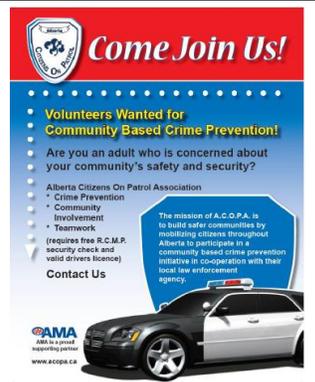


Newsletter

November, 2014

Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association



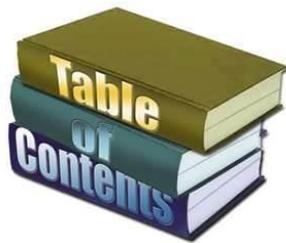
Come Join Us!

- **Volunteers Wanted for Community Based Crime Prevention!**
- Are you an adult who is concerned about your community's safety and security?
- Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association
 - Crime Prevention
 - Community Involvement
 - Teamwork

The mission of A.C.O.P.A. is to build safer communities by mobilizing citizens throughout Alberta to participate in a community based crime prevention initiative in co-operation with their local law enforcement agency.

Contact Us

AMA
AMA is a proud supporting partner
www.acopa.ca



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From the computer of:

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2014 AGM & Workshop



ACOPA Board - 2014-2015

From Left to right: Elna Eidsvik (Vermillion COP) Director; Nickela Zais (Wabamun COP) Treasurer; Bev Salomons (Strathcona County COP) President; Ennio Ricci (Airdrie COP) Director; Ken Ferguson (Kinuso COP) Director; Shane Smith (Raymond COP) Vice President; Roy Dyck (Vilna COP) Director and George Dowson (Pincher Creek COP) Director

SUMMARY OF AGM & WORKSHOP

We met at Cowley Community Hall, an excellent facility by the way, on both the 19th and 20th September 2014! There were 29 groups registered for this fine event and some 130 plus people came.

After registration and handouts we kicked Friday night off at 17:30 with a beautiful light supper and with a very delightful local Master of Ceremonies Cst. Doug Sokoloski of the RCMP who introduced Pincher Creek Mayor Don Anderberg, M.D. of Pincher Creek Reeve Brian Hammond, Sgt. Randy Dixon NCO of the Pincher Creek detachment, Staff Sgt. Dean Hamm of 'K' Division who is interim liaison for ACOPA, and our ACOPA President Bev Salomons gave their short hellos and what C.O.P. means to them.

Then the very colorful flag ceremony began which was led by the bagpipes and the RCMP members present in full Red Surge uniform with some 17 groups marching in with their local colors and then we sang 'O Canada', A VERY special moment and nary a dry eye present.

Henry Salomons then gave a presentation on our new ACOPA website which was very informative; maybe everyone will use it now. We finished off the presenters and closed the night off with Fish and Wildlife Officer John Clarke who spoke about the Karelian Bear Dog program which was amazing with his dog and helpers present.

Continued on Page 2

A.C.O.P.A. AGM & WORKSHOP SUMMARY



Liam Crotty, Program Co-Ordinator from the Alberta Motor Association was one of the presenters at the Workshop. Liam had a number of interesting statistics to share with the audience on distracted driving as well as other surveys. Interesting was the fact that the vehicles that get stolen more than any other vehicle in Alberta are the Ford F250, Ford F350 and the Honda Civic. Liam has been a great supporter of ACOPA and we are looking forward to our continuing relationship.

Cont'd from Page 1

Saturday morning kicked off with an amazing breakfast starting at 0700. Then Liam Crotty who is the Program Coordinator for AMA talked to us about leaving valuables in cars when shopping and gave us valuable tips to thwart the bad guys. He also talked about distracted driving and how ACOPA is contributing to their distracted driving program with C.O.P. groups starting to send in statistics for their areas. All C.O.P. groups are asked to participate in this valuable work and the reports are also forwarded to the RCMP to help with their programs. Shredding events are also important for us to continue helping them with over the coming year.

