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Making a Difference in Manitoba



Commanding Officer's Corner



"D" Division RCMP (Manitoba) strive to meet with our client communities regularly to:

- discuss annual policing priorities with each community;
- update local town councils and band councils on policing issues and progress;
- meet with municipal leaders during the annual AMM convention; and
- discuss broader concerns and solutions with community representatives and culturally diverse groups.

We recognize that we need to better share information with the communities we serve. This newsletter is part of that effort to share how the RCMP is making a difference in your community.

"D" Division continues to reach out to the communities we serve — by taking an interest in the local youth, meeting regularly with community leaders, and forging new partnerships.

Our success as an organization lies in our commitment to the work we do in Manitoba.

I'm proud of the many successes we have achieved, some of which are highlighted in the following pages.

Bill Robinson, Assistant Commissioner
Commanding Officer
"D" Division RCMP

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RCMP Lay Terrorism-Related Charges

In March 2011 a four-year RCMP national security criminal investigation, known as **Project Darken**, resulted in arrest warrants being issued for two former Winnipeg residents on terrorism-related charges.

RCMP investigators in Winnipeg have compiled evidence that two Canadian citizens, Maiwand Yar and Ferid Ahmed Imam, conspired to travel to Pakistan for terrorist training, with plans to later join the insurgency against NATO forces in Afghanistan.

Ferid Ahmed Imam, age 30, is being sought on charges of instructing to carry out terrorist activity and conspiracy to participate in activity of a terrorist group.

Maiwand Yar, age 27, is being sought on charges of conspiracy to participate in activity of a terrorist group and participation in activity of a terrorist group.

Both individuals are known to have traveled to Pakistan in March 2007. The current whereabouts of Maiwand Yar and Ferid Imam are unknown.

These charges are being laid in absentia and Canada-wide arrest warrants have been issued for both men.

"These warrants are the result of a lengthy and thorough national security criminal investigation involving key partners throughout Canada and the U.S.," said Assistant Commissioner Bill Robinson, Commanding Officer of "D" Division RCMP.

"We are deeply committed to our efforts aimed at countering terrorism. This investigation targets criminal activity and not specific communities or groups."

Project Darken was conducted by the **RCMP National Security Enforcement Section** in Winnipeg with the cooperation of partners at the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Canada Border Services Agency, U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, and international law enforcement agencies.

The RCMP has primary responsibility for preventing, detecting, and investigating terrorism-related criminal activity in Canada.

The RCMP is committed to protecting the safety and security of Canadians. International law enforcement cooperation is critical to minimizing the globalized threat from terrorism and other criminal threats to our national security.

The public is encouraged to contact the RCMP **National Security tip line** at **1-800-420-5805** to report information on the whereabouts of Maiwand Yar and Ferid Imam, or suspicious activities that could pose any threat to Canada's national security.

"This investigation targets criminal activity and not specific communities or groups."

**A/Commr. Bill Robinson
Commanding Officer, "D" Division RCMP**



Making Manitoba Safer

Making a Difference

Firearms and Drugs Seized

As part of the RCMP's ongoing efforts to get drugs and illegal weapons out of Manitoba communities, **Cross Lake RCMP** executed a search warrant in late January at a residence in Cross Lake.

RCMP investigators seized a quantity of cocaine, marihuana, prescription pills, several thousand dollars in cash, as well as three firearms and items related to the transportation and distribution of drugs.

The accused was charged with a number of offences including trafficking cocaine and marihuana, possession of property obtained by crime, three counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm, and three counts of careless storage of a firearm.

Solving Homicides

RCMP Major Crime Services has a high solve rate on homicides:

2010:
23 of 24 homicides solved (96%)

2005 – 2009:
99 of 118 homicides solved (84%)

2000 – 2004:
66 of 73 homicides solved (90%)

Norway House RCMP executed a search warrant at the end of May at a residence on the Norway House Cree Nation, where investigators located approximately 196 grams of cocaine, 991 grams of marihuana, assorted drug paraphernalia, and

approximately \$3,000 in cash.

The estimated street value of the drugs in the community is nearly \$40,000. One man and two women were arrested at the scene.



In June **Elphinstone RCMP**, with the support of **Yellowhead RCMP** and the **Dauphin RCMP Police Dog Service**, executed a search warrant on a residence in Keeseekoowenin First Nation.

Investigators located approximately nine kilograms of marihuana, several hundred grams of hashish oil, and two unregistered firearms from the residence.

Police also seized twenty-six marihuana plants growing on the property. The street value of these drugs is in excess of \$120,000.

Two local residents have been charged with multiple drug trafficking and weapons offences.

Project Develop Targets Street-Level Drugs

A long-term **RCMP East District** investigation known as Project Develop culminated in May 2011 in more than 30 arrests, including dozens related to drug trafficking.

Initiated in November 2010, Project Develop was largely focused on street-level drug trafficking in the RCMP's East District in Manitoba.

Officers from eight detachments, including:

- **Beausejour RCMP**
- **Grand Marais RCMP**
- **Lac du Bonnet RCMP**
- **Oakbank RCMP**
- **Powerview RCMP**
- **Selkirk RCMP**
- **Steinbach RCMP and**
- **Stonewall RCMP,**

arrested 34 people on a variety of offences associated to drug trafficking.

This long-term investigation was initiated by the RCMP East District, based on intelligence gathered by local detachment members.

The **RCMP East District** coordinated this investigation with the assistance of the:

- **Manitoba Integrated Organized Crime Task Force,**
- **RCMP Major Crime Unit,**
- **RCMP Winnipeg Drug Section,**
- **RCMP Division Criminal Analysis Section and**
- **National Weapons Enforcement Support Team.**

During this investigation, RCMP members seized crack cocaine, powder cocaine, marijuana, psilocybin and synthetic drugs with an estimated street value of about \$18,000.

"Street-level drug traffickers are the foot soldiers of organized crime. They are the suppliers of drugs in rural communities," said Superintendent Scott Kolody, RCMP East District Officer.

"Drug trafficking is a serious offence and we are committed to disrupting any such activity across Manitoba."

