

RCMP Grande Prairie  
Thursday March 27th, 2008

RCMP Grande Prairie - Fraud Involving \$100,000 Worth of Livestock

RCMP Grande Prairie together with the RCMP Divisional Livestock Investigation Service and the Livestock Identification Services have conducted an investigation of Theft and Fraud of livestock exceeding \$100,000.

RCMP began this investigation upon receiving a complaint from a resident of Ranger, Texas who had forwarded \$17,000 to the accused for payment on 41 head of cattle which were to be shipped in December of 2007. The cattle were never shipped and the money was not returned.

A second complaint was made by a resident of North Dakota, who had forwarded \$69,000 to the accused for payment on 63 head of cattle which were to be shipped in December of 2007. The cattle were never shipped and the money was also not returned.

A third complaint was made by a resident of Chauvin, Alberta which involved 64 head of Buffalo where forwarded to the accused but payment was never received.

Charged is Christopher Peter Stoiou (age 54) of the Grande Prairie area and Jennifer Midwinter (age 44) also of the Grande Prairie area. The accused are charged nine offences under Provincial Legislation for Dealing in Livestock (Livestock and Livestock Products Act of Alberta) as well as three counts of Fraud over \$5000 under the Criminal Code of Canada. Both of the accused were arrested on a Canada Wide warrant in Manitoba and are being returned to Leduc Alberta for a court appearance on March 28th. Court dates for Grande Prairie Provincial Court will be set at that time.

RCMP are very concerned as these fraudulent actions may have a serious effect on how livestock is marketed in Alberta and Canada. Livestock transactions are based on trust and actions such as these can degrade this trust.

RCMP would also like to thank the numerous livestock producers who provided invaluable assistance in this investigation. If any other livestock producer in the Grande Prairie has been affected by the accused they are asked to contact Cst. Brock Grolla at the Grande Prairie Detachment at 780-830-5701. For any livestock producer outside of the Grande Prairie area who may have been affected by the accused are asked to contact Cpl. D.J. Heaslip of the K Division Livestock Investigation Section at 780-289-5510.

Further updates will be made as information becomes available.

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