SUMMER SAFETY JAM

On September 11, 2011, the Coalition for a Safer 63 & 881 hosted the Summer Safety Jam at MacDonald Island Park. Numerous community partners came together to help make this event possible.

The purpose of the Summer Safety Jam was to raise awareness of the Coalition’s message about safe driving. The target audience was Fort McMurray’s youth and future drivers of tomorrow, with the key message focusing on safe driving and the consequences of driving while distracted.

The Wood Buffalo Detachment Community Policing Unit joined with RMWB Bylaw Services to demonstrate the impact of distracted driving and promote safe driving habits. Two driving skills tracks were setup for those in attendance to experience and understand the importance of being focused while driving. One driving skills track allowed young children between the ages of 2-8 to ride a 12-volt Power Wheels vehicle while the other track allowed others to operate a remote control car while being distracted. Adults were also provided with the opportunity to try the Fatal Vision Goggles that simulate the impaired vision of someone who is under the influence of alcohol. The RCMP also had the Rollover Simulator on site to demonstrate the importance of buckling up and the consequences of not wearing a seatbelt.

Many children went home extremely happy after winning one of the many Power Wheels and remote control cars that were given away at the end of the Summer Safety Jam event. One lucky family even walked away with a trip to Disneyland! More important, was that all families were able to learn about safe driving practices and make the commitment to keep our roadways safe!
NEW ADDITION TO COMMUNITY POLICING

The Community Policing Unit would like to welcome its newest member, Cst. Christina Wilkins.

Although Cst. Wilkins has been designated as Wood Buffalo Detachment’s primary media spokesperson, she will also take part and contribute to some of the other initiatives that fall under the Community Policing umbrella.

Originally from Ontario, Cst. Wilkins was posted to the Province of Alberta following the completion of training in December 2005. Her first assignment was in General Duty Policing at the Fort Saskatchewan Detachment, located north-east of Edmonton.

In 2008, Cst. Wilkins became the Community Policing Coordinator for the Fort Saskatchewan area and its surrounding rural communities. Cst. Wilkins remained in that position until August 2011, when she accepted a transfer to the Wood Buffalo Detachment.

Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Cst. Wilkins was a civilian employee for the RCMP in Ottawa with Media Relations under the National Communication Directorate.

In the past, Cst. Wilkins was able to encourage pro-active policing and crime prevention through active participation in the community by teaching DARE, and liaising with the various community groups. Cst. Wilkins is up for the challenges that come with the new territory and is looking forward to continuing her trend of getting involved in the communities she serves.

MILES OF SMILES AT SUMMER’S END

This past Labour Day weekend, Events Wood Buffalo hosted the Summer’s End Festival & Blueberry Carnival Midway at MacDonald Island Park.

The atmosphere was filled with the excitement of children’s laughter throughout the weekend as they giggled on the many rides the Midway had to offer. Amidst all of this, the sound of country music could be heard from afar as Reba, Dierks Bentley and George Canyon entertained the crowds that gathered.

Members of the Wood Buffalo Detachment were in attendance to ensure that everyone had a safe and enjoyable weekend.
On September 2nd & 3rd, Fort McMurray played host to the Portraits of Honour Tour at MacDonald Island Park.

The Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs of Fort McMurray organized this stop of the tour which has made its way across the country paying tribute to the 157 Canadian soldiers, sailors, and aircrew who have lost their lives in Afghanistan. The mural also serves as a tribute and memorial to the many wounded service men and women by bringing Canadians together to remember, honour, and celebrate our Canadian Forces.

Members of the Wood Buffalo Detachment were honoured to assist by escorting the Portraits of Honor Tour motorcade into Fort McMurray and by participating in the Dedication Ceremony as part of the Honour Guard. Special thanks to Cst. Jesse Jones, Cst. Kristen Ryan, Cst. Brett Pearce, and Cst. Katrina Mueller for your assistance in making this event a huge success!
HUSSKIE HUSTLE

The Huskie Hustle was a community event hosted by Keyano College to welcome the area youth to interact with some of the school’s athletes.

