

# Newsletter

Spring, 2017



## Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association



- Message from RCMP Liaison
- Board Members
- COP Fall Workshop/AGM Notice
- Safe Speed
- Reports for various COP Groups
- ACOPA News

### From the computer of:

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## Saying Goodbye

COP in Alberta is a great and dedicated group and there is a lot each one of you should be proud of. So many patrol hours, so many kilometres driven and so many calls to our detachment officers. COP went from 56 to nearly 80 groups in less than two years. Whether using the ACOPA IPatrol or not report patrols, you are finding ways to better communicate with our detachment members. You are flaggers, foot patrollers, speed watchers and most important of all, you are the eyes and ears of our Alberta Communities. You are a well organized and dedicated group of individuals who care and want to be involved. It has been beautiful to watch you doing what you do during the time I was liaison. It is with sadness that I announce that I am moving on, however I am confident that you will successfully continue to be great volunteers. Having said that, I am happy to announce that a successor, Sergeant Martin Girard, has been named to replace me. It will be with pride that I can pass-on my Provincial Liaison role to him and I'll tell him that he is very lucky to work with such a great group. I'll keep on watching your accomplishments from a distance.

All the best to you all and Stay Safe out there.

*Josée Valiquette, Sgt.*

### Elected Board Members 2016/17...

- |                  |                 |               |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| • President      | Bev Salomons    | Arrossan      |
| • Vice President | Shane Smith     | Raymond       |
| • Treasurer      | Mary Cliff      | Edson         |
| • Secretary      | Beth Endresen   | Sexsmith      |
| • Director 1     | Ennio Ricci     | Airdrie       |
| • Director 2     | George Dowson   | Pincher Creek |
| • Director 3     | Joan Boekema    | Three Hills   |
| • Director 4     | Chris MacDonald | Beaumont      |
| • Director 5     | Garth Kohlsmith | Westlock      |

### ACOPA Volunteer Board Members

- |                     |                |  |
|---------------------|----------------|--|
| o Newsletter        | Leona Gardecki | <a href="mailto:newsletter@acopa.ca">newsletter@acopa.ca</a> |
| o Webmaster         | Henry Salomons | <a href="mailto:webmaster@acopa.ca">webmaster@acopa.ca</a>   |
| o Insurance Liaison | Eugene Smereka | <a href="mailto:insurance@acopa.ca">insurance@acopa.ca</a>   |
| o ID cards Liaison  | Ray Brown      | <a href="mailto:idcards@acopa.ca">idcards@acopa.ca</a>       |
| o Casino Chair      | Leona Gardecki | <a href="mailto:newsletter@acopa.ca">newsletter@acopa.ca</a> |

## AGM & WORKSHOP



### HIGH RIVER CITIZENS ON PATROL

#### A.C.O.P.A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & WORKSHOPS



SEPTEMBER 15 and 16, 2017



### Liaison Officer Recognition Award

The application form for the annual Law Enforcement recognition award is posted on the website under the member's menu and then under forms.

If your Liaison Officer is doing an outstanding job with your group, please consider this recognition award.

## SAFETY STATS



Speed can be the difference between a minor injury and a serious one such as brain trauma, which will have life-long consequences for you, your family, and your friends. It's important that drivers drive at a speed suitable for the characteristics of the road and be aware of unexpected hazards, such as blind spots, dips or hills on the roadway, and animals on the road.

### The Facts:

- In the last 5 years, 451 people were killed and 11,753 were injured in collisions involving unsafe speed. (2010-2014).
- In 2014, 25 per cent of fatal collisions involved a driver travelling at an unsafe speed.
- In the 2017 Driver Attitude Survey, 57 per cent of Albertans said they almost never drive more than 10 km above the posted speed limit. Only 19 per cent of Albertans said they almost never drive between 5 and 10 km above the posted speed limit.
- In the past 10 years, there were an average of 1,274 convictions each year for speeding more than 50 km/h over the speed limit.
- Demerits for speeding range from two points (exceeding the posted limit by less than 15 km/h) to six points (exceeding the posted limit by more than 50 km/h)
- In the last 5 years, 40 per cent of fatal speed-related collisions occurred in urban areas, leaving 60 per cent in rural areas (2010-2014).

