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LACOMBE POLICE
SERVICE

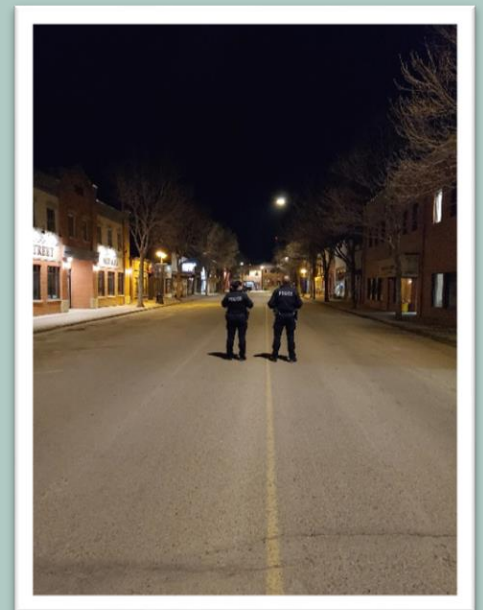


2021

ANNUAL REPORT



***TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE
COMMUNITY FOR ALL TO LIVE, WORK AND
PLAY***



*Policing Excellence through
Leadership and Community
Partnership*

LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

**LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE
LACOMBE POLICE COMMISSION
Annual Report 2021**



Message from the Chair of the Police Commission

On behalf of my colleagues on the Lacombe Police Commission, I am pleased to contribute to the Lacombe Police Service Annual Report to the Community.

The Lacombe Police Commission (LPC) is appointed by the City of Lacombe to provide civilian oversight to the Lacombe Police Service in a body that acts independently of City Council. The LPC is the vital link between the community and the police with a mandate to balance requirements of public accountability with those of police independence. In accordance with the Alberta Police Act, the Lacombe Police Commission is responsible to ensure the community receives adequate and effective policing.

While the words, “adequate” and “effective” feel soft and non-descriptive, they are interpreted and applied by the LPC under the supervision of the Solicitor General and Alberta Justice with the following guidelines:

1. Adequate policing is equitable and efficient:
 - i. Equitable means it provides the community the standard of service they both need and desire.
 - ii. Efficient means that they balance the needed and desired standard of service against the cost of providing that service.
2. Effective means it develops and meets community specified levels and standards of services.
 - i. Levels of service means the resources available to police the community including number of members and civilians of an agency, availability of members to do work, and facilities and equipment.
 - ii. Standards of service are the nature and quality of the work provided including skill, knowledge, ability of staff; equipment and specialized resources; and internal oversight which includes supervision, management, policies, procedures, planning and reporting.

Specifics of the responsibility of the Lacombe Police Commission include:

1. The LPC represent interests and concerns of public and municipal council to the Chief of Police.
2. With the Chief of Police, the LPC is to develop yearly plans or priorities and strategies for policing that reflects community and council interests.
3. The LPC is to monitor the implementation and progress of police performance against the yearly policing plan.
4. The LPC is to assist chief to address public complaints and to appoint the Public Complaint Director who acts independently of the Lacombe Police Service.
5. The LPC appoints the Chief of Police subject to ratification by municipal council.
6. The LPC prepares and presents the Lacombe Police Service budget for review and funding by the City of Lacombe and then allocates and supervises use of those funds and compliance with the budget.

During 2021, the Lacombe Police Commission focused heavily on budgeting and supporting the Lacombe Police Service first in its reaction to and then to preparedness for the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Commission also approved a three year Human Resource plan. The coming year of 2022 will see the Commission continue to monitor budget compliance but will turn its energies to commission member education, Oversight Standards compliance, and development of a new three year strategic plan.

I would like to give a special thank you to my Commission colleagues: Judy Lucht and Edith McKinlay who have retired from the Commission effective December 31, 2021, Sonja Dykslag, Cam Penstone, Reuben Konnik (our City Council member), Elaine Willette -Larsen and Brad Pears (our Public Complaints Director) all of whom willingly give of their time to allow us to be an effective governance body. The Commission welcomes John Soderberg and Ken Kulak as a new members for 2022 and Councillor Cora Hoektra as our new City Council Member.

The LPC thanks the City of Lacombe including Council, management and staff for their ongoing support of the century old foresight of our municipal founders in the creation of the Lacombe Police Service. Having our own police service to serve and protect the City of Lacombe is vital to our community's continued economic and social vibrance.

And finally, on behalf of the Commission we thank Chief Lorne Blumhagen as well as all of the sworn and civilian members of the Lacombe Police Service for their continued exemplary service and dedication to providing adequate (and in our eyes more than adequate) and effective policing to our community.

Corey Gish
Lacombe Police Commission Chair



Lacombe Police Service - Annual Report 2021

Message from the Chief of Police

In partnership with the Lacombe Police Commission, I am pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report to the community.

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to present new dynamics and challenges to Lacombe Police Service as we adapted to changing legislations and community response. 2021 recognized the final year of a 3-year strategic plan which included priorities in the areas of Exemplifying Excellence in Policing, Recruiting and Retention of Staff, Reducing Crime and Victimization, Strengthening Community Partnerships, Improved Traffic Safety, and Excellence in Police Service Delivery.

Growth within our dispatch services included monitoring for community peace officers in Lacombe and neighbouring counties; this expansion supports partner agencies and helps enhance officer safety for our law enforcement partners.

In the area of Improved Traffic Safety, we focused on enforcement around high collision locations, traffic education initiatives, and conducted a number of check stops throughout the year. A full-time traffic member position was developed and implemented in January as well.

While addressing Recruitment and Retention, in 2021 we recognized the retirement of Sgt. Rick Kohut and thanked him for his dedicated service to the community. We welcomed Cst. Kopan, Cst. Austin, Cst. Hartleib, and Cst. Allnutt to our ranks. This recognized a total authorized sworn member strength of 22 police members plus one secondment to ALERT.

In 2021 the Lacombe Police Service received 5,949 calls for service; this figure represents a 13% increase from 2020 where there were a total of 5254 calls for service. Calls for service in 2021 were 9% below the 5-year average of 6,459. 2021 recognized a 16% decrease in crimes against a person, 8% increase in crimes against property, 79% decrease in drug offences, and 24% decrease in other criminal code offences with impaired driving down 9%. Provincial Act offences saw a significant increase of 61% which is related to additional Covid-19 compliance complaints and Mental Health Act occurrences. In all categories the number of charges laid increased to 2440 which represents a 30% increase from 2020.

