

## **SOOKE RCMP - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN PRESENTATION**

A 6-MONTH REVIEW - **PRESENTATION TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL** by **S/Sgt Steve Wright**

Tuesday October 12, 2010

First of all, I would like to thank you for the opportunity for me to report to you personally regarding our mid year report on our Annual Performance Plan.

I last spoke to you about our Annual Performance Plan on May 3rd. During that presentation, I identified our detachment's policing priorities for the upcoming year. As you recall, this process of identifying our unit's priorities was a result of consultation with yourselves and other key stake holders in the communities that we serve. From that consultation process, I identified four priorities that we were going to focus on in the upcoming year. Those priorities are:

- 1) **CRIME REDUCTION** - reduce the number of Criminal Code cases police investigate
- 2) **ALCOHOL RELATED CRASHES** - reduce the number of crashes involving alcohol
- 3) **PROPERTY OFFENCES** - reduce the number of property related offences
- 4) **YOUTH and SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

I am very pleased to stand before you this evening and report that we have had terrific success in all initiatives to date. Let me discuss each priority separately and provide you with some of the details of our successes.

1) **CRIME REDUCTION** - One of our most successful initiatives to date has been our prolific offender program. We have identified certain individuals living in our community who are on Court ordered conditions such as curfews and abstention from alcohol or drugs. We go to their homes every night and do a "door knock" to ensure that they are home as ordered by the Courts. If they are not home, then they are charged with failing to comply with that particular Court order. We check to ensure that they are not consuming drugs and alcohol as ordered by the Courts as well. In the first three months we started this program, we saw an increase in the number of breach of condition charges of 66%. In the past 6 months, that number has been 33%. We have found that by keeping a close eye on those individuals committing the most crimes, that they are moving away from our community because of the close scrutiny. This success has had a tremendous impact on the reduction of the number of property offences reported to police.

2) **PROPERTY OFFENCES** - As I have reported to you in the past, we have increased the number of volunteers involved in the Citizens Patrol from 6 to 18 in the past year. We have more people out patrolling our streets and parks than ever before. Our members have been conducting more foot patrols in trouble areas as well. We have focused vehicle patrols to problem areas as well. These efforts combined with our prolific offender program have had a dramatic effect on the reduction of property offences. Property offences are break-ins, thefts, and vandalism complaints. I am pleased to report that there has been an over all reduction of property offences by 22% not only in the first 3 months, but over the last 6 months as well. We have had seen a dramatic decrease in the number of residential break ins (58%). Vandalism complaints are down by 24%.

3) **ALCOHOL RELATED CRASHES** - We have been conducting more vehicle stops than last year. We have identified high crash areas in our communities and have been directing enforcement initiatives in those areas. We have conducted road stops in areas of high visibility to raise the issues of awareness

and prevention. We have charged more people and have given out more 24 hour suspensions this year than over the same time period last year. The end result is that we have seen a reduction in the number of alcohol related crashes by 22% in the past 6 months. Alcohol related injury crashes are down by 37%. All of these statistics were prior to the new Immediate Roadside Prohibition laws came into effect.

It should be noted that there has not been one fatal motor vehicle accident since January 6th, 2009. The rest of Vancouver Island has seen an increase in the number of fatal motor vehicle accidents, whereas Sooke has seen a decrease.

The number of alcohol related crashes is expected to continue to decline with the introduction of the Immediate Roadside Prohibition legislation and the vigorous enforcement of it as well.

4) **YOUTH and SUBSTANCE ABUSE** - this is one area that we have had great success. The actual number of youth and other persons being charged for having open alcohol is down considerably. This is not a result of decreased enforcement. On the contrary, we have stepped up enforcement and preventative measures to deal with this issue. Police have been doing more foot patrols in parks where youth have gathered and caused problems in the past. Police will charge any one they find with open alcohol. We have directed the Citizen Patrol members to patrol known party locations early in the evening and report any groups that are starting to gather. Police then attend those areas and take enforcement action if need be. By dealing with these issues early, we have had greater success in preventing more serious problems. Disturbance calls are down by 61% in the first 6 months this year from last year. Chief SORENSEN reports that the number of beach fires that they had to attend to this past year were down considerably over the same time last year. Linda BRISTOL from the T'Sou'ke Nation reported that they had no complaints this year about youth partying on their beaches. During the May long weekend, police were in Port Renfrew over the entire long weekend conducting numerous vehicle checks and preventative patrols. There were no serious incidents reported to police. There were many positive comments concerning our efforts and how it has had a trickle down effect over the entire summer.

We have dismantled 33% more marijuana grow operations during the first 6 months of this year. We have targeted those individuals known to sell drugs to young people. We have more than doubled the number of persons charged with possession of drugs and for the purpose of trafficking.

#### **Conclusion:**

We have seen some good success with our harm reduction strategies. We have formed new partnerships and strengthened old ones with the various integrated units. We have enjoyed great cooperation from the integrated units that the District of Sooke contributes to such as the Regional Crime Unit, the Regional Crime Unit Criminal Intelligence Analyst, Regional Domestic Violence Unit, Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team (formerly emergency Mental Health). We have enjoyed the assistance of the General Investigation Section from the RCMP Island District.

This does not mean that we can relax in our efforts. We will continue to do the right things that have proven successful. I am continually doing an environmental scan as to areas that need to be addressed in future performance plans. Efforts are already under way in addressing two issues that have arisen during this present review. One is injury crashes and the other is dealing with the thefts from vehicles in the Provincial Parks. I am gathering data and having it analyzed by a criminal intelligence analyst with the Regional Crime Unit. I will be forming a task force in the next few months to come up with harm reduction strategies to deal with these issues.

I thank you for your time and will answer any questions that you may have.