During the Project, investigators also became aware of possible firearms trafficking activities on Sagkeeng First Nation which lead to the execution of two search warrants.

Police seized a total of thirty-two non-restricted and six restricted firearms, including pistols, rifles, shotguns and ammunition. Two other search warrants were executed on drug related offences resulting in the seizure of another firearm.

"Those who traffic in illicit drugs destroy lives, homes, and communities," said Assistant Commissioner Bill Robinson, Commanding Officer of RCMP "D" Division. "The RCMP remains deeply committed to enforcing laws against illicit drugs to their fullest extent."



Making Manitoba Safer

RCMP Charge Youths in String of Arsons

In late April **Ste. Rose du Lac RCMP** along with local fire officials responded to fires at two vacant house trailers and a shed at different locations in Crane River First Nation.

Investigation determined that the fires were the result of arson, causing nearly \$260,000 in damage. Further investigation continued with the assistance of a local Band Constable and led to a local group of five male youths, who have since been arrested and charged with arson.



Drugs Intercepted in Northern Manitoba

In April several traffic stops resulted in the seizure of illicit drugs in northern Manitoba. **Grand Rapids RCMP** conducted a traffic stop on Highway 6, just north of Grand Rapids. RCMP approached the driver of the vehicle and an odour of marihuana was detected from the car.

All four occupants, residents of Norway House, were arrested and a search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of seven ounces of cocaine (estimated value of \$20,000).

Thompson RCMP conducted a traffic stop on Highway 6 south of Thompson where a quantity of crack cocaine with a street value of approximately \$25,000 was seized and two people were arrested.

The Pas RCMP stopped a vehicle south of The Pas on Highway 10, and subsequently seized 20 ounces of cocaine which has a street value between \$70,000 and \$90,000 in The Pas.

Search Warrants Net Drugs

Virden RCMP arrested six people on drug-related charges as a result of executing three search warrants in the spring. Two people were arrested after seizing close to a pound of marihuana, along with a small quantity of psilocybin (magic mushrooms) and hashish oil with a total estimated street value of over \$5000.

Another four people were charged in April in relation to the seizure of approximately one ounce of cocaine, 1400 tablets of ecstasy, and approximately 2.5 grams of crystal meth, with a total estimated street value exceeding \$17,000.

Police also arrested one man in late May, seizing approximately 112 grams of cocaine (estimated street value of over \$10,000), a firearm and a small amount of cash.



Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime

A drug trafficking investigation in 2008 by the Winnipeg Police Service Organized Crime Unit that included the seizure of approximately \$150,000 in Canadian, American and Costa Rican currency, several diamonds and a Rolex watch, prompted a subsequent investigation into the suspect's finances by the **RCMP Integrated Proceeds of Crime (IPOC)** Unit.

IPOC conducted an extensive three-year investigation which included the seizure of a boat, a Harley Davidson motorcycle as well as a residence on Kingston Row and a cottage at Lake of the Woods, all believed to be the proceeds of illicit drug trafficking. In late March a Winnipeg man was charged with money laundering and possession of proceeds of crime.

The IPOC investigative team is a specialized, integrated Unit dedicated to investigating financial crime. It consists of members of the RCMP, Winnipeg Police Service, Canada Revenue Agency, Crown Attorneys from Public Prosecution Service Canada, accountants from the Forensic Accounting Management Group and Seized Property Management Directorate employees.

Grow Ops Shut Down

On January 28th **RCMP "D" Division Winnipeg Drug Section** with the assistance of the **Winnipeg Police Service Tactical Unit** executed a CDSA (Controlled Drugs and Substances Act) search warrant at a residence on McInnes Place in Winnipeg.

RCMP found the home had been converted into a sophisticated marihuana grow operation.

More than 800 marihuana plants in various stages of growth were discovered as well as a quantity of processed marihuana. The street value of the seized drugs is estimated at about \$1.1 million.

Although no one was in the home at the time, five people were arrested at a separate location and are facing drug-related charges.

RCMP Winnipeg Drug Section executed a search warrant in April at a residence on Henderson Highway in Winnipeg, where investigators found and seized 889 marihuana plants in various stages of growth with an estimated street value of \$889,000.

Also seized was various grow equipment (lights, bulbs, wiring) valued at \$25,000. The entire basement and most of the main floor of the residence was used to grow marihuana. Two Winnipeg men were arrested on drug production and trafficking charges.

Truckload of Marihuana Intercepted

In early February **Gimli RCMP** and local emergency services were dispatched to the scene of a vehicle fire on Highway 8 near Minerva Road in the R.M. of Gimli.

Police and firefighters located a cube-style rental truck on the side of the highway with smoke coming from the cargo area.

After firefighters extinguished the blaze, it was discovered that the truck was carrying a quantity of marihuana plants, with an estimated value of \$40,000.

Investigation revealed that the fire had started as a result of a propane heater being used in the cargo area of the truck.

Police observed a man leaving the scene of the fire, and subsequently arrested him for possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking, as well as driving while prohibited.

If you suspect a grow op in your community, do not investigate.

Contact your local RCMP Detachment

or

CrimeStoppers

1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)

www.manitobacrimestoppers.com

TEXT: "TIPMAN" plus your message to

CRIMES (274637)

Thompson Man Charged in Drug Seizure

On March 18th, 2011, **Thompson RCMP** executed a search warrant at a residence in the Westwood area of Thompson. A search of the residence produced approximately two and a half kilograms of marihuana worth approximately \$20,000, and \$6000 in cash.

A Thompson man has been remanded into custody and charged with possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking and possession of proceeds of crime.

Making Manitoba Safer

Arrests Made in Multiple Break and Enters

In early 2011 several suspects were arrested after a rash of break-ins in **Portage la Prairie** and **Swan River**.

In late January **Central Plains RCMP** received a report of a break and enter to a residence on 18th Street SW in Portage la Prairie.

Investigation revealed that illegal entry was gained to the residence while the homeowner was at home and asleep. The suspect had entered the residence and the vehicle in the garage, and made off with alcohol and money.

