

“I fought to Live”

My battle with rural crime
(and what we can learn
from it!)



Introduction – Graeme KINGDON

- Raised on grain farm near Basswood Manitoba.
- Ag. Dip 1996 from U of M, Bsc. Agr. 2000 from U of G
- 20 years in the RCMP, posted to Gypsumville, Selkirk, Dauphin and Elphinstone
- Medically retired in June 2022
- Now operating a U-pick strawberry operation on our family farm

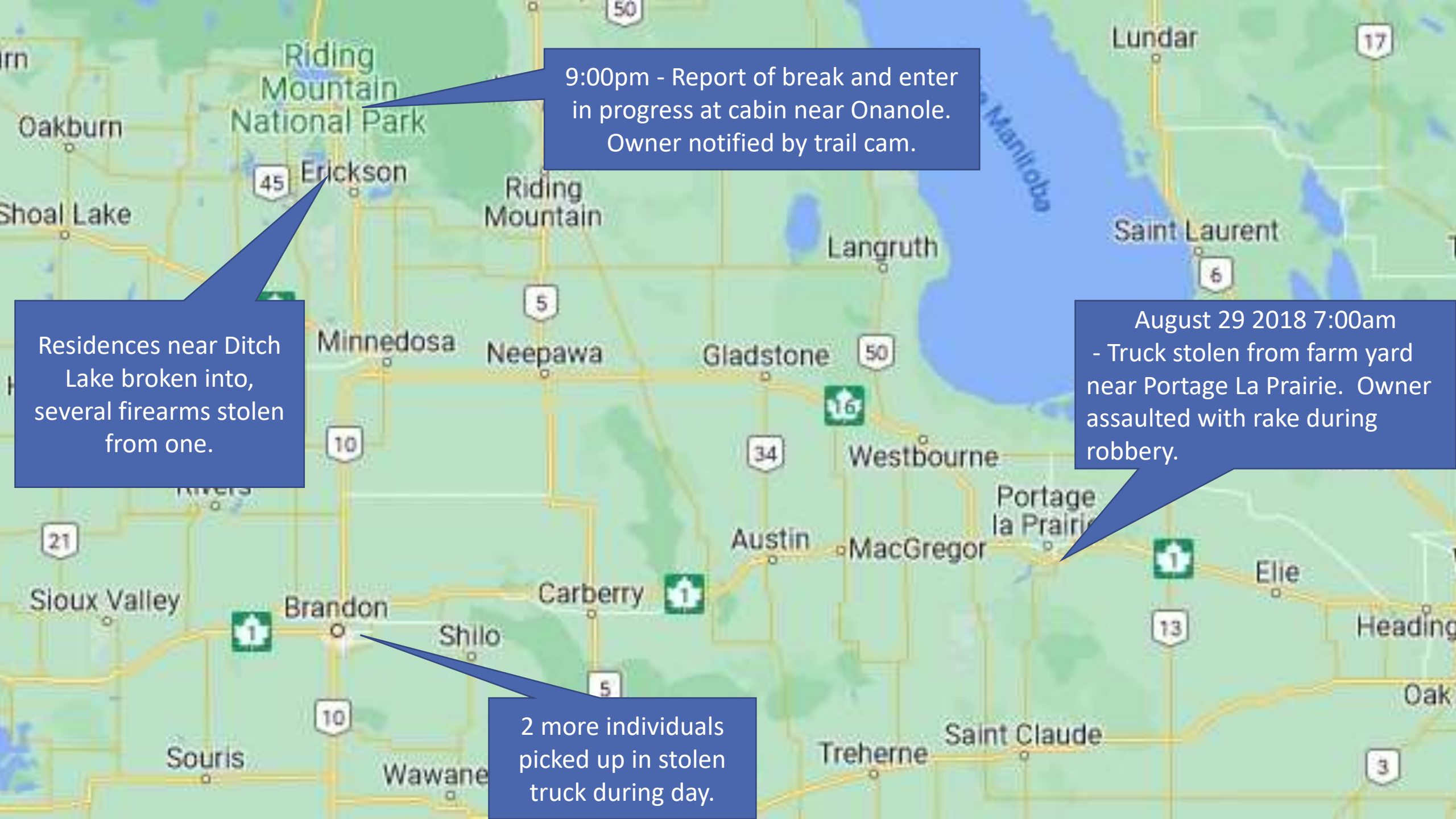
Retirement after only 20 years?

How does that happen?

Long story short – I got shot and survived.

I don't recommend my early retirement plan

What happened?

