

# CHESTERMERE MUNICIPAL RCMP DETACHMENT

## Detachment Commander Report



QUARTER 3

October 1, 2020 – December 31, 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.

During this quarter Chestermere detachment was monitoring four individuals for compliance with court ordered conditions.

Offender 1: The subject was monitored for compliance, no violations were found.

Offender 2: The subject was monitored for compliance, no violations were found.

Offender 3: Compliance checks were completed until the release conditions expired. This offender was moved into the Persons of Interest program.

Offender 4: The subject was released on bail as a result of continued trial delays. Compliance checks resumed once the subject returned to community. No violations were noted during this period.

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,





## DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

---

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 18 persons of interest. Further new persons of interest are under review for periodic monitoring.

### **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.

Final approval at higher organizational levels is ongoing. Once approval is received, program activation can occur within a short turnaround.

### **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.

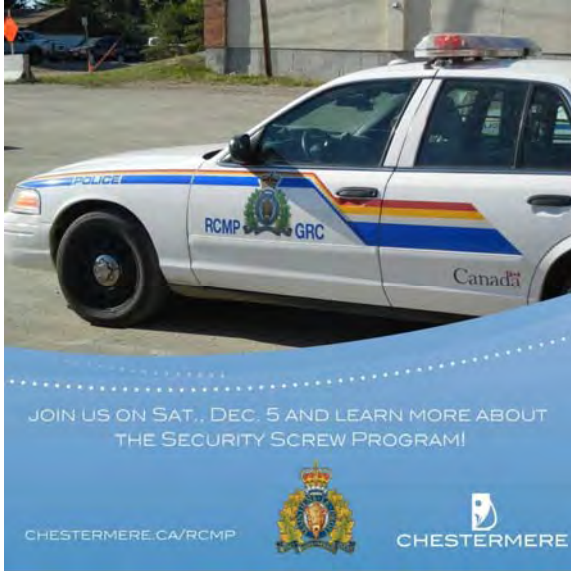
Chestermere residents can obtain these fasteners from the Chestermere RCMP detachment, Chestermere Municipal Enforcement, Jiffy Lube, Tire Craft, and Chestermere Lake Registry.

During this quarter, the Chestermere Police Communications Committee with the Chestermere detachment co-hosted two events this quarter. On November 14, committee members and S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ set up a table at the No Frills grocery store. Crime prevention pamphlets and shopping cart tokens were handed out to patrons in the parking lot. In total, over 250 contacts were made and over 30 vehicles had security screws installed.





## DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT



The second event was held at the Chestermere Safeway grocery store on December 5. Members of the Police Communications Committee present along with S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ and Sgt. STUBBS. During the event crime prevention information was handed out to approximately 300 persons and over 100 security screws were installed on vehicle.

During this event, both S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ and Sgt. STUBBS took the opportunity to engage with residents, discuss community safety concerns, and give information on detachment crime prevention efforts.

### **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. Foot patrols within the community are made to check vehicles to ensure they are secure. Vehicles found insecure have informative pamphlets left behind on the seat and members will lock the vehicle. If a vehicle is found running and insecure, the member will knock on the resident's door to provide preventative information.



Effort remains under way with the assigned RCMP liaison to CCOP and existing executive to restart this program. Limitations with Covid-19 has caused delays.

