

Newsletter



February 2020



Random Act of Kindness Day -
February 17

Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association

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A.C.O.P.A. WEBSITE
www.acopa.ca

A message from our President...

I hope everyone survived the cold spell we had in January. It is very difficult and dangerous to be out in the -45 degree weather. But as always it does not last too long and now we are in the warmth again.

It has been a busy time the last few months with a couple of new groups trying to get started. Still a few problems with the communication with the RCMP but most of the groups have come to terms with the problem.

President's message cont'd.....

Still having problems with groups reporting their hours and KMs patrolling. This is very important and relevant on the amount of funding we receive. Also when you are at a meeting whether it be C.O.P. or with another group please emphasize to call the police when you or anyone see something suspicious. It may not seem serious to you but the person involved might be wanted for a crime someplace else. Before you head out for a patrol make sure you check the RCMP Crime Map that is usually on your town website or the one that is on the ACOPA website. You will have a better idea where the crime in your community is taking place. In the police report that was given to our Town Council, he said that the members are answering just as many calls during the day as at night, so daytime patrols may be an option.

I have received a new order of the parking lot ticket books. If you not sure about how this works, there is a video on the website that will show you what is involved. When leaving a vehicle nothing can be left in sight and the vehicle has to be locked. A good number of thefts from vehicles is that they are not locked. Therefore, it becomes a crime of opportunity and if the criminal checks the door handle and if locked move on to the next one.

Well that's about all for now. The groundhog has said spring is just around the corner so enjoy what is left of winter.

Garth Kohlsmith
ACOPA President

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY!



100 DAYS OUT!
SAVE THE DATE!

Local & International Perspectives
in Community Safety and Well-Being

Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association
2020 Conference
Edmonton, Alberta

Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association (ACCPA) brings its annual conference to Edmonton AB May 4 - 7, 2020, with a focus on local/international rural and urban community safety/well-being.

Don't miss the 2020 ACCPA Conference! Pre-conference workshop facilitators from the Office of North Yorkshire UK, Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner; The Netherlands Ministry of Justice and Security; and the New Zealand Police, National Prevention Centre.

Conference session speakers to include Edmonton Police Chief Dale McFee, and author and victim's rights champion Irvin Waller.

<https://www.albertacrimeprevention.com/2020-conference/>

In the news....

News from Pembina

My name is Nick Smolley and I am Vice President of Pembina Community Watch Patrol Society.

We had a busy 2019. Ray and Paulette attended the Drumheller meeting and brought back some good information.

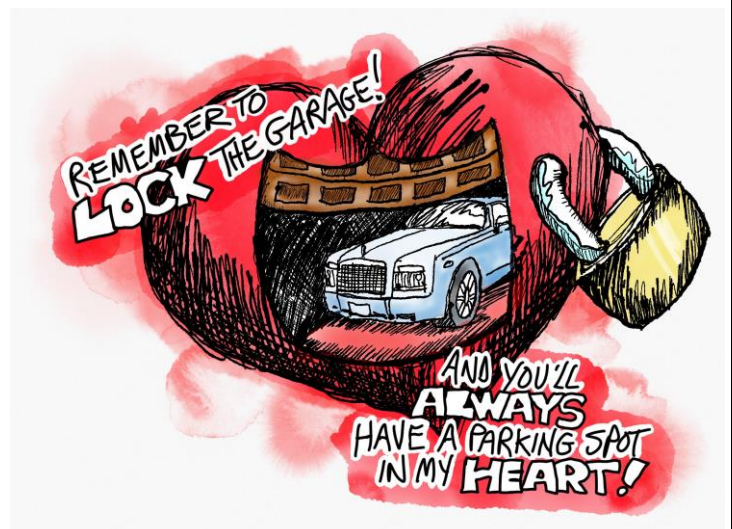
We are updating our website and we welcome everyone to check it out at Pembinacommunitywatch.com and let us know if you have some good ideas.

We hosted a Fraud and Scam awareness session with Servus Senior Fraud Manager and he spoke about banking, credit card and internet scams and how some of them work. We plan on having more information sessions this year.

We are working on increasing our active membership and being more involved with our community.

We ended 2019 with a nice year end social that was enjoyed by all. Thank You and we hope 2020 is a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous year for everyone.

Nick Smolley



ACOPA News

Crime Prevention

Crime Prevention is a topic we message about on a monthly basis. There is a new theme every month. For February, the theme is “Theft of Vehicle and Theft From Vehicle.” This theme is used twice a year, once in the summer and once in the winter. Messaging should be seasonal (eg: not idling in winter and closing windows in summer).

