



Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association

Spring 2024 Newsletter

Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association

In this edition:

- Message from the President
- Introduction to ACOPA's new Liaison Officer, Liz Vandaele
- Fraud Prevention Month
- ID Card Volunteer
- Liaison Officer Award
- RCMP Volunteer Recognition Awards
- ACOPA Recognition Awards
- ACOPA Videos
- Wetaskiwin Training
- 2024 Workshop/AGM
- Groups in the News

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MARCH IS FRAUD PREVENTION MONTH



Message from the President

Message from the President: March 2024

We have a lot of exciting things happening this Spring.

We have several videos coming out, some of which you have received already. Please have a look at them and forward to anyone you think might be interested, especially your Municipal government staff to be put on their social media outlets.

Also planning has already started on our Workshop and AGM in Red Deer on September 13th, 14th, and 15th. We have decided to hold the event at the Baymont Hotel at 4311 – 49 Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta. With the help of the Citizens On Patrol group in Red Deer, I am sure this event will be a huge success. Start Planning for an exciting weekend with entertaining speakers, Silent Auction, 2 training sessions with Bob Gollan and lots of interaction with other group members.

I hope everyone is updating their Criminal Record Checks as almost everyone must have this done in 2024. If you do not do this, you will not be able to access the ACOPA Website until this is done and your Administrator has to go into your profile and update the CRC. You can not do this yourself - only the Administrator has access to do this. If they do not update their CRC they will also be locked out and then they must contact one of the Directors for the path forward.

Garth Kohlsmith
ACOPA President

Liz and her dog Stan (Liz not pictured 🙅 🙅)



*Say Hello to Liz Vendraelle
ACOPA's New Liaison Officer*

Liz is the RCMP contact for community partner groups such as Crime Stoppers; Citizens on Patrol; Rural Crime Watch and ACCPA. Having recently transitioned into this role from her time as a Partnership Liaison, she has remained within the RCMP Community Safety & Wellbeing branch, where she has enjoyed her work with Police and community agencies.

Liz is civilian staff, and has spent the last 15 years with the RCMP; having previously worked in the Chief Firearms Officers Office of Alberta & Northwest Territories, as well as database work.

Liz is excited to continue learning about the phenomenal work being done in our communities, and further collaboration between the RCMP and partners.

Fun fact: Liz is crazy about canning!!!!



MARCH IS FRAUD PREVENTION MONTH

This March, the Alberta RCMP say they will be sharing information and resources in support of the Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association's (ACCPA) [Fraud Prevention Month campaign](#).

Officials say the campaign, which will include a weekly theme, seeks to educate Albertans on the many ways that fraudulent activity impacts their communities.

Mounties say this week's theme focuses on online scams and frauds, which includes, but is not limited to:

- Romance scams;
- Phishing emails;
- Job scams;
- Buy and sell fraud;
- Lottery and/or prize scams;
- Tech Repair Scams; and
- Impersonation Scams

If you believe you may be a victim of fraud, or are currently being targeted by fraud, please report it to your local law enforcement and the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre \(CAFC\)](#) at 1-888-495-8501. Instances of compromised personal and/or financial information should be reported to your bank and credit card company. To learn more about the various types of frauds and scams, please visit the [CAFC's scam webpage](#).

Our police are out there every day and night while we sleep helping people. They are saving victims, keeping our streets safe for innocent families, mentoring youth, and keeping dangerous people off our streets. They are the helpers that are often left unacknowledged.



RCMP Volunteer Recognition

There is an opportunity to recognize years of service in the Citizens On Patrol program through the RCMP. If you have someone in your group who has been an active member for 5 years, that is the first level of recognition with a Certificate signed by K Division, and a 5 year volunteer pin. After that, the years that are recognized are 10, 15, 20, 25, etc. Pins come with each level of recognition, and some years have certificates signed by the RCMP Commissioner in Ottawa.

If you have any one in your group who would qualify for this recognition on any level, please send that information to the ACOPA Vice President at bevsalomons@gmail.com.

Send the name of the volunteer (please check spelling), the year they joined your Citizens On Patrol group and what year of recognition (5, 10, 15, 20) you are asking they be recognized for by June 1 2024.