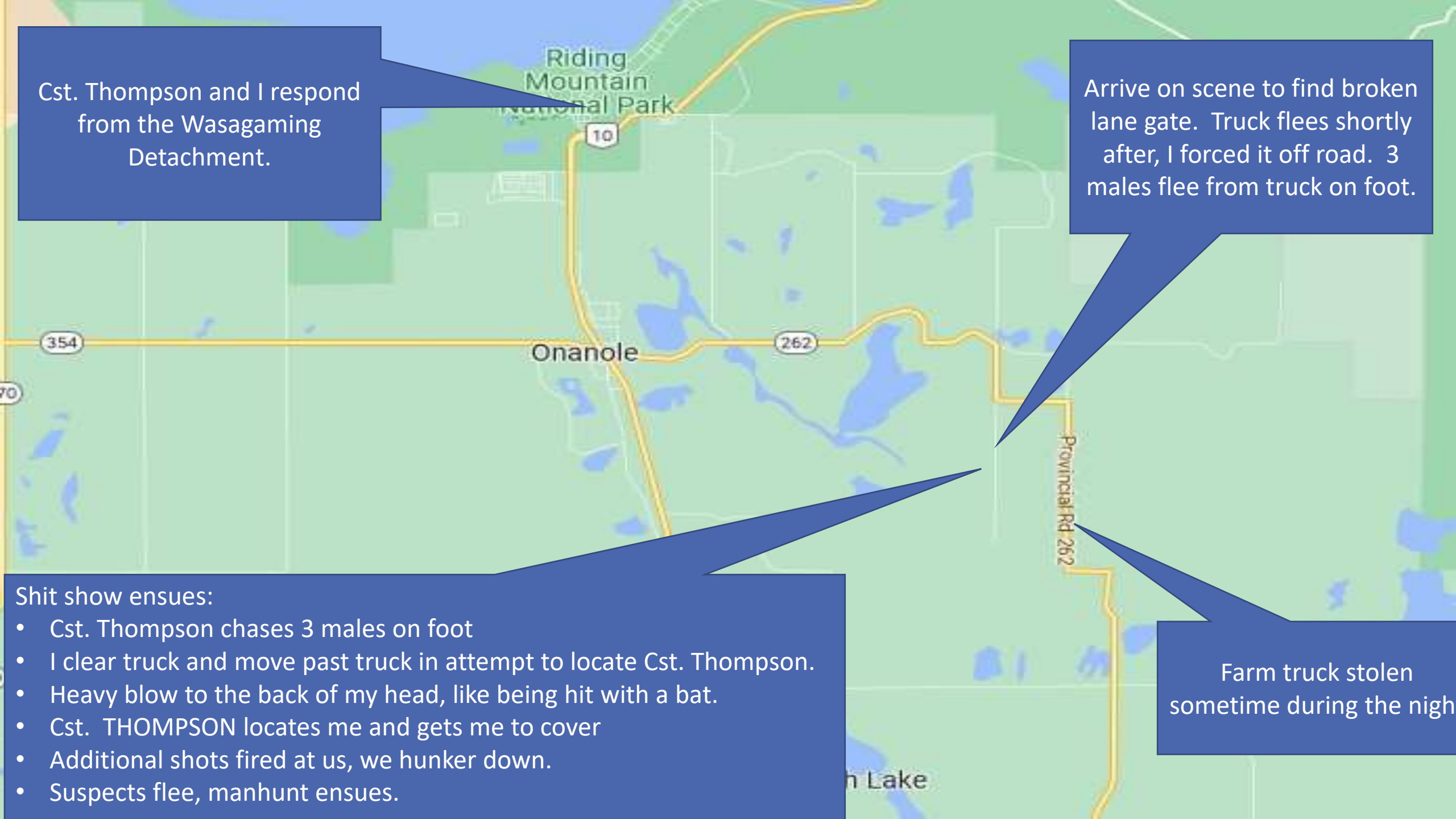


9:00pm - Report of break and enter in progress at cabin near Onanole. Owner notified by trail cam.

Residences near Ditch Lake broken into, several firearms stolen from one.

August 29 2018 7:00am - Truck stolen from farm yard near Portage La Prairie. Owner assaulted with rake during robbery.

2 more individuals picked up in stolen truck during day.