The Lacombe Police Service remains committed to enhancing public safety and meeting the needs of our community.

*Lorne Blumhagen M.O.M.
Chief of Police*



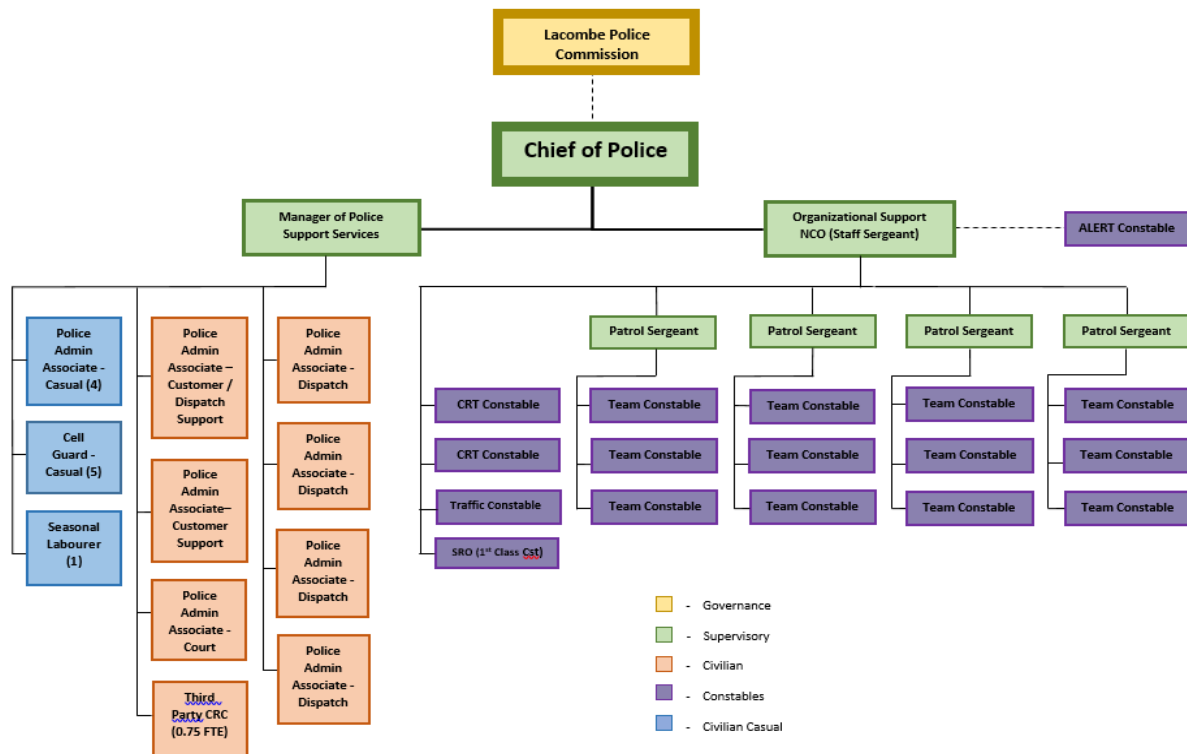
LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

Annual Report 2021

Human Resources

LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

Organizational Chart



The Lacombe Police Service experienced change and restructuring within the organization in 2021. A permanent staff sergeant position was implemented in order to provide operational oversight as well as conduct professional standards investigations, ensure provincial standards compliance, and assist with organizational support. January also saw the assignment of a member to a full-time traffic officer position. This position is responsible for the enforcement of traffic laws, technical collision investigations as well as traffic safety education and public information. The Lacombe Police Service also continued with the assignment of a member to a term with the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT). ALERT works collaboratively with police agencies investigating everything from drug and gun trafficking to child exploitation with the goal of creating safer communities. In September, Cst. Wilzer transitioned into the school resource officer position which continues to support staff and students within Wolf Creek Public Schools.

The Lacombe Police Service hired four experienced members in 2021; Cst. Bradley Kopan, Cst. Raelene Austin, Cst. Michael Hartleib and Cst. Shane Allnutt. These members filled one vacancy from 2020 as well as in 2021, one member retired after completing 22-years of service and two other police officers resigned to explore other opportunities.



Annual Report 2021

Human Resources continued

In 2021 the Lacombe Police Service continued to offer monitoring services to community peace officers in the region, increasing the service offered to eight CPO agencies.

In addition, to fulfill our dispatch commitment to the community, the Lacombe Police Service hired two casual dispatch positions as well as had a staff member return from a leave of absence. The 2021 authorized staffing complement for LPS was:

- **22 sworn police officers (plus one ALERT member position)**
- **8 full time, 2 part-time civilian support staff, and 4 casual civilian support staff**
- **4 casual guards and 1 casual office maintenance**

This represents a “Police to Population” ratio of 608 citizens to 1 police officer which is in line with the Human Resource Plan. This is approximately 12% below the national average of 541 and 3% below the Alberta average of 593. These numbers are based on the population of Lacombe remaining at 13,985 for 2021.