Further investigation revealed that the suspect had traveled on foot and attempted to gain entry to several residences and vehicles along 18th Street.

Within hours RCMP members had located and identified the suspect, who was subsequently charged with a number of counts of break and enter, theft under \$5,000, mischief and breach of probation.

Swan River RCMP arrested suspects in three separate incidents that occurred in January and February in the community.

A man was remanded into custody and is facing six charges relating to a break-in at a Swan River car dealership in early January.

The suspect has been charged with break, enter and theft, theft of a motor vehicle, mischief, possession of stolen property and driving while disqualified.

In another incident a Swan River man was arrested, charged and remanded into custody after police caught him breaking into a local school in mid-February. His guilty plea on charges of break, enter and theft, and illegally possessing instruments for the purpose of committing a break and enter resulted in a sentence of six months in jail.

In early February Swan River RCMP also arrested a male youth, age 15, who broke into a resident's garage in Swan River. The youth was arrested at the scene and charged with break and enter with intent.

In late February **Headingley Rural RCMP** with the assistance of the **Stonewall RCMP** and the **RCMP "D" Division Auto Theft Unit** began an investigation into a number of reports of break and enters and thefts in the Headingley and Stonewall areas.

The thefts occurred mid-January and mid-March, targeting snowmobiles, dirt bikes and tools stolen from garages, sheds, utility trailers and yards.

As a result of the investigation, three suspects were charged with a total of 47 offences including multiple charges for break, enter and commit theft, theft, and firearms related charges.

Prevention Tips—Away from Home

It is important to take extra care in securing your home when you are going to be away for any extended time. Not only should your home be secure but it should also appear lived in.

- Lock all windows, doors and garage before you leave.
- Leave a radio playing to indicate that someone is home.
- Leave one or two lights on, preferably operated by timers that turn on according to how dark it is.
- Discontinue mail and newspaper deliveries.
- Arrange to have someone pick up any newspapers, mail or flyers that are left on your step.
- Leave a key with someone you trust.
- Let a trusted neighbour know you're going to be away, for how long and where you can be contacted if necessary.
- Arrange to have someone cut the grass or shovel the snow if you plan to be away for several days.

Steinbach RCMP and Ste. Anne Police Joint Efforts Successful

Steinbach RCMP and the **Ste. Anne Police Department** wrapped up a second joint force project in April focusing on several crimes in the Steinbach and surrounding communities.

The project, which ran from February 15 to April 19, is the second of its kind in the last year. It involved a team of two Steinbach RCMP constables and one Ste. Anne Police constable. The team, known as the General Investigation Section (GIS), concentrated their efforts on investigating a number of complex crimes, including:

- Armed Robbery at Le Dépanneur Store in Labroquerie (Jan. 18, 2011): *one youth charged*
- Break and Enter to the Le Dépanneur Store in Labroquerie (Feb. 15, 2011): *two youths charged*

- Female in Steinbach was attacked in her garage by a male with a knife (Oct. 9, 2010). The same residence had a break-in June 29, 2010: *one male charged for both incidents.*

- Two drug investigations led to the seizure of \$40,000 of marihuana plants and more than two pounds of packaged marihuana with an estimated street value of \$7000: *three people were charged*

- A break, enter and theft and fraudulent use of a credit card: *one male charged*

The team also *charged three impaired drivers*, and worked on several sexual assault files and two other armed robbery files that are still under investigation.

Citizens' Tips Lead to Charges of Break and Enter and Armed Robbery

Just before midnight on February 14 **Steinbach RCMP** received a report of a suspicious vehicle in a parking lot near Le Dépanneur Store at the gas station in La Broquerie.

The caller reported two males were seen leaving a vehicle, walking towards the store, wearing balaclavas and carrying a baseball bat. A short time later Steinbach RCMP received a report of intrusion alarm at Le Dépanneur Store.

RCMP attended and learned that the store had been broken into and lottery tickets had been stolen. Witnesses provided descriptions of the suspects and the vehicle they were driving.

Approximately an hour later a vehicle matching the description was located traveling west bound on Highway 1 near the Highway 12 turnoff. The vehicle was stopped and four youths were arrested. Police located balaclavas, bear spray and the stolen lottery tickets in the vehicle.

Further investigation by the joint RCMP/Ste. Anne Police Department General Investigation Section led to two 16-year-old male youths being charged with break and enter, wearing a disguise in the commission of an offence and possession of a weapon dangerous to the public peace. One youth was released by a justice for a court date in March.

The second youth, based on evidence obtained during this investigation was also charged with an armed robbery that occurred at the same store on January 18, 2011.

In this case a lone male entered the store wearing a balaclava and carrying pepper spray. The male confronted the store clerk and made off with an undisclosed amount of money. This youth was remanded into custody.

Steinbach RCMP appreciate the assistance of members of the public in this investigation.

Making Manitoba Roadways Safer

In March 2011, members of **RCMP North District Traffic Services** based in Cranberry Portage conducted a Select Traffic Enforcement Program (S.T.E.P.) Check Stop at Jenpeg near the community of Cross Lake First Nation.

The following week the northern traffic unit worked their way up to **Nelson House** and **Leaf Rapids** to support local RCMP Detachments with their community events.

Offence statistics include:

Charge	Number
Intersection - red light/stop sign	43
Speeding	75
Invalid/unregistered licenses	6
Liquor charges	5
Seatbelts	9
Cell phone use	7
Beer seized	48
Bottles of liquor destroyed	43
Possession for the purpose of trafficking	2
Proceeds of crime seizure	1
Warrant executed	1

In June a traffic patrol at Nickel Days in Thompson resulted in the following:

Charge	Number
Intersection - red light/stop sign	6
Speeding	41
Invalid/unregistered licenses	2
Invalid driver's license	1
Seatbelts	6
Cell phone use	1

Many Detachments are reporting fewer calls for service when the traffic unit is patrolling.



Check Stop Yields Drugs, Weapon

Headingley RCMP conducting a traffic check stop in April on Roblin Boulevard stopped a vehicle with Alberta plates and arrested the driver for possession of a fraudulent driver's license.

