



Halifax District RCMP Community Newsletter

Recent Violence in HRM

The last few weeks have been challenging from a policing perspective. Police in Halifax Regional Municipality have been faced with homicides, shootings and stabbings. These types of incidents are alarming to the community and police alike. What we are seeing is an increase in the degree of violence and a cluster of crimes in a short period of time.

Police have laid charges in a number of these incidents – the shooting on Waverley Road, the one outside Dooley's on Portland Street in Dartmouth and several of the stabbings. Police also arrested three males on Mackenzie Street in Dartmouth after reports of shots fired at a nearby home. The other files are still under investigation and it's our hope that through the investigative process we will be able to lay charges.

With respect to the seven homicides we've had this year within HRM, four are solved and the other three remain under investigation. When we have a homicide, we explore all the possibilities to determine if they are connected to other crimes in any way. It's important to note that in the great majority of homicides, the victim and assailant are known to one another.

Homicides and attempted homicides, in particular shootings, are almost always between people who are involved in crime and are known to one another. It is often as a result of an ongoing dispute or past incident. Law abiding citizens are not targets. That being said, it's of grave concern to police when shootings occur in public places, putting innocent bystanders at risk. Our greatest fear is that someone from the general public will be caught up in one of these incidents.

All of the recent shooting incidents remain under investigation. We believe some of these shootings are related to one another. These incidents can be difficult to investigate as we often receive little cooperation from the victims or other people involved. We need help from the public. We need witnesses or anyone else who may have information about these incidents to come forward. They can do so anonymously if they wish by calling Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). The calls are not monitored and cannot be traced.

We understand how these types of violent incidents affect the community, and we have dedicated significant resources to bringing those responsible to justice. We continue to encourage the public to come forward with any information, no matter how insignificant it may seem, to help police move these cases forward.

As we've said before, when people engage in this type of violence in our community, they will become the focus of our attention. The HRM Public Safety Office recently released its Public Safety Strategic

Plan which is a holistic approach to public safety designed to address the root causes of crime. Public safety remains our main priority and we're staying the course with our crime reduction strategy. We will continue to focus on "Hot Spot" policing, chronic offenders, deploying our Quick Response and Street Crime Units to target the criminal element responsible for these violent crimes, monitoring those who are on court imposed conditions, and putting officers in close contact with the community to address crime as well as quality of life issues.

As Partners in Policing, Halifax District RCMP and Halifax Regional Police take great pride in serving this community and working to address crime and public safety concerns across HRM. We believe this community-based approach to policing helps address the root causes of crime, which moves the focus of what we do toward proactive policing instead of reactive policing.

Contact Information

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