

# Newsletter

OCTOBER, 2015



## Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association



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### From the computer of:

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...to Sgt Josee Valiquette as the new Liaison Officer for ACOPA at K Division.



### The AGM in Leduc as seen through the eyes of Vice President Shane Smith

Well...where to begin, at the beginning usually works.

Friday night September 18, 2015 many groups converged on the Leduc Night Hawks convening at the Best Western Denham Inn for the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The registration desk had a GREAT many "goodies", for lack of a better word, for us stuffed into a really nice bag stating the black color of the Black Gold group.

A lot of us were like old friends meeting and greeting each other plus getting to meet new people over the next while as we prepared for the opening Flag Parade. Many groups participated in it being led by the famous and always welcome RCMP members in Red Serge and the bagpipes.

Then Acting Leduc Mayor Dana Smith opened with a short speech giving accolades to her local group and welcoming the rest of us to Leduc. Glen Finstad, Leduc City Councilor Liaison, also welcomed us to their fair city. Leduc Detachment Commander, Officer in Charge, Inspector Kevin Kunezki seemed quite popular as he received a good reception. He is extremely pro C.O.P. and holds his locals and all C.O.P. in very high regard. Our own President Bev Salomons gave a nice little speech thanking Leduc for hosting this years' AGM and the groups for coming out. "K" Division acting ACOPA Liaison Corporal Marcia McDermott offered some of her own history and previous involvement in C.O.P. Carsten Erbe who is Director, Crime Prevention and Restorative Justice, spoke a little about how C.O.P. can help with crime prevention which is a very important aspect of law enforcement everywhere.

CON'T ON NEXT PAGE...

## WORKSHOP AND AGM NEWS

### CON'T FROM PREVIOUS PAGE...

And guess what; we even had an MLA from Bonnyville/Cold Lake area Scott Cyr representing the Wild Rose Party attend. Bev and I got to meet him and his secretary during the meet and greet and had a very intellectual sit down time with him. He is VERY pro C.O.P. as he sees our importance from a political stand point; he had a lot of questions for us and he wants to do a news article on us as well. He even sat down and spoke with other groups as well!

This night wasn't just about hearing some awesome speeches, we got to go out back and see the Edmonton International Airport RCMP K-9 dog named Bolt with his handler Constable Joel MacKown. The demonstration was awesome sniffing out bombs and drugs and take downs with a volunteer from Leduc Night Hawks.

Hey, we even got to munch on superb snacks and drinks as well. Some liked the bar as well.

An awesome display for bidding to raise money was donated by the visiting groups and Night Hawks too.

Aw, the visiting slowed and then came to an end for the night with a much anticipated day for Saturday to dream upon.

Waking up at the Inn quite fresh and ready for a superb breakfast and more with continued registration as final count was 39 of 60 groups registering, wonderful! But next AGM in Airdrie we aim to put that number to shame!

Round table discussions ensued and meeting new people and discussing their group and personal particulars was extremely interesting. Then each table got to share some of these ideas and remarks.

Leduc City Traffic Services with RCMP Constable Chris Mosley discussing many traffic duties they handle and some very cool stories and the ever popular "Spike Belt" demonstration in the outside parking lot was extremely informative and fun to watch.

We partook of some needed nutrition.

CON'T IN NEXT COLUMN...

### CON'T FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN...

RCMP Constable Troy Lewis and Leduc City Councilor Glen Finstad spoke on "Home and Neighborhood Security" and the program "Lock it or Lose it" and the "Awareness of Citizen's on Patrol in Leduc". The way they work these programs was so informational that we didn't want the presentation to end.

Boy, that presentation must certainly be the high light of the day, but, the ALERT Green Team member Sgt. Dwayne Karpo and his Peace Officer friend Brad (didn't catch his last name) had different ideas. The "Grow Houses" PowerPoint was sensational and so informative. Many people asked some very good questions. They showed six grow house operations and they challenged us to pick out the legal and the illegal ones...WE COULDN'T! Boy their jobs are hard!

Lunch!!!

Chief Crown Prosecutor for Wetaskwin-Leduc Rod Clark gave an EXTREMELY important lesson on what evidence is and how it is presented in court. Then he explained the importance of what needs to be in our logs and how to write it and who writes the patrol logs. The RCMP members present were taking notes on this too! (You other 21 groups should have been there!)