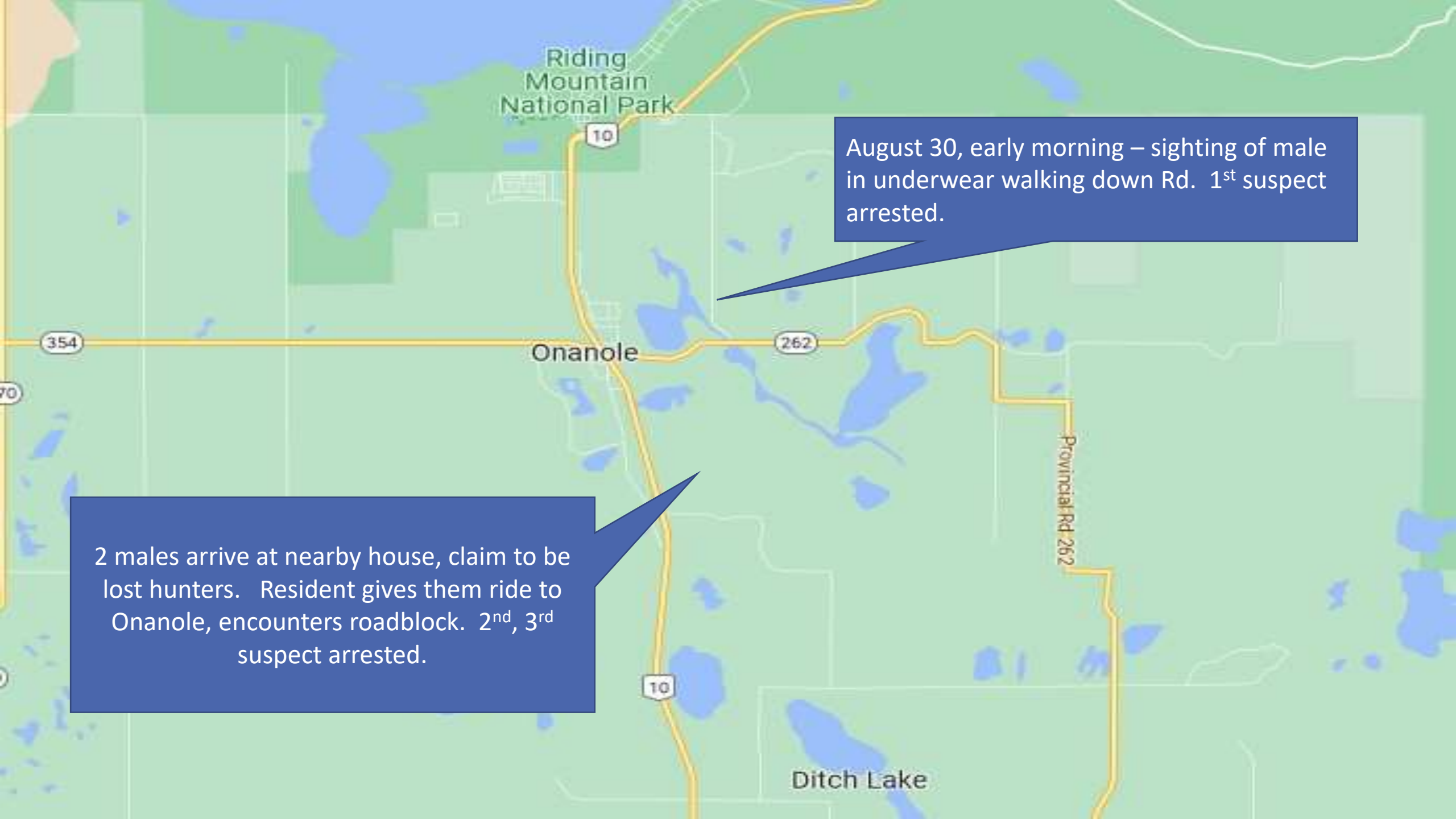
Cst. Thompson and I respond from the Wasagaming Detachment.

Arrive on scene to find broken lane gate. Truck flees shortly after, I forced it off road. 3 males flee from truck on foot.

Shit show ensues:

- Cst. Thompson chases 3 males on foot
- I clear truck and move past truck in attempt to locate Cst. Thompson.
- Heavy blow to the back of my head, like being hit with a bat.
- Cst. THOMPSON locates me and gets me to cover
- Additional shots fired at us, we hunker down.
- Suspects flee, manhunt ensues.

Farm truck stolen sometime during the night



Riding Mountain National Park

August 30, early morning – sighting of male in underwear walking down Rd. 1st suspect arrested.

2 males arrive at nearby house, claim to be lost hunters. Resident gives them ride to Onanole, encounters roadblock. 2nd, 3rd suspect arrested.

Ditch Lake





The aftermath

AKA: Some pretty amazing people pulled my butt out of the fire

- Cst. THOMPSON and all the other RCMP members
- Our local paramedics – Lindy, Amanda, Amy and Jodi
- STARS
- Health Sciences Centre
- Deer Lodge Operational Stress Injury clinic
- My local community



What happened to me?



