



Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association Fall 2023 Newsletter

Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association

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Newsletter produced by:

Beth Endresen

secretary@acopa.ca

newsletter@acopa.ca

(Website) www.acopa.ca

(Instagram) @alberta_citizens_on_patrol

(Facebook)

<https://www.facebook.com/ACOPA16>

(Twitter) @acopagroup



Meet Corporal Mike Fulton, ACOPA's new Liaison Officer from "K" Division.

For those of you who attended the workshop, you may recall that he received a "standing ovation" upon taking the podium!!! He has picture proof!!!

Look forward to full bio on Mike in the next issue but join us in welcoming Mike to ACOPA. We are sure he will be an invaluable help to us going forward.

Message from the President

Message from the President: November 2023

Hello, I hope that everyone is enjoying this wonderful fall weather we have been having – warm temperatures and no snow.

The Workshop and AGM turned out very well The Presenters were wonderful and training with Bob Gollan was very well attended with over 50 members at each event. There were 109 members at the Workshop and 19 groups attending from Alberta. We had 4 members from British Columbia, 1 member from Ontario and 11 members from Saskatchewan. Also, we had our election & have 2 new directors. Holly Doll is from Wainwright and Flo Robinson is from Linden and if they have been assigned as the ACOPA Director for your group, you should be hearing from them soon. We look forward to working with them for the next 2 years and hopefully longer.

Everything is going well with all our groups. Everyone should be signing on for Rave Alerts. The more members that sign up, the more alerts we will get from the RCMP. Also, everyone should have gotten their Criminal Record Checks done and have the Website updated. ACOPA members are required to have updated criminal record checks every two years as per our Memorandum of Understanding with the RCMP. If you do not have an updated criminal record release, you CAN NOT patrol, and you will have no access to the Website.

I would like to wish everyone the very best and keep patrolling and keep your communities safe while helping to prevent crime.

Garth Kohlsmith
ACOPA President

Workshop 2023

The 2023 ACOPA Workshop was held the weekend of October 13, 14 and 15 and was hosted by the Lloydminster COP group. The Workshop took place at the Lloydminster Agricultural Exhibition Association facility with 100 attendees from Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Ontario.

Friday started off with a room full attending first time training from retired RCMP Robert Gollan. As people arrived, items were dropped off for the silent auction. Following supper, the Flag Ceremony was led in by a local piper. RCMP from Lloydminster dressed in red surge followed the piper with a long lineup of representatives from attending COP groups carrying flags from their communities or COP group. After O Canada was played, flags were placed in the flag holders for the weekend.

Greetings were given by Staff Sargent Brian Nicholl, Commanding Officer for Lloydminster Detachment, who earlier in his life was a Citizens On Patrol volunteer himself, so had great support for the COP program. Michael Diachuk brought greetings on behalf of the Mayor of Lloydminster. Sgt Brad Mouland was the Master of Ceremonies for the Workshop and kept the activities on time.



Thank you to Lloydminster Citizens on Patrol

Saturday morning began with an early breakfast. First presenter was Hannah McKenzie, Wild Boar and Vertebra Specialist along with her dog Seuss. Hannah spoke about the Rat Patrol program that stops rats at the Saskatchewan border. Rats if not dealt with can reproduce up to 15,000 offspring a year. A great deal of damage results in crops when not managed. Gestation time is only 21-24 days and 7 weeks to maturity. Wild Boars are described as having a long flat nose, dark colored hair and a short body. Wild Boars can reproduce at 6 months of age and can have two litters of 6 a year. They nest under spruce trees and eat anything with rooting behavior. They wallow to thermoregulate and do tremendous damage to crops. After they go through a field, it looks like the area was rototilled. If wild boars are spotted, report to "Squeal on Pigs" at wildboar@gov.ab.ca or 310-FARM (3276).



Hannah McKenzie & Seuss



The next speaker was Cpl Raylene Brown from Grande Prairie. Raylene is the Supervisor for the Northern Regional Police and Crisis Team. Raylene spoke about how the police work with a registered nurse to deal with people who are in a crisis and the support given to the client to diffuse the situation and provide the help needed. The number of calls for the Mental Health Act files increases every year, so it is important to treat people in their community.