Cst. Bradley KOPAN



Cst. Michael HARTLEIB



Cst. Raelene AUSTIN



Cst. Shane ALLNUTT

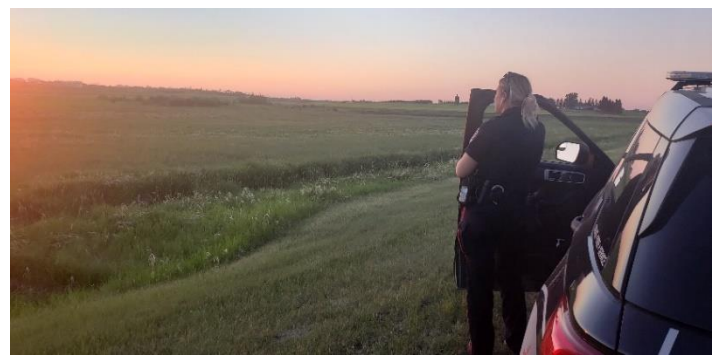


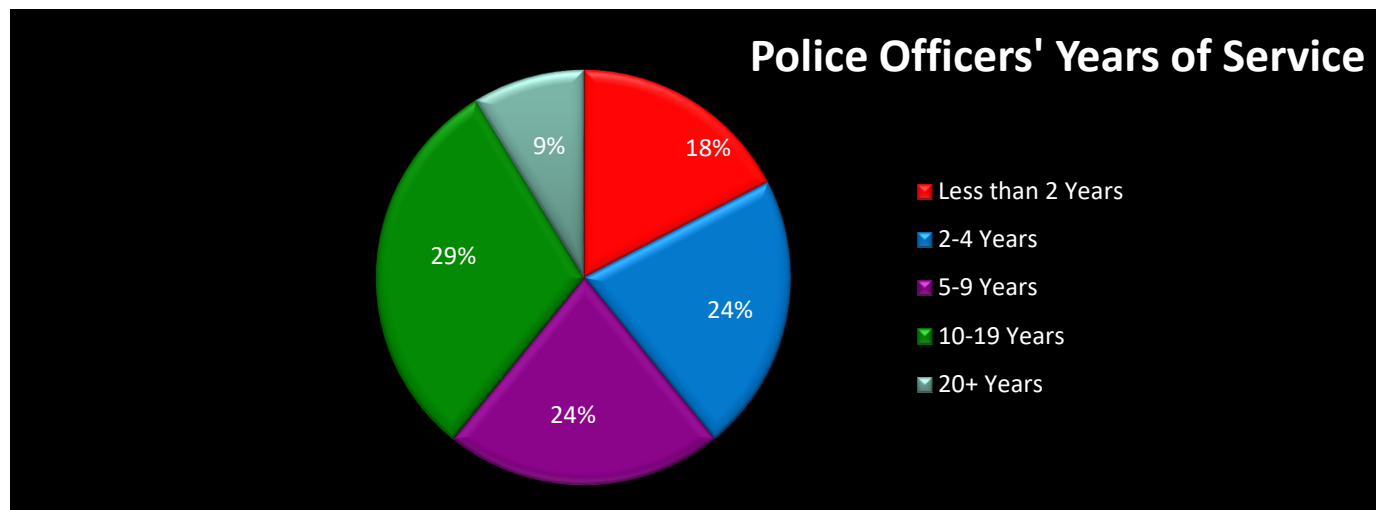
Photo: Cst. Austin

Human Resources continued

Authorized Strength - 23 sworn members

Actual Strength – 17 sworn members

Five members on extended leave of absences



Civilian Support Staff – 8 full-time, 2 part-time, and 9 casual employees

Manager of Police Support Services – 1

Dispatchers – 4

Court Liaison – 1

Front Counter – 1

Criminal Record Check - 1

Casual Administrative Associates - 3

Cell Guards – 5

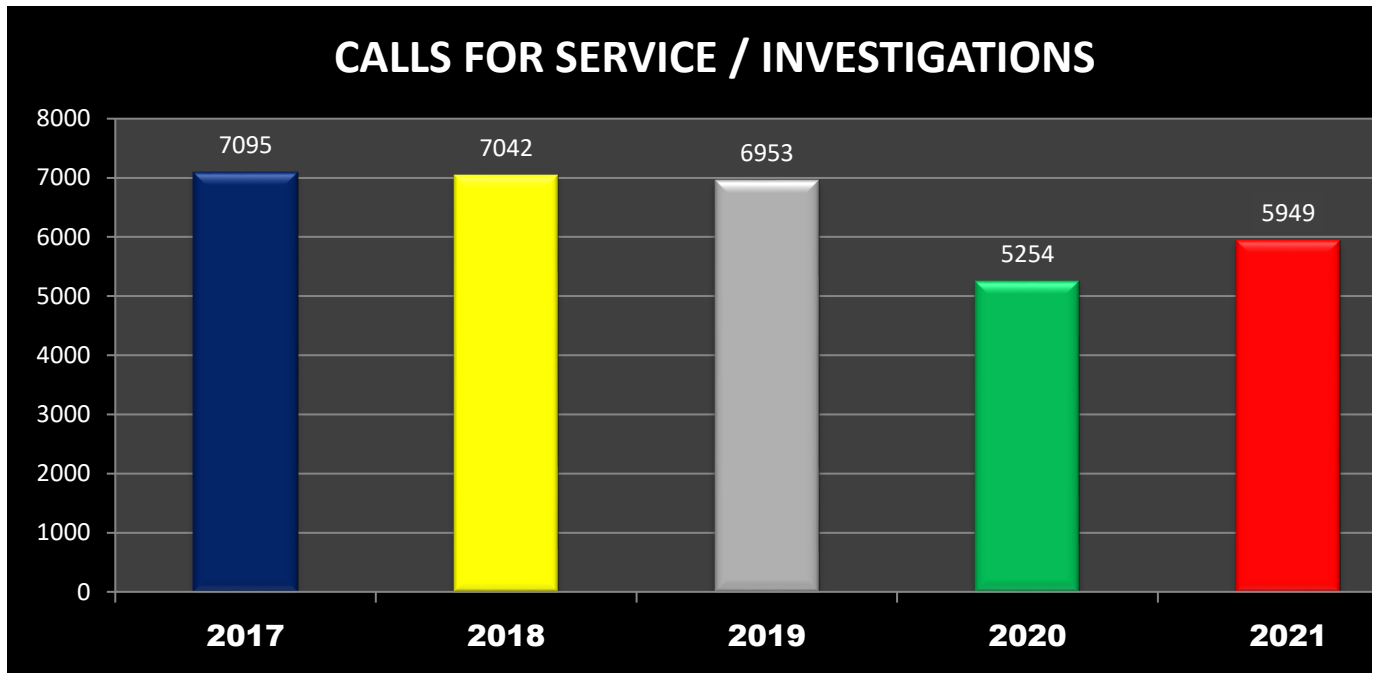
Casual Maintenance – 1

Permanent Part Time - 2



Photo: Communications Operator: Natasha

Operational Highlights – Calls for Service



CALLS FOR SERVICE

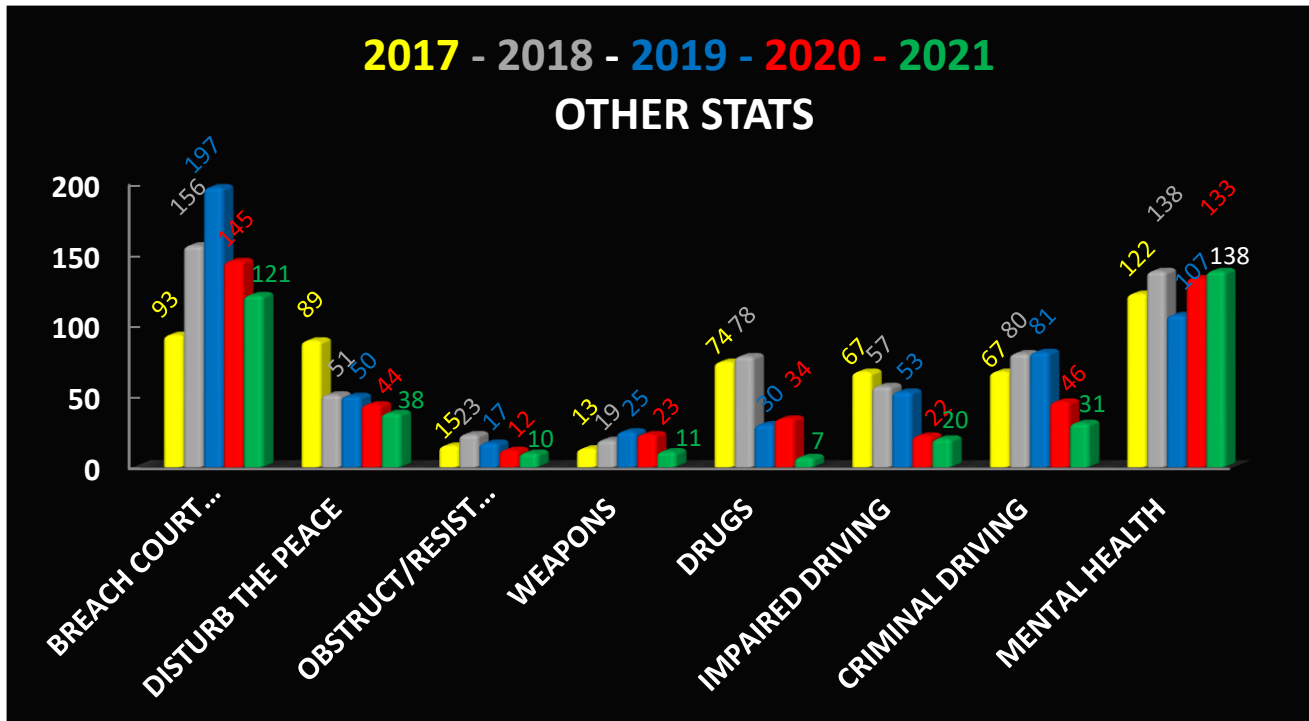
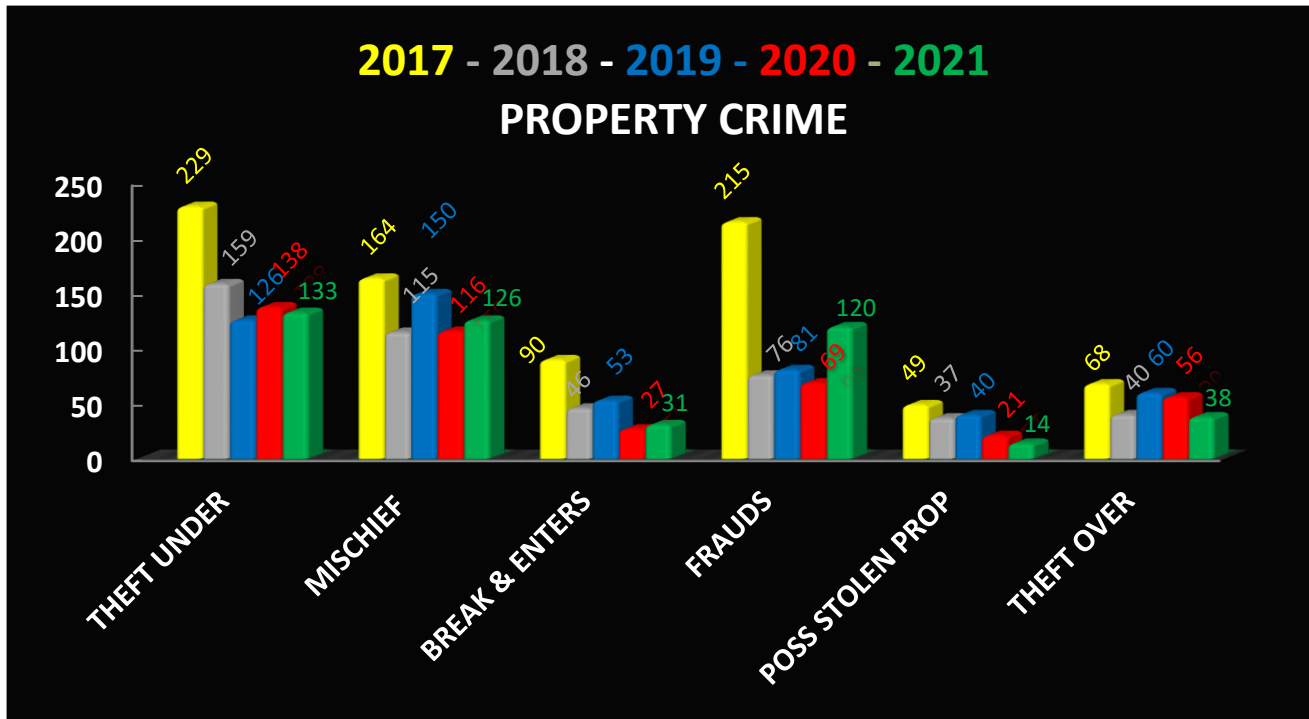
In 2021, there were 5,949 total calls for service. This figure represents a 13.2% increase from 2020 where there were 5,254 calls for service. 2021 shows 9% below the 5-year average of 6,459 calls for service. The numerical breakdown of offences can be found under the operational highlights (Crime Stats).

2021 was an unprecedented and challenging year as a result of Covid-19. A review of the calls for service categories over the past year shows a decrease in uttering threats calls by 3.2%. Fraud calls over 2021 increased by 74%. Break and enters increased 15%, mischief increased 9% theft over \$5,000 decreased 32%, and possession of stolen property decreased down by 33%. Domestic violence calls in 2021 decreased 24.66% from 219 calls received in 2020 to 165 calls received in 2021. Mental Health calls in 2021 increased 4% to 138 calls for service from 2020 in which we saw 136 calls.