- 17 BB shotgun pellets in me
- Fractured skull
- Fractured C5 vertebrae
- Traumatic dissection of vertebral artery.
- PTSD
- Traumatic Brain Injury



Court Outcome

All 4 involved offenders were arrested and convicted

Therae	Tommy	Shane	Delaney
15 years for attempt murder	2 counts aggravated assault	2 counts - PGOBC	2 counts – U/A firearm possession in vehicle
1.5 years for Break and Enter	1.5 years for B and E	2 counts - firearms charges	2 counts – obtain firearm by crime
1.5 years for truck theft	Robbery	2 counts - Break and Enter	2 counts – Break and enter
18 years total*	13 years total*	2 years total*	2 years total*
Stabbed fellow inmate 6 days later. Life sentence.	Died in prison in 2021	2021 conviction date	2022 conviction date

* Minus time served at 1.5 times rate

Why are these incidents happening?

My incident was pretty much the worst case scenario but there are a lot of common elements:

- Repeat Offenders
- Drug Use
- Property Crime
- Stolen firearms
- Rural location
- Vehicles Involved

Repeat Offenders

- In British Columbia, more than two-in-three offenders in 2012 were re-offenders; 40% had 10 or more convictions, and five per cent had 24 or more convictions over 10 years.
- In 2015, property offences (e.g., theft under \$5,000, mischief) and administration of justice offences accounted for 71% of all police-reported violations.
- Statistics Canada indicated that 21% of persons were responsible for 57% of offences over a three-year period (from 2009/10 to 2011/12).*
- Approximately 10% of offenders are responsible for 50-60% of crime in Canada. **

*<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/press/>

** RCMP K Division Media Communications

Property crime trends

Higher crime rates in rural areas were mainly observed in the Prairie provinces.

In the Prairie provinces in 2017, rates in rural areas were 36% to 42% higher than in urban areas.*

(Tends to be skewed by very high crime rates in the Northern regions of Prairies)

*<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00009-eng.htm>

What is being stolen?

Manitoba RCMP PROS classification 2018-2019	
Type	Number
Tools	2249
Truck	808
Automobile/SUV	789
Firearms	615
Trailer	368
All-Terrain Vehicle	360
Snowmobile	193
Other Farm Equipment	67
Construction/Heavy Equipment	38
Fuel	38
Cattle	27
Tractors	18

Why are these being stolen?

- **Opportunity**

Relatively easy to steal

Vehicles unlocked, keys in them

- **Need**

Every rural break and enter involves a vehicle

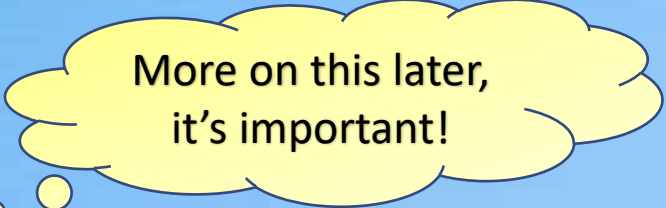
Usually involves a trailer

Both of which are usually stolen

- **Easy to convert to drugs or money** (tools, guns, ATV's and snowmobiles)

- **Want**

Criminals love guns, can't get them legally



More on this later,
it's important!

Why farm trucks?

- Unlocked, with keys in them

In 2017, 89 per cent of the 2,552 auto thefts in Manitoba involved keys

- No immobilizer

Pre 2007 Ford F350 and Ford F250 pick-up trucks are particularly susceptible, and comprise nine of the top 10 most frequently stolen vehicles in Canada

- Larger fuel tanks, slip tanks

Can drive them a long way

- Likely to have a card lock card

Maybe with the code written on the back!

What's not being stolen?

