

# Newsletter

November, 2017

## Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association



- 2017/18 Board Members
- AGM Feedback
- Reports for various COP Groups
- ACOPA News

### From the computer of:

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# Welcome

...to the ACOPA Board for 2017/18.

### Elected to the ACOPA Board

- |                  |                 |  |
|------------------|-----------------|--|
| • President      | Bev Salomons    | <a href="mailto:president@acopa.ca">president@acopa.ca</a>         |
| • Vice President | Garth Kohlsmith | <a href="mailto:vicepresident@acopa.ca">vicepresident@acopa.ca</a> |
| • Treasurer      | Irene Wegmann   | <a href="mailto:treasurer@acopa.ca">treasurer@acopa.ca</a>         |
| • Secretary      | Beth Endresen   | <a href="mailto:secretary@acopa.ca">secretary@acopa.ca</a>         |
| • Director 1     | Ennio Ricci     | <a href="mailto:director1@acopa.ca">director1@acopa.ca</a>         |
| • Director 2     | George Dowson   | <a href="mailto:director2@acopa.ca">director2@acopa.ca</a>         |
| • Director 3     | Joan Boekema    | <a href="mailto:director3@acopa.ca">director3@acopa.ca</a>         |
| • Director 4     | Don Shaw        | <a href="mailto:director4@acopa.ca">director4@acopa.ca</a>         |
| • Director 5     | Ron Pettigrew   | <a href="mailto:director5@acopa.ca">director5@acopa.ca</a>         |
| • Director 6     | Greg Mathias    | <a href="mailto:director6@acopa.ca">director6@acopa.ca</a>         |

### Volunteers on the ACOPA Board

- |                     |                |  |
|---------------------|----------------|--|
| o Newsletter        | Leona Gardecki | <a href="mailto:newsletter@acopa.ca">newsletter@acopa.ca</a> |
| o Webmaster         | Henry Salomons | <a href="mailto:webmaster@acopa.ca">webmaster@acopa.ca</a>   |
| o ID cards          | Leona Gardecki | <a href="mailto:idcards@acopa.ca">idcards@acopa.ca</a>       |
| o Insurance Liaison | Eugene Smereka | <a href="mailto:insurance@acopa.ca">insurance@acopa.ca</a>   |
| o Casino Chair      | Leona Gardecki | <a href="mailto:newsletter@acopa.ca">newsletter@acopa.ca</a> |
| o ACOPA Historian   | Paul Kenny     | Crowsnest Pass   |

Thanks to Shane Smith, from Raymond, for his years of service on the ACOPA Board.

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to be an ACOPA Board volunteer

## Sexsmith COP Assist With Crosswalk Safety



One of the intersections into Sexsmith was closed off due to construction so the extra vehicle traffic coming into Sexsmith in the morning has doubled. Sexsmith Citizens On Patrol have been out doing safety patrol to ensure the children get across the street safely and providing education on pushing the crosswalk button. Parents have been very appreciative of this gesture.



**COP Vice President Henry Morgan and President Isak Skjaveland with Del Willey and her daughter Aspen**



**Claude Lagace directing traffic.**

## The ACOPA Board Has Expanded

With the increase in the number of COP groups, it was necessary to add one more Director to the ACOPA Board to ensure that all areas of the province were covered effectively. Greg Mathias from Lloydminster has graciously accepted the Director 6 position for one year so that groups in the east and north-east part of Alberta are looked after by a Director in that area.

Paul Kenny from Crowsnest Pass COP has volunteered to be the ACOPA Historian. Paul has compiled the history of ACOPA so that the information from the past has been preserved and will be available for members to review. If anyone has any records from the past that could be saved, please let ACOPA know.



For those who attended the Workshop in High River, there was an opportunity to attend the “Train the Trainer” session. This was presented by retired RCMP Bob Gollan and was very well received by the 71 people in attendance. ACOPA would like to expand the training opportunity. Bob is available to go to communities to repeat this session. ACOPA would like to see groups work together to host a training session. ACOPA can assist with trainer expenses and groups would be expected to secure a location and provide coffee, water, and snacks. The session is 3 hours long.

Any group that can set up a location for training needs to book through ACOPA. Training sessions should have a maximum of 40 people attending. If interested, let Bev know ([president@acopa.ca](mailto:president@acopa.ca)) and details can be discussed. These dates are available to book the Training session: Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, Jan 3 – 13 and Jan 21 – 26.