During the last part of Mr. Clark's talk we all witnessed a CRIME...a MOCK CRIME...that is. Two men accosted another man right by Mr. Clark. Each round table was challenged by Constable Troy Lewis to write what they observed. We got a lot of the facts right BUT some of us missed some very CRUCIAL things like what was the weapon used and how and where was it left.

After some nutrition we got into the AGM. AGM reports were presented and some questions were raised concerning the financial reports that were later answered by Email from our ACOPA Treasurer. Minutes of the AGM will be posted to the ACOPA website, another reason to login and use it.

Elections were held.

The AGM was then concluded and adjourned until September 2016.

## WORKSHOP AND AGM NEWS

Spike Belt demonstration at the Workshop in Leduc



Leonard Bohachyk from SCCOPS receiving a special recognition award from Shane Smith at the AGM



Airdrie has come forward and offered to host the 2016 Workshop and AGM.



**No one should be patrolling without passing their criminal record check.**

**There would be no insurance coverage if they were.**



**Bit of Humour**

Deep within a forest a little turtle began to climb a tree. After hours of effort he reached the top, jumped into the air waving his front legs and crashed to the ground. After recovering, he slowly climbed the tree again, jumped, and fell to the ground. The turtle tried again and again while a couple of birds sitting on a branch watched his sad efforts. Finally, the female bird turned to her mate. "Dear," she chirped, "I think it's time to tell him he's adopted."



## C.O.P. NEWS

### Minister's Award



#### In the photo are:

- **Municipal Affairs Minister Derek Bilous;**
- **Sexsmith Citizens on Patrol President Isak Skjaveland; and**
- **Sexsmith Town Councillor's Rick Sakundiak and Bruce Black.**

The Town of Sexsmith received the Minister's Award for Municipal Excellence this morning at the AUMA conference in the Safe Communities category for our Citizens On Patrol program. This award recognizes a leading practice focused on making municipalities safer through prevention and enforcement in municipalities with a population of less than 500,000. Awesome work Sexsmith COP!!!!!!

All of the Councillors above are also active members of Citizens On Patrol as are three more Councillors. 6 out of 7 councillors are also COPS members and the 7<sup>th</sup> one, her husband is a COP

### Flag Person Training



On Sunday 29 people attended the 4 hour Flagger Training put on by Steve Otto, Flagger Instructor.

We now have 29 people qualified for the first step of flagging traffic.



ACOPA working with K Division and the Insurance people will adopt some policies for the groups to follow if they choose to use this training.

**Thank  
you**

© Carl Black Photo - Sept 2009

...to Cpl Marcia McDermott for filling in for the past ten months and for her interest in the C.O.P. program.

### Gull Lake North COP Fundraising Garage Sale



Keith, Jim and Herman, are wearing their aprons, smile for the camera while customers browse in the background

Our group was organized in 2002, and it didn't take us long to realize that we needed to figure out a way to raise funds for equipment and expenses. One of our members suggested a garage sale, so we rented a hall, put up some flyers in our lake neighborhoods asking for donations, and had our first sale in April, 2003, earning just over \$1,400.00. Year after year our event has grown in size and stature, and at our sale this spring we actually had folks arrange for a babysitter so they could be early in line to our event. This year our group tallied 607 volunteer hours on the garage sale, and netted over \$4,700.00!

We begin early in the spring, mailing out and hand-delivering over 1,800 flyers, to both solicit donations and to advise folks of the time and location of the sale (of course we've moved to a much larger venue than that 1<sup>st</sup> year). COP members pick up donations from individuals, giving us a chance to interact with our neighbors, explain what COP is and what we do, and answer their questions. It takes several days to organize and display the donated items and make sure everything is priced.

Then on sale day, we start by directing our customers where to park (there were just under 100 cars by sale time this year), and offering coffee and donuts for purchase before the sale starts. When the sale opens at 9:00am, we can be dealing with 200 or more folks, so we spend our time raking in the cash! After the sale closes at 3:00pm, we pack up any left-over items and disburse them to various local charities and organizations. We end the day by gathering at a local restaurant to relax and relive the happenings of the day, and sometimes even ponder how we're going to spend our newly earned funds.

CON'T IN NEXT COLUMN...

CON'T FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN...

We've considered other fundraising techniques, but always come back to our garage sale. It provides an opportunity for our COP members to interact with residents who live in the neighborhoods we patrol, it provides a meaningful way for people to support COP by donating/recycling items, it gives COP members a chance to work together toward a common goal, and it does generate sufficient funds for our operating expenses.