Stats:

- In 2019, there were almost 10,000 Theft of Motor Vehicle related incidents which is a decrease of 5% from 2018. The decrease is good, but there’s room for improvement.
- Over 6,500 of the thefts in 2019 were trucks, SUVs, or vans. Cars accounted for just over 1,200 thefts.
- In February 2019 there were almost 700 vehicles stolen from Alberta RCMP jurisdiction.

Crime Prevention cont’d.....

Key Messages:

- Use a remote starter or stay with your vehicle while it warms up.
- Remove valuables from vehicle.
- Lock your garage, and remove the garage door opener from your vehicle.
- Use a vehicle tracking system.
- RCMP encourage the public to report any criminal or suspicious activity to police. Reports tell us where to look, who to look for, and where to patrol in the future. If you see a crime in progress, dial 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the “P3 Tips” app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

Social Media:

- Alberta RCMP accounts will use #VehicleValentines for the month of February. Images of valentines will be posted with the messages twice a week. **(these are included throughout our newsletter)**
- All of the valentine wording will be included in the media release.
- Twitter: @RCMPAlberta, Facebook: @RCMPinAlberta, YouTube: RCMP-GRC Alberta.

Alberta RCMP play cupid with #VehicleValentines

Edmonton – Alberta RCMP is sending out valentines on behalf of people’s vehicles for the month of February. Twice a week valentines will be sent from the Alberta RCMP social media accounts with tips about how to keep their vehicles safe from thieves.

Last year, there were almost 10,000 thefts of motor vehicles in Alberta RCMP jurisdiction. Over 6,500 of those thefts were trucks, SUVs, or vans. Cars made up a smaller portion of thefts accounting for just over 1,200. There was a 5% decrease in vehicle thefts from 2018 to 2019, but there is still room for improvement. In February 2019, there were almost 700 vehicles stolen from Alberta RCMP jurisdiction.



#VehicleValentines cont’d.....

One of the most important tips is to lock your vehicle and remove the keys. If you plan to start your car to warm it up, you need a remote starter or plan to stay with your vehicle.

Here are some easy steps to keep your vehicle safe:

- Lock the doors
- Remove all valuables
- Use a steering wheel lock
- Lock your garage
- Remove garage door opener from vehicle
- Use a vehicle tracking system
- Park in a well-lit area

Follow us on Facebook (@RCMPinAlberta), Twitter (@RCMPAlberta) and #VehicleValentines for more tips on keeping your vehicle safe.

RCMP encourage the public to report any criminal or suspicious activity to police. Reports tell us where to look, who to look for, and where to patrol in the future. If you see a crime in progress, dial 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the “P3 Tips” app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

Please check out the #VehicleValentines throughout this newsletter

ACOPA BOARD 2019-20

Updated list of Board Members: October 2019

Elected:

- **President** Garth Kohlsmith president@acopa.ca
- **Vice President** Greg Mathias vicepresident@acopa.ca
- **Treasurer** Sandra Broderick treasurer@acopa.ca
- **Secretary** Beth Endresen secretary@acopa.ca
- **Director 1** Kimberly Hurst director1@acopa.ca
- **Director 2** Bev Solomons director2@acopa.ca
- **Director 3** Darlene Kirby director3@acopa.ca
- **Director 4** Chantel Frechette director4@acopa.ca
- **Director 5** Dawn Heerschap director5@acopa.ca
- **Director 6** Rod Kerr director6@acopa.ca

Volunteers on the ACOPA Board:

- **Newsletter** Tammy Beach newletter@acopa.ca
- **Webmaster** Henry Salomons webmaster@acopa.ca
- **ID cards** Mike Krochter IDCards@acopa.ca
- **Insurance Liaison** Bruce Paterson Insurance@acopa.ca
- **Casino Chairperson** Tammy Massa casinochairperson@acopa.ca

A.C.O.P.A Board and C.O.P. Group Assignments								
2019 - 2020								
Greg	Beth	Kim	Bev	Darlene	Chantel	Dawn	Rod	Sandra
Mathias	Endresen	Hurst	Salomons	Kirby	Frechette	Heerschap	Kerr	Broderick
Vice Presiden	Secretary	Director 1	Director 2	Director 3	Director 4	Director 5	Director 6	Treasurer
Lloydminster	Sexsmith	Brooks	Devon	High River	Heartland	Rimbey	Mayerthorpe	Red Deer
Cold Lake	La Glace	Carstairs	Leduc	Drumheller	Morinville	Raymond	Edson	Airdrie
Wainwright	High Level	Crowsnest	Beaumont	Hanna	Legal	Taber	Kapasawin	Linden
St. Paul	Valleyview	Cochrane	Stony Plain	Langdon	Thorhild	<i>Lakedell</i>	Drayton Valley	Strathmore
Viking	Whitecourt	Didsbury	CPRN	Olds	Redwater	Thorsby	Pembina/	Three Hills
Vilna		Okotoks	St. Albert	Carbon	Bon Accord	Fort Mcleod	Entwhistle	
		Diamond Valley	Ponoka	Gull Lake		Nanton	Westlock	
		Sundre	Strathcona	<i>Eckville</i>		Bentley	Athabasca	
		McNally		Lacombe		Claresholm	Boyle	
		Redcliff						
		Pincher Creek						

