



White Rock RCMP 2020 Year in Review



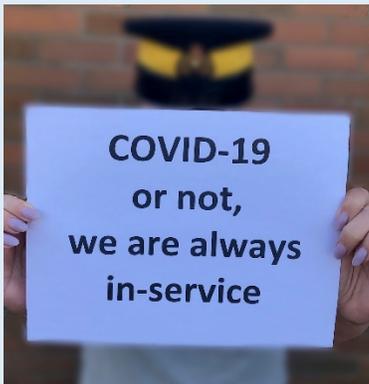
White Rock RCMP 2020 Year in Review

The White Rock detachment has 25 officers, 11 full-time municipal employees, 8 casual municipal employees, and many volunteers. We are primarily a frontline policing detachment, with most of our officers in uniform working in the community. The roles of the officers are diverse and include: emergency call response, conducting criminal investigations, responding to social issues, conducting road safety enforcement, problem oriented policing, and public education through community engagement. The municipal employees provide much of the behind-the-scenes work that is required to support accountable and effective policing, as well, they provide a direct public service with our front counter, Victim's Services, and Crime Prevention office.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic does not need an introduction; however, for the historical record we can say with confidence that 2020 was a year (which is still continuing) where Provincial Health Orders (PHO) became the primary law that influenced much of the community's day-to-day function.

Aside from progressively increasing safety measures and limiting community engagement activities, the White Rock officers continued to respond to all calls for service and respond to public safety issues.



In White Rock, Bylaw officers were the primary agency that conducted proactive business checks and PHO education. RCMP officers responded to complaints after hours and on weekends. The RCMP attended to 92 files that had a COVID-19 component, 14 investigations directly related to the COVID-19 Related Measures Act (RMA), and 7 Quarantine Act investigations. Education was the first step of any PHO contravention with enforcement action as a last resort. No COVID-19 RMA tickets were issued by the White Rock RCMP in 2020.

Our detachment is also supported by the RCMP's Divisional Emergency Operations Centre, who provide enforcement updates on new Health Orders and other support if requested by the detachment.



Calls for Service

Call for service in 2020

6,905

(4.5% increase from 2019)

Top 5 calls for service

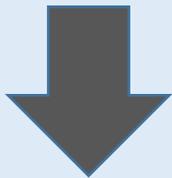
1. Abandon 911 / False alarms (1,128)
2. Disturbances (519)
3. Suspicious person/trespassing (415)
4. Bylaw complaints (411)
5. Well-being checks (396)

Criminal offences reported

In 2020 there were 1,935 reported criminal incidents (6.5% increase compared to 2019)

Property Crime

(includes offences such as break & enters, theft, mischief, fraud)

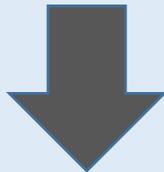


-4.5%

compared to 2019

Assaults

(includes common assault, assault causing bodily harm/ aggravated/with a weapon, sexual assault)



-10%

compared to 2019

Criminal Harassment



+62%

compared to 2019

Uttering Threats



+69%

compared to 2019

Compared to 2019, reports of property crime decreased by 4.5% and assaults decreased by 10%. There was an increase in criminal harassment reports (from 21 in 2019 to 34 in 2020) and an increase in uttering threats reports (from 52 in 2019 to 88 in 2020) that were predominately associated to an increase in neighbour, landlord/tenant, and roommate incidents where a verbal threat was made or a series of harassing behaviours were reported. There was great variety in the causal factors to these offences, with indications that built up frustration over nuisance behaviours or conflicting personalities largely contributed to many of these incidents. There was not enough information to conclude the role of COVID-19 stressors on the increase in these calls for police service.

The following is a break down of some of the more common property offences:

Theft of vehicle	31
Theft from vehicle	185
Theft – bicycle	20
Theft – mail	31
Theft – shoplifting	14
Theft – other (wallets, cell phones, licence plates, items in yards, etc)	101
Break & Enter – residential	39
Break & Enter – commercial business	12
Break & Enter – parkade/storage locker	26
Break & Enter – Condo mail boxes	13
Fraud – Identification	45
Fraud – Money/Property/Securities	68
Fraud - Other	44
Mischief to property	161

Road Safety

2,006 police-motorist interactions resulted in a violation ticket, notice & order, written warning, or other Motor Vehicle Act document. Note that the 2,006 interactions are not counted as calls for service.

Collisions reported to police

Damage Under \$10K / Hit & Run: **72**

Damage Over \$10K: **23**

Injury: **23**

Fatal: **1**

Safe Driving Campaigns: Throughout the year we participate in ICBC initiatives, such as Distracted Driving month and Counter Attack impaired driving checks. Throughout the year you will see us conducting speed enforcement in areas based on feedback from residents and

Loud vehicle campaign: “We heard you White Rock, and that is the problem” campaign ran in 2020. During our strategic planning process at the beginning of the year the community told us that

loud mufflers were disturbing their peace. Officers conducted many vehicle inspections and issued over 50 inspection notices for loud mufflers. This campaign will continue throughout 2021.

