

The Tofield RCMP responded to 40 occurrences from February 22, 2021 to February 28, 2021 (inclusive). Also included in these calls for service were 16 traffic complaints, three motor vehicle collisions with wildlife, one false alarms and traffic enforcement provided by the K Division Traffic Unit.

On February 22, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a wellbeing check on an individual in Holden. RCMP arrived and were able to meet with the occupant and confirm that they were okay.

On February 22, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a 911 hang-up call in Beaver County. RCMP received an initial call from a cell phone, where the caller requested police to attend and then hung up before details could be provided and then failed to answer subsequent call-backs. RCMP were able to locate the caller after a period of time and confirmed that the caller had likely been drinking and did not require police assistance.

On February 23, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a suspicious person complaint in Tofield. RCMP were advised of a female, dressed in black who was walking through the back-alley near a business. RCMP attended, located and identified the female and confirmed that there was no criminal offence committed.

On February 23, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a residential break and enter in progress in Beaver County. The complainant advised the RCMP that three individuals had attended his rural residence in a car and were currently attempting to access a number of buildings on his property and stealing various items. Tofield, Vegreville, Viking RCMP and Sherwood Park RCMP Police Dog Service arrived on scene and safely arrested two individuals without incident, before they were able to flee. Through the investigation, RCMP were also able to identify the third individual involved. This file is still under investigation.

On February 23, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a residential break and enter in Beaver County. RCMP spoke to the complainant who advised that entry was gained to the residence through the front door and a number of various items were stolen. This file is still under investigation.

On February 23, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a residential break and enter to a residence in Ryley. RCMP spoke to the complainant and found that jewellery was stolen although unsure when the incident occurred.

On February 24, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a theft of motor vehicle complaint in Holden. RCMP spoke to the complainant who advised that they had given the vehicle to a friend over two years ago although this person has now refused to return it. This file is still under investigation.

On February 24, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a suspicious vehicle complaint in Beaver County. RCMP spoke to the complainant who advised that a silver van was driving in the rural around their property and when approached by the complainant, the vehicle fled the scene. RCMP patrolled the area although unable to locate.

On February 24, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a 911 complaint of suspicious items seen in the sky, quickly confirmed by the RCMP to be stars. RCMP spoke to the caller, confirmed that alcohol was clearly a contributing factor in making these obvious observations and advised the caller on proper instructions on when to call 911 and charges that would result if they continued.

On February 25, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a theft of catalytic converters from a business in Tofield. RCMP attended and were able to confirm that a number of vehicles were victim of this theft. This file is still under investigation.

On February 25, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a wellbeing check on a person in Tofield. RCMP arrived on scene and were able to determine that the individual required assistance. RCMP along with Beaver County Victim Services and FCSS were able to assist the individual.

On February 25, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a suspicious vehicle complaint in Beaver County. RCMP responded to a suspicious Loomis Courier van that appeared to have a lone passenger inside, sleeping. RCMP arrived on scene and patrolled the area although nothing was located.

On February 26, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a fraud complaint involving an elderly person in Tofield. RCMP responded and found that the complainant was contacted by an unknown individual to send \$300 cash overseas to Jamaica and was subsequently contacted again to send more money. The bank was able to catch the complainant before more money was sent and advised the complainant to report this to the RCMP (See later insert concerning reporting frauds). This file is still under investigation.

On February 27, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a theft complaint in Tofield. RCMP were advised from the complainant that personal property was stolen from him, by a family member. RCMP were able to speak to all the persons involved and able to locate the property to be returned safely to the complainant.

On February 27, 2021, Tofield RCMP responded to a complaint of an unleashed, aggressive dog in Beaver County. RCMP spoke to the complainant and provided information and direction to contact the Beaver County Bylaw for direction.

UPDATES TO PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS:

On November 27, 2020, Tofield RCMP responded to a 911 complaint from On-star regarding a female driver who had run out of gas outside Tofield on Hwy 834 and requested assistance. RCMP attended, located the female although were unable to identify the female as she appeared to be lying about her name. During further investigation, RCMP were able to identify the female, Elora BRUNO of Maskwacis Alberta, and she was subsequently charged with the following:

- 1) Resist/obstruct police officer, contrary to Section 129(a) of the Criminal Code;
- 2) Identity fraud, contrary to Section 403(1)(d) of the Criminal Code;
- 3) Operation of conveyance while prohibited, contrary to Section 320.18 of the Criminal Code; and
- 4) Operate motor vehicle without insurance, contrary to Section 54(1)(b) of the Traffic Safety Act.

