

A meeting of the security committee ( Leah Exner, Derek Onysko, Dave Wiles, Emily House) was held October 26. In attendance was Corp. Zambak from the RCMP.

1. The RCMP has recently rolled out on line reporting of minor crimes through their website (<https://ocre-siel.rcmp-grc.ca/alberta/en>). This will save time for the victims of break-ins etc. but if there is evidence (eg. fingerprints) then a phone call is recommended so a member of the force can attend to assess.

2. An app called Lightcatch has been developed in Alberta which the RCMP are recommending. It has been used with good results in Grande Prairie and Red Deer. It is free for both Apple and Android phones. It allows notification of incidents within 20 km of the user, the idea being that the user can be on the lookout for the perpetrator. The RCMP does not constantly monitor the app, so it is necessary to call in. With more users, the chances increase of catching the perpetrators. Holborn Area Community watch has a Facebook page and they are keen to bring communities together to keep people informed of crime in the area.

3. In order to charge a perpetrator with theft, it is necessary to prove an item in their possession belongs to someone else. Therefore the importance of recording serial numbers, engraving ID or marking valuables in some way. Trace Pen is one marking system that can be used to mark items so that the markings are invisible except under UV light.

4. Although many break ins have occurred in October in Kapasiwin, only a small number were reported to the RCMP. If a community has a large number of incidents, the RCMP will direct resources to that area, hence the importance of reporting. According to their Crime Statistics, robberies have gone down by 47% (2016-2020). They believe/know it is likely due to people no longer reporting the crime to the RCMP.

5. Security is the responsibility of the property owner. Simple things like using padlocks that can't be cut with bolt cutters, security lighting, gates on driveways can discourage perpetrators. Derek Onysko is willing to provide suggestions to anyone interested.

6. The cameras on the road are in the process of being upgraded, but they are of limited use. Most perpetrators disguise their faces so ID is difficult, and the fact they were seen on the road does not prove they were responsible for a crime. If a license plate is captured on camera, there is a good chance either the plate or the vehicle itself has been stolen. There are many good quality, inexpensive camera systems suitable for homes and yards which may be useful for residents with WiFi.

7. This type of crime is not limited to us, but occurs throughout rural Alberta. Drug addiction is a big motivator for property crime; items commonly stolen are those that are portable and easily convertible to cash. Even repeat offenders are unlikely to spend significant time in jail, often sentenced only to the time served awaiting trial.