North Vancouver RCMP to target road and bike safety

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file photo Paul McGrath, North Shore News

North Vancouver residents can expect to see Mounties issuing more roadside tickets, especially in school zones.

After conducting a public survey in October last year, the detachment has released its 2016 to 2018 police service plan.

The top priorities in the report are heightened police visibility, increased traffic enforcement and road safety.

"People wanted to feel safe while they were driving on the road, biking on the road, and walking," said Cpl. Richard De Jong, North Vancouver RCMP spokesman. "Schools zones was a big one. We want our kids to be safe and feel safe walking to school, back and forth."

The RCMP routinely join West Vancouver police and ICBC for awareness and enforcement campaigns targeting speeding, distracted driving and impaired driving, but "if Edgemont has a problem with people going through stop signs or not yielding to pedestrians or that sort of thing, we'll put some (undercover operators) or foot patrols or uniformed officers there," he said.

Cyclists too can expect to have a watchful eye on them, De Jong added. "Whether it's as simple as making sure they've got helmets on to making sure they're abiding by the road signs," he said.

"This new detachment service plan is being supported and implemented to make certain that our policing services are meeting the expectations of the citizens we serve, said Supt. Chris Kennedy, officer in charge of the North Vancouver RCMP.

North Vancouver RCMP members are also planning to be more active on social media, and use more strategic use of bike and foot patrols, De Jong said.

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