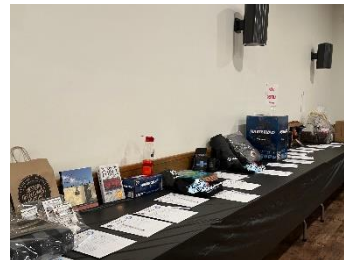


Corporal Raylene Brown, Supervisor Northern Alberta Regional Police & Crisis Team, Grande Prairie RCMP

<p>Retired RCMP Dave McRae, currently the Mayor of Redwater, and the President of the Redwater COP group spoke about how the Redwater COP group put together presentations for the public on personal safety in the community, protecting identification information and travel safety through a series of presentations to the public. Dave gave suggestions for how to attract people to attend the presentations including getting funding to cover costs and having prizes to give away.</p>	
<p>Following lunch, ACOPA held the AGM. At the same time, all law enforcement met together for discussion. Attendees from Saskatchewan also met separately to discuss how they can work provincially.</p>	
<p>The Law Enforcement Recognition Award was presented to Constable Shyla Delowski, Liaison Officer for the Beaumont C.O.P. group. Shyla is very supportive of the Citizens On Patrol program and interested in making it work. She is always looking for ways for the group to participate with the RCMP and shows her dedication through her commitment to the group. Congratulations Shyla!</p>	
<p>Recently retired RCMP Rob Cozine, Liaison Officer for CCOPA, spoke about the Crimestoppers program in Canada. It was interesting to hear that 70% of those who are eligible for a tip do not call back to arrange for pick up of the tip money. The process includes calling in the suspicious information, receiving a tip number and asked to call back in two weeks time. If a tip is called in, the RCMP need to wait for a call back. However, if the tip is emailed. Then the tipster can be emailed back and make arrangements for pickup at a special bank. Once a tip is confirmed, the bank is contacted and asked for X\$ to be put into an envelope to be picked up by an anonymous tipster who will go to that bank and request the envelope with their tip number on. No questions are asked and no identification is asked for. Totally anonymous.</p>	 <p>Outgoing CCOPA Liaison Officer Rob Cozine is presented with a thank you gift from the CCOPA Board</p>
<p>RCMP Constable Brennan Goble from RCMP "K" Division spoke about Auto Theft. There were many questions following his talk.</p>	
<p>New to the position of ACOPA Liaison Officer, Cpl Michael Fulton presented information about the RCMP alert system RAVE. Michael showed a short video on how people can sign up for the alerts and encouraged everyone to get signed up and spread the word to their family, friends, and neighbours.</p>	
<p>ACOPA Webmaster Henry Salomons presented the new changes to the ACOPA Patrol apps for the Apple and Android devices. Both apps were recently updated. To use the patrol apps, people need to be signed into the ACOPA website so they have access to Crime Mapping which will show up during the patrol to show spots of recent criminal concern.</p>	<p>President Garth Kohlsmith presents ACOPA Webmaster Henry Salomons with an appreciation certificate for all of his work with the website and patrol apps. Thank you Henry!!!! ♥ ♥</p> 

The silent auction ended during supper. Proceeds went to the host group. Thanks to everyone who donated an item!!!

Sunday morning saw one more training session presented by retired RCMP Robert Gollan.



ACOPA President Garth Kohlsmith



ACOPA President Garth Kohlsmith making a donation to the Lloydminster Food Bank to Lloydminster President Don Lloyd



Former ACOPA Treasurer Nickela Zais was at the workshop to sell some of her awesome charcoal sketches

A couple of more things.....

Insurance & ACOPA Assistance Grants:

Our Insurance Invoices are going to be coming shortly so when you receive them, please try to pay them as soon as possible. You cannot patrol without having insurance, so this is very important. New groups just getting started will not be affected by this policy in their first year.

The 2023-2024 insurance policies must be paid in full by December 8. There will be no refunds if a group decides to shut down before November of 2024.

Groups that are not covered by insurance should not be patrolling.