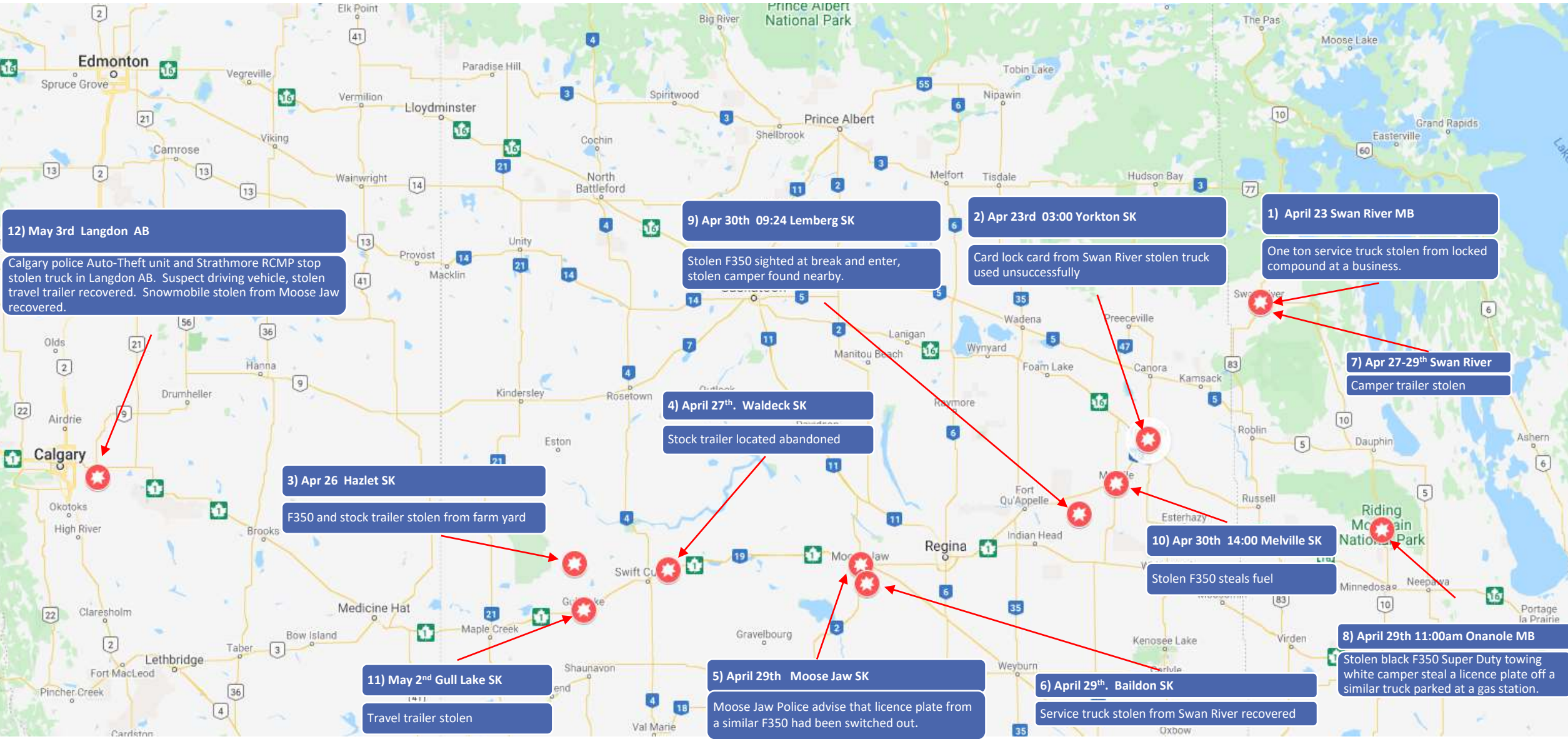
Large farm or construction equipment



Property Crime Case Study

Suspect/Offender

- 36 Year old male in 2020
- 54 Criminal Convictions as of 2020, 28 since 2017
- 16 Theft related convictions, 25 Fail to Comply convictions
- First conviction at 17 years of age
- Reported Methamphetamine user and dealer
- Born in Moose Jaw SK.



12) May 3rd Langdon AB

Calgary police Auto-Theft unit and Strathmore RCMP stop stolen truck in Langdon AB. Suspect driving vehicle, stolen travel trailer recovered. Snowmobile stolen from Moose Jaw recovered.

9) Apr 30th 09:24 Lemberg SK

Stolen F350 sighted at break and enter, stolen camper found nearby.

2) Apr 23rd 03:00 Yorkton SK

Card lock card from Swan River stolen truck used unsuccessfully

1) April 23 Swan River MB

One ton service truck stolen from locked compound at a business.

7) Apr 27-29th Swan River
Camper trailer stolen

4) April 27th. Waldeck SK

Stock trailer located abandoned

3) Apr 26 Hazlet SK

F350 and stock trailer stolen from farm yard

10) Apr 30th 14:00 Melville SK

Stolen F350 steals fuel

8) April 29th 11:00am Onanole MB

Stolen black F350 Super Duty towing white camper steal a licence plate off a similar truck parked at a gas station.

11) May 2nd Gull Lake SK

Travel trailer stolen

5) April 29th Moose Jaw SK

Moose Jaw Police advise that licence plate from a similar F350 had been switched out.

6) April 29th. Baildon SK

Service truck stolen from Swan River recovered

Outcome?

9 police investigations initiated (at least)

>2800 km driven by suspect

Suspect arrested May 3rd by CPS and RCMP

Arrested again May 16th in Redcliff AB for breaking into storage lockers

Sentenced Sept 13th 2018 for:

1. Possession of Property obtained by Crime >\$5000
2. Fail to Comply with Recognizance
3. Possession of Property obtained by Crime <\$5000

5 additional PGOBC charges withdrawn at time of sentence

Sentence?