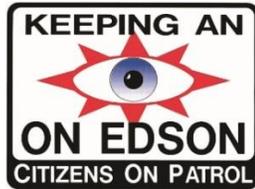
This month we are educating Albertans about the importance of safe speeds through a radio spot and billboards in both rural and urban markets.

- v [Safe roads](#)
- v [Alberta Transportation](#)
- v [Collision Statistics](#)
- v [511.alberta.ca](http://511.alberta.ca) for up-to-date road information including traffic delays and construction.

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

Wendy Doyle, Executive Director, Office of Traffic Safety  
Alberta Transportation

## Reports From Various COP Groups:



### NEWS RELEASE

Edson, AB - Citizens On Patrol Edson had a busy year in 2016 being an extra set of eyes and ears for the Edson RCMP. The organization conducted 74 patrols in both the Town of Edson and Yellowhead County covering 9177 kilometers. Volunteers were able to assist with traffic control, located suspects and helped remove over a dozen suspected impaired drivers from area roadways.

“We appreciate the on-going positive relationship we have with our dedicated COP volunteers who have contributed hundreds of hours patrolling out streets. Community policing initiatives such as this are important to reducing crime and making a safer community.” - Staff Sgt. Peter King of the Edson RCMP.

Edson COP members contributed 770 hours to patrolling area streets and roadways and spent 59 hours volunteering at local events including the Pokemon Go Safety BBQ and the Edson Summer Festival.

“We’d like to thank the RCMP for their continued support along with Edson Town Council, Bannister GM, Garva Petroleum along with other businesses and organizations that provide us with funding to pay for training, equipment, fuel, food and insurance for our volunteers while out on patrol,” said Mary Cliff, President of Citizens On Patrol Edson.

Edson Citizens On Patrol along with Edson Victim Services and the Edson Friendship Centre are once again working together to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner and Dance on February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Canadian Legion in Edson. Tickets will be on sale soon. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets or sponsoring the event, can contact Kevin at 780-712-9786 or Kristie at 789-712-9081.

The group has 14 active volunteers and has 3 applicants that are currently in the approval process. Anyone interested in joining the organization can pick up an application form at the Edson RCMP Detachment or at Bannister GM. Applicants must be 18 years of age, be of good character and be able to pass a

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Criminal Record check. For more information about the Citizens On Patrol Program, visit the Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association website at [www.acopa.ca](http://www.acopa.ca) or the Edson COP Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/edsoncitizensonpatrol](http://www.facebook.com/edsoncitizensonpatrol)

For more information contact:  
Mary Cliff, President, Edson Citizens On Patrol  
780-723-1397



Edson Citizens On Patrol hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner and Dance on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The event was held to say thanks to area First Responders for the work they do in the community.

Members of the Edson RCMP, the Edson Fire Department, Associated Ambulance, Yellowhead Regional 911 Dispatch and Yellowhead County Fire were all recognized. Over 200 people attended the event including close to 100 Edson and Yellowhead County First Responders. MP Jim Eglinski, Edson Deputy Mayor Jim Gomuwka and Yellowhead County Mayor Gerald Soroka all spoke at the event. Eglinski, a former RCMP officer, spoke about PTSD and the need for First Responders to look out for one another. Detachment Commander Peter King recognized the spouses and the sacrifices they make to support First Responders.

The Edson Friendship Centre and Edson and District Victim Services helped organize the event and the Edson Run of Hope Cancer Support Group assisted with the 50/50. The winning ticket was held by an Edson RCMP Officer who donated the money back. \$3500 was raised at the event which will go to the host organizations. Several dance-offs were held during the evening between the First Responders and the Edson RCMP narrowly beat the Edson Fire Department. Video was taken but shall never be disclosed! By all accounts, a fun time was had by all.

Edson RCMP Detachment Commander Peter King presented 3 officers with service medals during the formal part of the evening including Citizens on Patrol Liaison Cst. Douglas Topolnitsky. (Picture attached)

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## Reports From Various COP Groups:

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Subject: Edson RCMP News Release

We had a very busy night April 1st. Please see the news release below from the Edson RCMP.

Edson RCMP Arrest Suspects in Case of Car Prowling



Edson, Alberta – RCMP in Edson have made a number of arrests in a rash of crime occurring overnight in the Town. On April 1, 2017 the event began with Edson RCMP receiving a number of complaints of vehicle related crimes. Edson Citizens On Patrol (COP) located the suspects which led to their identification by Police.

