



Abbotsford Police Department

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Bob Rich
Chief Constable

"Protecting with Pride"

NEWS RELEASE

APD NEWS RELEASE:

APD FILE # 14-24886

RELEASE # 2

DATE OF RELEASE: August 14, 2014

Incident: Update to Youth Conflict in West Abbotsford

Abbotsford – August 14, 2014

In recent days there have been increased tensions between the two groups of youths involved in an ongoing dispute in West Abbotsford. This dispute had subsided, particularly through the end of July, but began to show signs of volatility again in early August. As a result, the Abbotsford Police Department responded with high visibility enforcement in the area and coordinated meetings with community leaders and family members behind the scenes. Much of the enforcement resulted in interdicting and suppressing potential incidents before they could occur.

This week we installed security cameras in key locations to act as additional deterrents (see photo). Enforcement and partnership with the community will continue as our primary means to diffuse this conflict. We sincerely appreciate the assistance we have received from concerned citizens and community leaders regarding this public safety matter. The APD continues to encourage people to immediately report any suspicious activity believed to be connected to this conflict.



*Our Mission:
To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.*

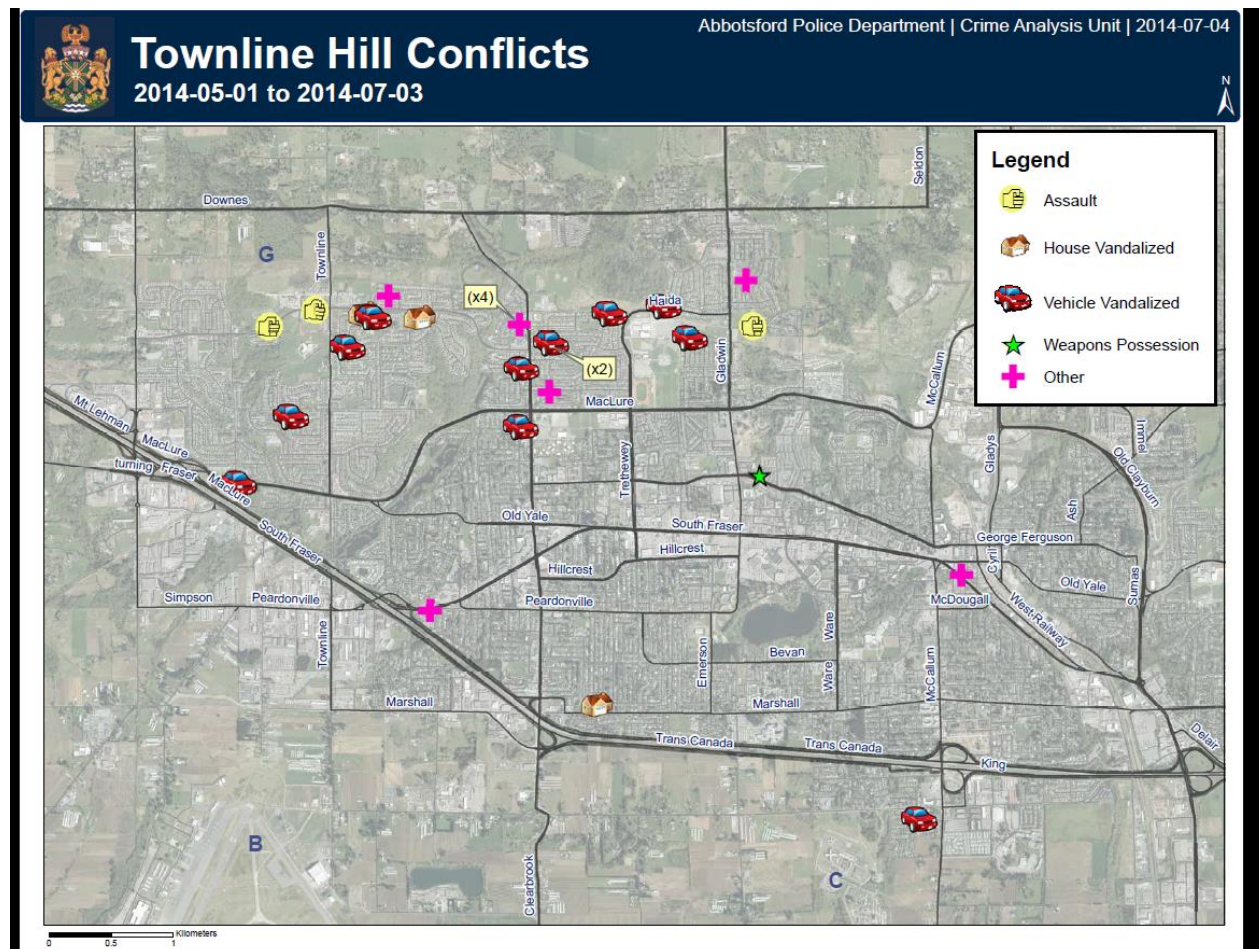
Initial Release of July 7, 2014

Since May 11, 2014 there have been over 25 reported incidents involving conflict between two groups of youths and young adults in the area of West Abbotsford (see map). Thousands of dollars damage has been done to homes and vehicles in a dispute involving males aged 15 to 25. The majority of persons involved are South Asian. Although the bulk of these incidents involve property damage, the Abbotsford Police Department is extremely concerned that the continuing conflict will result in serious injuries to people directly involved in the dispute and/or their friends and families.

These incidents are predominantly taking place late at night and it appears that the conflict involves two groups comprised of 20 or more associates. There have been a small number of actual face-to-face confrontations between members of each group. However, most of the activity to date has involved damage to homes or vehicles connected in some way to participants in the conflict. This includes property belonging to family and friends. It also appears that there is a pattern of incidents and retaliations over this two month period.

This has become a significant public safety issue for Abbotsford. The Major Crime Unit of the Abbotsford Police Department is leading an investigation into the conflict. Anyone with information should contact the Abbotsford Police Department at 604-859-5225, text us at 222973 (abbypd) or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

We also remind citizens of the importance of reporting suspicious activity, which could be connected to this conflict, to the APD immediately.



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