39 Days consecutive to sentence being served
*(with credit for the equivalent of 21 days pre-trial
custody)*

= 18 actual days to be served

Since 2018?

Ponoka, Nov 2019 – Charged with Possession of weapon, possession of break in instruments, possession of stolen property.

Regina, Apr 2020 – Charged with Possession of stolen vehicle

Moose Jaw, Sept 2020 – Sentenced to 541 days for Counterfeit, Break and Enter, Hit and Run, Commit offence with weapon, possessing stolen property

Medicine Hat, March 2021 – Charged with Possession of prohibited firearm, fail to comply

Swift Current, Feb 2022 – Charged with assault, mischief, fail to comply

Medicine Hat, March 2022 – Charged with 6 firearms offence (Sawed off semi-auto rifle)

What can you do?

- Treat security as you would any other risk to your farm.
- Farmers are fantastic risk managers, you've got the skills and ability already.
- Production, Marketing, Financial, Human, Succession risks are far more complicated than security.
- How have you dealt with other emerging risks?

What can you do?

Make it part of your business planning process



Steps to mitigate the risk

1. Awareness is #1– adopt the mindset that theft is possible and planning is needed to prevent it.
2. Seek out resources to assist with your security risk management

Steps to mitigate the risk - Resources



“On-farm Security Guide”



“Rural Security Planning – Protecting Family, Friends and Farm”

Uses Deter, Detect, Delay concept



“Law Bulletin - Intentional Harm to Farm Property: Legal Options and for Farm Owners”

Uses Deter, Detect, Delay concept



“Farm and Rural Safety”

Useful farm security checklist

Top Ten Safety Points - Start Here

We understand that time and money is short, so have recommended the top ten tasks to look at straight away.

Keeping your farm safe and secure will save you time, energy and money in the long run.

	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Are all gates, doors, windows, and other openings fitted with secure and working locks?				
Do your gates latch closed properly, protecting your livestock and machines				
Do you remove keys from all vehicles and machinery, and keep them in a hidden place?				
Do you have a full inventory of all your stock, machinery and equipment?				
Is your stock regularly counted and tagged?				
Is your equipment permanently marked or engraved for easy identification?				
Are chemicals, fuel, and other dangerous goods stored in safe containers?				
Are firearms stored securely, and away from ammunition, bolts and accessories?				
Have you registered any firearms, machinery, and vehicles as required?				
Do you have CCTV cameras, or flood lights set up around buildings on your property?				

	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Your fences and gates				
1				Are boundary fences and gates in good condition?
2				Are gates securely fitted and can they be locked?
3				Are there warning signs displayed on the boundary fences and gates on the property?
Landscaping around the property				
4				Are trees and bushes around the home trimmed to reduce concealment opportunities?
Lighting around your home and sheds				
5				Is there security lighting (eg: sensor lights) installed around the main house and sheds?
6				Do you have light timers inside the main house or sheds?
Power board and letterbox				
7				Is the power board enclosed within a secure cabinet?
8				Is the cabinet fitted with an approved lockset and kept locked?
9				Is the letterbox fitted with an approved lockset and kept locked?
Intruder alarm system / surveillance camera				
10				Is an alarm system and/or surveillance camera installed and operating?
11				Is the alarm system and/or surveillance camera monitored by a security company and/or back to a smartphone or computer?
12				Does the alarm system and/or surveillance camera cover the sheds, garages and other storage facilities ?
13				Is the surveillance footage stored securely?
Doors				
14				Are the external doors and door frames on the main house and sheds of solid construction?
15				Are these doors fitted with quality locksets to restrict access?
16				Are external door hinges mounted so they cannot be removed?
17				Can visitors be seen before access is allowed?
18				Are keys removed from locks at all times?
19				Are security/screen doors installed?
20				Are sliding doors fitted with suitable locksets?
21				Can you restrict people from getting under the main house?
Windows				
22				Can windows be secured?
23				Are unused windows permanently closed and secured?
Valuables control (keys, computers and safes)				
24				Do you have a computer and is it password protected?
25				Are all keys securely stored out of view when not in use?
26				Do you have a safe and is it securely anchored to prevent easy removal?
Timber				
27				Do you maintain an inventory of your valuable timber?
28				Have you marked timber for identification purposes?

Deter, Detect, Delay - Overview

- These are in order for a reason.
- It's best to prevent a theft from happening at all.
- Most of your effort should go into deterrence.
- Works best when all three are used together.