Police were then notified a bank card that had been stolen was used at a local gas station. Video surveillance... was obtained which led to the arrests of the individuals.

"The extra set of eyes and assistance provided by the Edson COP was key to advancing this investigation," states Constable Alex Ayres of the Edson RCMP Detachment. "Information from the public always proves invaluable to putting a stop to crime in our community."

Police believe unlocked vehicles in the neighborhoods of Glenwood, Westgrove, Tiffin, Westhaven, Cedar Mobile Home Park, Creekside Village and Sunset Mobile Estates were targeted. Edson RCMP are continuing to investigate and are requesting that anyone who had their vehicle entered overnight to report it to the Detachment at [\(780\) 723-8800](tel:7807238800) or in person during business hours with their licence plate, address, and a list of stolen items.

## Heartland C.O.P. receives grant



*Joanne Bourque from Heartland Citizens On Patrol shakes the hand of Bill Soini of Cenovus during the cheque presentation at the Fort Saskatchewan RCMP Detachment.*

Cenovus Energy's Bruderheim Terminal donated a significant amount of money to keep the Heartland Citizens on Patrol (C.O.P.) safe.

A \$5,000 grant will go to improving the equipment available to members who are the RCMP's eyes and ears on the streets.

The cheque was presented at the January 16 meeting at the Fort Saskatchewan RCMP detachment.

"We're looking to use the money received to purchase equipment to keep our members safe, help them in patrolling and keep anyone safe they come across if they've been involved in an accident or stranded on the side of the road," explained Chantel Frechette, secretary of the Heartland C.O.P.

Some of the equipment on the supplied list includes amber vehicle beacons, police scanner equipment for all members, high-visibility safety clothes, first aid kits and duffle bags to keep the equipment in. The group is also looking to purchase their own radar guns, Flir, night vision binoculars and speed sign.

The Heartland C.O.P. cover Fort Saskatchewan, Lamont, Bruderheim, Chipman and surrounding rural areas.

Published: Tuesday, 17 January 2017 11:55

Written by Tim Evans

## Reports From Various COP Groups:



### High River COP Highlights!

We are so very proud of our group. In the short year, we have actually been on the road patrolling, we have logged approximately 4,853 km., 669 patrol hours and 374 event hours. We are a group of 24 dedicated volunteers led by an amazing RCMP liaison.

We are most excited to be hosting this year's ACOPA Workshop and AGM. We look forward to you all coming and learning ways to increase your COP productivity. We've also incorporated some fun – who doesn't like fun!

Please find the registration form in this newsletter as well as on the ACOPA website. Look ahead to what we will be offering over the next couple of months, as we plan to do a sneak peek!

Submitted by: Tammy Beach, President, High River COP



### Vermilion COP

We are small group, so to enhance and build on our strengths we are directing more of our energies toward the power of knowledge for community.

For our first event, we partnered with Lakeland College, Prairie EMS and local addictions counsellors for a Feb 7 presentation on Fentanyl by Cpl. Brad McIntosh, complimented by a counselling team from Turning Point out of Red Deer. Cpl. McIntosh spoke to the students at Vermilion Outreach school in the afternoon and at Lakeland College in the evening. Both presentations were very well received. We had attendees from surrounding communities, fire departments, schools, health care providers and the public. Information tables were manned by EMS, Turning Point and local mental health personnel.

A request was made for even more information. Thus, we are planning a follow-up on the drug spectrum, the psychology of addiction and counselling and support availability with personnel from Thorpe Treatment Centre of Lloydminster. Local mental health counsellors will also once again have information tables there.

Submitted by: Elna Eidsvik, Vermilion COP



### Carstairs AGM 2017 - President's Report

It has been a very busy productive year. Our membership campaign produced 10 new members. Meetings with the Carstairs Protective Services have been informative and fruitful. Several ideas were discussed including possibly using the speed monitoring equipment in the future.

The Town website has been updated to display current data and we are now on the "Volunteer With Us" page and the "Community Services" page. The town also sponsored us in the Alberta 211Inclusion System. We are included in the Alberta 211 Inclusion database which lists us with all the Alberta special groups and provides more recognition in the Province.