News from Redwater COP:

The Redwater Citizens on Patrol did an Auto Theft Awareness Campaign (a coordinated patrol with the local RCMP) in the Town of Redwater on December, 2019. The purpose of this campaign was to check for unlocked vehicles, keys or valuables left/visible inside, vehicles left running, etc. We issued 28 notices in hopes that this will raise awareness of auto break-ins or thefts.

Also in December, Redwater COPA participated in Redwater's Annual Festival of Trees in the theme category with our COPA tree. This was to raise awareness in patrolling for a safer community.



News from Cochrane COP:

Over the weekend the Cochrane RCMP municipal traffic, provincial traffic, general duty officers as well as Citizens on Patrol (COP) were busy conducting a number of checkstops in the Cochrane area and surrounding communities of Rocky View County.

On November 29 at 9:40 p.m. a vehicle was pulled over at one checkstop. Officers noticed there were drugs in the vehicle and placed the driver and passenger under arrest. After further investigation the officers seized more than 30 grams of methamphetamine and a loaded sawed off rifle.

"As a part of our commitment to safe homes and safe communities, we routinely conduct checkstops in and around the Cochrane area," said acting detachment commander for Cochrane RCMP, staff sergeant Dave Brunner. "With the holiday season upon us, we have increased our efforts to ensure the roads are safe for all travellers." Other results from the checkstops this weekend saw two drivers arrested for impaired driving, two 72 hour suspensions issued, one 30 day suspension was issued to a GDL driver and several tickets issued.

"We would like to thank our community partner Citizens on Patrol for participating in the checkstops with us, and we would like to encourage everyone to celebrate the holidays safely. Plan ahead, arrange for a designated driver or other safe ways to get home after holiday celebrations and enjoy spending time with our loved ones," said Brunner.



Let's hope not!!

News from Morinville COP:

Aside from regular meetings and patrols, Morinville is excited to share that we have launched a Facebook Page for our C.O.P. group. Our hope is that it will become a place that the public can refer others to, that are wanting to join us in creating a safe community through partnering with the RCMP.

> How Can I Help My Community?

- Get to know your neighbours.
- Don't give information about neighbours to strangers.
- Offer to pick up mail and maintain the yard for your neighbours when they're away. They'll return the favour.
- **Be aware of suspicious activity.**
Write down what you see and report it to police.
Don't assume someone else has reported it.
- Get involved with local crime prevention associations.



What Should I Look For?

- > **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY AROUND HOUSES**
 - Dog barking more than usual
 - Alarm sounding
 - Ladder against house
 - Broken windows
 - Unusually high traffic at a house
- > **SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES**
 - Erratic driving
 - Idling near parks for long periods of time
 - Vehicles driving at night without lights on
 - Abandoned vehicles
- > **SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE**
 - People looking in vehicles
 - People acting erratically
 - People trying to hide

ROUTINE CHECKLIST:

- Valuables removed from vehicle
- Garage door opener removed from vehicle
- All doors locked (including between attached garage and house)
- All windows locked
- All gates locked
- Exterior lights turned on (at night)
- Expensive outdoor items stored in locked garage or outbuilding (tools, lawn mower, grills, ATVs, etc.)

OTHER TIPS:

- Keep a list and photos of belongings in a secure location or with someone you trust.
- Keep vacation plans off social media.
- For parents, ensure your children know your address and how to call 911.
- For rural residents, ensure your family knows your rural address and legal land address.
- Never let a stranger in your house unless they are with a company and you are able to validate their identity.
- An alarm system is a very effective deterrent for criminals.
- Mark your property with your driver's licence number or consider using a property marking kit.



RCMP "K" Division

HOME SECURITY

Simple Steps for Protecting Your Home

> Call 911

for emergencies and crimes in progress

> Report all other crime to:

your local RCMP non-emergency line



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada

Trace Identified Marking Pen



TRACE™ is a microdot marking and database system for protecting personal/business assets that are prone to theft.

The TRACE™ marker –whether the pen or spray-can applicator –allows assets to be near-invisibly marked.

TRACE™-marked assets can then be easily registered in a secure centralized database accessible only to the asset owner and law enforcement professionals.

To order a Trace Identified marking pen, please visit their website at www.traceidentified.com.



Project Lock Up

Project Lock Up is an Alberta RCMP initiative, delivered in collaboration with law enforcement partners and citizen-led groups, addressing the needs of the people and the areas hit hardest by property crime.