The event was held on Friday, September 16, 2011, at the Syncrude Sport and Wellness Centre. There were a number of different activities for youth to try including bouncy-castles, pool-noodle floor hockey, face-painting, Minute-to-Win-it games, and their own Wipeout course. Members of the Wood Buffalo Detachment Community Policing Unit participated in several other activities including a tug-of-war competition and a parachute game. Despite the wet weather, a good time was had by all!

POLICING AT THE POOL

On September 6 & 7, Cpl. Adam Schedlosky attended MacDonald Island Park to deliver a presentation to the Aquatic staff on how to deal with unwanted guests and handle difficult situations with unruly patrons.

The presentation also included discussions on non-confrontational verbal diffusion and de-escalation techniques. Other topics covered were general safety and awareness to help safeguard themselves, their customers, and their facility.

On September 23, 2011, Cst. Christina Wilkins of the Wood Buffalo Detachment Community Policing Unit attended the ‘Take Back the Night’ event held at Borealis Park.

Cst. Wilkins spoke at the event that empowered community members to take a stand against violence. ‘It is important to remember it’s not solely the responsibility of the police to put a stop to violence. Everyone has a civic duty to their fellow neighbor to be aware, to speak out, and to take action. Violence is not a constant, it can be overcome!’
Every school within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has an assigned police officer (School Liaison Officer) that is available to assist their school with issues and problems throughout the year.

The Wood Buffalo Detachment is pleased to announce that the School Liaison Officer Program has recently undergone some changes that will help build on and strengthen the partnership between the RCMP and the 29 schools within our region. The Community Policing Unit will manage the Program and have created a brochure that outlines the purpose of the program and the role of the liaison officer. These brochures will be distributed in early October.

In addition to helping with issues and problems that the school may experience, the School Liaison Officers are also available to assist with presentations on a wide variety of safety related topics. Other topics may include impaired driving, drug awareness, relationships, violence, bullying, criminal code laws, etc.

For more information on the School Liaison Officer Program, please contact the Community Policing Unit. Phone: (780) 788-4244 or Email: fort_mcmurray_cpvs@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

RCMP READY TO ATTEND YOUR EVENT!

Would you like to have the RCMP provide a presentation to a class, group, or organization?

Do you want an RCMP member to attend your event in their traditional Red Serge? Would you like our mascot Monty the Safety Bear to brighten your event? All requests for RCMP members or Monty the Safety Bear are now going to be handled through e-mail. Please send an e-mail to fort_mcmurray_cpvs@rcmp-grc.gc.ca and detail your request. Make sure you leave a name and a phone number that you can be reached at during normal business hours.

Please contact us at least two or three weeks in advance with your request. Please visit our website at www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca/rcmp to view previous issues of our Community Policing Newsletter available in adobe (pdf) format.

FAREWELL CST. CURTIS WINAND

The Wood Buffalo Detachment and the Community Policing Unit would like to thank Cst. Winand for his service to the RCMP and to the RMWB over the last four years. Cst Winand is leaving the RCMP to further his education and we want to wish him all the best in his future career aspirations.
ECOLE MCTAVISH
GRAND OPENING

Members of the Wood Buffalo Detachment Community Policing Unit were proud to be invited to help celebrate the Grand Opening of Ecole McTavish School.

This Junior High Public School will be home to approximately 700 students in grades 7-9. Several speeches were given by community leaders wherein they offered words of encouragement and support to the staff and students in attendance. The event concluded with the official ribbon cutting ceremony.

COMMUNITY POLICING VISITS
FALL TRADE SHOW

The Community Policing Unit, Victim Services Unit, Bylaw Services, and the Emergency Management Branch of the RMWB rallied together and took part in this year’s Annual Fall Trade Show at MacDonald Island Park.

The Trade Show was well attended and allowed the general public to interact with representatives from each of these Public Service Departments. Members of the Community Policing Unit were able to answer questions on topics such as Distracted Driving Legislation, Recruiting and Crime Prevention Initiatives just to name a few. The Trade Show was a fantastic opportunity to help strengthen police-community relations and we look forward to participating next year!

HARVEST OF HOPE –
CELEBRITY WAITER DINNER

On September 17, 2011 the Sawridge Inn and Conference Centre hosted the 7th Annual Harvest of Hope Celebrity Waiter Dinner.