As you know we have new equipment in the bag and it is interfacing well with our reporting duties. We are now members of the Olds Rural Crime Watch organization which gives us access to all their reports and data. We explored group recognition options such as caps or vests but it appears that anonymity is preferred now. We also explored Website provides and have several quotes if there is any interest. The town has received its annual statistics report and the ACOPA database is up to date to the end of the year.

I hope you have enjoyed this past year and that next year will be even better. Drive Safe.

Submitted by: Pete Johnson, President, Carstairs COP

A.C.O.P.A.

## Reports From Various COP Groups:



### Claresholm & District C.O.P

After almost three years Claresholm & District C.O.P. now has enough volunteers to get teams back out on patrol to help our citizens and the RCMP keep Claresholm and our district safer for us all.

There had been a change of executive at our AGM which was held in December 2016 with a meeting attendance of a total of 14 people.

We are all excited to get out there and start patrols but are just finishing up our training and coordinating communications with the officers we will be working with here in Claresholm. This past week the president and I went around our town asking some of our business' if they could assist us to get our kits back up to par. That was a very successful morning we received enough items to complete two patrol kits for our teams.

We have a very anxious crew ready to go and we expect be out there in the next week to ten days.

We will be voting for a new secretary at our April meeting as our past Secretary had to step down.

Our new board is:

- o Ann Bunch- President
- o Judy Slaughter- Treasurer and acting Secretary
- o Kay Mellon- Director
- o Barb Eddy – Director

Submitted by: Judy Slaughter, Claresholm & District C.O.P.



A busy December capped off a busy year for the Strathcona County Citizens on Patrol Society.

Our group assisted with traffic and crowd control when the CP Christmas Train stopped in our County. A cold but enjoyable outing.

A Positive Check Stop in front of the brightly decorated detachment saw our volunteers alongside the RCMP and Peace Officers handing out candy canes and cards while thanking motorists for not drinking and driving. Another cold but fun evening ending with hot chocolate and cookies at the detachment.

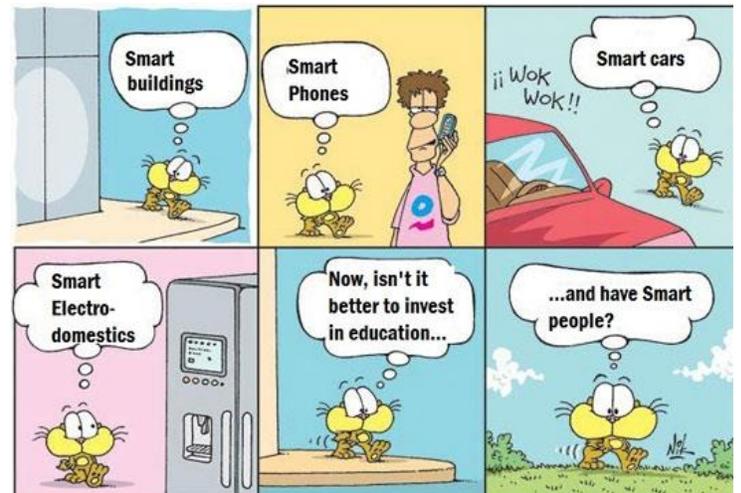
Our local New Years Eve celebration is family oriented with 4 hours of family activities leading up to a firework display at 8:00pm. COP volunteers take care of the Lost Child area by giving out wristbands to the kids on which the adult has written their cell phone number. And we ensure any separated kids and adults are reunited. We also assist to secure the perimeter area for the fireworks.

In addition, our volunteers offered a 'Safe Ride Home' on the night of the detachment Christmas Party.

These activities were extras provided to the community in addition to our regular patrol outings.

Ruth Shewfelt, President, Strathcona County COP

### A little bit of humour...



## ACOPA HIGHLIGHTS:



### Criminal Record Checks

Good news! Recently an updated Memorandum of Understanding between ACOPA and the RCMP was accepted at National RCMP in Ottawa giving approval for Criminal Record Checks to be executed every 2 years. Groups should adjust their time line for the checks and this should allow more time to keep up with the paperwork.

Any group in the Edmonton area needing a Criminal Record Check should be aware that the city of Edmonton charges \$48 for the CRC unless a letter from the C.O.P. group requesting the CRC accompanies the request. With the letter, the cost is \$15.