## ID cards



The ID card making has been passed to Leona Gardecki. The email for requesting ID cards is [idcards@acopa.ca](mailto:idcards@acopa.ca)

[Please follow the instructions sent out to the groups to avoid delays in having the ID cards produced.](#)



This was Diamond Valley's first workshop and I can honestly say that it recharged us. We learned so much. We most enjoyed the Train the Trainer speaker. He was great. You all did a fantastic job. Thank you so much.  
Yvonne



I am Faye Chinn, the secretary from COP OKOTOKS and I attended the AGM for the first time. The meet and greet on Friday was a nice welcome and I stayed longer than I intended as I was really enjoying Blair Schneider's music. I had a great weekend, made some new friends and learned lots. I feel the Event went really well, the presentations were well thought out and very beneficial. The meals were terrific and the hotel staff were amazing. I couldn't believe how hard they all worked and some of them were not spring chickens!

The presentation on Sunday by Bob Gollan was terrific. I wish, only, that it had been a day long seminar as, with his hands-on experience, he really had so much good information to share with us. I would have gladly have paid to see and hear the balance of his program. I think Bob is going to be a definite asset to our program and am very happy he has jumped on board.

Thank you everyone for all your work and contributions to a super weekend, especially all those amazing High River COP members, you were terrific and certainly deserve a huge thank you. I'm so proud to call you my neighbours!  
Faye Chinn, COPOkotoks



I absolutely had a great time at the AGM in High River and found it very informative as well as the Train the Trainer session. I am feeling blessed to be apart of such a great group. Janine Fraleigh, Fort Macleod



Very well organized. Excellent M.C., kept everything moving and on time. Food was good. Humongous silent auction. Members of High River COP very helpful and committed to the success of the workshop and their organization.

organization. The agenda was good, Search & Rescue and SAR & AHS Paramedic was very interesting. K9 presentation very good, everyone likes dogs and how intelligent they are. The I.D. Theft and Scams presentation was just a reminder of what we are told on TV, radio and the newspaper everyday. We also as COP members get warnings from our RCMP detachment partners. Night Vision Goggles – no comment.

Volunteer Recruitment and Retention did not really give a plan for this problem or I missed it. Everything that was said we all know, we need some suggestions to correct this BIG problem. I was a little disappointed by the lack of attendance by my fellow members of Strathcona COP. I am looking forward to next year. John Carter Strathcona COP

**Mayerthorpe comments...**The sign in and registration went very smoothly, well organized. It was encouraging and surprising to see so many communities involved and nice so see our town flag marched with many others. The warm welcome by Bev Salomons was well received by all. The support by so many RCMP of various ranks and positions was both surprising and encouraging. I was able to meet several people of many different backgrounds throughout the evening and found we all have a common interest - making our community safer.

The early breakfast on Saturday was enjoyed by all. This was not a boring day at all, many speakers kept my attention on various topics from search and rescue to theft and scams. The RCMP presented topics the really captured my interest. The officer from K9 division was extremely interesting. Also, the roles of the liaison officer hit home plate. Following the review of the ACOPA general meeting a very nice supper was presented.

For me, as a new member, training the trainer was certainly the highlight of the weekend. Retired RCMP member did a remarkable job on this topic however I think a full day could have been well used.

In summary, it was a well organised workshop and I would like to pass on my appreciation to Bev Salomons as well as the rest of the Executive members. Last but certainly not least, the work of the High River COPS chapter did not go unnoticed. I can only imagine the countless hours involved. Thank you, Tammy Beach and the High River COPS. JOB WELL DONE!

Barry Fulford, Mayerthorpe COP



## Android ACOPA Patrol App

The testing for the Android ACOPA Patrol app has been completed and the app is now available on the Play Station for Android users.

## ACOPA WORKSHOP 2018

Sexsmith Citizens On Patrol have offered to host the ACOPA 2018 Workshop. Sexsmith has 30 members and they are very excited to have the Workshop come there for September of 2018. Watch the ACOPA website for the dates and other announcements for the yearly event.

## Zello - Walkie Talkie App

Download this app for free from either the Apple Store or from Play Station and use it in place of radios when out on patrols. You can set up a group and everyone on patrol can communicate easily. Photos can be shared through the app and distance is not a problem. It just needs data to work. The Lloydminster COP group has been using Zello for the past 2 years and love it. You can also get it from:

<http://i.zello.com/JWGHKI>

## Welcome to New Communities Starting a COP Program

Recently there has been a "rush" on getting a Citizens On Patrol program in several communities. Welcome back to Olds. Welcome to the communities of Sundre, Bently, Rimbey, Clive, Lac La Biche, Tofield and Bowden. ACOPA looks forward to working with all the new groups in the making. At the same time, it is regretful to announce that Innisfail COP has shut down.