Deter, Detect, Delay

- **Deter** - discourage (someone) from doing something by instilling doubt or fear of the consequences.
 - prevent the occurrence of.
- **Ideas?**
 - Yard looks secure – visible locks, closed doors and gates, fenced, visible security devices.
 - Signage – Private Property, No Trespass, CCTV in Use.
 - Lighting.
 - Valuable items out of sight.
 - Items marked for identification – grain and tools.
 - Dog!

Deter, Detect, Delay

- Detect – know that a theft is happening, or is about to happen
 - Alarms
 - Cameras with notification
 - Grain monitoring system
 - Physical checks
 - Crime watch group texts

Deter, Detect, Delay

- Delay – increase the time needed to commit the theft
- Locks
- Hidden or secured keys
- Grain auger moved away from bins
- Layered defense - (You don't need Fort Knox either)
- Single access point

Deter, Detect, Delay – Vehicles

- Focus on vehicle access – truck, car, quad, snowmobile.
- **Every rural property crime involves a vehicle.**
- It could be your vehicle!
- The most valuable things need a vehicle to steal.

Security Risk Management

Don't be Afraid to Bring in Professionals

Country Guard – Farm and Acreage Security Specialists (Alberta)

Farmtronics (Regina Sk.)

Command Gate (Innisfail, Alberta)

Westman Security (Brandon Mb.)

Flaman Agriculture (Prairie wide)

(These links are for information purposes only, not an endorsement)

Security Risk Management

4) Focus on what works for you:

- Cost – actual and relative
- Your comfort level with technology
- Ease of daily use

More than you need?
Like to DIY things?

This is your most powerful crime fighting device!



Use your phone to:

Take a photo of serial #'s (tools and guns especially)

Control cameras, locks and lights.

Control your alarm system

Control a trail cam that will text photos

Participate in online crime-stoppers groups

Alert your neighbours

Watch videos on YouTube

Call your insurance agent:

- Are you covered?
- Any discounts for security systems?

Call Police – The police are never disappointed when it turns out to be nothing. Don't be afraid to call.

Control cameras, locks, lights, and gates



- WiFi/Bluetooth Deadbolt locks
- Built-in Wi-Fi allows you to lock/unlock from anywhere - Control from your phone
- Provide codes to contractors
- \$200-300 price range
- Relock timer setting



- Remote Gate controls
- Remote access and status alerts
- Automatic open and close via phone or voice control
- Can install camera



- Smart overhead door openers
- Control of up to 3 doors, compatible with wireless sensors
- IP Camera: Night vision, two-way audio, HD definition,
- Motion & sound detection
- User management and video recording (optional)

Control cameras, locks, lights, and gates



WiFi/Bluetooth padlocks

- No keys to remember, unlock from phone
- Can enter directional code to open as well
- Share codes as needed
- Tamper alerts



Padlock Security Cover

- Protects padlock from cutting/prying



Apple Airtags/ Samsung SmartTag

- Bluetooth enabled
- Lost alert will locate tag using phone network
- Claims year long battery life
- \$130 for 4 pack on amazon.
- Keychain size

Airtags Work!



**Royal Canadian Mounted
Police in Manitoba** ✓



Jan. 10 · 🌐

On January 4, 2024, at approximately 10:45 am, RCMP received a report of a stolen ATV equipped with an airtag tracking device, which showed it to be at a location in Portage la Prairie.

Officers attended the area and observed fresh tire tracks leading into a garage at that location. As officers were working on getting a search warrant, a male exited the residence and was arrested.

A search of the property resulted in the recovery of the stolen ATV.

A 43-year-old male, from Portage la Prairie, is facing charges of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. He was released from custody and is scheduled to appear in court in Portage la Prairie on March 12, 2024.

Portage la Prairie RCMP continue to investigate.



Control cameras, locks, lights, and gates



Security camera with vehicle/person detect

- Real time motion alerts
- Remote access from app
- 2 way voice capability
- >1TB storage available
- WiFi required
- Great for checking cows



Grain Monitor System

- Level indicator/theft security
- App control and access
- Solar power available

Usefulness of Photos



Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Manitoba

February 5 at 10:20 AM · 🌐

Lots of debate about Doritos yesterday & most people got it wrong. Cool Ranch was the only correct answer!

Oh, we should also mention that nearly 600,000 people saw the post and we received over 40 messages all identifying the same person. We'll be speaking to her shortly about the truck theft on January 11 in Gladstone, Manitoba.

We can't thank you enough for sharing and helping to make our communities safer.



Security Camera Legal Requirements

- No legal requirement to post notice of security cameras on private property (ie. house, farm yard).
- Footage is admissible in court as evidence without notice.
- Do not place cameras where privacy expectation exists (ie. washroom).
- Signage will act as a deterrent.
- More complicated in a business setting (ie. employees and customers present). Posting notice is usually required.

Remote areas?