### Scanners

The new radio system for the police will soon be implemented in Alberta, so if any group was thinking about purchasing scanners, please save your money as it is only a short time before scanners will no longer be effective.

Groups should start working with their detachments and figure out a process for communication and information sharing for while on patrol and what is happening in the community and have this in place soon so once the scanners are shut down, the communication will continue, just in a different manner.

Groups could consider the purchase of 2 way radios to be shared amongst members and the detachment. This could be a possibility for smaller detachments.



### RCMP Liaison Officer

Sadly, ACOPA's Liaison Officer at K Division will be leaving the end of June, heading to a new position in Ottawa. In the short time that Sgt. Josée Valiquette, has been the ACOPA Liaison Officer, a great deal has been accomplished and the C.O.P. program has been heavily supported and advertised amongst the Alberta Detachments. Josée has certainly been a very involved Liaison Officer and will certainly be missed. ACOPA wishes Josée "all the best" in her next assignment in the Nation's capital.



### New C.O.P. groups

Welcome to new C.O.P. groups getting started in the following communities:

Clive	Cold Lake
Diamond Valley	Fairview
Mayerthorpe	Red Deer County
Warner	Claresholm (returning)



### ID cards

The ID card making has been passed from Ray Brown to Leona Gardecki. Many thanks to Ray for all his time in getting this new system in place and the time and effort spent on providing the new ID cards to our members. The email for requesting ID card s remains the same at [idcards@acopa.ca](mailto:idcards@acopa.ca)

## ACOPA HIGHLIGHTS:

### Application Form...

#### ...to Join C.O.P. has been updated

An updated C.O.P. application form is being released that can be either printed off or filled out online. There are several changes to the application form, including changes to the Code of Conduct, which everyone should read. These changes are also reflected in the A.C.O.P.A. Reference Manual which has also been updated, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding which has just been approved in Ottawa.

Once the application form is brought to the Detachment for processing, the completed form should remain at the detachment. There is personal information on the form and that should not be stored in anyone's house. The Liaison Officer could be filing these forms, or if the C.O.P. has a spot at their detachment, the forms could be left there in a secured location.



### Auto Theft Awareness Program

Are you looking for an activity for your members? A.C.O.P.A. has replenished the supply of Ticket books to use for this educational program that C.O.P. members can participate in their community. Groups interested should discuss with their Liaison Officer first and then let Bev know at [president@acopa.ca](mailto:president@acopa.ca) so books can be sent out.

Citizens On Patrol groups should follow these guidelines as were set up by A.C.O.P.A. and "K" Division:

- o Discuss your plan and location with area detachment before doing any ticketing
- o If your local law enforcement does not feel comfortable with the program, do not go ahead with it. Law enforcement should be part of the ticket event.
- o When doing an Auto theft awareness ticket blitz, all vehicles must receive tickets, whether there are valuables in view or not.
- o C.O.P. Members doing the ticketing must wear clothing identifying themselves as C.O.P. Members

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- o Please be very aware of zippers/buttons/purses and other items on your person that may scratch a vehicle when you brush against it.
- o C.O.P. Members cannot check door handles on vehicles.
- o Co-ordinate with local businesses prior to any Auto theft awareness ticket blitz, so that they are aware of what is happening.
- o The tickets are carbon copies, so please use the cardboard in the book between tickets so that you have a copy of each ticket.
- o Be careful when placing the ticket under the windshield wiper.
- o Tickets should be folded so that passersby cannot read what was checked off.

### Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association

Check out the new website for Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association at: [www.Albertacrimeprevention.com](http://www.Albertacrimeprevention.com) for information on their upcoming ACCPA Annual Conference May 2 and 3, 2017

Partners in Crime: Building Partnerships that Help Create Safe Communities



### Statement of Intent

Reminder to all groups - you should be thinking about filling out the Statement of Intent for a discount on your Groups insurance for 2017-2018. Before signing this statement of intent, groups must agree that they will follow the ACOPA Reference Manual to the best of their ability and this must be reflected in the group's minutes.

Eugene must have them on or BEFORE Sept. 1, 2017. Please email to Eugene at [insurance@acopa.ca](mailto:insurance@acopa.ca) or mail to:

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