The Lacombe Police Service Crime Reduction Team (CRT) continued to focus on local prolific offenders while collaborating with external agencies in 2021. During the year, LPS maintained a member on the Red Deer Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT). This collaborative relationship between ALERT and CRT resulted in the initiation of several firearm and drug investigations, which directly affected Lacombe. The Service also experienced several long-term leaves of absences throughout the year that required CRT personnel to be periodically shifted to supplement front-line operations in order to ensure adequate street coverage was met. CRT continued to support front-line members by staying up-to-date on emerging crime trends and lending assistance with providing judicial authorities.

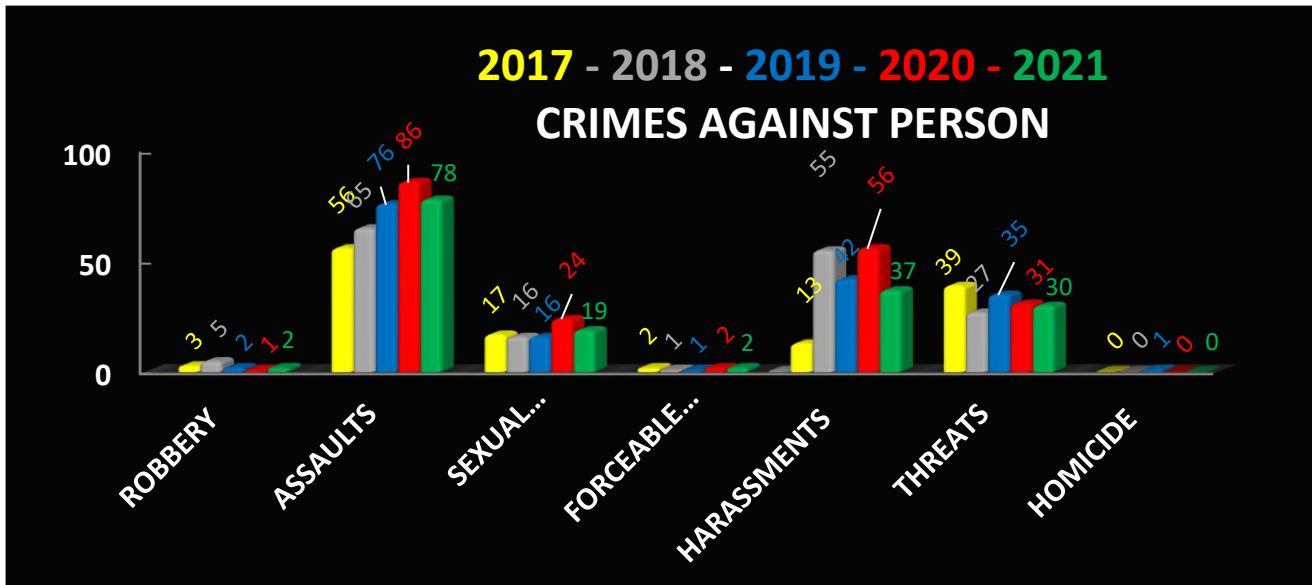


Operational Highlights – Property Crime / Other Stats





Operational Highlights – Crime Against Persons Stats



CRIME STATS ↓ ↑ BETWEEN 2020 - 2021

- ↑ PROPERTY CRIME 8%
- ↓ IMPAIRED DRIVING -9%
- ↓ DRUG CHARGES -79%
- ↑ FRAUDS 74%
- ↓ CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS -16%
- ↓ FAMILY DISPUTES -25%
- ↑ BREAK AND ENTERS 15%
- ↓ MENTAL HEALTH 4%

Crimes against person saw a 16% decrease, 8% increase in property crime, 79% decrease in drug offences, and 24.2% decrease in other criminal code offences with IRS (Immediate Roadside Sanctions) down 9% compared to impaired driving offences in 2020. Of note, impaired driving statistics have changed in Alberta with the implementation of the Immediate Roadside Sanctions Program in 2021. Provincial Act offences increased by 63% for 2021. In 2020 a total of 1,877 charges were laid in comparison to 2021 where 2440 charges were laid. This represents a 30% increase in charges laid in 2021.

CSI (Crime Severity Index) numbers reported from 2020 were favorable again for the Lacombe Police Service with a result of 60.51. This rating places Lacombe below the Canadian average and 153rd amongst other communities. This CSI reporting number decreased from the 2019 result of 79. In the violent crime category of the CSI, LPS was ranked at 197th in 2020 compared to 123rd in 2019. The non-violent crime increased to 145th in 2020 from 113th in 2019. Future strategic plans will consider the above results when developing new service initiatives, and crime analysis reports will continue to monitor these trends and the impacts they have on the community.



