

The Kitscoty RCMP is pleased to work with the communities to endorse programs that teach residents about personal safety. Working together we can develop safer communities. Education and awareness of preventive techniques can help you recognize a potential crime situation and allow positive action to be taken that will reduce or remove the risk. The Rural Crime Watch/Range Patrol Program is one of these programs. The Rural Crime Watch is voluntary, involving rural residents working in cooperation with each other and their local RCMP Detachment. The Rural Crime Watch program is aimed at reducing crime in the rural area. It involves getting to know your neighbours and introducing them to the concept of Rural Crime Watch - which is, good neighbours working together, alert to the potential of crime and willing to look out for one another's interests. Neighbours working together through Rural Crime Watch can combat crime in their area in the most effective way – before it occurs. A police officer patrolling the area may not recognize a stranger lurking down your road or an unusual vehicle in your area, but your neighbours would. Ordinary citizens help reduce crime by keeping a neighbourly watch over their community/area, watching for any unusual and/or criminal activity, and reporting such incidents to the police for any necessary follow-up. Rural Crime Watch members have neither the authority nor the mandate to make arrests, nor to take any action that might jeopardize their own safety or that of the public. Their role is simply to watch over their neighbours, warn their neighbours of potential crime in their area, and report incidents to police. The Rural Crime Watch are the eyes and ears for the police. Their mandate is to deter criminal activity in the rural area by reporting unusual happenings, people and vehicles to the police. Membership to the Rural Crime Watch is open to all interested residents in the rural community. The program is designed to deter rural crime. Many of these incidents can be prevented or suspects apprehended through the cooperative efforts of the community and law enforcement agencies. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Rural Crime Watch please visit the County of Vermilion River web page and click on the Residents link. On the Residents page you will find a link to the Rural Crime Watch.

Preventing Vehicle Thefts

Over the past few months there has been a noticeable increase in the number of vehicle thefts from our communities and rural area in the County of Vermilion River. The thieves' motives vary, from joyriding, transportation to profit by either selling the vehicle or stripping the parts. Most of these thefts are "crimes of opportunity". Thieves will usually seek out the easiest opportunity or target with the least threat of detection. They will look for particular makes and models of vehicles; vehicles left unlocked and/or windows left open; valuables left in plain view inside the vehicle or vehicles left running. Certain precautions can be taken in order to avoid becoming a victim of the theft of a vehicle. Do not leave running vehicles unattended. Vehicle owners can use anti-theft devices, such as an electronic immobilizer, a car alarm or steering wheel club to deter the theft of the vehicle. If you have a garage, park the vehicle in the garage. If you will be parking a vehicle for a prolonged period of time, disconnect the battery and remove the license plate. Thieves often steal license plates to deter police, thus being able to keep stolen vehicles for longer periods of time. If you are the victim of a stolen vehicle, report it to the police immediately. Do not chase a stolen vehicle. This puts the public at great risk and can potentially lead to an unwanted fatality which in turn could lead to criminal charges and civil liability.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kitscoty RCMP