### **Construction Site Safety / Crime Prevention Program**

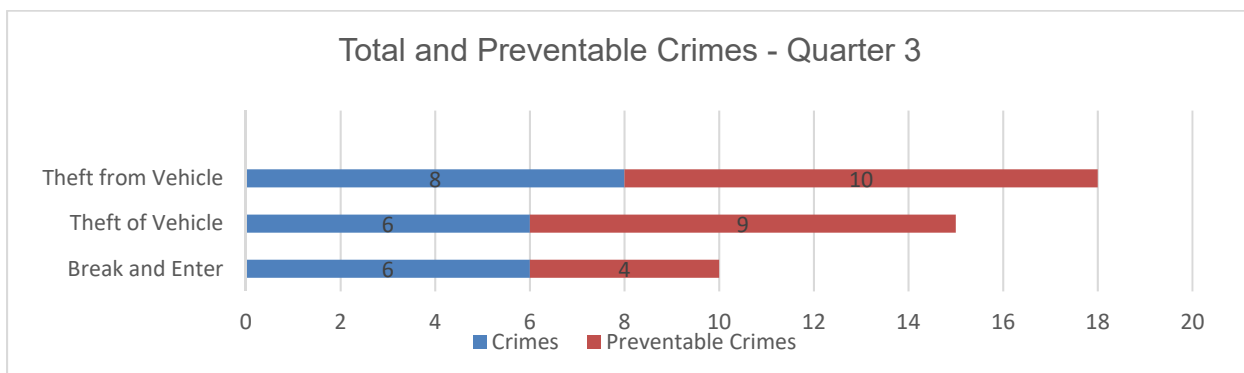
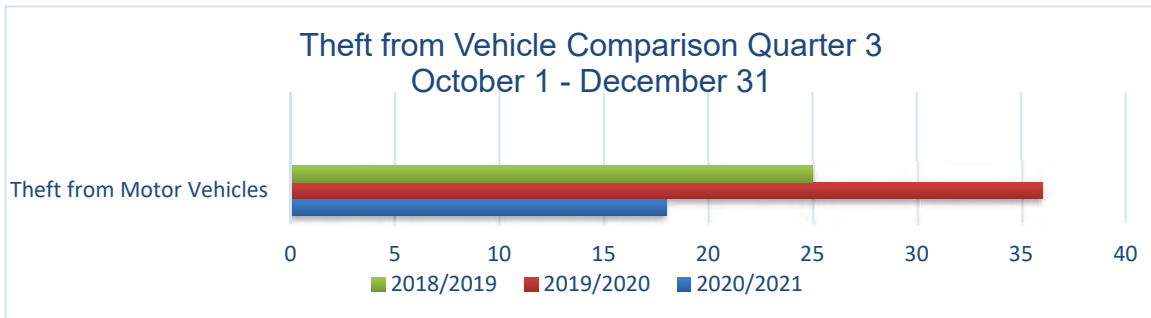
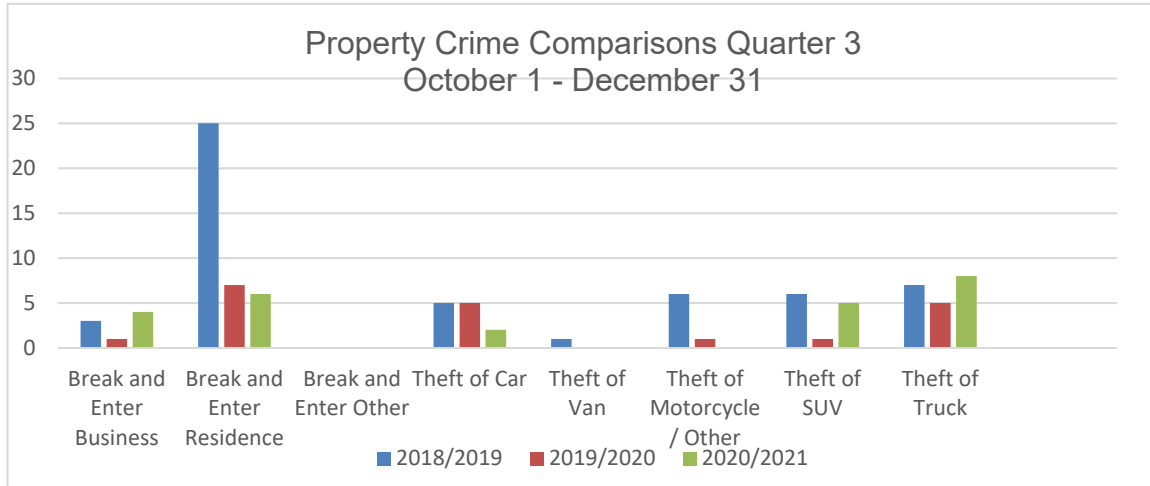
This initiative was added in the last fiscal year to initiate and maintain contact with area developers with a goal to reduce and prevent theft from work sites. Communication efforts involve maintaining after hours contacts for each development site, ability to provide information on current and emerging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





## DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

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

---

QUARTER 3 PROPERTY CRIME		PREVENTABLE	%
Break and Enter	10	4	40
Theft of Motor Vehicles	15	9	60
Theft from Motor Vehicles	16	3	56

Break and enter files increased from 8 to 10 (+25%), theft of motor vehicles increased from 12 to 15 (+25%), and Theft from MV fell to 18 from 36 (-50%) compared to quarter three last year. Ongoing crime prevention programs have contributed to this reduction. Overall year to date, objectives in this area are on average at 52% of our planned goal at the three quarter point of this fiscal year.

