



Royal Canadian
Mounted Police

Gendarmerie royale
du Canada

Security Classification/Designation
Classification/désignation sécuritaire

Classified

Spruce Grove/Stony Plain Detachment
4801 - 44 Avenue
Stony Plain, Alberta T7Z 1W9

Your File - Votre référence

Our File - Notre référence

Pat Vincent Chief Administrative Officer
53108A SH 779
Stony Plain, Alberta T7Z 1R1

2013 April 05

**RE: PUBLIC SAFETY OVER THE USE OF THE GUN RANGE LOCATED ON TOWNSHIP
ROAD 540 IN PARKLAND COUNTY**

On the 24th March 2013 at 4:00 pm, the RCMP at the Spruce Grove/Stony Plain detachment responded to a "911" call about a bullet lodged in the side of the home of [redacted] located at Poplar Ridge Estates, Stony Plain. [redacted] relayed to the RCMP that it was [redacted] opinion that this was an errant round from the rifle range located about two kilometers south of [redacted] residence. [redacted] advised [redacted] has young children and the spent round was low enough on the wall to have struck [redacted] children or anyone else. [redacted] asked that the RCMP advise the gun range to stop firing.

The RCMP confirmed that the range [redacted] was referring to is located at Township Road 540.

Within the hour RCMP attended [redacted] residence where [redacted] showed police the location of the spent bullet. The bullet was found in the wall on the South side of the residence near the power meter. It was imbedded into the stucco there with the tip facing out. The bullet was seized to further the police investigation which would include determining what caliber it was.

The RCMP left [redacted] and attended the Spruce Grove gun range and spoke with several persons who were active shooters. They advised that there were cadets and civilians at the gun range today firing from a 308 caliber weapon. They went on to say to the best of their knowledge they did not see any issues or breaches of protocol. The spent round was produced to these individuals and they thought the round could be of a 308 or a 7.62 caliber. A comparison of a 308 round found at the range did not match the one found in the wall at [redacted] home. The gun club range appears to be safe with large hills to stop bullets. The range does face to the North.

The results of these enquiries were provided to [redacted] shortly after the investigator left the rifle range.

On the 25th March 2013 the police investigator spoke with [redacted] the gun club president. [redacted] mentioned that [redacted] has already been speaking with [redacted] over the matter. [redacted] stated that [redacted] was at the gun club yesterday and there were rifles being discharged but [redacted] observed no breaches of protocol nor did anyone report anything unusual to [redacted] also mentioned over the years that they have implemented many safety procedures and expansions on the property to ensure safety of everyone. There is even a safety orientation for members when they join the club. [redacted] said that [redacted] will be following up with [redacted] and will also be contacting the directors to initiate a meeting over the event. [redacted] appears to be taking the complaint against the gun club seriously and will continue to work with [redacted]

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The investigator communicated the results of his enquiries to date with [redacted] and updated [redacted] on what was done.

The RCMP attended the Fernwood Estates located to the North West of the gun range where neighbourhood enquires were completed. The investigator spoke with the owners of # [redacted], # [redacted], # [redacted] and they advised that they have never had any problems with the range except for noise. They did not hear any shots being fired outside of the range times.

The investigator went to the subdivision of [redacted] Township Road 540 and spoke with home owners there. One home owner stated they wanted the gun range shut down as they have had bullets bounce off their garage however in these cases no bullets were found. This individual also advised that some of the other neighbours have stated they have had bullet whiz by them before.

Police went to [redacted] Range Road 273 and were advised by those spoken to that they had never had a problem with the gun club besides the noise.

There appears to be a strong likelihood of more complaints coming in from community members that have gone unreported to the police or anyone in authority.

The detachment has also been working with the Provincial Firearms office and the North West Region Firearms unit to determine details about the range, its design and bullet information.

At this time with the information available there is no evidence that this is a criminal matter. However this situation is a serious public safety issue which has potential for significant injury or even death.

It would seem prudent given the lack of absolute certainty or circumstances surrounding the origin of the round found in the wall of [redacted] home that the following be given strong consideration:

I am recommending

1. Temporary cessation of long gun discharges at this range (allowing handguns to continue) for the purpose of securing public safety and peace of mind of the residents around the range.
2. Allow time for all key stakeholders to review the safety procedures, design and use of the range, gather pertinent information from community members and allow for informed decisions about permits and operational parameters for the range.
3. I would further encourage calling a meeting where the community members and all key stakeholders meet together to find solutions that work for all.

Sincerely,

(GRAHAM, G.S.) Inspector
O.I.C. Spruce Grove/Stony Plain Detachment

CC:

Patrick WEISBERGER, Canada Firearms Alberta/NWT – Edmonton
Mark KOREMAN, NWR Firearms RCMP
Rona AMBROSE, Honorable Member of Parliament Edmonton/Spruce Grove
President of Spruce Grove Gun Club

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