Cpl. Jack Neri from the Lethbridge Forensic Identification Unit gave a very nice presentation about crime scenes and pointers on how to preserve them for evidence collection. He said fingerprints are better than DNA. Then after a short break Cpl. Barry Red Iron of the Lethbridge RCMP Forensic Collision Reconstructionist brought his remote drone and helicopters and talked about his duties at traffic accidents. A splendid demonstration was given outside where he also took a group photo of us.

Finishing off the morning was Darrel Lewko of the Search and Rescue/Avalanche Response and his two dogs. The presentation was on how he uses them, by scent, to find people buried in avalanches and different search techniques he uses at the same time to find skiers, snow mobile groups, etc., VERY informative!

Lunch Time!

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The AGM was conducted by ACOPA President Bev Salomons and the RCMP liaison officers went off to their meeting. The elections were conducted by Staff Sgt. Dean Hamm of 'K' Division.

The following positions were returned by acclamation:

President - Bev Salomons (2 year term)
Treasurer - Nickela Zais (2 year term)
Director 2 - George Dowson (2 year term)
Director 3 - Ken Ferguson (2 year term)

The following nomination was voted in by acclamation:

Secretary Beth Endresen (1 year term)

AGM was then adjourned for 1 year.

Time for the bus tour of the area for most of the people while the ACOPA executive had their meeting and planning session.

Supper time, and then the closing of the silent auction.

Comedian Rachel The Hutterite Lady was a HUGE hit and then the door prizes were given out. The flags were then paraded out of the room and the M/C with Bev closed the AGM workshop.

Hope to see all of you at the next AGM in LEDUC Sept 18th and 19th 2015 (Friday and Saturday) at the Best Western Plus Hotel.

Cheers to all!

Summary submitted by Shane Smith, vice President – ACOPA



Cst Doug Sokoloski was a great MC for the 2014 ACOPA Workshop held recently in Pincher Creek. Thanks Doug for keeping the weekend both interesting and on time!

THANK YOU

CASINO UPDATE

Thanks to the Casino volunteers for assisting ACOPA with working the Edmonton casino August 15th and 16th. COP members from seven COP groups assisted working 36 shifts putting in 295 volunteer hours at the casino. Besides expenses and the ACOPA group membership fee, volunteers were thanked with Tim Horton's gift cards for their help.

Volunteers present at the Workshop in Pincher Creek were Ennio Ricci (Airdrie), Bev Salomons (Strathcona County), Sandra Broderick (Airdrie), Henry Salomons (Strathcona County), Nickela Zais (Wabamun), Linda Smereka (Beaumont), Maria Basaraba (Strathcona County), Eugene Smereka (Beaumont).

Other casino volunteers included Beverly Mullin, Gail Hearn and Mike Hearn from Airdrie, Ron Palmer and Bruce Patterson from Devon, Edgar Lacasse from Vilna, Gil Holm, Linda Holm, Helen Curr, Chuck Curr, Leona Gardecki, and Lorraine Serna from Strathcona County, Amber Emmons from St Albert, and Jack Latham from Wabamun.

The funds from the casino are expected to be received mid November. Thanks for the many suggestions received at the Workshop in Pincher Creek. If you have any ideas on how to use the casino funds, please share your idea with any ACOPA Board member.



Thank you to the Pincher Creek and District C.O.P. for all their work at organizing the 2014 Workshop weekend.

The weekend ran very smoothly and was packed with great presenters, good food, wonderful entertainment and the opportunity for the attendees to chat with each other.

A special thanks to the R.C.M.P. members who came for the weekend and expressed their thanks and support to the C.O.P. program.

The weekend had a mix of events both inside and outside along with perfect weather. All in all, it was a very successful weekend.



Thanks to Ken Ferguson, ACOPA Director from Kinuso for taking photos during the Workshop weekend.



Thank you to Dulcy Berry from Strathcona County C.O.P. for her flag ceremony video from the Workshop in Pincher Creek

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZinPQznY4Rs>

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS



Bob Phillips was presented a recognition award for his ongoing support to ACOPA through the Calgary Southridge Lions Club.