A significant driver this quarter remained the current state of the Covid-19 pandemic. Work from home arrangements and lack of travel options increase occupancy of residences thereby reducing opportunity for would be property criminals.

Preventable crimes remain lower than historical norms in part due to increased public vigilance and presence at home.

Theft of license plates continues to be problematic which represent 22% of the theft from vehicle occurrences this quarter. While this percentage is lower than the 50% of reported theft from vehicle occurrences last quarter, it highlights the benefits of the *License Plate Security Screw Program*.

For current information on property crimes committed within Chestermere, please visit the Chestermere RCMP Crime Map on the City of Chestermere web page at [www.chestermere.ca/RCMP](http://www.chestermere.ca/RCMP)

### **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.

#### **Traffic Safety/Enforcement**

Quarter three enforcement results:

- 212 violations were issued by detachment members;
- 4 impaired drivers were removed from Chestermere roads; and
- 8 drivers were issued alcohol/drug suspensions.

On December 1, 2020 the Immediate Roadside Sanction Program took effect with respect to impaired driving investigations. For impaired driving matters where aggravating factors are not present, the investigator may elect to proceed with the matter as an administrative penalty alone. Drivers suspended under these sanctions will now face significantly higher fines,





## DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

---

increasing suspensions for repeat offences, and expanded penalties for novice and commercial drivers.

For more information on the Immediate Roadside Sanction Program, please visit <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/immediate-roadside-sanctions-irs-program-information-sheet-2020>.

### 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.

In quarter three, 33 enhanced shifts were completed which produced:

- **637 Total infractions**
- 330 Speed
- 47 Seatbelts
- 32 Distracted Driving
- 32 Intersection Offences
- 50 Vehicle Deficiency Violations
- 25 No Drivers License / Fail to Produce
- 78 No Registration and/or Insurance (includes fail to produce)
- 30 Other Moving Offences
- 2 Liquor Offences
- 0 Liquor Seizures
- 3 Suspensions
- 2 Impaired Driving Charges
- 2 Bylaw
- 4 Cannabis Infractions
- 0 Roadside Screening Tests
- 175 Mandatory Alcohol Screening Tests

A total of 531 drivers were issued violations. 346 (65%) were non-residents of Chestermere, 185 (35%) were residents of Chestermere.

### Check Stop Program

In quarter three, 8 documented check stops were conducted which resulted in:

- 280 Vehicles Checked
- 0 Violations Issued





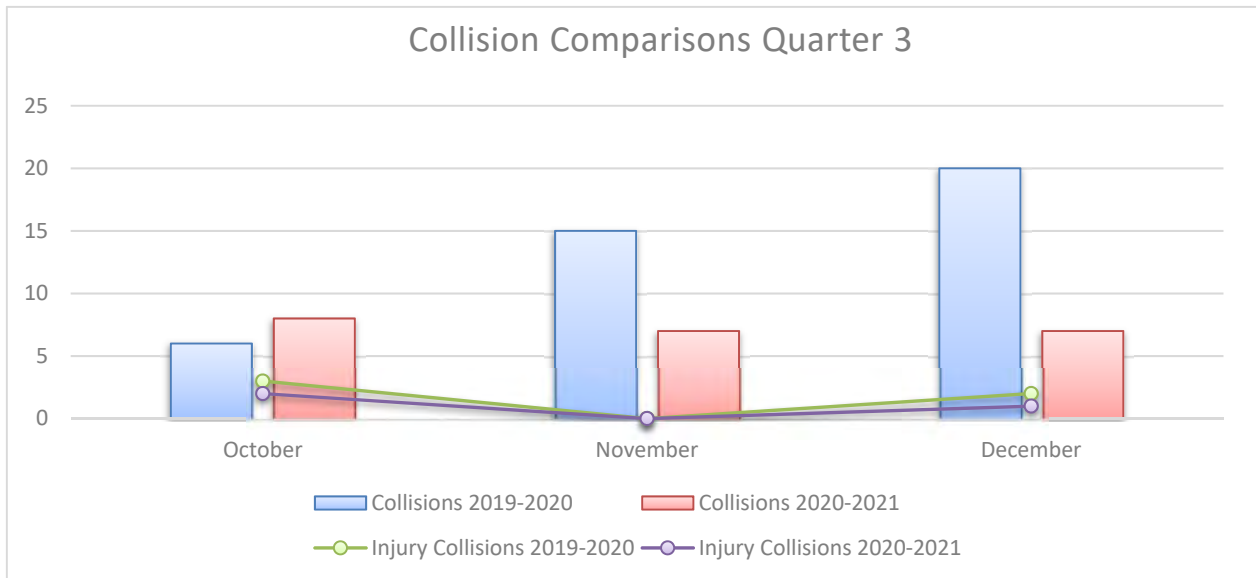
## DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

- 1 Impaired Driver(s)
- 5 Driving Suspensions

### 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 the Covid-19 pandemic, Chestermere members have also focused on promoting voluntary compliance with Public Health Restrictions. During quarter three, Chestermere members documented 53 bar walks.