Liaison Officer Award

Law Enforcement Liaison Officers are fundamental to the success of the Alberta Citizens on Patrol Association.

Throughout the year, the R.C.M.P. and other local law enforcement officers contribute their time, their efforts and their energy to working closely with C.O.P. groups across the province. The annual C.O.P. Workshop provides an excellent opportunity to recognize these officers for their work in community crime prevention.

An award will be presented to one Alberta Law Enforcement Liaison Officer at the Annual C.O.P. Workshop in Red Deer this year. The award will be presented during the Workshop weekend September 13 -15 2024.

If your Liaison Officer has demonstrated an above-and-beyond attitude in working with your C.O.P. group, we invite you to consider nominating them for this award.

Please fill out the nomination form using the link below and return it the A.C.O.P.A. President no later than August 15, 2024.

[ACOPA Liaison Officer Award](#)

Have a story or an idea for our newsletter?????

We'd love to hear from you!!! Email newsletter@acopa.ca.



ACOPA Volunteer Recognition

If you are a volunteer, you understand how nice it is when you are recognized for what you did. While people do not volunteer so they will be recognized, it is just nice when it happens. ACOPA allows the opportunity for volunteers to receive recognition at the annual Workshop. This is a time when the ACOPA President presents a recognition certificate to people who are nominated by their group. ACOPA currently has 43 C.O.P. groups, so really, every group should be nominating someone who stands out for the extra things they do to keep the group running or goes above and beyond the expectations. It is also possible to have more than one person from a group who deserves to be recognized.

The Workshop is in September. To nominate someone to be recognized, please send a note stating the person's name, the C.O.P. group and the reason for the nomination to the ACOPA President at president@acopa.ca. The deadline for nominating someone is August 15, 2024.



ACOPA VIDEOS

Alberta Citizens on Patrol Association is proud to partner with Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services Branch to work on common goals to reduce crime in Alberta. To this end, Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services Branch has provided ACOPA with \$30,000.00 annually to assist with crime prevention initiatives throughout the Province. ACOPA has put these grant monies into producing videos highlighting crime prevention strategies which are available on YouTube and on the ACOPA website. Please distribute these videos widely so they are seen by a vast majority of Albertans.....Information is power!!!!

NEW ACOPA VIDEOS

Why Your Community Needs Citizens On Patrol

Prevent Auto Theft

Prevent Catalytic Converter Theft



Wetaskiwin Training with Retired RCMP Robert Gollan

On February 1 2024, twenty two people attended the ACOPA training with retired RCMP Robert Gollan at the Legion in Wetaskiwin. Members came from Wetaskiwin, Redwater, Strathcona County, Ryley and Red Deer. The training started at 9 am, had a lunch break and finished up around 2:30.

If you have a lot of new members in your group who need the training to get them ready for patrolling, please let President Garth know at president@acopa.ca. ACOPA assists group with the cost of the training. Groups just need to provide the location, coffee and some snacks.

ACOPA Workshop and Annual General Meeting 2024

Red Deer City Citizens On Patrol is excited to host the 2024 ACOPA Workshop/AGM the weekend of September 13, 14 and 15. Citizens On Patrol groups from across Alberta and other provinces are welcome and encouraged to attend.

If your group is interested in showcasing your activities/program, please contact April at rdccop@gmail.com by August 15th to book a table.

Reminders:

- Complete the registration form.
- There will be training opportunities at the AGM on Friday afternoon and Sunday morning
- Please start thinking about special recognition for your local C.O.P members and your R.C.M.P liaison nomination
- Bring your program flag for the Friday Flag Ceremony. If your group does not have one, please consider getting one as they are used every year in the Flag Ceremony.
- Be sure to bring a silent auction item!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Date: September 13, 14 & 15

