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Making a Difference in Manitoba



Making Manitoba Safer

Arson Charges in Berens River

In the early hours of August 29 RCMP Berens River responded to a call that the community Northern Store was on fire as well as the local Adult Education Building located about 300 yards away.

While local citizens attempted to control the fire, both structures and their contents were completely destroyed, with damage estimated in the millions of dollars.

By September 2, investigation by RCMP Berens River Detachment, RCMP Winnipeg Major Crime Unit and the Manitoba Office of the Fire Commissioner had resulted in arson charges against an adult male and a 17-year-old.

House forfeited after drug bust

At the end of April the Winnipeg Police Service Drug Unit located marijuana grow operations within two Winnipeg residences, where they seized more than 900 marijuana plants valued at over a million dollars.

Also seized was approximately \$16,500 worth of grow operation equipment and approximately \$12,500 in cash. Two people were arrested on a number of drug-related charges as well as possession of proceeds of crime.

The subsequent investigation by the Integrated Proceeds of Crime unit identified the residences as proceeds of crime. The matter has been dealt with in the courts, resulting in the forfeiture of the two residences with a combined market value of approximately \$644,000 the seized cash in excess of \$12,000.

RCMP Targeting High-Risk Drivers

Over the long weekend in early October Manitoba RCMP took part in a national police initiative to make Canada's roads the safest in the world.

Operation Impact is a police initiative designed to educate the public in safe driving practices with the aim of saving lives and reducing injuries on our roadways.

In rural Manitoba, as of mid-November there have been 100 deaths related to vehicle collisions so far this year, surpassing the 73 deaths that occurred in all of 2010.

"The RCMP is targeting behaviours that put drivers, passengers and other road users most at risk: impaired driving, seat belt use, and aggressive and distracted driving."

**Insp. Joanne Keeping
"D" Division RCMP Traffic Services**

Connecting with Communities

RCMP members attend Muslim Community Picnic

Cpl. David Ogungbemi along with Cst. Izza Mian of D Division Recruiting Services, Cst. Laurie Peddle and Retired S/Sgt Rick Edwards of National Security Enforcement Section's Community Outreach attended a Muslim Community Picnic held at Assiniboine Park on July 10, 2011.

The Picnic was hosted by the Islamic Social Services Association (ISSA) along with nine other Muslim organizations and offered our members the opportunity to meet with the 400-500 youth and adults in attendance.

Members were able to take part in some of the sports games as well as provide recruiting information.



From right: Cst. Laurie Peddle, S/Sgt. Rick Edwards (rtd.), Cst. Izza Mian, Ms. Shahina Siddiqui, and Cpl. David Ogungbemi

RCMP host activities for young flood evacuees

On July 21, 2011 RCMP "D" Division Contract and Aboriginal Policing (CAP) members held a community event for youth staying at the Greenwood Inn who had been evacuated from their homes due to the flooding situation in Manitoba.

CAP members coordinated craft activities and a game of basketball with the members to help 25 young people have fun and burn off some energy while staying far from home.

Members played basketball with the event attendees, who were each given a basketball to keep courtesy of Basketball Manitoba.

RCMP members also led youth through crafting a number of projects including bracelets, homemade hackey-sacks and bead lizards.

The event was a great opportunity for the youth of the Lake St. Martin, Fairford, Little Saskatchewan and Dauphin River First Nation communities to spend an afternoon with RCMP employees during their stay in Winnipeg, and a lot of fun for the RCMP members, too.



Pictured left to right:

Devin Beardy,
Cpl. Lester Houle,
Shaden Meeches,
Cpl. Gabe Simard,
Sgt. Alex Bear,
Cst. Jennifer Warkentin,
Sgt. Rob Lockhart,
Zach Woodhouse,
Rodney Narine,
Cst. Izza Mian

Front row:
Avin Marsden-Beardy,
Cpl. David Ogungbemi

Citizens "eyes and ears" of RCMP Airport Watch Program

The **RCMP Integrated Border Enforcement Team (IBET)** located in Altona and Boissevain is encouraging the public to report any suspect activity in rural airstrips in Manitoba.

The **RCMP Airport Watch Program** was initiated to combat the illegal transportation of contraband via air.

The program is aimed at encouraging the public to provide information to either initiate or further investigations with a focus on illegal activity in Canadian airspace and unregulated airstrips.

The RCMP has joined forces with Canada Border Services

Agency (CBSA) and other government agencies to combat the smuggling of narcotics and other contraband.

Information obtained through the Airport Watch Program is shared with agencies that can most effectively act on that information.

At times, aircrafts afford a covert method for transporting contraband across borders and throughout the province.

Pilots, airport managers and employees, and members of the general public can assist by knowing what to look for, and by acting as the "eyes and ears" of the Airport Watch Program.