BRUNO was released and scheduled to appear in Vegreville Provincial Court on January 18, 2021 although failed to appear and a warrant has been issued for BRUNO arrest.

FRAUDS & SCAMS – NATIONAL FRAUD PREVENTION MONTH

In an effort to educate the public and reduce crime, the RCMP has created an Alberta Crime Prevention Calendar which provides monthly themes that are used throughout the year for educational messaging. March is **National Fraud Prevention Month** and the Tofield RCMP would like to warn the public about scams and the following is some information to consider to protect yourself from being victimized:

1) Don't be afraid to say no

Don't be intimidated by high-pressure sales tactics. If a telemarketer tries to get you to buy something or to send them money right away:

- Request the information in writing
- Hang up

Watch out for urgent pleas that play on your emotions.

2) Do your research

Always verify that the organization you're dealing with is legitimate before you take any other action:

- Verify Canadian charities with the Canada Revenue Agency
- Verify collection agencies with the appropriate provincial agency
- Look online for contact information for the company that supposedly called you, and call them to confirm
- Verify any calls with your credit card company by calling the phone number on the back of your credit card

If you've received a call or other contact from a family member in trouble, talk to other family members to confirm the situation.

Watch out for fake or deceptive ads, or spoofed emails. Always verify the company and its services are real before you contact them.

3) Don't give out personal information

Beware of unsolicited calls where the caller asks you for personal information, such as:

- Your name
- Your address
- Your birthdate
- Your Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Your credit card or banking information

If you didn't initiate the call, you don't know who you're talking to.

4) **Beware of upfront fees**

Many scams request you to pay fees in advance of receiving goods, services, or a prize. It's illegal for a company to ask you to pay a fee upfront before they'll give you a loan.

There are no prize fees or taxes in Canada. If you won it, it's free.

5) **Protect your computer**

Watch out for urgent-looking messages that pop up while you're browsing online. Don't click on them or call the number they provide.

No legitimate company will call and claim your computer is infected with a virus.

Some websites, such as music, game, movie, and adult sites, may try to install viruses or malware without your knowledge. Watch out for emails with spelling and formatting errors, and be wary of clicking on any attachments or links. They may contain viruses or spyware.

Make sure you have anti-virus software installed and keep your operating system up to date.

Never give anyone remote access to your computer. If you are having problems with your system, bring it to a local technician.

6) **Be careful who you share images with**

Carefully consider who you're sharing explicit videos and photographs with. Don't perform any explicit acts online.

Disable your webcam or any other camera connected to the internet when you aren't using it. Hackers can get remote access and record you.

7) **Protect your online accounts**

By taking the following steps, you can better protect your online accounts from fraud and data breaches:

- Create a strong password by:
 - Using a minimum of 8 characters including upper and lower case letters, and at least 1 number and a symbol
 - Creating unique passwords for every online account including social networks, emails, financial and other accounts
 - Using a combination of passphrases that are easy for you to remember but hard for others to guess
- Enable multi-factor authentication
- Only log into your accounts from trusted sources
- Don't reveal personal information over social media

For more information on scams and frauds, go online at Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraud.ca.

THANK YOU TO BEAVER COUNTY !!

The Tofield RCMP would like to take a second to thank the public, residents and business owners of Beaver County regarding their compliance, patience and understanding during this challenging time. This current pandemic has certainly tested the patience and resilience of all of you. I am proud to be part of this community when I am to witness the support you have all shown to those that are struggling and needing the assistance. Your continued focussed compliance and cooperation with the Federal, Provincial and local municipal Orders, Acts, Regulations and Bylaws has required business owners and the public as a whole, to modify their “normal” to ensure we are all doing our part to support the safety of the public that we interact with daily and it is appreciated. I am confident that the light at the end of the tunnel is in sight, it may take some time, but we will make it through. I am sure we will have some interesting stories to share with everyone else about our journey. Thank you!

If you or someone you know needs assistance or support during this tough time, please reach out to the Beaver County Victim Services Unit at 780-662-2258 to speak to someone.

WANT TO MAKE YOUR COMMUNITIES SAFER?

The Beaverhill Rural Crime Watch Association Board is currently looking for additions to fill vacant positions on the Board of Directors and to become involved to do your part in crime reduction. This program is very important and necessary in the fight against crime in your communities, Beaver County and those surrounding Rural Beaver County. Please contact Patrick at 780-497-8889 for more information.

Sergeant Lee Knelsen
Detachment Commander
Tofield RCMP