A search warrant was obtained, and subsequent investigation revealed a prohibited weapon, a quantity of cash, and approximately 5000 oxycodone pills with an estimated street value of \$25,000.



Making Manitoba Roadways Safer

The week of May 16th to May 23rd, 2011 marked **Canada Road Safety Week** - a national enforcement-driven campaign to make Canada's roads the safest in the world. All enforcement agencies across the country were invited to participate.

RCMP members in Manitoba conducted extra patrols across the province, which resulted in:

Charge	Road Safety Week 2011	Road Safety Week 2010
Impaired Driving or Drive Over .08	70	46
Impaired by Drugs	2	0
24-hour alcohol-related roadside suspensions	20	23
Seatbelts	100	179
Cell phone use	7	Not available
Intersection - red light/stop sign	43	Not available
Speeding and aggressive driving	738	951

Of interest, two drivers were stopped twice over the weekend on Highway 6. One was stopped for 155 km/hr and again about one hour later for 139 km/hr. Another was stopped for 138 km/hr and approximately 18 minutes later was stopped again for 125 km/hr.

During the week-long campaign, there were two traffic-related fatalities. As at May 25th this has brought the number of traffic-related deaths in 2011 to a total of 41 people (total of 33 collisions). The average number of traffic-related deaths in Manitoba each year by the May long weekend is 26. By May long weekend last year, in RCMP jurisdiction, we had seen 21 fatal motor vehicle collisions resulting in 22 people killed.

"The RCMP continues to strive to improve public safety on Manitoba roadways, but we can't do it alone." said Assistant Commissioner Bill Robinson, Commanding Officer of RCMP "D" Division. "We need the commitment of the driving public to achieve success."

Canada Road Safety Week is part of "Road Safety Strategy 2015", which has the goal of making Canada's roads the safest in the world. The year 2011 has also been marked as the "National Year for Road Safety".



Making a Difference

Search and Rescue a Joint Effort

What could be better than enjoying a great Manitoba day outside, going fishing, boating, snowmobiling, off-roading or hiking in the woods?

It doesn't get much better than that here in Manitoba where outdoor adventures abound.

That is unless you take a wrong turn, run out of gas or supplies, or get stranded in a sudden storm.

That's when you count on your family and friends to realize you're not back on time and have called the police for help as soon as possible.

Who do I call if someone is lost or missing?

Call your local police, dialing 911 where available.

The RCMP serves most of Manitoba, with the exception of Altona, Brandon, Dakota Ojibway Police Service area, Morden, Rivers, Ste. Anne, Victoria Beach, Winkler and Winnipeg.

RCMP role in search and rescue

Local RCMP work with the community - those who best know the people and terrain. Along with making initial enquiries locally, the RCMP will make further contact with search and rescue services as required.

In northern Manitoba alone, RCMP Detachment members in Shamattawa, Island Lake, Thompson, Oxford House, Lynn Lake, Pukatawagan, Split Lake, Cranberry Portage and Little Grand Rapids were involved in searches last year.

In southern Manitoba, searches involved RCMP Detachments in Waywayseecappo, Gimli, Cross Lake, Dauphin, Stonewall, Lundar, Powerview, Falcon Beach, Lac du Bonnet, Steinbach, Selkirk, St. Pierre, and Neepawa.

Your local RCMP may need to contact the **RCMP's Search and Rescue Team** who works with:

- ~ the Manitoba **Office of the Fire Commissioner**,
- ~ **Search and Rescue Manitoba (SARMAN)**,
- ~ **Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA)**
- ~ local **Emergency Services** (fire and paramedic).
- ~ **Coast Guard** and **Coast Guard Auxiliary** and
- ~ **Canadian Forces** and **Canadian Rangers**.

How do I volunteer for search and rescue?

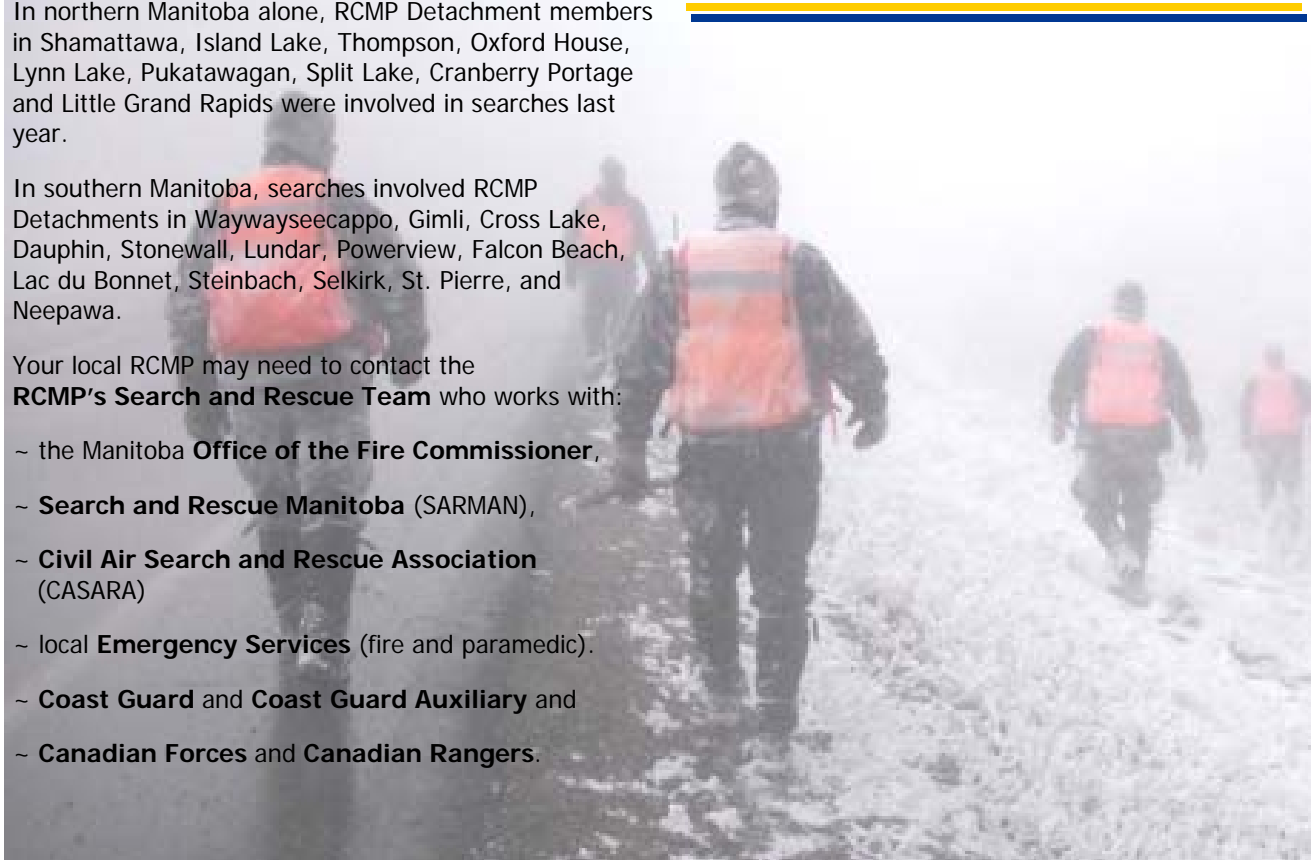
In Manitoba the Office of the Fire Commissioner is in charge of training standards and verification. They provide training to interested volunteers.