Operational Highlights – Traffic Stats

Figure 1: 2018-2019-2020-2021 Collision Breakdown

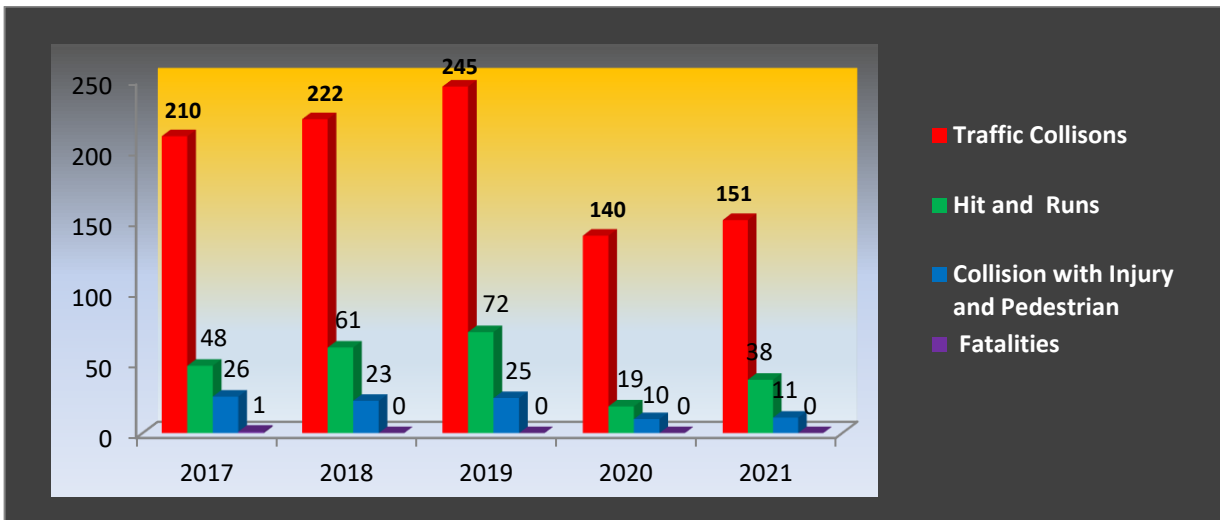


Figure 2: 2018-2019-2020-2021 Traffic Enforcement Breakdown

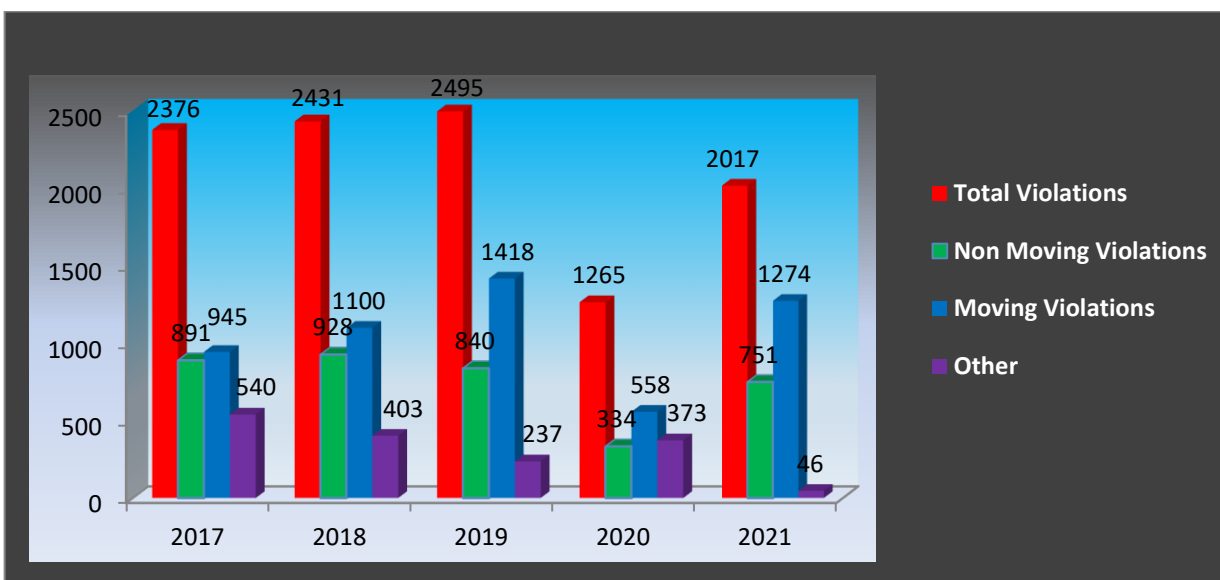




Photo: Cst. Wilzer and Sydney

Operational Highlights – Traffic

A collision analysis shows the breakdown of statistics for traffic offences and its related collisions that occur within the city limits of Lacombe in 2021. These statistics will also be compared to ones gathered in previous years to give an indication of areas of concern and will assist with logistic, infrastructure, and enforcement plans.

The highest concentration of collisions occur at Woodland Drive / Wolf Creek Drive and Highway 2A with a second area of concern at the intersection of Highway 12 and Highway 2A. During peak times, these areas continue to be two of the busiest locations in the city especially factoring in the stoppages for trains, service roads, and business access. It should be noted that both locations are also truck routes having numerous commercial vehicles traveling in all directions.

In 2021 Lacombe Police Service received 151 reported collisions with 11 resulting in injuries with no fatalities. This represents a very slight increase from 2020 but a significant decrease over the last 4-year period. These lower rates could again be attributed to lower traffic volumes due to health measures implemented as a result of Covid-19. The majority of collisions remain consistent between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm.

A continued goal of the Lacombe Police Service is visibility and enforcement throughout the city with concentration in priority areas such as school zones and high-traffic areas. In January a full-time traffic officer position was implemented with a focus on the enforcement of traffic laws and traffic safety education. The police service will also work with the City of Lacombe to assist with roadway infrastructure issues to enhance traffic safety. This will assist in continuing our trend of reducing property damage and injury related collisions within the city limits.

In December of 2020, the Alberta Government launched the Justice Transformation Initiative. Phase one of this program was aimed at removing impaired drivers from Alberta roadways and making it easier for both police and the public to deal with impaired driving. This was fueled by the fact that on average one in three impaired driving offences were being withdrawn prior to court attendance due to lack of resources to prosecute the charges. This transition would ensure that only the most serious impaired driving offences were being presented in court including instances where injuries or fatalities occur or involving repeat offenders. Through impaired driving enforcement initiatives, the members of the Lacombe Police Service issued 20 IRS (Immediate Roadside Sanctions) fails, 13 IRS 24-hour suspensions, 8 IRS novice suspensions, and 11 IRS warnings in 2021.



Mayor Creasey, Diane Piche, MLA Ron Orr, Cam Penstone, Minister of Justice Kaycee Madu, Sonja Dykslag, Chief Blumhagen

Operational and Organizational Priorities

RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND EMERGING TRENDS

The police service conducts a community survey every four years. This was last performed in 2019 and was designed to evaluate our performance and gauge community perceptions and priorities about crime and community safety issues. The results showed that 84% of respondents felt our members were polite, courteous, helpful, and professional while 82% felt we did a good job overall on the various functions we perform.

The survey respondents felt our policing priorities should include:

- 1. Crimes Against Persons**
- 2. Drugs**
- 3. Impaired Drivers**
- 4. Property Crime**
- 5. Traffic Safety**
- 6. Frauds and Scams**

As we saw the increasing and emerging crime trends central Alberta was experiencing, we realized we needed to re-evaluate our Policing Performance and Strategic Plan not only to reflect the citizen survey priorities but also to properly respond to emerging crime trends impacting Lacombe.

