

Newsletter

September, 2014

Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association



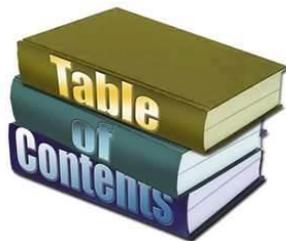
Come Join Us!

- **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
- (requires free R.C.M.P. security check and valid drivers licence)
- **Contact Us**

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.



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

The A.C.O.P.A. AGM and Workshop is set for Sept 19 & 20, 2014 and will be held in Pincher Creek this year.

The registration form for the 2014 Workshop/AGM has been forwarded to your group and has also been posted on the ACOPA website. Check the ACOPA website at www.acopa.ca and go to the members menu and look under Workshop/AGM for a copy of the form.

Please note that if you are ordering any extra banquet tickets, they have to be paid for along with the registration fee.



For last minute registrations please call: Robyn Dowson at [780-628-3785](tel:780-628-3785) to let them you are coming.

A.C.O.P.A. REMINDERS



Agenda is attached as part of Newsletter.

SILENT AUCTION



Please bring an item for the silent auction to as a donation to the Pincher Creek COP. Auction to be held during the workshop.

FLAG



If your unit has a flag or one from your municipality, please bring it along for the flag parade.

ELECTIONS



Election of Executive Members for 2014 -2015 for the following board positions:

President	2 yrs	Secretary	1 yr
Treasurer	2 yrs	Director	2 yrs
		Director	2 yrs

PINS & PROMOTIONAL ITEMS



If your unit has a pin or promotional from your community bring them along to trade with other units.

AGENDA FOR WORKSHOP

A.C.O.P.A. WORKSHOP/AGM
PINCHER CREEK
SEPTEMBER 19 & 20/2014
COWLEY COMMUNITY HALL
AGENDA

FRIDAY EVENING:

4:30 PM

Registration

5:30 – 6:30 PM

LIGHT SUPPER

6:30 PM

Introduction of M/C – Cst. Doug Sokoloski

6:30 PM

Town of Pincher Creek Mayor – Don Anderberg

Municipal District of Pincher Creek Reeve – Brian Hammond

Sgt. Randy Dixon

6:45 PM

Staff Sgt. Dean Hamm – “K” Division

7:00 PM

A.C.O.P.A. President – Bev Salomons

7:15 PM

Flag Ceremony – (With Piper)

7:30 PM

Round Table

8:30 PM

Presenter – Officer John Clarke – Fish and Wildlife District

Manager who will talk about the Karelian Bear Dog program

SATURDAY MORNING:

7:00 – 8:15 AM

BREAKFAST

8:30 – 9:15 AM

Presenter Officer John Remus and Lee Farough – Alberta

Inspection Services from Burmis Weigh Scale – Will have a rig available to show how to identify defects etc.

9:15 – 10:00 AM

Cpl. Jack Neri – Lethbridge Forensic Identification Unit – will talk about crime scene and evidence collection.

10:00 – 10:15 AM

Break for Coffee and Snack

10:15 – 11:00 AM

Liam Crotty – Program Co-Ordinator - Alberta Motor Association

11:00 – 11:45 AM

Cpl. Barry Red Iron – Lethbridge RCMP Forensic Collision

Reconstructionist – will talk about his duties at traffic accidents

11:45 AM – 1 PM

LUNCH

SATURDAY AFTERNOON:

1:00 – 3:00 PM

A.C.O.P.A. Annual General Meeting

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Liaison Officer Breakout Meeting

Snack will be available

3:00 – 5:00 PM

Bus Tour of the Area – Please sign up on Friday evening for this

6:00 – 7:00 PM

SUPPER – Cash Bar Available All Evening

6:30 PM

Closing of Silent Auction

7:00 PM

Flag and Closing Ceremonies

7:30 PM

COMEDIAN

ARTICLE OF INTEREST

NEWS LOCAL

A night in the life of Citizens on Patrol



By [Lindsay Morey](#), Fort Saskatchewan Record
Thursday, September 4, 2014 12:26:09 MDT PM



[After finishing their patrol around Ardrossan and the surrounding area, Henry Salomons give details of their evening to a Strathcona County RCMP officer on Aug. 22. Photo by Lindsay Morey/Fort Saskatchewan Record/QMI Agency](#)

Traveling along range roads with a bright beam of light searching off into the black abyss, the crackling static of a police scanner cuts in and out. Armed with a clipboard, pen and a finger flashlight, the president of Alberta's Citizen on Patrol Association (ACOPA) Bev Salomons and her husband Henry ready themselves for an evening patrol on Aug. 22, which ended in 70 kilometres covered over two hours.

