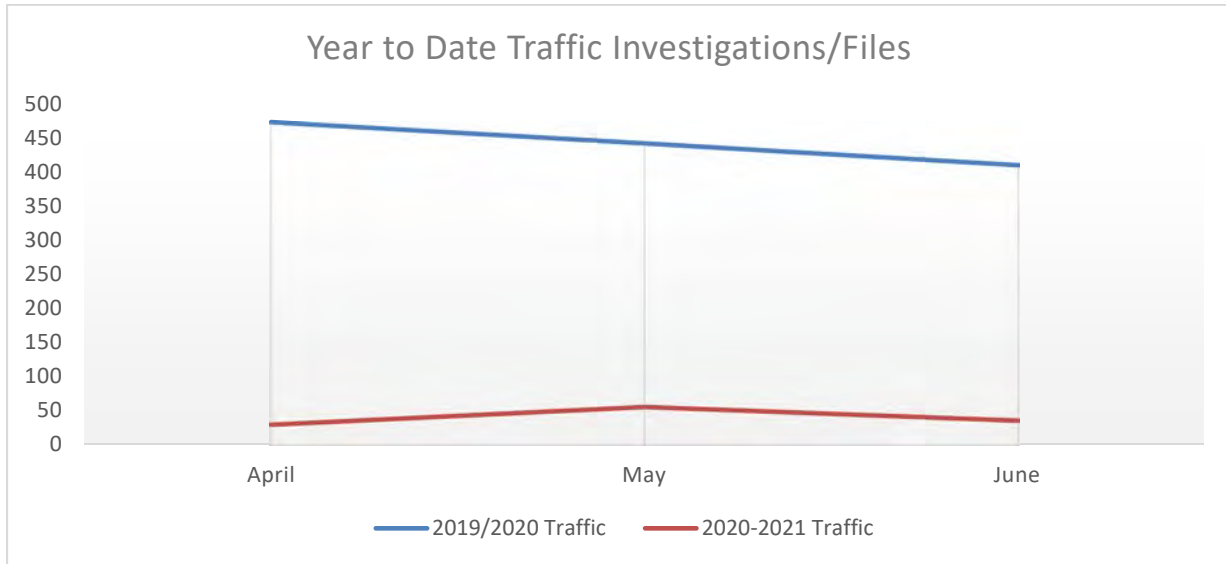




DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

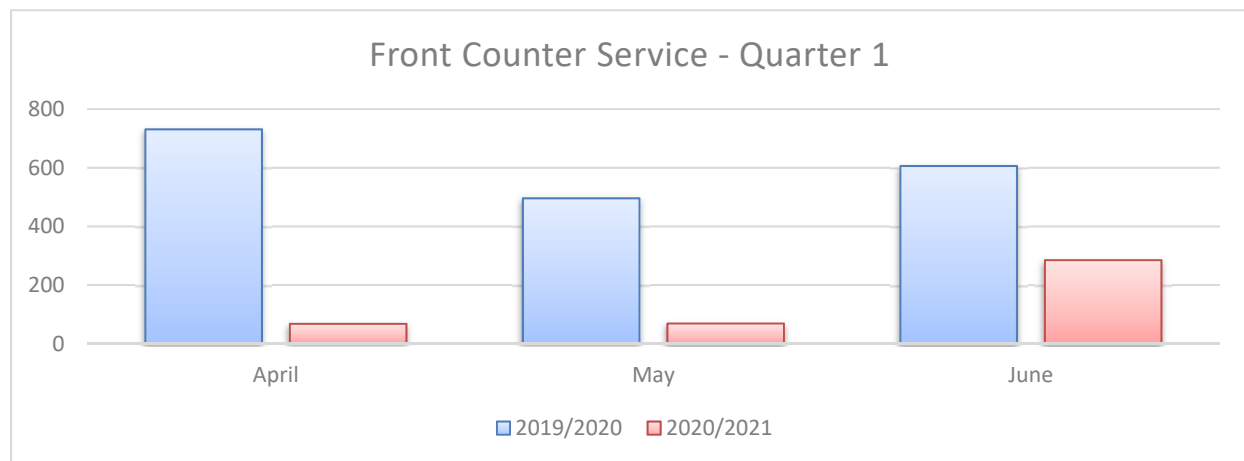
All of which contributed to less contact between individuals, reduced number of vehicles on roadways, and increased presence of residents in their homes thereby reducing opportunity for property crimes.

**** Traffic offences were removed as Chestermere detachment continues use of e-ticketing. E-ticketing creates a file for each roadside stop. While not all members are using e-ticketing, inclusion of traffic stats may give the appearance of artificially high occurrence numbers. ****



Traffic investigations and issued violations dropped during this quarter compared to the same time frame the year before. As noted, vehicle collisions fell significantly with the reductions of vehicles on Chestermere roadways. Suspension of the Enhanced Road Safety Program, a shifted focus on public health initiatives, lack of observed traffic offences, increased road safety, and focus on the most aggressive driving behaviours during the initial stages of the pandemic were significant factors in the observed reduction.

Chestermere Detachment Front Counter Service Delivery





DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

In quarter 1 (April - June) Chestermere detachment front counter recorded 422 contacts for service compared to 1,833 the year before (77% decrease). The initial lockdown and public health measures in response to the Covid-19 pandemic was a significant factor in this decrease. Despite the initial response and controlled access to the detachment, service delivery was not interrupted. Support staff continued to work on a rotational basis between the detachment and work from home arrangements.

Demand for criminal record checks was significantly reduced with the shutdown of all recreational activities, school activities, and reduced hiring. Reported collisions were reduced and lack of travel options for the public contributed to less demand for front counter services. As depicted in the above graph, front counter service demand started to increase in conjunction with the province's reopening strategy.

**** Front counter contacts do not include other administrative functions in support of operations such as data quality, data entry, charge preparation, document preparation, and disclosure to name only a few areas. ****

Staff Sergeant Mark WIELGOSZ 2020-10-08
Detachment Commander
Chestermere Detachment