SARMAN (Search and Rescue Manitoba) is the organization which monitors and ensures all its members are adhering to standards. Due to safety and liability concerns, the RCMP only uses volunteers that meet these standards.

Any person or group can apply and provide their training standards to be verified. If they meet the provincial standard, they become recognized as trained.

What if I don't meet the training standard?

Untrained volunteers are also helpful in Search and Rescue missions but **they must be under the direct supervision of a trained subject**. They are often used in safe, low probability areas. Civilian Dog Teams may also be used, as long as they comply with established provincial standards.



The **RCMP Search and Rescue (SAR)** team conducts searches for lost persons, as well as searches for evidence in investigations.

RCMP SAR members get extensive training in search and rescue techniques, GPS and compass use, as well as annual training and updating of skills.

When needed, the SAR coordinator may also call in the RCMP Police Dog Service and private helicopters to assist.

Last year RCMP SAR coordinator Sgt. Rod Karpish received 41 calls for assistance. He says the RCMP team was called out to 20 of those incidents: 16 were missing person searches while the other four were evidence searches.

In 12 of the 16 missing person searches, the subject was located alive, either finding their own way or being found through the joint efforts by family, friends, local RCMP and emergency services, RCMP Search and Rescue, OFC, CASARA and the Coast Guard.

In half the calls for assistance, the missing person was located while the RCMP SAR team was being

dispatched.

"We treat *every* call for help as a life-threatening and time-sensitive situation," says Sgt. Karpish, "So each call means we head out the door as fast as we can."

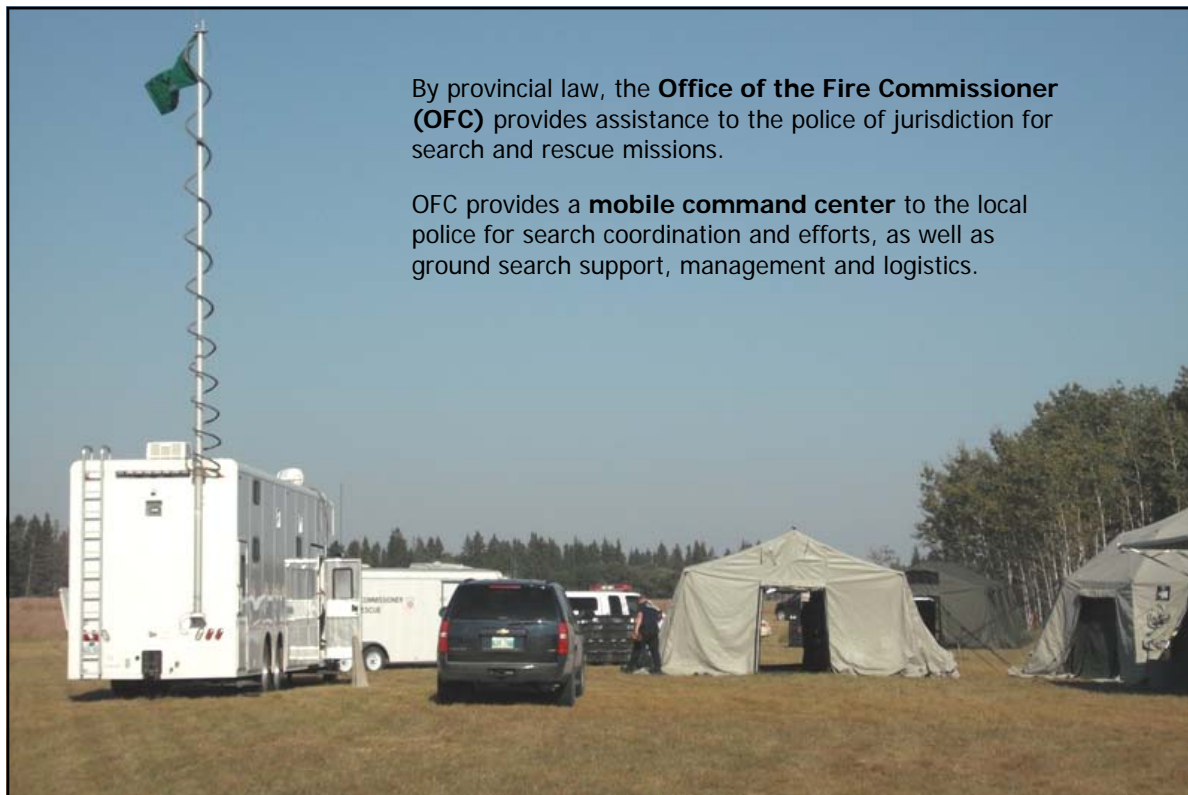
In other cases, Sgt. Karpish assisted the local RCMP detachment with search advice and with contacting and coordinating with their partners in rescue services.