Beaumont top cop receives provincial award for service

By Omar Mosleh, La Nouvelle Beaumont News
Friday, October 3, 2014 6:46:28 MDT PM



Beaumont RCMP Staff Sgt. Kevin Kunetzki receives the Law Enforcement Recognition Award from Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association President Bev Salomons on Sep. 20.

The Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association has recognized Beaumont RCMP Staff Sgt. Kevin Kunetzki for his service with a provincial award.

Kunetzki, who has been a police officer for 14 years, received the Law Enforcement Recognition Award at the organization's annual general meeting in Pincher Creek on Sept. 20. He was nominated by the local Citizens On Patrol (COP) group.

A spokesperson for Beaumont COP, Eugene Smereka, said the group nominated Kunetzki because he's been an "amazingly consistent supporter" of the program since he came to the Beaumont detachment in 2012.

"Very soon after his transfer, he made himself available at our regular monthly meeting," Smereka said. "It was obvious he was well-versed in the mandate of Citizens On Patrol."

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That does not come as a surprise, as Kunetzki was the author of the original procedure manual used province-wide by COP groups when he was stationed in Wetaskiwin in 2000. At that time, he was the liaison officer for the Wetaskiwin COP group.

Prior to coming to Beaumont, Kunetzki served in Wetaskiwin, Edmonton, Faust and Calgary.

While the Beaumont group also has a liaison officer, Kunetzki still makes an effort to keep up to date on their developments.

"In the event our liaison officer (was absent) at our monthly meeting, it was not unusual for Staff Sgt. Kunetzki to attend personally and report on behalf of his detachment," Smereka said. "This commitment helps maintain strong ties and close contact with our RCMP officers."

Before commenting on what the award means to him, Kunetzki was sure to praise the group for their efforts in serving as the eyes and ears of the RCMP when they can't be everywhere at once.

"I would describe our group as being really active and involved," he said. "If we didn't have them, we'd provide a base level of service, but (having them) enriches and enhances our police service, as well as our community."

He went on to say it's a great form of community asset-building, which helps the RCMP discover and solve crimes.

The local COP group assists Beaumont RCMP in check stops by looking out for distracted drivers and gathers traffic data in high-complaint areas.

"Often we get calls from people saying 'We're seeing a lot of speeding here and need more enforcement.' But before I start reallocating resources, I need to get some data," Kunetzki said.

If you see a civilian with a safety vest measuring speeds with a radar gun, they are from COP.

"What they're doing is gathering statistics," Kunetzki said. "So that way we can determine if we really have a problem here, or is it just perception."

This is not the first award Kunetzki has won.

But for him, this award is extra special.

"I can tell you it's the most valuable award, because it's the people we're serving that nominated me," he said. "It's not from a system or a process, it's actually from people you interact with, and that's why it means so much to me."

Anyone looking to join COP can visit www.beaumontcops.ca.

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ARTICLE OF INTEREST

Occupant Restraints is the focus for October:

KIDS NEED A BOOST
Seat belts aren't enough to save your child in a collision.

Without a booster seat, an adult seat belt rides too high on your child's body and neck and can cause serious internal injuries in the event of a crash.

Keep your kids safe by using a booster seat until 145 cm (4' 9") or 36 kg (80 lbs).

Learn more about how you can keep your child safe with our Booster Seat Toolkit that tracks your child's growth and lets you know when it's safe to take them out of a booster seat.

CLICK TO SIGN UP

GET YOUR KIDS ON BOARD WITH THESE FUN CRAFTS!

- SEAT BELT COZY**
Make an 8" X 10" seat belt cover in any design you want. [Click to learn how!](#)
- SEAT BELT BADGES**
Print out seat belt badges to colour and keep track of your kids' growth. [Click to download now!](#)
- HEIGHT CHART**
Print out a booster seat height chart and make setting goals fun. [Click to download now!](#)

Alberta Government

- In 2011, **95%** of Albertans in rural and urban areas were using occupant restraints. This is the last time Transport Canada conducted an observation survey of seatbelt usage.
- Research and collision investigations show that seatbelts increase the chances of survival in a collision by **50%**.
- Without a booster seat, a child is **three and a half times more** likely to suffer a significant injury.
- The fine for not using a seatbelt or child safety seat is **\$115**.
- Seatbelts save about **1000** lives per year in Canada.