## Congratulations to Cst Bleasdale from Lacombe Police Service



- Representatives with Lacombe Community Watch Association from left Ursula Mikula, Audrey Brown, Debbi Gallant and Duff Boyd stand with Const. Vaughan Bleasdale, who was honoured with a charcoal sketch for receiving the ACOPA Law Enforcement Recognition Award in High River during the ACOPA Workshop in September.

See the article that was in the Lacombe Express:

<http://www.lacombeexpress.com/news/lacombe-officer-honoured-for-excellence-in-law-enforcement/>

Carlie Connolly/Lacombe Express

## WANT TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

To contact the Community Mobilization Program, please email: [communitymobilization@saferoads.com](mailto:communitymobilization@saferoads.com)

Please review the ATSF Grant Application Guidelines for information on eligible applicants and projects.

After reviewing the Application Guidelines you can register or sign in to the ATSF online grant application platform to complete your application.ore information about the Alberta Traffic Safety Fund please email the Grant Manager at [atsf@gov.ab.ca](mailto:atsf@gov.ab.ca).

NOTE: Applications for the 2017/2018 grant year may be submitted until January 31, 2018.

## Pedestrian Safety



Safety is a shared responsibility and when drivers and pedestrians make eye contact with each other, crossing the street is much safer.

Pedestrian collisions tend to be higher in months with lower light and inclement weather conditions. Between 2011 and 2015, 44 pedestrians were killed and more than 1,187 were injured each year, on average.

“Practising safe behaviours is simple; it can be as easy as ensuring you make eye contact with the driver or pedestrian before proceeding. Both drivers and pedestrians need to be alert at intersections and crosswalks to avoid tragedy.” **Brian Mason, Minister of Transportation.**

“When it comes to pedestrian safety, everyone has an important role to play. Drivers need to watch for pedestrians and for vehicles stopped or slowing down in the next lane, as they may be yielding to a pedestrian. Pedestrians should cross only at intersections and crosswalks and make eye contact with the drivers in each of the lanes you are crossing.” **Insp. Steve Daley, Acting Officer-in-Charge, Alberta RCMP Traffic Services**

## High River COP



### 2017 AGM and Workshop was hosted by High River COP

Congratulations to the COP members with the High River COP group for hosting a successful ACOPA Workshop in September. Thank you everyone for all your time and work in the preparation of the weekend and all weekend long for ensuring all the participants had a weekend to remember.

### ACOPA Insurance Important Announcement

The invoices for insurance through ACOPA are ready and will be mailed out through Canada Post. Please note that any insurance that is not paid in full by Jan 30, will result in Jubilee cancelling the insurance policy. ACOPA will not be paying for insurance for any groups. COP members should not be patrolling unless the minimum of Liability insurance is in place, so please send in your cheque as soon as possible so this does not become an issue.

## Photos from the Workshop 2017



**Corporal Blair Schneider from the RCMP detachment in High River entertained the crowd with his vocal stylings and keyboard skills!!!**



**Donna Tona from Alberta Transportation advised that if there are groups needing funds traffic safety initiatives, grants are available at the link below. She stated these are easy grants to write!!!!**  
<https://saferoads.com/>



**Lloyd Kenny from Secure Shield spoke about identity theft. He presented stats from the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre stated that there are 9,000+ cases of ID Theft, and 25,000+ complaints of ID theft. The scary part is that the CAFC states only 5% of ID theft cases are reported.**



**Dean Vegso who talked about impairment and the causes of impaired vision - not just intoxication but also drugs and fatigue. Dean also brought fetal vision goggles which volunteers tried out.**



**Eric Kitteringham from Foothills Search and Rescue explained the roles of SAR and the areas they cover.**



**Const. Vaughan Bleasdale, centre, as he was honoured with a picture for receiving the ACOPA Law Enforcement Recognition Award this past weekend**



**Corporal Paul Cook and PSD Hunter presented at the workshop. Hunter is one of the few police dogs that can detect Fentanyl and made a large find the previous week in Grande Prairie. Corporal Cook stated that Hunter had actually eaten and then spit out one of the pills and he had to closely monitor Hunter for 6 hours to make sure he did not fall victim to the deadly drug. They also do search and rescue.**



**With the holiday season approaching, remember...**