Some indicators of suspicious activity include:

- Aircrafts landing at secluded airstrips after normal operating hours
- Aircrafts landing, flying, or taking off without proper lighting
- Aircrafts that have been modified to carry extra weight or hold extra fuel
- Aircrafts that have altered or covered registration numbers ("CF" and "CG" indicate Canadian while "N" indicated US)
- Windows covered with tape or paper
- Items being dropped from a moving aircraft
- Holes in perimeter fencing



If you notice suspicious behaviour, take note of details, such as:

- Time, date, and location of occurrence (GPS coordinates if possible)
- Nature of the activities you observed
- Description of individuals, vehicles, or aircraft such as the registration number, high wing or low wing, single or twin engine
- Last known direction of travel
- Altitude

Anyone who suspects the smuggling of contraband or illegal activity in rural Manitoba is encouraged to contact toll-free:

1-888-MAN-IBET (626-4238) or your local police agency.

RCMP Seize Counterfeit Goods

Over a million dollars worth of counterfeit merchandise has been taken off the market thanks to the diligence of the RCMP Federal Enforcement Section (FES).

Over the course of two months investigators made six seizures of illegal goods, including clothing, purses jewelry and hockey jerseys.

On August 21 the RCMP Federal Enforcement Section, working with Canada Border Services Agency, seized a shipment of counterfeit Winnipeg Jets jerseys. Police seized 40 jerseys with an estimated retail value of \$12,000, complete with the new logo and shoulder flashes.

In late September the RCMP FES and the Canadian Border Services Agency made yet another seizure, this time of 190 counterfeit Winnipeg Jets jerseys that were destined for locations in Winnipeg. Investigation indicates that the counterfeit jerseys, with an estimated retail value of more than \$76,000, were manufactured in China and shipped to Winnipeg where the shipment was seized.

The seized goods are counterfeit copies of the official Winnipeg Jets jerseys, and include the names of players in both home and away colors, although the colours are incorrect and the quality is poor.

"One of the problems that many consumers don't think about is the safety aspect," advises Cpl. John Montgomery of the RCMP's Federal Enforcement Unit. "There is no guarantee that counterfeit goods have gone through any kind of inspection, meet any quality standards, and there is no guarantee they do not contain dangerous materials."

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**Cpl. John Montgomery
Federal Enforcement Unit**

In mid-August as part of an ongoing investigation into the retail distribution of counterfeit clothing, FES investigators executed a search warrant at a retail clothing store located in Grand Marais. RCMP seized in excess of 350 items of counterfeit and suspected counterfeit clothing

carrying a number of brand names with an estimated retail value of more than \$18,000.

In September investigators from the RCMP Federal Enforcement Section executed a search warrant at a store located in Portage Place Mall in Winnipeg. During the search of the premises, investigators seized approximately \$500,000 worth of counterfeit items, including clothing and accessories counterfeit items carrying high-end designer brand names as well as over 200 counterfeit DVDs and CDs.

Just over two weeks later the RCMP execute a second search warrant at the same location and seized another \$500,000 worth of counterfeit items.

FES officers also executed a search warrant in September on a retail store located in the 300 block of St. Anne's Road in Winnipeg. This was as a result of an ongoing investigation regarding violations of the Copyright and Trademark Acts.

RCMP investigators seized approximately \$155,000 worth of counterfeit items, including designer jewelry, clothing and accessories.



If it sounds too good to be true...

Who doesn't like a great deal? But, as the saying goes, if it's too good to be true, it probably is.

As the holiday season approaches, consumers are reminded to be wary of buying counterfeit merchandise.

The most common counterfeited products are designer apparel and audiovisual products such as DVDs.

The RCMP has also encountered counterfeit toothpaste, chain saws, hockey and bicycle helmets, light fixtures, automobile parts, circuit breakers, pharmaceuticals, shampoo, batteries, jewelry, and the list goes on.

Anything that consumers may need, there is a counterfeit supply of it somewhere.

But it was really cheap...

Counterfeit products are not tested and do not meet any safety standards. These products can lead to serious personal injuries, even death.

Criminals involved in intellectual property crime – copyright



piracy and trademark counterfeiting – range from organized crime groups to small-scale retailers who sell small quantities of counterfeit goods to supplement their income.

Many people are also unaware that buying these cheap knock-offs could mean they are inadvertently supporting organized crime or other types of criminality.

Job loss because of lost revenue for legitimate businesses is also consequence of counterfeit goods.

What are some of the indicators that suggest a product may be counterfeit?

The public, including retailers, should look for a number of signs – the 4 Ps - that could indicate that the product is counterfeit:

Package: Examine the packaging and look for spelling errors or shoddy appearance.



Price: If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Place: Buy from reputable retailers and use extra diligence when purchasing items through the Internet.

Product: Is the quality and appearance of the product satisfactory?

What should a consumer do if they suspect a product is counterfeit?

The consumer should contact the legitimate manufacturer if the product is suspected to be counterfeit.

If the item is a potential health or safety threat, contact your local RCMP detachment.