Taber COP donates \$150 to the Taber Police Service as part of the "COP CARD" program.



Due to unforeseen circumstances, the ACCPA 2015 Community Mobilization Conference has now been postponed to Wednesday, April 27 and Thursday, April 28, 2016. The keynote speaker, presenters, location and start/end times will all remain the same. We have also attached the official poster which contains more information about this informative and educational event!

ACCPA will begin promoting the conference and accepting registrations in January, 2016. Further details will be posted to our website at that time. Save the dates NOW!

Please note that ACCPA's Annual General Meeting will still be taking place on November 4, 2015.

### Gull Lake North Citizens On Patrol "On Parade"



On Saturday, July 11 several members of the Gull Lake North COP group volunteered to assist the Rimbey Rodeo Parade committee.

Each year during Rimbey's rodeo festivities, there is an hour-long parade that winds its way through the heart of town, featuring marching bands, colorful floats, horses and riders in multihued regalia, and with various dignitaries in vintage vehicles. Tradition has always been for Rimbey RCMP members to lead the parade, marching in tight formation bedecked in their full red serge uniforms. The streets are lined with families watching the festivities, and children scrambling to capture yummy candies that are tossed from many of the floats.

In past years GLNCOP have participated in the parade itself by walking along beside a van bearing our signs and handing out candy. There was even a time when we built a float bearing the slogan "GLNCOP – eyes and ears for the RCMP".

For the past couple of years, however, we shifted our participation to that of assisting the Parade Committee by volunteering our services to be in charge of traffic control at the barricades put in place to prohibit traffic from entering the parade route. After the parade has disbanded, our COP volunteers are treated to a hamburger lunch provided by the local Lions group.

Even though our COP group patrols only in the lake neighborhoods, our RCMP detachment is located some 15km away in Rimbey. So we appreciate participating in activities in the town of Rimbey, giving our group exposure in the town. Plus our particular COP group is a very social unit and value such group outings.

### Quanto's Law

Quanto's Law received royal ascent in Parliament on June 15, 2015 and will now be federal law as an amendment to the Criminal Code of Canada.

Many groups sent letters of support to get this law in place.

The maximum sentence for killing a service animal is 5 years.



For more info, go to:

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/quanto-s-law-takes-effect-harsh-new-consequences-for-killing-police-dogs-1.2485385>

### Traffic Safety in Alberta Is your child safe and sound in the backseat?



Research and collision investigations show that seat belts increase the chances of survival in a collision by 50 per cent. According to Transport Canada, almost 35 per cent of drivers and passengers killed in collisions were not wearing their seatbelt at the time of the crash.

Facts to Know

- Child safety restraints are required by law for all children under the age of six who weigh less than 18 kilograms (40 pounds).
- The fine for not wearing a seatbelt is \$155. Drivers are responsible for the proper restraint of children under 16.
- Seatbelts save about 1,000 lives per year in Canada



## C.O.P. NEWS



Sherwood Park, Alberta - With Halloween night fast approaching and our streets set to fill up with "hoards" of trick or treaters. Strathcona County RCMP is looking for an "assist" to make sure the "goal" of a fun filled evening for everyone is achieved.

To do this, Strathcona County RCMP and Enforcement Services have once again teamed-up with the Sherwood Park Crusaders, Citizens On Patrol, Emergency Services and Strathcona County Transit.

Transit will be operating their regular bus service throughout the neighbourhoods. The buses are a safe place for children to go if they need help. As well, the Crusaders will be decked out in their jerseys and will be walking through various neighbourhoods working with our Citizens on Patrol and Emergency Services as an extra set of eyes and ears for police during the evening."

"Our children are very well versed on Halloween Safety." said Cpl Darren Anderson of the Strathcona County RCMP "We really want to send a message this year to drivers to be extra cautious on the roads and really slow down when driving through our neighbourhoods." " With Halloween falling on a Saturday night this year we are expecting a busy night for Trick or Treaters"

RCMP are also reminding everyone that if you are planning to go out and celebrate Halloween later in the evening to plan ahead and make arrangements for a sober ride home.

A group photo of the Halloween Safety Partners has been attached below.



Gull Lake North COP was presented with an award from the Rimbey detachment for their partnership and dedication to service.