In our three-year strategic plan (2019-2021), we identified strategies to achieve the following priorities and goals:

- 1. EXEMPLIFY EXCELLENCE IN POLICING**
 - 1.1 Provide Professional Service Delivery*
 - 1.2 Maintain High Professional Standards*
 - 1.3 Cost Effective Service Delivery*
 - 1.4 Improve Professional Standards*
- 2. RECRUITING, SELECTION, AND RETENTION OF QUALITY STAFF**
 - 2.1 Recruit and Select Quality Applicants*
 - 2.2 Retention of Staff*
- 3. REDUCE CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION**
 - 3.1 Reduce Violent Crime*
 - 3.2 Reduce Domestic Violence*
 - 3.3 Reduce Property Crime*



Operational and Organizational Priorities

RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND EMERGING TRENDS

4. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- 4.1 *Crime Prevention and Education*
- 4.2 *Youth Safety and Empowerment*

5. IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY

- 5.1 *Reduce Traffic Collisions*

6. EXCELLENCE IN POLICE SERVICE DELIVERY

- 6.1 *Improve Clearance (solve) Rates*
- 6.2 *Enhance Collaboration and Partnerships*
- 6.3 *Focus on Diversity and Inclusion*

Front counter hours remained modified, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, Monday thru Friday, in 2021 because of Covid-19. To ensure a healthy workplace was maintained, front counter window barriers remained closed to visitors while access to inside the office became limited to essential staff only. Alberta Health Services safety protocols were implemented and followed throughout the year. Complaints were accepted at the front counter of the police station but were encouraged to be made by telephone. The Lacombe Police Service continues to provide 24/7 local call answering, police dispatch, and policing services. Monitoring services of external CPO agencies also continued throughout 2021.



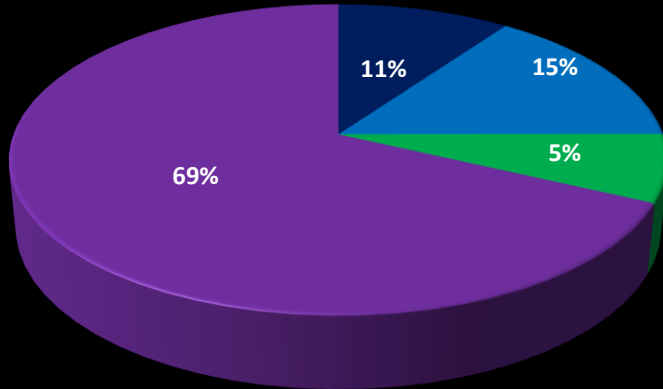
Photos – Gary Moe Chrysler Jeep Ram, Weidner Motors and Empire Auto sales collection of food and donations for the Lacombe Food Bank

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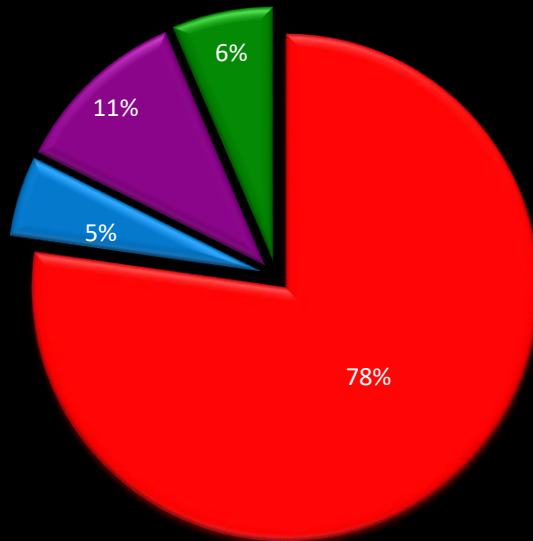
Budget – Revenue and Expenditures

2021 REVENUE SOURCES



- GOVERNMENT GRANTS
- SALE OF GOODS/SERVICES
- FINE REVENUE
- TAX SUPPORTED

2021 EXPENDITURES



- SALARY / BENEFITS
- EXTERNAL CONTRACTS
- INTERNAL CHARGES
- OPERATIONS

The 2021 Operating Budget of \$5,194,026.00 for Lacombe Police Service was approved by Council and is highlighted by percentage above. \$3,532,526.00 of the budget was tax supported (\$253.00 per capita cost based on a population of 13,984).



Professional Standards – Complaints, Concerns, Compliments

Police officers are not only in positions of authority, but more importantly they are in positions of trust. Through our own internal policies and processes as well as provincial legislation, we hold police officers to the highest legal and ethical standards. Whether as a result of a public complaint or an internal review, if a member does not live up to these expectations we will investigate the matter or cause it to be investigated by an independent agency with a view of not only holding people accountable for their actions, but also to provide us with opportunities for learning and best practices.

The Lacombe Police Commission monitors the public complaints process, reviews complaints regarding the Chief of Police, and handles appeals regarding the policies of or services provided by the Lacombe Police Service. The Lacombe Police Commission and LPS track all citizen complaints and concerns.

Under the Alberta *Police Act*, the responsibility for the investigation of complaints against a police service's policies or service provided, as well as against specific police officers lies with the Chief of Police. The Police Commission is the civilian body which is empowered to oversee the complaints process and act as the appeal body for complaints regarding the policies of or services provided by the Lacombe Police Service. The Lacombe Police Commission has a public complaint director who:

- **Provides an independent review of the citizen complaints process of the Lacombe Police Service;**
- **Monitors the police service investigation of public complaints to ensure the investigations are impartial, fair, thorough, and timely;**
- **Reports his or her findings directly to the Lacombe Police Commission;**
- **Makes public presentations to interested groups concerning the complaint process; and**
- **Receives complaints from the public. The purpose of the complaint process is to resolve issues between citizens and the Lacombe Police Service in a fair, transparent, and reasonable manner.**

In 2021 there was one (1) instance where the Lacombe Police Service initiated an internal review and six (6) instances when members of the community brought forward complaints or concerns. In the case involving the internal review, concerns were resolved through internal guidance and performance supplements. One external complaint alleged of a misconduct for the excessive use of force. This complaint is currently being investigated under the Police Service Regulations and remains unresolved. Five of the misconduct complaints received were not accepted, as they did not meet the Provincial reporting threshold. Training, mentorship, and guidance will continue to be a priority of LPS to ensure compliance in accordance with the Provisions of the Police Act.