"Last year the RCMP SAR team spent 21 days on missing person searches, doing grid searches in dense forest and swamps, lakes and winter roads," he says.

If lost, "hug a tree": stay put, build a shelter and wait for rescue.

-Sgt. Rod Karpish

"So, tell someone where you're going, and when you'll be back. Take proper supplies, including GPS, cell phone, water and warm clothing. If lost, "hug a tree": stay put, build a shelter and wait for rescue."



By provincial law, the **Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC)** provides assistance to the police of jurisdiction for search and rescue missions.

OFC provides a **mobile command center** to the local police for search coordination and efforts, as well as ground search support, management and logistics.

RCMP Welcomes Aboriginal Community Constables

Three Manitoba communities have welcomed several recent graduates of the RCMP's first-ever troop of Aboriginal Community Constables (ACC), known as Troop 220.

The four Manitobans who completed their RCMP training in April were sworn in as peace officers at the RCMP Academy in Regina, marking an historic milestone for both the RCMP and Aboriginal communities.

A/Comm. Bill Robinson, "D" Division RCMP Commanding Officer, was honoured to attend the graduation ceremony along with Grand Chief Ron Evans of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, David Chartrand, President of the Manitoba Metis Federation, and Jerry Primrose, Chief of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, as well as RCMP Commissioner William Elliott and representatives from RCMP Aboriginal Policing Services.

"It was a great honour to celebrate the graduation of four Aboriginal and First Nations Community Constables from Manitoba and the several others from across the country," said Grand Chief Evans.

"It gives me great pride to see our young people like S/Cst. Letandre and S/Cst. Linklater achieving their goals and setting an example for others who wish to become members. It is important for First Nations to be policing their own communities and this program makes it possible."

Following graduation, the new Special Constables returned to their home communities in Manitoba to begin their new assignments at their local RCMP Detachments.

S/Cst. Ryan Linklater (right) has returned home as a member of the RCMP Detachment in Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, where he was the Chief Band Constable for several years.



S/Cst. Lawrence Letander is now posted with Gypsumville Detachment which serves his home community of Dauphin River First Nation along with Gypsumville, St. Martin, St. Martin Junction, Hilbre, and the First Nations of Dauphin River, Lake St. Martin, Little Saskatchewan, and Pinaymootang (Fairford).

Two Special Constables of Metis heritage are now posted with Thompson Detachment: **S/Cst. Kyle Boisvert** and **S/Cst. Robert Cleveland**.

S/Cst. Cleveland has volunteered as an Auxiliary Constable with the RCMP for 10 years.

"We are so proud of Rob and Kyle," said MMF President Chartrand. "They are now role models at the highest level, not only for those looking to follow in their footsteps and become police officers but all Metis youth who can see what is possible to achieve with hard work and determination. Kyle and Rob, the Metis Nation salutes you."

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ACC Duties

An Aboriginal Community Constable is an armed, uniformed peace officer and full member of the RCMP at the rank of Special Constable. ACCs receive exactly the same use of force, firearms, driving and police defensive tactics training as regular cadets.

After graduation ACCs must complete a six-month field training program working with an experienced field coach in the community before working on their own.

ACCs will enhance, not replace, the work of general duty RCMP constables; they will have the capacity to provide tactical, enforcement and investigational support to other RCMP officers if required.

Their primary focus is to engage their communities in active crime prevention and reduction and to build positive relationships between their communities and the RCMP.

In the fall of 2009 RCMP "D" Division created the position of the Metis Initiatives Coordinator to foster improved communications between the RCMP and Manitoba Metis Federation.

Cpl. Rick Sinclair has filled the position since August 2010, working out of both Division HQ and the Metis Justice Institute of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Home Office in Winnipeg.



Cpl. Rick Sinclair

delivered justice referral training to Metis community justice workers in counseling, report writing and reporting.

MJI selected Dauphin, Winnipegosis, Thompson, Wabowden and The Pas for the project rollout based on Metis populations and statistics.

Previously, the position had been temporarily filled by a retired member on a six-month contract.

Metis Community Justice Project

One of the first initiatives Cpl. Sinclair assisted with is the Metis Community Justice Project, a culturally appropriate justice alternative for Metis people in Manitoba.

Working closely with provincial justice staff, MMF's Metis Justice Institute (MJI) coordinated and

Detachment visits

Cpl. Sinclair then traveled with the Metis Justice Institute employees to introduce the Metis Community Justice Project to detachment personnel.

Meetings with MMF regional groups throughout the province over the last year have provided an opportunity for Metis citizens to provide feedback to the RCMP and discuss their concerns, including police visibility in communities and involvement in youth programs.

Manitoba Metis community members have indicated that overall they are satisfied with the policing service provided by RCMP "D" Division, where feedback and concerns are promptly communicated to the Detachment Commander.

Cpl. Sinclair's role will further strengthen the RCMP and MMF's valuable working relationship.

Visit the Manitoba Metis Federation web site for more information on the organization's mandate:

www.mmf.mb.ca



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Both S/Cst. Boisvert and S/Cst. Linklater are also graduates of the law enforcement policing program at UCN (University College of the North) in The Pas.

"I always wanted to be a member of the RCMP," says S/Cst. Linklater. "The ACC program was a prime opportunity for me to do that and serve my home community."

"It is very positive for the community," NCN Chief Jerry Primrose said, "and we are very fortunate that one of the graduates is from and has returned to our community of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation."

"I'm proud to have been a part of Troop 220 – especially knowing that it was history in the making," says S/Cst. Cleveland. "I'm proud to continue serving my community."

First Nation Liaison Officer

In mid-April 2011 RCMP "D" Division and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) welcomed Corporal Gabe Simard as the new RCMP Liaison Officer assigned to AMC.

Cpl. Simard, a 10-year veteran RCMP officer, will continue building on the solid foundation for improved communication established by his predecessor, Cst. Monique Cooper, since the position was created in 2009.



