



Royal Canadian  
Mounted Police

Gendarmerie royale  
du Canada

Security Classification/Designation  
Classification/désignation sécuritaire

Unclassified

RCMP Summerland Detachment  
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Your File - Votre référence

Our File - Notre référence

128-1

Mayor and Council  
District of Summerland  
13211 Henry Ave. Box 159  
Summerland BC  
V0H 1Z0

Date

January 19, 2006

**Re: Summerland Policing Report 2005**

This report is submitted to update you on the policing service provided by Summerland RCMP. The Summerland RCMP Detachment is staffed by 6 Constables, 1 plainclothes officer, a Corporal and a Sergeant in charge. There are 2 civilian clerical staff.

The summary of crime statistics is divided into defined categories that span the time frame of January 1 to December 31, 2005, with comparison to the same time frame of the preceding two years.

**Person Crimes: 2003-61 2004-80 2005-75**

These offences are categorized as offences against a person. The most common of which is assault but it also includes sexual assault (3 in 2005), assault on police (4), robberies (2) and other offences of that nature. Summerland RCMP is pleased to see there has been a decrease of 5 person offences in the year 2005. We have continued to focus on person crimes recommending charges in all cases which are supported by the evidence. Cases involving violence in relationship are subject to very vigorous investigational guidelines set out by the Attorney General's ministry and the R.C.M.P. In addition to the actual number of person cases reported to Summerland Detachment we also assisted other police departments or R.C.M.P. Detachments with 16 criminal code person crimes. The latter number includes assisting another detachment with a attempted homicide.

In many of the person crime offences consideration is given to seizing of firearms and seeking prohibition orders because of the threat that may of been made or because of the person in question was considered to be a danger to himself or others.

**Property Crime: 2003-472 2004-355 2005-296**

Property offences have continued to drop significantly from 2003 to 2005 with 59 fewer offences being reported over the last year. We are pleased to see the drop this year is continuing the trend.

In an area as small as Summerland the departure/arrival or apprehension/release of relatively few criminals can make a fairly dramatic difference in crime statistics. One troubling trend we are seeing is that many of the cars stolen from Summerland are turning up in Kelowna/Penticton area. Summerland is on a major Highway and is quite easy for traveling criminals to access this community. Residents feel quite safe here and often do not practice security measures common in nearby larger communities.

**Frauds: 2003-27 2004-21 2005-33**

Police continue to use the media and public presentations to try and get the word out on fraud trends which affect the community. Organized crime continues to use computers in an attempt to defraud local residence by sending letters such as a Nigerian letter over the internet. In the last year Summerland RCMP officers have done a seminar on Senior safety and more of the same are planned.

**Other Criminal Code: 2003-442 2004-502 2005-427**

A variety of offences are listed under "other criminal code". Property damage under \$5000.00 and disturbing the peace account for a significant portion of these offences. We are pleased to see a slight decrease in both these offences with Property damage (Vandalism) dropping from 231 to 210 offences and Disturbing the Peace going down from 108 to 98 offences. In an effort to decrease the incidents of vandalism, police have set up weekly briefing sheets which are given to the Citizens on Patrol indicating to them hot spots of vandalism and other crimes over the previous week.

**Drug Crimes: 2003-24 Seizures 2004-30 Seizures 2005-29**

Drug offences account for the bulk of our Federal Statute enforcement. Drug investigations are very complex and time consuming. Information is continually received and developed as duties and priorities dictate. While the vast majority of our cases relate to Marijuana production and possession, Cocaine and Crystal Methamphetamine are also present in the community.

**Traffic Offences: 2003-171 Accidents 2004-193 Accidents 2005-168 Accidents**

We are pleased to see a slight decrease in accidents this year. We note a drop in the number of persons injured going from 52 in 2004 to 40 in 2005. Community feedback from the Youth Community Consultative Group indicates that Check Stops targeting weekends have had some effect on local youth deciding not to drive after attending at parties where alcohol is served. Police look to continue this effort in 2006. Summerland RCMP officers have doubled their apprehensions of Impaired Drivers going from 12 in 2004 to 24 in 2005.