- **Spypoint trail camera**
- Built in solar panel
- Pre activated SIM card included
- LTE enabled, sends photos to phone
- 100 photos sent per month without further subscription



- **Dakota Alert**
- Magnetic Vehicle Probe Wireless Driveway Alarm
- Long wireless range of up to 1 mile (4000 feet)



- **Beesecure Asset tracker**
- Real time tracking
- GPS, Cellular or Loran options
- -40 to +60 Celsius operating temperature

Really remote areas?



Works in all weather conditions

Cheap

Communication

Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network

[Please click here to acknowledge receipt of this message](#)

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory

This is a message from the RCMP Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network.

Rural Break and Enters in Midale Saskatchewan - Weyburn RCMP Detachment

The Weyburn RCMP were called to attend two break and enters that occurred in the community of Midale Saskatchewan. The Midale Arena and the Midale Post Office were broken into in the hours of Wednesday February 1st. The suspect(s) caused property damage to both locations and destroyed the ATM machine at the arena. A person of interest to police was observed on video at the arena. A person of interest to police was observed on video at the arena and police are seeking assistance in identifying the person in the attached photos. If you have any information, please contact Cpl. James GUDJONSON at the Radville RCMP Detachment at 4600..

If you have information related to this advisory please call **310-RCMP** for immediate response, or you can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

To modify your profile or to sign up please go to www.saskcrimewatch.ca

The Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada

SUMA



SARM

Saskatchewan!

To stop receiving future email notifications from this organization [unsubscribe here](#)

Communication

Facebook, What's App groups etc. (Locally organized notification systems)

Old fashioned posse: How the residents of Briercrest, Saskatchewan, caught robbers by ATV and tractor bucket

'Within minutes, just about everybody in town knew what was going on,' says Mayor Raymond Briggs



THE CANADIAN PRESS/RCMP-HO

“Three young suspected car thieves who had descended upon Briercrest in the dead of night looking to steal a truck, was just about the most unaccommodating place in the world a would-be thief could be.”

“We are sick and tired of being targeted by two-bit criminals preying on our village, preying on the fact we keep our doors unlocked because bad things never happen here.”

“We decided we’d make it an uncomfortable experience for anybody looking to steal from here,”

“After eight hours on the lam, three cold, tired and wet looking teenagers were spotted slogging through a muddy field. Barry Knox, a local grain farmer, loaded a group of officers into the bucket of his tractor, and away they went. “

Grain Theft

Reported incidents in 2022:

**Alexander,
Swan River,
Boissevain,
Stettler Ab.**

**Wasagaming,
Argyle RM,
Ponteix SK,**

RCMP in central Alberta say they've recovered a "significant amount" of canola and arrested and charged two people after a grain truck suspected in an alleged canola theft was halted by a spike belt.

– Edmonton Journal Oct 4 2022

Grain Theft

- **More likely during poor crop years and/or high grain prices**
- **Canola seems to be most likely target**
 - **Valuable and easy to market**
- **Potential for large loss -**
 - **Supers B's – Size and ability to travel long distance**
 - **Custom haulers – lots of different trucks around**
 - **Hopper bins and large augers – <15 minutes to load a B train is common**
 - **Remote bin locations**

Your auger will be used to steal your grain



“They came back that night. We had the auger in the bin.” Rivers 2021

“I left the auger under the bin there and someone just pulled under and took another load,” - Outlook SK 2021

Grain Marking Systems



Food grade paper markers with serial # mixed into grain

Another layer of security, proves ownership in event of theft.

Needs an automated method for adding to grain.

Most valuable prevention aspect is probably the decal for the bin pr
sign in your yard.

Grain Theft Prevention

Don't make it easy - Remove or secure your auger when done loading grain.

Focus on vehicle access

Think Deter, Detect, Delay

Use technology

Plan your long term grain storage – hard to access, easy to monitor

Future?

- Firearm thefts will continue or grow
- Usage of firearms in thefts seems to be increasing
- DNA profiling will be the biggest improvement in investigation
- Technology is only going to get better and easier to use
- Legislative/political changes to address issues

Questions?

Links

<https://countryguard.ca/farm-security-surveillance/>

<https://www.telus.com/en/business/medium-large/security/commercial-security>

<https://farmtronics.com/products/product/farm-security-general-information>

<https://www.commandgate.com/>

<https://www.westmansecurity.ca/>

<https://www.flamanagriculture.com/grain-monitoring-systems-root18>

<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/on-farm-security/>

<https://extension.purdue.edu/eden/ruralsecurity/planning.html>

<https://www.farmprogress.com/management/farm-thefts-underline-need-protection-planning>

<https://www.police.vic.gov.au/farm-and-rural-safety>