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To remind people about the importance of booster seats, this ad will be used as part of an online advertising campaign.

Watch for tweets from [@ABTransComm](#). I have included some draft **tweets** you may want to use this month. We also have some excellent information in our [Communications Toolkit](#).

- Buckle up, in all vehicle seats! If you do not #BuckleUp – you become a deadly weapon to other passengers #Seatbelts #abroads
- It takes seconds to #BuckleUp and a lifetime to make up for the consequences of not doing so. #abroads
- Drivers are responsible to ensure that all passengers under 16 are properly secured using either a child safety seat or seatbelt.
- Looking for help on booster seats and child safety seats? Find it here! <http://bit.ly/1mgz6m4> #abroads
- What's holding you back? <http://saferoads.com/video/Asphalt%20Jungle%20Videos/Seat-Belts.mov> #abroads

For more information or tools, please visit the following site:

- [Saferoads](#)
- [Alberta Occupant Restraint Program](#)
- [Save a Friend](#)
- [Booster Seats](#)

Feel free to share any of our materials with your members, families and friends. Thank you in advance for your dedication and commitment to traffic safety in Alberta.

Wendy Doyle, Executive Director

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ARTICLE OF INTEREST

Memorial unveiled for Quanto the police dog

PAMELA ROTH, QMI AGENCY

FIRST POSTED: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 07, 2014 01:42 PM MDT |

UPDATED: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 07, 2014 01:54 PM MDT



Edmonton Police Service Dog, Quanto, was killed following an altercation with a criminal flight suspect on Monday Oct. 7, 2013. Edmonton Police Hand out

Article

EDMONTON - RCMP unveiled a monument Tuesday to Quanto, the Edmonton police dog killed in the line of duty.

The five-year-old German Shepherd was stabbed to death while latching onto a suspect fleeing on foot on Oct. 7, 2013.

The death inspired Prime Minister Stephen Harper to introduce Quanto's Law — legislation that increases penalties for harming service animals.

The memorial was unveiled Tuesday outside Edmonton Police Service's K-division headquarters, 100 metres from where Quanto was stabbed.

RCMP Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan said the plaque was a symbol and a reminder to all employees entering the building; a reminder of Quanto's sacrifice, the risks associated with police work, and the strong bond the RCMP have with Edmonton city police.

Ryan said Quanto's death was a loss felt by the entire Canadian police community.

Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knecht was overwhelmed with the response he received the day the dog died.

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"It just wasn't a one day response. It went on for days and days and days. The letters we got, the e-mails we got and the support from Canadians, from Albertans and Edmontonians was quite frankly extraordinary," said Knecht.

"I haven't seen anything quite like that since my involvement with Mayerthorpe," he said referring to the 2005 slayings of four RCMP officers by a police hater who then killed himself. Last March, Quanto's killer, Paul Joseph Vukmanich, was sentenced to 26 months in prison following guilty pleas to animal cruelty, flight from police, possession of a dangerous weapon, impaired driving, resisting arrest and possession of stolen property.



WORKSHOP ATTENDEES



Photo of the attendees at the Workshop in Pincher Creek as taken by the RCMP remote helicopter under the controls of Cpl Barry Red Iron - Lethbridge RCMP Forensic Collision Reconstructionist.

HUMOUR



What mobile phone users should watch

Everyone needs to see this fantastic commercial. This is pretty awesome, and it only takes a second!

A Hong Kong movie theatre asked its patrons to leave their cellphones ON when they entered the movie. Then a commercial for Volkswagen hit the screen. Watch the reactions of the audience...

https://www.youtube.com/embed/JHixelr_6BM?rel=0&autoplay=1&iv_load_policy=3