Waterfront patrols

Although 2020 lacked the normal nightlife and draw of visitors like previous years, we maintained an overt presence on Marine Drive, the Promenade, and Pier. Many of our interactions were friendly conversations with the public, while some were also cordial enforcement related interactions. Although the BNSF Rail Police are primarily responsible for rail safety, on numerous occasions we partnered with them for education and enforcement patrols.

Trespass on railway charges: **60**

Trespass on railway warnings: **159**

Liquor Control and Licencing Act charges: **19**

Illegal beach fires attended to: **38**

Mental Health calls for service

Officers were called to 534 incidents where the officer believed that mental health was a significant contributing factor to the incident. 192 of these calls were for an assessment under the Mental Health Act (MHA). These assessment resulted in 129 apprehensions under the MHA, where the client was transported to the hospital for an evaluation by a physician.

Opioid Crisis

Officers administered Naloxone to the public on two occasions in 2020 in White Rock. Officers continue to educate people they encounter that use drugs, particularly people that use alone, on the **Lifeguard** app that connects people to emergency responders if an overdose occurs. We also participate in the Community Action Team *Tides of Change* group that engages in ongoing collaboration with multi-agencies to make an impact on the opioid crisis.



Homelessness

The police intersect with people experiencing homelessness primarily as a result of complaints from the public and proactive positive interactions by officers. We have limited options as police to address this broader social issue, and we use the healthcare system and criminal justice system to best resolve behaviour that creates conflict in the community. Many of the individuals experiencing homelessness that come to the attention of police almost exclusively have substance use or mental health issues that compound their situation. While the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in White Rock may be a few people, numerous individuals that normally call Surrey home frequent White Rock. We will continue to provide a compassionate response using the principles of procedural justice with this marginalized population.

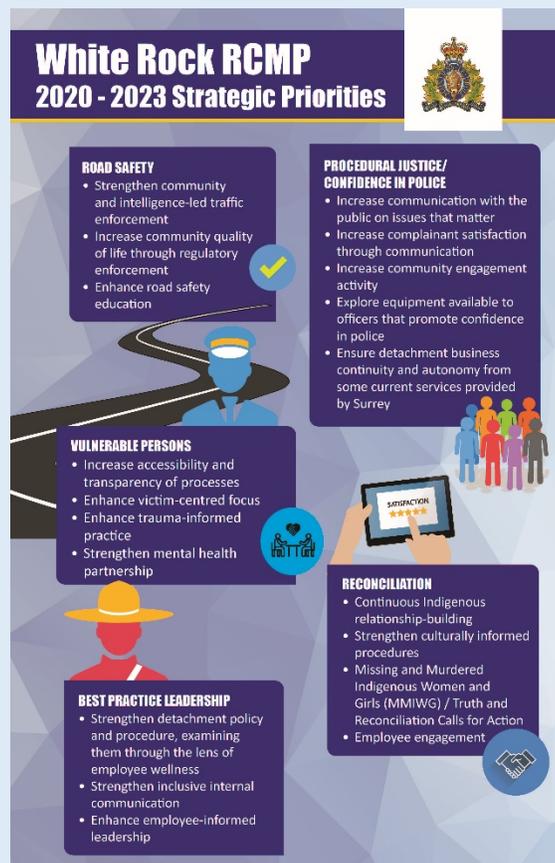


Our Strategic Plan

In early 2020 we released our 2020-2023 Strategic Plan that was based on community input and the local expertise at our detachment. Five priorities were established to continually improve the policing service in White Rock, they include: procedural justice / confidence in police, vulnerable persons, best practice leadership, reconciliation, and road safety. Although COVID-19 interfered with some of the progression, we continue to strive forward to address all of the priorities.

Here are some of the actions taken in 2020 to advance our strategic plan:

- Increased communication on Twitter and FaceBook
- Increased communication with community groups, City Hall, and Mayor & Council
- Coffee with a Cop (launched, then paused for COVID)
- Enhanced foot patrols on the waterfront
- Enhanced traffic enforcement based on areas on concern identified by the community
- Review of street checks that we made available to the public
- Appointed a Bias-Free Policing Advisor
- Quarterly Q&A meetings with Block Watch members and the Detachment Commander
- Continued development of our business continuity plan to ensure effective autonomy from Surrey due to the policing transition (primarily information technology)
- Increased examination on the police response to social issues to identify long term solutions
- Completion of internal leadership survey
- Launched our online reporting system for minor offences where an officer is not required; however, police having the information helps guide officer deployment.



To the residents and business owners of White Rock:

“The deployment of your officers is decided in White Rock, the number of funded positions is decided by Mayor and Council, and what we focus on is based on what you expresses to us through reports to police and ongoing conversations. Although the RCMP nationally and provincially provide administrative support and specialized services, your local detachment leadership team is entrusted to deploy your officers based on our connection with the community. Through emails, phone calls, and personal conversations, we value the comments that you bring forward and appreciate the support that is expresses to us by many of you.”

Staff Sergeant Kale Pauls – Detachment Commander