### Collision Comparisons



Collisions were reduced this quarter from 41 to 22 (-46%) and injury collisions were reduced from 5 to 3 (-40%) compared to the same time frame last year. Current high visibility initiatives and road safety enforcement remains effective in reducing and maintaining low collision rates. Other significant contributing factors related to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic have had an impact with higher levels of unemployment, work from home arrangements, and imposed lockdown measures. All of which reduce the need, ability, and reason for travel.

### 3. Community Involvement Activities

#### School Visits

During quarter three, Chestermere members documented 59 school visits, a reduced number as a result of disrupted in person learning. During school visits, Chestermere members conducted foot patrols to interact and meet with students, issued positive tickets via referral to students who displayed leadership and good citizenship, and







## DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

---

participated in a food drive competition between East Lake School and Rainbow Creek Elementary.

On December 15, S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ, Cpl. BIBEAU, and Cst.'s AIT BENLAARBI, DHALIWAL, and CARRIER attended both schools to pick up and deliver the food donations to the Chestermere Food Bank. Students from both schools helped load the food donations by forming a supply line. Both schools raised a large amount of donations which took 9 vehicle loads to deliver them all to the food bank.

The final approximately tally was:

East Lake School 7,000 items // Rainbow Creek Elementary 5,000 items.



*(Photos above courtesy of Rainbow Creek Elementary School)*



*(Photos above courtesy of East Lake School)*





# DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT



## Attendance at Community Events

During quarter three, Chestermere detachment members attended 8 community events. Details of the events were:

October 25 to 31: Cst. WILCOX partnered with the Chestermere Lions Club for the virtual pumpkin carving contest.

October 30: Noah and his mother came to the detachment to because he wanted to meet a policeman. Noah received an RCMP pin, was taken for a tour of the detachment and got to be a little policeman for an hour.



October 31: Cst. RAJPOOT visited the haunted house at 234 Westchester Blvd during evening patrols to interact with attendees.





## DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

November 11:

S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ, Sgt. STUBBS, Cpl. CURRIE, and Cst. RAJPOOT participated in the Remembrance Day ceremonies. Cst. NEUFELD and KNEZEVIC were present for over watch and to provide assistance if required for any Covid concerns.



November 14: S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ along with the Chestermere Police Communications Committee set up a table at the entrance of No Frills. Shopping cart tokens with crime prevention messages were handed out and security screws were installed on vehicles. During the session, S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ was available to engage with residents with respect to community safety issues.

November 23: S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ, Sgt. STUBBS, Cst. CARRIER, and Cst. RAJPOOT attended a Canadian Blood Services event to make donations in Calgary.

December 05: S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ along with the Chestermere Police Communications Committee set up a table at the entrance of Safeway. Crime prevention information was handed out and security screws were installed on vehicles. This was another opportunity to engage directly with Chestermere residents with respect to any community safety topic they wanted to discuss.

December 19: Cst. SADR participated in the Candy Cane my Yard events organized by Camp Chestermere. 12 yards were visited through this event.

(Photo courtesy of Camp Chestermere)

December 26: Cst. WOOD completed a foot patrol at the Landing Skating rink on Chestermere Lake to interact with residents and children.





### **Public Education / Engagement**

Public education is undertaken with monthly meetings with Police Communications 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.

## **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.

In this quarter, public visibility and presence has been centered around public areas and businesses to promote voluntary compliance with Public Health measures. During periods of business shutdown, a focus has been paid to patrolling around closed businesses to deter property crimes when not in operation.

### **Water Safety Program**

Not in operation during this quarter.

### **Citizens on Patrol**

The program remains inactive for this quarter. A RCMP liaison is assigned to this program to assist as required.