Groups who need financial assistance can apply to ACOPA through the ACOPA Assistance Application Form. Casino funds are set aside in order to assist groups to pay for their membership fees, and ACOPA insurance as well as other areas if needed. In order to qualify for this assistance grant, your group must first be incorporated. You must submit a copy of your certificate of incorporation, bylaws, a list of the elected executive and a copy of the latest financial statements. The intent of this assistance is to help groups to keep going while trying to secure additional funding and new members for their group. Funding will be reviewed yearly. C.O.P. groups who receive funding from a casino will not be eligible to apply for financial assistance from ACOPA.

Criminal Record Releases:

Another item to mention is the criminal record checks. When the ACOPA website was updated in 2021, all volunteers were given a two year grace for the criminal record checks. That two year time passed on October 26th. If the updated criminal record check was not completed and updated by Oct 26, the volunteer was locked out of the ACOPA website. Only the administrator of the group can update the status of the volunteer. If the criminal record check is not updated, the volunteer should not be patrolling as they will not be covered by ACOPA insurance.

ID Cards:

Speaking about ID cards, when new members join a group, they must wait for a period of 6 months after their criminal record check before requesting an ID card. They must show that they will be an active member. As long as they have the criminal record check, they can still patrol without an ID card. New groups cannot apply for an ID card until they have been approved as a registered Society and have shared their Certificate of Incorporation with ACOPA. The certificate can be uploaded onto the ACOPA website in the group file.

ACOPA BOARD 2023-2024/GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

Updated list of Board Members: October 2023

Elected:

• President	Garth Kohlsmith	president@acopa.ca
• Vice President	Bev Salomons	vicepresident@acopa.ca
• Secretary Treasurer	Beth Endresen	secretary@acopa.ca / treasurer@acopa.ca
• Director 1	Kimberly Hurst	director1@acopa.ca
• Director 2	Greg Mathias	director2@acopa.ca
• Director 3	Mike Krochter	director3@acopa.ca
• Director 4	Teresa Cunningham	director4@acopa.ca
• Director 5	Flo Robinson	director5@acopa.ca
• Director 6	Holly Doll	director6@acopa.ca

Volunteers on the ACOPA Board:

○ Newsletter	Beth Endresen	newletter@acopa.ca
○ Webmaster	Henry Salomons	webmaster@acopa.ca
○ ID cards	Mike Krochter	IDCards@acopa.ca
○ Casino Chairperson	Tammy Massa	casinochairperson@acopa.ca

2023/2024 ACOPA BOARD GROUP ASSIGNMENT

Vice President	Secretary/ Treasurer	Director 1	Director 2	Director 3	Director 4	Director 5	Director 6
Bev Salomons	Beth Endresen	Kimberly Hurst	Greg Mathias	Mike Krochter	Teresa Cunningham	Flo Robinson	Holly Doll
SCCOPS	Sexsmith	Crowsnest Pass	Lloydminster	ID Cards	Penhold	Linden	Wainwright
Carbon	High Prairie	Fort McLeod	Nanton		Red Deer	Airdrie	Thorhild
Ryley	Valleyview	Redcliff	Vilna		Innisfail	Drumheller	Westlock
Beaumont	Edson	Okotoks	St. Paul		Carstairs	Three Hills	Heartland
St. Albert		High River	Taber		Devon	Gull Lake North	Ponoka
Parkland		Pincher Creek	Redwater		Wetaskiwin	Langdon	Legal
		Diamond Valley			Sundre	Rimbey	

Groups in the News

Penhold Citizens on Patrol held an Open House October 30, 2023. Attendees heard from RCMP, Protective Services & local Citizens on Patrol. Residents were able to ask questions and learn about different programs such as online reporting, Alberta RCMP App, Capture program and SCAN. All helpful tools to keep each other safe and informed. Our group was able to let others know what our volunteers have been able to accomplish since establishing ourselves, and shared some of our own stats.

The event was a success and something that will be brought back next year. Below is a link to an article which was written all about our neighboring municipality, Innisfail, with whom we share a detachment. They are in the process of incorporating.



They have a great bunch of volunteers signed up ready to go patrol. We have had amazing support from our Staff Sgt. Ian Ihme, and his detachment, who have been big advocates for our program. We truly could not ask for a better Liaison.

<https://www.mountainviewtoday.ca/innisfail-news/innisfails-citizens-on-patrol-set-to-return-7043687>