Cpl. Gabe Simard

"Open, two-way communication is key between the RCMP and First Nation citizens in Manitoba," said Assistant Commissioner Bill Robinson, Commanding Officer of RCMP "D" Division. "The Liaison Officer position stationed at AMC has improved our ability to better understand community concerns in our quest to enhance and improve service delivery to the First Nation communities we serve."

"This liaison position has been tremendously successful in keeping First Nation leadership informed and maintaining an open line of communication with the RCMP," said AMC Grand Chief Ron Evans. "We are pleased to see it has become permanent and welcome Corporal Simard to AMC."

RCMP summer program led to career

Originally from Hollow Water First Nation/ Seymourville, Cpl. Simard spent four months as a summer student with the Selkirk Detachment in 2000 under the RCMP's Aboriginal Youth Training Program.

The program gave him a taste of the varied work RCMP members do, ranging from community policing duties such as school talks, flying in to Berens River for extended patrols, and assisting with disturbance calls, to fingerprinting, guarding prisoners, and serving subpoenas.

"Once I'd done the summer program, I knew this was what I wanted to do," said Cpl. Simard, who

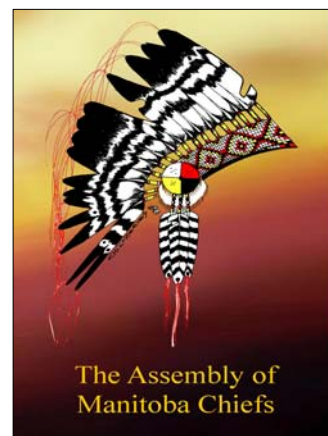
fulfilled his dream of joining the RCMP right after his summer stint with the Force.

With the exception of a few months in Gimli before assuming his new role at AMC, most of his policing career to date has been spent in the Opaskwayak Cree Nation/The Pas area. Cpl. Simard has also worked relief duty at Oxford House, Pukatawagan, Easterville, Chemawawin, Grand Rapids and Nelson House.

Cpl. Simard's duties have included working in the general investigation section, as well as delivering drug and safety awareness programs to students at schools in The Pas, OCN, and Cormorant.

He was also part of the local community consultative groups that set policing priorities in Cormorant and OCN. Over the last two years, Simard has been a mentor to four RCMP cadets in The Pas, providing each of them with six months of training, field coaching and supervision.

"My policing experience has provided me with a good basis for building relationships with community members," says Cpl. Simard. "I aim to continue the great work done by Cst. Cooper."



An RCMP member with 17 years of service is "D" Division's first Cultural Diversity Officer, dedicated to working closely with members of visible minority communities served by the RCMP throughout Manitoba.

Cpl. David Ogungbemi of the Contract and Aboriginal Policing unit assumed the role in September 2010 on a one-year assignment based at division headquarters in Winnipeg.

He has traveled to rural and urban Manitoba communities, including Thompson, Steinbach and Elie, to hear the concerns of visible minority community members and service providers and their ideas on enhancing police services.

He also continues to research, analyze and identify public safety gaps within visible minority communities with the goal of preventing and reducing crime and victimization.

Cpl. Ogungbemi has been developing rapport with visible minority communities by opening lines of communication, building trust, getting to know and understand their cultures, listening to their concerns, and raising awareness of how the RCMP works.

To that end Cpl. Ogungbemi has attended many cultural and educational events in Winnipeg, including the:

- annual Hindu Diwali Festival of Lights celebration;
- Nigerian 50th Independence Anniversary;
- Manitoba Umuna Igbofest Cultural 2010 celebration;
- Islamic Social Services Association Inc. events and workshops;
- Hindu Society remembrance prayers for the Forces;
- Canadian Centre for Diversity facilitation workshop; and
- Steinbach's new immigrant settlement presentation on Canadian law.



Cpl. David Ogungbemi

Recognizing that Manitoba's immigrant population is growing, "D" Division is ensuring that its members have a deeper understanding of the communities they serve.

Cpl. Ogungbemi will continue to actively promote cultural awareness not only among community members and their leaders but also among "D" Division members through workshops, presentations and training sessions.

He continues to be regularly involved with the Commanding Officer's Advisory Committee on Cultural Diversity, which is made up of volunteer members of visible minority communities.

Portage Youth Attends RCMP Leadership Workshop



Nathan Utioh attended a leadership workshop at the RCMP Training Academy.

A Portage la Prairie teen was selected to attend the RCMP's national Youth Leadership and Project Development Workshop in mid-March at the RCMP Training Academy (Depot).

Eighteen-year-old Portage Collegiate Institute (PCI) student Nathan Utioh attended the workshop along with his RCMP mentor, Cst. Shannon Neff of the Portage la Prairie Detachment.

RCMP National Youth Services in Ottawa arranged for 19 youth between the ages of 13 and 18, along with RCMP officers from across Canada, to meet in Regina to tackle issues related to youth crime and victimization, which are part of the RCMP's strategic priority on youth.

During the weeklong workshop the youth participants developed action plans to help their local communities address local issues. Youth participants identified alcohol and drug abuse as the top common concern affecting youth in their communities.

Utioh, PCI student council past-president, says he thinks boredom is often a root cause of youth crime in his hometown.

At the end of the workshop, Utioh brought home an action plan to address how youth spend their free time in Portage la Prairie.

As Nathan is leaving for Queen's University after graduating in June 2011, another local youth, Quinn Ferris, will assume the leadership role in rolling out the plan that provides activities and mentoring with the support of their RCMP advisor.

DEAL.org, the RCMP's by youth, for youth website, will be following the youth participants as they put their plans into action.



Cst. Shannon Neff accepts a certificate of appreciation from Deputy Commissioner Doug Lang.

RCMP Hosts World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Canadians have been shocked and saddened by recent reports of elder abuse, ranging from neglect, emotional and financial abuse to physical and sexual abuse.

It is an unfortunate fact that in Canada in 2009, more than 2,400 people over the age of 65 were victims of violent crime by a family member. It is projected that by 2016, the Canadian population of persons 65 years and older will increase by five per cent. As this segment of the population increases, so does the potential for incidents of elder abuse.