### **Other Incidents:**

Summerland R.C.M.P. investigated 959 criminal offences in the year 2005 and they opened 3052 files. Things such as attending to suspicious although non criminal activities, advising next of kin of death in families, various other Provincial laws and investigations and assisting the general public make up the majority of cases.

### **Community Programs:**

As in previous years we continue to operate a significant number of programs in conjunction with our community. The success of the programs varies depending upon the time available to our members and the citizens. There is no magic in any one particular program, however collectively they serve to make our community and home safer. The programs are important for bridging the relationship between the public and the various members of this detachment as the public and members become better known to each other, communication opens up and there is greater understanding of the impact of crime and the challenges associated with addressing the crime problem.

1. **Citizens on Patrol.** This program is running and effective. Fund raising has been done and new communication devices have been purchased. They have a new office in the James Lake Industrial area. Furniture and a computer was donated from the R.C.M.P. Detachment among other locations that contributed. Training sessions have been done with the police and Citizens on Patrol members. The NCO in charge of Summerland Detachment produces a weekly briefing document for crime hot spots that citizens on patrol can use to patrol these areas. The COP group contributed 366 hours of volunteer time to patrolling the streets of Summerland in 2005.
2. **D.A.R.E.** This program is running at the Summerland Middle School. It is well received and given the importance of the Controlled and Drug Substance Act to the community, this program will remain a priority.
3. **Speed Board.** This program is used effectively to give traffic violators the message that the community is concerned about speeding. The program is also used to identify problem areas for later enforcement by R.C.M.P. Officers.
4. **School Liaison Program.** All schools in the District of Summerland are assigned a police officer who drops in and meets with the youth and staff and attends school functions or gives talks on request.
5. **Alternate Justice.** Alternate Justice is a local Justice forum whereby the offender and the victim, plus their supports, sit down with a trained facilitator and come to a resolution that holds the accused accountable for his actions. This program has not received funding from the Provincial Government. They had been out of funds for the program for a time. The program is mandated in the Youth Criminal Justice Act passed by the Federal Government. It is our understanding that funds are now available and a submission was made in November 2005. Despite this lack of funding the local program has gone ahead. A total of 11 young persons have gone through the local Alternate Justice system and 5 more cases are pending before this forum. This system is an alternative to the Criminal Courts. Feedback

- to date is quite positive from both offenders and victims.
6. **Community Consultative Group.** This group consists of about a dozen adults for the adult CCG and about 20 youth in the 16 to 18 year age bracket for the youth CCG. They meet 3-4 times a year to give the police feedback on their efforts and advise us of community concerns.
  7. **Auxiliary Police Constables.** Four Auxiliary Police Constables have completed their extensive training and security clearances. They are now operational and working. The Aux/Cst. spent 1395 hours in 2005 assisting the Summerland RCMP Detachment.
  8. **Media Release Program.** Summerland RCMP does weekly radio and print media news releases to keep the public aware of local crime trends and the activities of the local Detachment.
  9. **Victim Services.** In partnership with the Penticton R.C.M.P. this service offers support and counseling to victims of crime in the District of Summerland.

### **Personnel:**

In 2005 the 9<sup>th</sup> position for Summerland (a plainclothes General Investigation Section) was filled and the Section is up and running. This was fortunate as the Criminal Investigation into the vehicle crash on Prairie Valley Rd. (See above under traffic) took hundreds of hours to investigate and in fact is still being investigated at this time. The GIS position was designed for just this type of incident and ensured that a detailed investigation could be done without impacting the ability of the Detachment to respond to in progress incidents. Unfortunately the person in this position has now been transferred and promoted. His replacement has been named and will be moving here in the spring.

In conclusion, the year 2005 presented it's challenges but over all police were pleased to note the slight decrease in the number of criminal offences. We look forward to having this trend continue in the year 2006. If you require further information on this document or any other aspect or our operations, you can give me a call at 494-7416.

Sincerely,

Rick Bigland, Sergeant  
Detachment Commander  
Summerland RCMP

**Note from the webmaster: this report has been modified from its original version, information has been removed to protect confidentiality.**