

# Newsletter

SPRING, 2018



## Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association



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### From the computer of:

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Sgt Martin Girard  
R.C.M.P. K Division

# Thank You

ACOPA thanks retired RCMP Robert Gollan for his dedication to going out to communities to present the ACOPA Train the Trainer sessions. ACOPA has some funds remaining to assist with the cost for a few more sessions. ACOPA covers the cost of the presenter fees, his mileage, hotel and any meals. Thanks to the groups who have also assisted with covering some of the expenses. This enables ACOPA to offer additional training.

Groups that host the training are responsible for securing a location that will sit 40 participants and depending on the time of day to provide drinks and food. C.O.P. members are not charged to attend. Any expenses for attendees are not covered by ACOPA or the host group.

### ACOPA Train the Trainer training sessions took place in:

... Olds December 9<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to Jennifer Lutz for organizing the training and feeding the participants from Olds, Gull Lake North, Rimbey, Bentley, Lacombe and Sundre. Thanks to Kristen Hubschmid for videotaping the training session.

.. Whitecourt January 13<sup>th</sup> had members from Edson, Drayton Valley, Mayerthorpe, Parkland County and Whitecourt, along with 3 RCMP in attendance.

... Westlock March 10<sup>th</sup> with members from Westlock, Jarvie, Legal, Redwater, Tofield, Devon, Bon Accord and Drayton Valley

... Drumheller Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup> also hosted a training session.

## Welcome to new Groups

# Welcome

... Legal citizens met Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> and are off to a great start with 14 citizens committed to starting C.O.P. Their executive was put in place and the volunteers are getting their Criminal Record Checks done. Thanks to Cst Carter Boytinck for taking on the Liaison Officer position to advise the group. Cst Boytinck has experience working with the Stettler C.O.P. group and has attended the ACOPA Workshop in the past.

... Camrose citizens met Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. ACOPÄ Director Ron Pettigrew attended the meeting of 40 residents with an interim board in place to start working on getting incorporated. Camrose City Police was in attendance and will be working with the new to be formed Citizens On Patrol group. It helps when the organizer was a former C.O.P. member from Edson and already has experience to help with the organizing.

... Tofield citizens have met a couple of times already and are well on their way with an executive in place and By Laws prepared. Tofield Mayor Deb Dueck has been a strong supporter for getting the C.O.P. program started. The local newspaper, the Tofield Mercury, has promoted the C.O.P. program in a recent edition. (check the article on the ACOPA Facebook). Thanks to Sgt Powell for supporting getting C.O.P. up and running in Tofield.

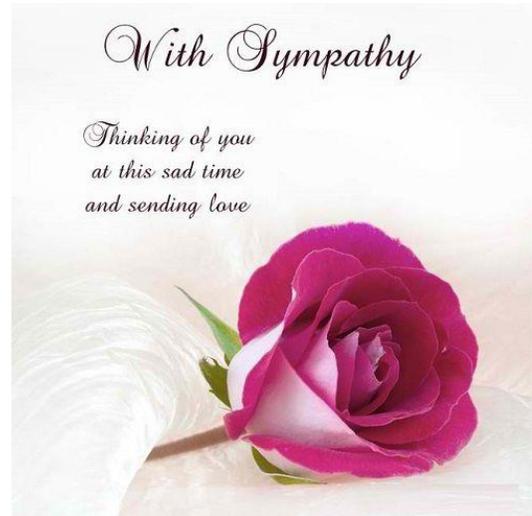
... McNally citizens are in the process of getting organized. These enthusiastic citizens are energized about getting the C.O.P. program started in their community. Welcome back to Cst Doug Sokoloski who a few years back made a huge difference as the Liaison Officer for the Pincher Creek C.O.P. group. If anyone wants to really meet Cst Sokoloski, go to U tube and look for the "Coolest cop ever playing drums in the woods"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KTnLVzI2q4>

... Redwater is wanting to start the C.O.P. program. On Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, a group of 15 citizens gathered to get an executive in place. Thanks to ACOPA Vice President, Garth Kohlsmith, for attending the meeting to help get the organizing started.

Welcome back to Strathmore for getting their paperwork in order and working on getting incorporated. Nice to have you back!

Congratulations to Sundre for getting all their paperwork approved and are now officially a C.O.P. group ready to start patrolling.



### Condolences to the Mary Cliff family

ACOPA is very saddened to share the news that Mary Cliff, former ACOPA Treasurer and former President of Edson C.O.P. has passed away with her funeral held on Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup>. Check the ACOPA or Edson Facebook for more details.



### LEDUC Christmas Event

Thanks to the Leduc C.O.P. group for inviting Director Ron Pettigrew and his wife Lynne and President Bev Salomons and her husband Henry to the Leduc Christmas dinner held the end of January. It was a great event with a delicious meal, great conversations and a chance to share what Leduc C.O.P. are doing. Impressive is the educational program that they recently did. In 2017, there were an average of 1.5 vehicles stolen in the city of Leduc every day of the year. There was some research done to compile which vehicles were the top three stolen vehicles. It was discovered that the Ford trucks, Dodge/ Ram and Chevy/GMC fit the top 3 list. Two thousand flyers were printed off with the photos of these vehicles and the C.O.P. members went around Leduc in search of these vehicles, leaving a flyer for the owner's notice.