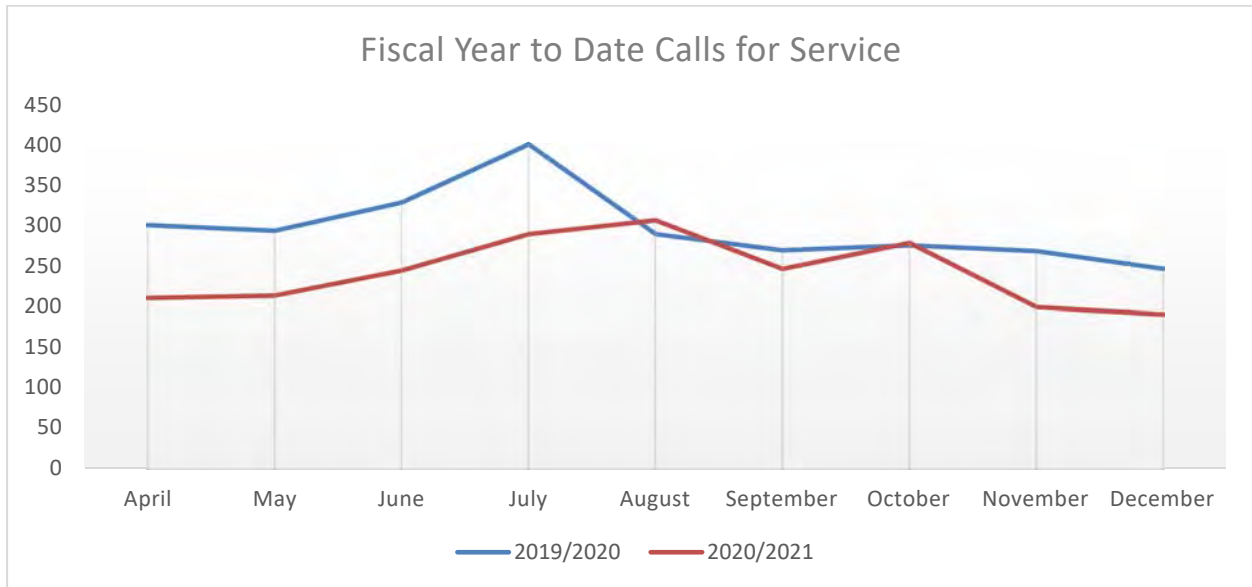




### Positive Ticketing Program

The positive ticketing program has continued and members have been identifying worthy candidates in their regular patrols, by referral through the community group liaison program, and referral through area schools.

### Fiscal Year to Date Calls for Service



During quarter two (excluding traffic offences) Chestermere detachment responded to 640 calls for service, down from 792 the year prior (-19%). Fiscal year to date, overall files have dropped by 37%. The reduction of investigational files can be attributed to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. As noted from April through June, ongoing restrictions were present. Reported matters intersect in August and remain relatively consistent until November with new imposition of restrictions. Factors which have contributed to this reduction remain:

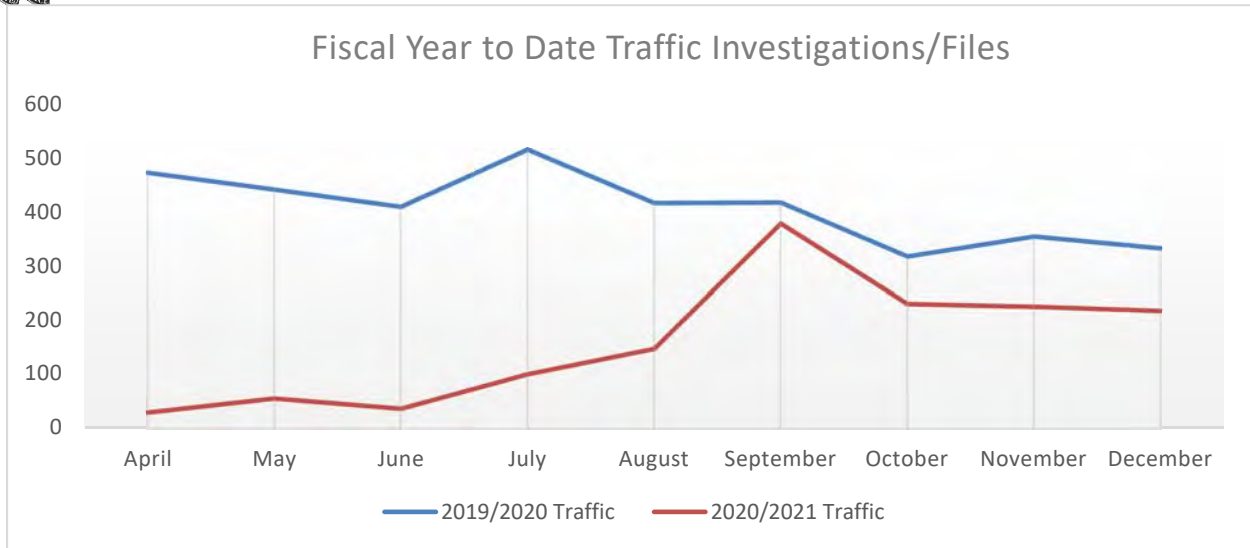
- Work from home arrangements, self isolation, and significant distancing between individuals;
- Less resulting traffic and close interactions;
- Closed businesses or businesses just reopening after lifting of restrictions;
- Decreased recreational activity and travel options;
- Inability to host social gatherings; and
- Unemployment or under employment adding to decreased social activity.