Peering through binoculars, Henry spots a herd of teenagers and their cars congregating in the parking lot of the Ardrossan Recreation Centre: "School's starting up soon... they might be all good kids, just hanging out. They look pretty innocent right now. I don't see any bottles." Watching as more teens flocked on to the scene, the veteran volunteer begins their night by checking in with the Strathcona RCMP, letting them know of the patrolling couple's whereabouts and the situation unfolding at the rec centre. "So when we call it in, police show up and we sit back. We're not the law. We don't have any special powers," Bev explained.

In light of the joint effort between Bruderheim and Fort Saskatchewan to form the new Heartland Citizens on Patrol (COP), The Record was welcomed along for a ride-along patrol with the Strathcona COP group to see what's involved in being a volunteer. The Strathcona COP was created in November 2000, and ever since then, the Salomons have patrolled the streets of Ardrossan and other surrounding rural communities.

[Cont'd in next column...](#)

[Cont'd from previous column...](#)

"After 14 years of patrolling, you learn which vehicles belong where and around which buildings," Bev explained as the couple patrolled. As she dictates license plate numbers, the make and model of cars into her log book, she recounts the changes the two patrollers have made: "When we started, there were always parties behind the school. Now, there was only one all summer." She added they look for any open windows or doors, or suspicious activity around rural schools, community centres, fire stations, churches, post offices and business districts. "This is our community. There are certain places we're concerned about," Bev noted.

The couple's usual haunts include surveillance around all of Ardrossan's school, Uncas Elementary and Southcooking Lake Airport, where years before, there was an increase in break-ins. They also routinely visit the South Cooking Lake Sail Club, where teens still spin dirt donuts with their vehicles, damage iron fences, and have small fires during the summertime. "This is the place we've kind of adopted," Henry said, driving through the sail club. "It's a great place for a party but they're not respectful of it."

Other than patrolling, the ACOPA president said the Strathcona group is involved in finding lost children during Canada Day events, aiding trick-or-treaters on Halloween, and conducting traffic speed and distracted driving studies. Bev said it would be interesting to see what will happen in the Fort if it retains all of the initially interested volunteers. She said for the volunteers starting with the new Heartland COP group, they don't need much to get going — just small flashlights, notebooks, pens, a cellphone and COP magnetic car signs.

Bev noted over the last five years, she's received the highest amount of calls within the last four months from communities wanting to form a COP group. She said the increased requests is due to a surge in graffiti and other vandalism across the province. "It's not just in Fort Saskatchewan... it's getting out of hand," Bev said, adding the RCMP approached her to form a Citizen on Patrol group in one particular community because there was more than 200 cars broken into. While driving under a bridge beneath train tracks in Ardrossan, she commented on the town's own graffiti problems. "It was painted twice this year. It's just a mess. They can't keep up with it," she said, shining a light along the concrete as we drove by, adding: "A lot of people don't like those types of things happening in their communities and they're willing to step up."

Overall, Bev said being involved with Citizens on Patrol makes residents take an active role in the safety of their community, and help be an extra set of eyes and ears for the RCMP in areas that may get overlooked.

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[Reprinted with permission from Lindsay Morey.](#)

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Casino



The Casino is now over.



A big thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help for the various units.



We will be hearing about the funds likely in November.

Welcome

... to Bruderheim and Fort Saskatchewan who have formed the new Heartland Citizens on Patrol (COP).



The number of active C.O.P. Units in Alberta is 62; which gives us a total of 1021 active volunteer members.



New Members

Do you have an ID card for all your C.O.P. members? As soon as new members are security cleared let Ray Brown, the ACOPA ID person, know the names and the group and he will issue the ID card along with the A.C.O.P.A. number.

Send the information to idcards@acopa.ca

LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR – HAVE A GOOD DAY