The RCMP is dedicated to the protection of all persons, including our elders, and on June 15, 2011, over 150 older adults gathered at "D" Division Headquarters in Winnipeg for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

"I truly believe that the protection and safety of all individuals requires a community effort," said Assistant Commissioner Bill Robinson, Commanding Officer of RCMP "D" Division. "While there are those in society who take advantage of older adults, there are many more who care deeply about protecting our respected elders."

Currently, the RCMP has a number of programs aimed at assisting elders, including **Police Academy – Older Adult Division** and the **Seniors' Safety Guidebook**, which is available on the RCMP website (rcmp.gc.ca). The most current innovation is the recent change to our data collection system, which improves tracking the abuse of Older Adults in Manitoba.

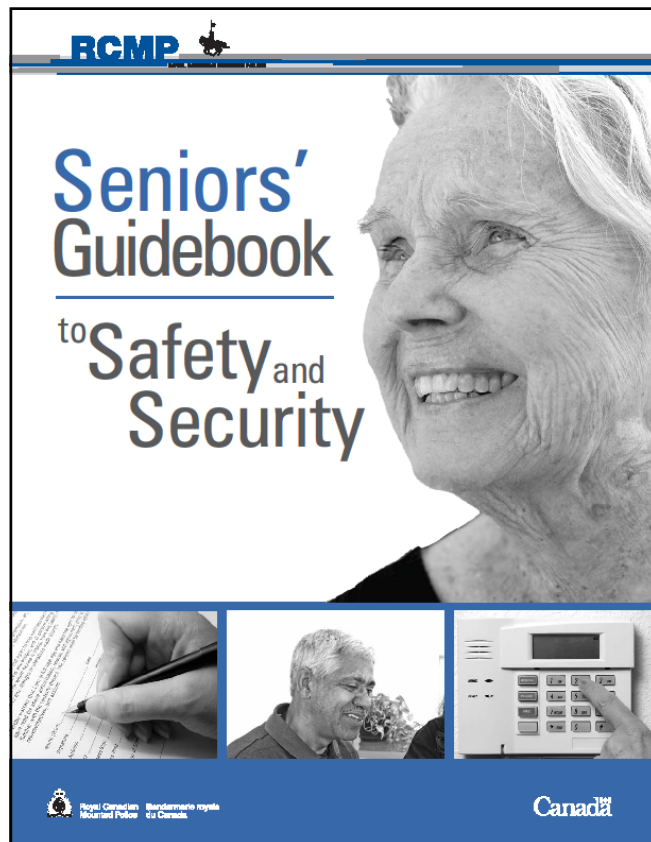


The daylong event at RCMP headquarters featured entertainment, skits and a variety of speakers.

In addition, several Boy Scouts were on hand to receive their Seniors Safety and Awareness Badges. These young people achieved this award by learning about seniors' safety and security, and by helping an older adult with household tasks.

Over 70 cities and communities took part in World Elder Abuses Awareness Day events, including Cst. Kevin Wynn in Steinbach who assisted with the 55 Plus Games in Steinbach. Cst. Wynn was also a participant in the Wheelchair – athon in support of the Rest Haven Nursing Home.

In Rosburn, Cst. Brian Shewfelt made a presentation at the Drop In Centre regarding personal safety, home security, elder abuse and identity theft.



Sgt. Robert Cooke of "D" Division Community Policing Services emceed the event.

"The abuse and neglect of our older adults in Manitoba, Canada and around the world needs to be brought to the forefront and solutions must be implemented," said Cooke. "The RCMP is constantly seeking out new ways to prevent elder abuse and to educate both older adults and their friends and families on how to recognize the signs of mistreatment."

Making a Difference

RCMP Shares Community Spirit

Gillam RCMP members are making a difference in the lives of area youth by being actively involved in a number of youth-oriented activities at **Gillam, Fox Lake First Nation** and **Ilford/War Lake First Nation**.

Working with their local community partners is key, according to Sgt. Cory Garrard. "We're all spokes in the wheel," says Garrard, "so we all need to be involved."

Friday night road hockey in Gillam - For six weeks every spring and fall, local RCMP members play hockey at the Gillam rink with the local kids, an enjoyable and important activity that helps build rapport and trust.

Annual bike rodeos - Bike rodeos are held annually in Fox Lake, Ilford/War Lake and Gillam to promote bicycle safety for children Grades 1 to 6 in a fun way. The event

includes hot dogs/drinks and a bike/helmet give-away, courtesy of local sponsors.

Anti-bullying project and partnership at Gillam School - The Gillam RCMP Detachment has assigned a full-time liaison officer and one other member to work with the school and community to address the issue of bullying within the school and the community. Program funding is being provided by the Mounted Police Foundation and Manitoba Hydro.

DARE (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) at Gillam School - This 17-week program for Grade 6 classes provides kids with the tools to make informed lifestyle choices.

Hockey Day in Gillam - The second annual community event to raise funds for charity was held in February. Last year the event raised about \$3000 for Haiti. This year funds raised will go to Kids Helpline and the school's anti-bullying campaign.

The event coincided with 'Hockey Day in Canada' and was set up to by Cst. Jens Dubreuil, an avid hockey player/fan who really does a great job getting the town motivated for the event! We had a good turnout (six teams) considering it was really cold, about -35 with the wind chill but thankfully the sun was shining all

day. The local Legion supplied a warm place, hot chili, coffee, hot chocolate, laughter and camaraderie.

The final game was between "Benders" (RCMP) and Gillam Services (Hydro) with Benders winning 2-1 to take the 2011 cup from the reigning champs.

Benders: Cst. Jens Dubreuil - center (Captain), Cst. Grant Meyers - forward, Cst. Ed Desrochers - defence/forward, Cst. Andrew Briscoe - forward, Cst. Jake Newberry - goaltender, Sgt. Cory Garrard - defence (Alternate Captain), M/E Ms. Corinne Balaban - Coach/Manager

Making a Difference