Location: Baymont Hotel

Address: 4311 49th Avenue Red Deer

Updates will be posted on the ACOPA website at www.acopa.ca

Baymont Hotel, Red Deer, Alberta



GROUPS IN THE NEWS

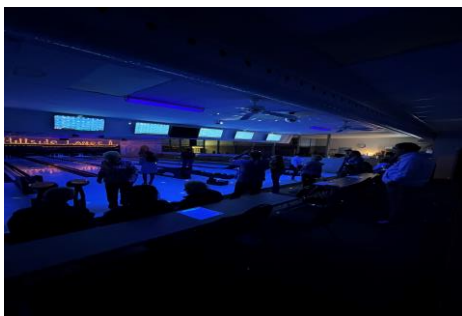
RYLEY

Ryley is the last group to join ACOPA. Their patrols are going great. They have made a 4'x6' sign for the main entry way into their village. They have also made 4 other municipal entry signs, fridge magnets and business cards. They have a booth at the local market once a month that have been getting more applicants this way! I'm sure they would not mind at all if anyone would like to borrow their design ideas for their own groups.



LINDEN

Linden Citizens on Patrol had a bowling/Christmas/potluck party with some of their RCMP officers in February. It was a great success. They did a gift exchange and had a lot of fun. 24 people were in attendance, including two RCMP officers. At that time Flo Robinson was presented with the Detachment Commander Certificate of Appreciation for assisting with the shooting that took place just outside of Linden in December.



LINDEN CONTINUED

The President of Linden Citizens on Patrol received the following letter from Canada Post thanking that group for their efforts in keeping business and residents safe.



CANADA POST
6010-67A STREET
RED DEER AB T4P 3E8
CANADAPOST.CA

POSTES CANADA
6010 RUE 57A
RED DEER AB T4P 3E8
POSTESCANADA.CA

November 30, 2023

Ms. Flo Robinson
Linden Citizens on Patrol
PO Box 762
Linden AB T0M 1J0

Dear Ms. Robinson:

As Canada Post's General Manager of Operations in the Prairies, I am responsible for overseeing all aspects of our delivery operations in Alberta. As such, I wanted to write and express our gratitude to you and to all volunteers of Linden Citizens on Patrol (COP) for your ongoing efforts in ensuring the security of properties and the safety of citizens in Linden, Acme and the surrounding areas.

Our Postmaster at the Linden Post Office highlighted how, on numerous occasions, the COP team has identified suspicious incidents close to the Linden Post Office, thereby helping to prevent potential criminal activity. My colleagues describe COP as a very well-organized, trained, and committed group of volunteers whose vigilance is appreciated by our employees and customers alike. I also understand that, at the end of each nightly patrol, any information COP uncovers is forwarded to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for their awareness. Your collaborative efforts go a long way to mitigate potential crime in the community, for which we are all extremely grateful.

As a non-profit volunteer organization working with a minimal budget, I appreciate that the challenges of organizing and implementing a program like this takes significant commitment. We wanted to be sure you and your dedicated team of volunteers are aware of our appreciation and support for the work you do.

Thank you for helping to keep our local employees, and the residents of Linden and Kneehill County, safe throughout the year. As the holiday season approaches, I would like to extend my best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ben McCutcheon".

Ben McCutcheon
General Manager, Operations (Prairies)



SEXSMITH

Sexsmith Citizens On Patrol Society has set up a Student Award Fund to provide a scholarship to a graduate of a Sexsmith High School, who has expressed financial need and is registered in post-secondary education, with priority to students who have demonstrated community commitment by volunteering. Sexsmith C.O.P.S. has passed a resolution to donate \$5,000.00 annually to this student bursary fund and have contributed \$25,000.00 to date with five students benefitting from it. Pictured is Beth Endresen with a donation cheque in the amount of \$5,000.00 being presented to the Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta who administers the bursary on behalf of Sexsmith Citizens On Patrol. Anyone can donate to this scholarship fund at the following link: https://cfna.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1011 or contact your local Community Foundation to set up your own scholarship fund.



WESTLOCK

Westlock held a Town Hall event and 45 residents attended. They thought it was all very interesting. The RCMP Staff Sgt. had a variety of speakers including Citizens On Patrol, Sheriff from SCAN and Jennifer Kee from KED. The Staff Sgt. did a presentation in the Westlock area.



VIMY

The picture is from the Town Hall in Vimy. It was very well attended by the residents with 65 in total. The Staff Sgt. did the crime stats update and this Town Hall had most of the same speakers as in Westlock.



Happy St. Patrick's Day