Here's how it works:

RCMP Crime Reduction Analysts crunch data from calls to the police to identify the areas where break and enters occur most often.

These locations are now considered Project Lock Up neighbourhoods. Key information about the crime in these areas is shared with our partners in other law enforcement agencies and citizen-led crime prevention groups. This information is used to guide patrols and enhance oversight.

Greater focus plus more patrols equals safer neighbourhoods.

Alberta RCMP will provide tools and resources to the people hit hardest by break and enters. Like the Trace Identified property marking pen (www.traceidentified.com) and/or a custom home security assessment to ensure that stolen property is returned to the owner.

Properties identified under Project Lock Up will be connected with Forensic Identification Services and will receive an enhanced investigative response.

Alberta RCMP's Crime Reduction Units will deploy special operations that focus on arresting criminals in Project Lock Up neighbourhoods.

Project Lock Up - Working together to make our communities safer

YouTube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dBWgECMJpk>

Information on the Alberta RCMP Crime Reduction Strategy: <http://www.rcmp.gc.ca/ab/data-and-innovation-donnees-et-innovation/index-eng.htm>

Feb. 10, 2020

Alberta RCMP marks one-year anniversary of Project Lock Up

Edmonton – Today, citizen-led groups Alberta Rural Crime Watch, Alberta Citizens on Patrol and Alberta Crime Stoppers joined the Alberta RCMP in marking the first anniversary of Project Lock Up. The initiative brings together Alberta Sheriffs, Alberta Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Alberta Fish and Wildlife Enforcement, Alberta Peace Officers and Criminal Intelligence Services Alberta.

Project Lock Up, announced in February 2019, has created a framework enabling the RCMP and its enforcement and citizen-led partners to provide an enhanced response to repeat victims of property crime. This collaborative, intelligence-led initiative also aims to reduce property crime and build trust between citizens and law enforcement.

RCMP Crime Reduction Analysts review data from calls to police to identify the areas where break and enters occur most often. Law enforcement and citizen-led stakeholder groups then use gathered intelligence to guide patrols and enhance oversight in the areas hit hardest by break and enters.

As part of Project Lock Up, RCMP Community Engagement and Outreach Specialists meet with Alberta families and businesses who have been hit the hardest by property crime. RCMP employees listen to victims' stories and work with them to ensure they are not targeted again by applying Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

Throughout this week, the Alberta RCMP will provide an overview of various topics through social media – on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and Twitter @RCMPAlberta as outlined below.

Monday, Feb. 10: Project Lock Up first anniversary media event

Tuesday, Feb. 11: CPTED

Wednesday, Feb. 12: Importance of reporting

Thursday, Feb. 13: Marking your property

Friday, Feb. 14: Partnerships and the Project Lock Up map

Quotes

“I want Albertans to know that we are listening to their concerns – Project Lock Up has improved the way that we respond to victims, turning our focus to those repeatedly victimized by crime. With the help of our enforcement partners and citizen-led crime prevention groups, Project Lock Up has enabled us to better identify Albertans who need our support and provide them with real and concrete ways of making them safer in their homes and businesses.”

- Deputy Commissioner Curtis Zablocki, Commanding Officer, Alberta RCMP

“Our government is committed to keeping our communities safe and secure, and that requires solid partnerships between government, law enforcement and everyday Albertans who look out for their neighbours. Project Lock Up enhances cooperation between the RCMP and provincial peace officers in the Alberta Sheriffs, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement and Fish and Wildlife Enforcement and increases their reach in rural Alberta by improving the flow of intelligence between those organizations. Our government is proud to partner with the RCMP on initiatives like Project Lock Up that help protect Albertans, their families and their property.”

- Doug Schweitzer, Alberta Minister of Justice and Solicitor General

Quick Facts about Project Lock Up:

- Project Lock Up is a key initiative of our Crime Reduction Strategy which launched in 2017.
- Project Lock Up is an evidence-based approach based on a successful UK model which saw a 30% decrease in residential break and enters.
- Thanks to Project Lock Up, 24 properties that had been categorized as hardest hit by crime have not been targeted by criminals again.
- From 2017 to 2019, the number of break and enters has decreased by 4.3% in Alberta RCMP rural jurisdictions.
- As part of Project Lock Up, RCMP Community Outreach and Engagement Specialists visited 35 property owners in person and provided tips on protecting their property.
- Call Back Unit (CBU) employees contacted 121 property owners. The CBU consists of a specialized team designed to handle non-emergency calls for service to create efficiencies and better align its processes.
- Alberta RCMP has provided patrol briefings and Crime Map access to Rural Crime Watch and Citizens on Patrol to help be the eyes and ears of police in crime-heavy areas.
- For more information about Project Lock Up, please watch this [YouTube video](#).