We always welcome your comments, feedback, or concerns. We can be reached in person, by phone, or by email: 5301 Wolf Creek Drive, Lacombe, AB T4L 2H8; (403)782-3279; police@lacombe.ca



2021 Organizational Awards & Recognition



Sgt. Nicole MARTIN



Cst. Reuben GELEYNSE



Cst. Carl MATTHEWS



Cst. Kristy WALKER



S/Sgt Bryan ZENS

In 2021 members and staff of the Lacombe Police Service were presented with a number of awards and recognition for long service:

- ❖ Chief Lorne Blumhagen was appointed to the Order of Merit of the Police Forces. Appointment of the Order of Merit is made by the Governor General of Canada for exceptional service or performance of duty over an extended period of time. The investiture ceremony for this award will be held in 2022.
- ❖ Sgt. Nicole MARTIN and Cst. Carl MATTHEWS received the Alberta Long Service Medal, which is issued by the Officer of the Fire Commissioner, Public Division, to Emergency personnel who have served as first responders in the Province of Alberta for 12 years or more.
- ❖ Cst. Carl MATTHEWS received the Lacombe Police Service 10-years Service Medal representing 10 years of Service to the City of Lacombe.
- ❖ Cst. Reuben GELEYNSE received the City of Lacombe 5-year Long Service Award
- ❖ Cst. Connor HEALY received the City of Lacombe 5-year Long Service Award
- ❖ Cst. Kristy WALKER received the City of Lacombe 5-year Long Service Award

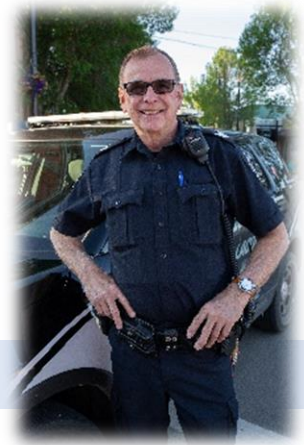
- ❖ Sgt. Bryan Zens was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. This promotion marks a milestone for the Lacombe Police Service as the first Staff Sergeant position that has been implemented in the history of the Service.

- ❖ Cst. Christopher BARRETT was advanced to 1st Class Constable
- ❖ Cst. Mackenzie JORDAN was advanced to 2nd Class Constable
- ❖ Cst. Kristy WALKER was advanced to 2nd Class Constable
- ❖ Cst. Brett MARSOLLIER was advanced to 3rd Class Constable



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Richard (Rick) Kohut (Ret.)

A 48-year career as a Police Officer.

At the age of 19, Rick Kohut joined the RCMP on August 7th, 1973. During his time in the RCMP, Cst. Kohut was stationed in Lumsden, Kelvington, and Moosejaw, Saskatchewan. In 1982, Cst. Kohut was selected as a dog handler, and attended the RCMP K-9 training facility in Innisfail, Alberta where he was partnered with his first dog, Dain.

Cst. Kohut and Dain were stationed in North Vancouver, from 1982-1985. In 1985, Cst. Kohut was posted to Selkirk, Manitoba, where he earned his first promotion to Corporal. Cpl. Kohut transferred to Prince George, B.C. in 1988, where he was placed in charge of a 4-member dog unit.

Cpl. Kohut's career as a dog handler lasted 17 years, which included time spent with ERT teams in North Vancouver, Prince George B.C., and Winnipeg Manitoba. Cpl. Kohut was the handler of three dogs: Dain, Bear, and Ammo during his time assigned to this position.

In 1994, Cpl. Kohut transferred to the city of Red Deer where he remained until his retirement from the RCMP after the completion of 26 years of service.

On September 1st 1999, Rick Kohut was hired by the Lacombe Police Service as the School Resource Officer. Cst. Kohut spent 9 years as the SRO working in Wolf Creek Public Schools in Lacombe. While in the position, Cst. Kohut taught the DARE program and implemented a weight lifting club at Lacombe Composite High School.

Cst. Kohut eventually returned to general patrol where he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Sgt. Kohut retired on September 1st, 2021 after completing 22 years of service with the Lacombe Police Service and a 48-year career as a police officer.





Photo: Cst. Marcott

Community Involvement

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Thanks to our continued partnership with Wolf Creek Public Schools and Lacombe County, we are able to provide a **School Resource Officer (SRO)** dedicated full time to all public schools within the City. In a challenging year, the SRO continued to support staff, students, and parents in Wolf Creek School Division. The primary role of the SRO is to build relationships with the students and staff to help foster a safe learning environment.

VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

Lacombe Victim Services opened 398 files in 2021, assisting 1,201 individuals while accompanying 87 individuals to court for support services, which includes court preparation. 2021 did have issues with COVID and court being closed intermittently during the year. Out of the 398 files opened, 14 were crisis call outs. We provided 87 Victim Impact Forms, 112 restitution and financial requests.

VSU was unable to fundraise during 2021 due to COVID; however, we continue to receive donations from Royal LePage Real Estate Lacombe. Their Shelter Foundation supports victims of domestic violence. We assisted domestic violence clients with over \$9,000 in financial support. Lacombe Victim Services did collaborate with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Mary Moore Public Library for 2021 National Volunteer Week, creating gift bags for all of our volunteers in our community.

“Our volunteer advocate’s complete online training from Justice and Solicitor General and enhanced security screening prior to assisting victims, they are on call one week per month. Our dedicated volunteers banked over 14,000 hours in 2021! Last year our advocates attended online training, such as Compassion Fatigue, Domestic Violence Safety Planning, Claire’s Law and First Responder to Sexual Abuse Training. Our advocates also receive in-house training.” Deb Barron, VSU Program Manager.



Photo: Cst. Walker, Sgt. Hubbard, Debbie Barron



Community Involvement

KIDS N' KOPS: Kids and Kops is a collaborative program between Big Brothers Big Sisters, Lacombe Police Service, and Blackfalds RCMP. This police based mentoring program runs one week each year with a focus on building positive relations between youth and police members. Each year there is a substantial wait list to be enrolled in this 24 spot youth summer program. Due to Covid-19 health restrictions, Kids & Kops was put on hold for 2021. The Annual Charity Check stop was held with hopes that Kids and Kops will go ahead next year.



LACOMBE COMMUNITY WATCH: Established in 2015, LCWA is a registered non-profit, volunteer-based organization, partnered with LPS to offer diverse and proactive opportunities within the community to support one another to assist in crime reduction. Onset of Covid-19, and the unpredictability in the health climate, there was a significant shift in how LCWA operated. LCWA has had a difficult couple of years; however, we remain committed to our community in endeavoring to keep our neighbourhoods safer. As we look forward to what the future holds for LCWA, we anticipate that as we return to a more normal atmosphere, restructuring will include: the recruitment of like-minded, well-meaning citizens for the board of directors and Neighbourhood Watch as well as the consideration of the reinstatement of the Block Parent and Citizens on Patrol programs.