Traffic files decreased this quarter from the same time frame the year before. As noted in the road safety reporting section collisions fell significantly with reductions of vehicles on roadways, reduced travel, and ongoing road safety efforts.





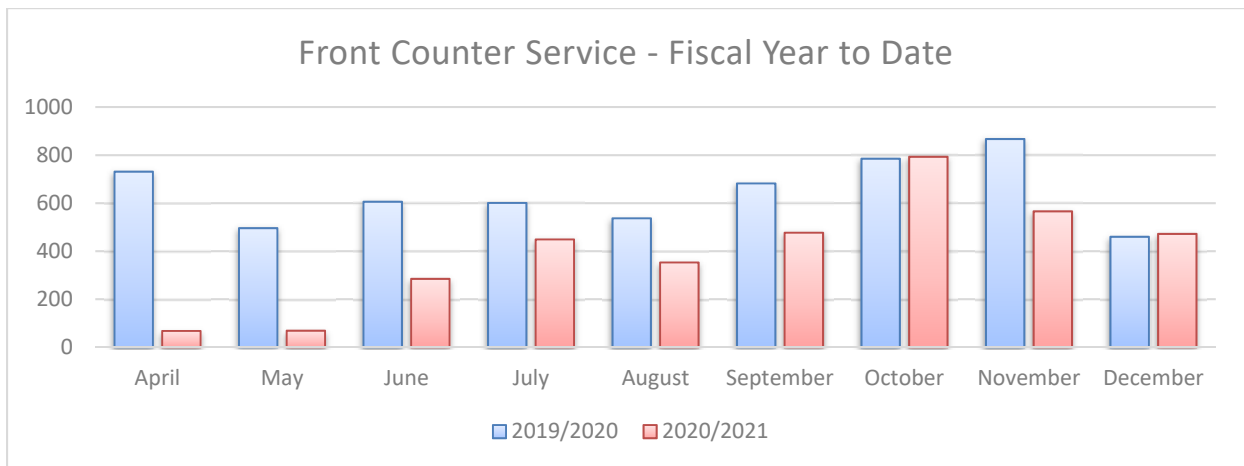
# DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT



Traffic investigations this quarter increased but remain reduced compared to the year prior. This quarter, traffic investigations/infractions were reduced by 33%. Reduced traffic levels, reduced collisions, and modified participation from partner agencies (Covid related) are factors for this reduction. Regardless, traffic safety remains at high levels in Chestermere.

*\*\*\* 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. \*\*\**

## Chestermere Detachment Front Counter Service Delivery



In quarter three (October - December) Chestermere detachment front counter recorded 1,831 contacts for service compared to 2,112 the year before (13% decrease). Year to date there have been 3,532 front counter contacts compared to 5,765 the year before (39% decrease).





## DETACHMENT COMMANDER REPORT

---

Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has influenced these reductions. Service delivery contacts increased in October, decreased in November as a result of imposed restrictions, and met historical levels in December. Another factor which has reduced service contacts is alternate forms of exchange of information. Most information and reception of complaints is completed via phone and email at this time to reduce contact where possible.

Despite the changing restrictions and Public Health Orders, service delivery has not been impacted. All calls for service and requests from the public have been answered in line with Chestermere detachment's commitment to provide a high level of service to our community.

*\*\*\* 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. Fewer contracted activities have been engaged such as interview transcriptions with increased availability of resources and to remain fiscally responsible. Virtual, email, and phone contacts have replaced the majority of in person attendances at the detachment. \*\*\**

Staff Sergeant Mark WIELGOSZ      2021-02-11  
Detachment Commander  
Chestermere Detachment