### ACOPA Casino

ACOPA has been approved for a casino in Edmonton for August 27 and 28. Volunteers will be needed to fill all the positions. Groups that volunteer can get their ACOPA fees paid for by having 2 volunteers assist with the casino. If interested and available to assist, please let Bev know at [president@acopa.ca](mailto:president@acopa.ca) All volunteers need to be in place by mid-June as part of the casino expectations for AGLC.

### ACOPA Video Project

The ACOPA Video project to promote the C.O.P. program is underway with several interviews already taken place.

The promotional videos will be completed by the fall. Any C.O.P. group participating in a Community event, or a special event where our videographer, Ben Wilson, could attend for some video clips, please let Bev know at [president@acopa.ca](mailto:president@acopa.ca) as ACOPA would like to have as many C.O.P. groups as possible involved in this project.

### ACOPA Video Shoot



On Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup>, a video shoot took place in Ardrossan to promote the Citizens On Patrol program. RCMP members Cst Rick Green, Cst Tara Lisson and Cst Jadon Helgeson from the Strathcona Detachment joined Bev Salomons, President of Alberta Citizens On Patrol (ACOPA) and Henry Salomons, Webmaster for ACOPA. Ruth Shewfelt, Jim Shewfelt, Ron Reese and Leonard Bohachyk, members of Strathcona County Citizens On Patrol assisted with demonstrating what Citizens On Patrol do while on patrol. Alexandra Galenza, student from NAIT, was taking video shots for her video project on Community Policing. Ben Wilson, videographer, was taking filming for a series of videos that will promote the Citizens On Patrol program and provide training opportunities. Jason Franson, photographer from the Canadian Press was also on hand taking photos for a series of articles on C.O.P. Sgt Martin Girard from RCMP "K" Division was on hand assisting as well.

**Congratulations** to the newly formed C.O.P. group in Carbon for already making a difference in their community.

<https://www.drumhelleronline.com/local/20521-c-o-p-makes-a-difference-in-carbon>

### ACOPA Workshop

Sexsmith C.O.P. will be hosting the ACOPA Workshop the weekend of September 21, 22 and 23. As information becomes available, it will be posted on the ACOPA website.

### ACOPA President interviewed in National Post



RCMP constable Terra Lisson, left and Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association president Bev Salomons look through cars for valuables to warn the owners about the dangers of leaving valuables in a vehicle, in Ardrossan, Alta., on Tuesday, March 6, 2018.

Submitted by: JASON FRANSON / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Here are some further links of interest.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4076885/rural-crime-property-rights-debate/>

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/landowners-are-free-prey-rural-residents-express-concern-about-crime-property-rights-1.3838711>

<http://nationalpost.com/news/canada/landowners-are-free-prey-rural-residents-worried-about-crime-property-rights>

### Distracted Driving

We all know texting and driving is illegal and dangerous, but we still do it. Why? Learn about all forms of distracted driving, laws to enforce safer behaviours, and why focusing on the road is so important.

For more info, go to:

<https://saferoads.com/drivers/safety-issues/distracted/distracted-driving-law>

## ACOPA BOARD 2018-19

Updated list of Board Members: as at March 13, 2018

### Elected:

- |                  |                 |  |
|------------------|-----------------|--|
| • President      | Bev Salomons    | <a href="mailto:president@acopa.ca">president@acopa.ca</a>         |
| • Vice President | Garth Kohlsmith | <a href="mailto:vicepresident@acopa.ca">vicepresident@acopa.ca</a> |
| • Treasurer      | Irene Wegmann   | <a href="mailto:treasurer@acopa.ca">treasurer@acopa.ca</a>         |
| • Secretary      | Beth Endresen   | <a href="mailto:secretary@acopa.ca">secretary@acopa.ca</a>         |
| • Director 2     | George Dowson   | <a href="mailto:director2@acopa.ca">director2@acopa.ca</a>         |
| • Director 3     | Joan Boekema    | <a href="mailto:director3@acopa.ca">director3@acopa.ca</a>         |
| • Director 5     | Ron Pettigrew   | <a href="mailto:director5@acopa.ca">director5@acopa.ca</a>         |
| • Director 6     | Greg Mathias    | <a href="mailto:director6@acopa.ca">director6@acopa.ca</a>         |

### Volunteers on the ACOPA Board

- |                     |                |  |
|---------------------|----------------|--|
| ○ Newsletter        | Leona Gardecki | <a href="mailto:newsletter@acopa.ca">newsletter@acopa.ca</a> |
| ○ Webmaster         | Henry Salomons | <a href="mailto:webmaster@acopa.ca">webmaster@acopa.ca</a>   |
| ○ ID cards          | Leona Gardecki | <a href="mailto:idcards@acopa.ca">idcards@acopa.ca</a>       |
| ○ Insurance Liaison | Eugene Smereka | <a href="mailto:insurance@acopa.ca">insurance@acopa.ca</a>   |
| ○ Casino Chair      | Leona Gardecki | <a href="mailto:newsletter@acopa.ca">newsletter@acopa.ca</a> |
| ○ ACOPA Historian   | Paul Kenny     | Crowsnest Pass   |

## Petition to propose tax credit for Citizens On Patrol volunteers

Please sign the petition that is being put forward to the Government of Canada in the House of Commons that is proposing for Citizens On Patrol to receive a tax credit, the same as volunteer Firemen and volunteer Search and Rescue receive. Send the petition to your family, friends and neighbours for support. In the first 12 hours of sending out the petition, there are already 110 signatures from Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Saskatchewan. Let's see how many signatures we can get to add support to this proposed bill that will give a tax credit for Citizens On Patrol.

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1581>