

Newsletter



FEBRUARY, 2016

Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association



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Liaison

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RCMP "K" Division

From the computer of:

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www.acopa.ca



Speed Watch App

I know that most groups are not thinking about Speed Watch now in the middle of winter, but I would like to pass on about an app that is available.

On the App store, there an app called Speed Watch that is free and for the apple product. Any group that runs a Speed Watch program should consider using this app as it is very easy to use and at the end of the session, it totals up the numbers in a chart and will send the report by email. This app is highly recommended to be used on an iPad as it is easy to use on the larger surface. The app is free. It is a good time to play with this app and perhaps groups that don't have a speed reader board might consider working towards the purchase of one. This is also a great C.O.P. activity for the warmer months and that occurs during the daytime.

I would suggest that once you have downloaded the app to play with it. Set up a "patrol" inputting the information that is asked for and then you can see how easy it is to count vehicles at the different speeds. You can also add infractions, such as no seat belt, or using cell phone. The app keeps track and when finished, generates a report with everything totaled for you. The report can be emailed to yourself or whoever you wish.

Give it a try as it is very easy and will make your reporting simple. You do need a speed reader board for the real Speed Watch.

Bev Salomons, ICPS, President, ACOPA



New Citizens On Patrol Groups

Welcome to all the recently approved members for the C.O.P. program across Alberta, including 19 new members from Bellis who will be joining the Vilna/Smoky Lake C.O.P. group. New groups have recently joined are...

- Athabasca
- Boyle
- Chestermere
- Hinton
- Okotoks

In 2015, 246 new members joined A.C.O.P.A. through several new and existing C.O.P. groups.

So far in 2016, 61 new members have signed up and been cleared for C.O.P. duties.

This is almost a 25% increase in the A.C.O.P.A. membership in 13 months. Does this say something about the increase of criminal activity in Alberta and the concern that citizens have to keep their communities safe from acts of a criminal nature.

Belonging to a Citizens On Patrol group ensures that volunteers get trained in what to be watching for and what to do when something of a suspicious nature is observed. Always stay safe and remember that a C.O.P. is “extra eyes and ears” only and not to get involved, but to let the law enforcement deal with whatever you observe that does not seem normal.



A.C.O.P.A. ID cards

A.C.O.P.A. is in the process of researching machines that will print out ID cards that will have photos electronically added. This will happen in 2016 so watch for further information as decisions are made.



2016 Workshop and AGM

Airdrie C.O.P. will be the host to the 2016 Workshop/AGM the weekend of September 16 and 17, 2016. Watch the website for updates.



Law Enforcement Recognition Award

A reminder to groups that every year, A.C.O.P.A. presents a recognition award to a law enforcement officer as a thank you for their involvement with the C.O.P. group. The application form can be found on the website at www.acopa.ca under the members menu and then under forms.

If your Liaison officer is doing an outstanding job with your group, you may wish to check out the application form. This is a great way to recognize the wonderful Liaison Officers who truly give of their time to assist the C.O.P. program.



Canadian Citizens On Patrol Association

Thank you to the groups who continue to support the Canadian Citizens On Patrol Association. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Groups wishing to make a donation to the National group can send a cheque to

Betty Woolridge
103 Alderney Drive
Enfield, Nova Scotia B2T 1J9



Flagger Training

A second Flagger Training Workshop was held November 13, 2015 at the new Fort Saskatchewan detachment with C.O.P. attending from Vilna, Strathcona County, Morinville, Edson, Beaumont, Heartland and Fort McMurray.

The trainer for this Workshop was Steve Otto, a certified trainer with the Department of Transportation. Those at the Workshop learned about how to be dressed and what to do in the event that a situation ever comes up while on patrol where the C.O.P. needs to take on any traffic control duties. Safety is the number one concern and by knowing the dangers and the expectations, C.O.P. will be better able to keep themselves safe.

C.O.P. members need to remember that this is not an activity that the law enforcement will ask the patroller to do, nor are C.O.P. expected to participate in any traffic control situations. However, since patrollers happen to be out late at night and once in a while an incident happens, by having Flagger training, the patroller will be in a better position to make sure they are safe and out of any danger.



RCMP Liaison Officer to A.C.O.P.A.

Hello Alberta Citizens on Patrol and members of ACOPA, I am Josée Valiquette the new Program Manager overseeing the Citizens on Patrol program for the RCMP in Alberta. Since October, I have been working with your President, Mrs. Bev Salomons as well as various zone directors. I am aware that ACOPA has acquired over 300 more volunteers in the last year and this speaks to community engagement and to the dedication of Alberta citizens, who like you, wants to patrol their communities looking for and reporting incidents of crime.

I am very happy to be in my new role and I am looking forward to working with you all. Lastly, it is no surprise that our Province is going through some significant challenges due to the current economic situation, however, I am aware and recognize that your contribution as volunteers with COP is an asset to all our officers and communities and I would like to personally thank each one of you for your continuous support and assistance.

Sergeant Josée Valiquette
RCMP "K" Division

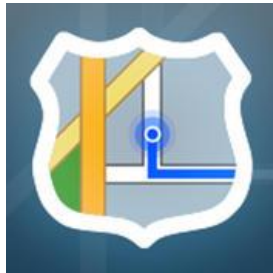


Criminal Record Check

All members of the C.O.P. program throughout Alberta are required to have a criminal record check done every year.

This is a requirement for all volunteer groups. Each group will be asked to have all their members checked by May 1st of each year.

The procedure for having the criminal record check is not as time consuming as in the past and should simply be a matter of going to the local detachment or police service and asking to have the check done.



iPatrol App

Recently a message was sent out to the contact person for each C.O.P. group in regards to an app that is available through the App store and is called iPatrol. This app is free and currently for Apple products only.

This app was developed for Vancouver City Police by a team of University students under the direction of Dr. Herbert Tsang. A.C.O.P.A. is hiring Dr. Tsang and his team to develop an app that would be all inclusive for patrollers in Alberta. The development will take about six months to complete. The completed app will be for Apple products, an iPhone and an iPad. Casino funds will be used to finance this project. Later, it is possible that a similar app will be developed for the Android.

A.C.O.P.A. would appreciate if patrollers can test out this app and pass along any suggestions as to what can be added to the app assist with patrolling reports. The app will keep track of the time, the direction of travel, events that occurred, photos and when the patrol is completed, will send the report by email. At least play with the app and see what you think. Any suggestions can be passed along to your Director.

Board Members...

- Bev Salomons, President, president@acopa.ca
- Shane Smith, Vice President, vicepresident@acopa.ca
- Beth Endresen, Secretary, secretary@acopa.ca
- Nickela Zais, Treasurer, treasurer@acopa.ca
- Mike Barkman, Director 1, director1@acopa.ca
- George Dowson, Director 2, director2@acopa.ca
- Ken Ferguson, Director 3, director3@acopa.ca
- Candy Hurst, Director 4, director4@acopa.ca
- Garth Kohlsmith, Director 5, director5@acopa.ca

Leduc Nighthawks



Thanks to all the members of Leduc Nighthawks for hosting a great Workshop September 2015

PEEPING TOM

This girl I know lives on the 4th floor of an apartment, and even though it is a fairly good neighbourhood, she has been having trouble with the Peeping Tom that lives next door...

Every time she goes out on her balcony to catch a bit of sun while wearing her bikini, this Peeping Tom looks over from his balcony as soon as she removes her top and stares at her...

She has complained to the superintendent about this Peeping Tom, but he says she must have positive proof before he can do anything. She FINALLY got a picture of him while he was staring at her...