This annual event is a huge fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society. This year’s event raised more than $250,000 and over the past seven years an amazing $1,000,000+ has been raised from the generosity and kindness of this community. The proceeds raised fund leading-edge cancer research projects in Alberta and provide community support programs for cancer patients and their families. Cpl. Adam Schedlosky was honoured to represent the RCMP and Wood Buffalo Detachment as one of the forty celebrity waiters.
Over this past summer, members of the Wood Buffalo RCMP Traffic Services Unit joined forces with the RMWB Recreational Programs team to help promote fun and safe activities in our city parks.

On July 30th, Borealis Park hosted the ‘Everybody’s Birthday Party’ event and followed it up with a ‘Family Fun Day & BBQ’ at Alberta Drive Park on August 28th. The RCMP were pleased to assist with each of these events putting on a ‘Speed Pitch’ activity that allowed persons of all ages to have their baseball pitch measured by a radar speed gun.

On September 9th, 2011, the Fort McMurray Victim Services Unit hosted the RCMP Wood Buffalo Detachment Regimental Ball. The Regimental Ball is a major fundraiser for Victim Services and is held every second year.

The Victim Services Unit provides victims of crime and trauma with high quality support, information and appropriate referrals. The primary goal of this service is to minimize any crisis and to facilitate the victim’s return to stability and an improved quality of life. This year’s Regimental Ball was well attended as nearly 400 guests, including 100 RCMP members dressed in traditional Red Serge joined in celebration. Over $20,000.00 was raised to support our local Victim Services Unit and through them our communities throughout the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. The Wood Buffalo RCMP and Fort McMurray Victim Services would like to thank everyone for their support.

On September 27th, 2011, the Wood Buffalo Detachment was visited by some future Mountie hopefuls. ‘A’ Troop of the 2nd Fort McMurray Scouts made a field trip to the RCMP Timberlea Detachment to learn about the history of the RCMP and the role of a Police Officer in order to earn their badges.

Cst. Dustin Greig presented on the history of the RCMP in Canada and locally here in Fort McMurray. Following the presentation, the Scouts got a tour of the detachment including the cell block. The young Scouts enjoyed their time with Cst. Greig and thanked him for the memories.

To learn more about Scouts Canada and how to get involved, visit www.scouts.ca to find your nearest troop and the age groups that your children can be involved in.
CAREER FAIR

Father Patrick Mercredi High School hosted a career fair on September 26, 2011.

This year’s event was organized by Student Services as an opportunity for students to meet with company representatives from a variety of industries, colleges, and universities to gather information about entry level positions and career paths.

The front entry of the school was lined with rows of tables filled with information pamphlets and giveaways. Knowledgeable representatives were on hand to answer questions and encourage, support, and guide the youth and their parents as they plan their future.

A very similar event was also hosted by Westwood High School on September 27, 2011. Held during school hours, many students came by the RCMP booth and showed great interest in a career with the national police force.

Students left the respective career fairs with an abundance of information on possible career opportunities, including the possibility of ‘A Career Nowhere Near Ordinary!’

A/CST. MANNY MUCHALLA

On August 24, 2011 Auxiliary Constable Manmohan (Manny) Muchalla was presented with his encased badge after 18 years of service in the community of Prince George, British Colombia.

Manny also served as an Auxiliary Constable in Prince Rupert prior to his time in Prince George. We look forward to having A/Cst. Muchalla join the Alberta Auxiliary Program here at the Wood Buffalo Detachment.

A CAREER NOWHERE NEAR ORDINARY

As a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, you will play an important role in ensuring the safety and security of those in the community you serve.

Proud of our traditions and confident in meeting future challenges, officers are responsible for preserving the peace, enforcing the law, investigating crimes, and are committed to providing quality service in partnership with our communities.

Police officers also serve as role models and leaders who provide advice and guidance to people from all walks of life.

Make a difference in your community and for your country. Join the more than 19,000 RCMP members and build on the 138-year legacy!

For more information on this exciting and rewarding career visit www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca or contact us at 1-877-RCMP-GRC.