


# Newsletter

December, 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

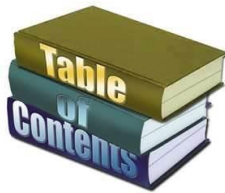
(requires free R.C.M.P. security check and valid drivers licence)

**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](http://www.acopa.ca)



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- ✚ Auto Theft Awareness Program
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## From the computer of:

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[www.acopa.ca](http://www.acopa.ca)



## SEASON'S GREETINGS



### ACOPA Board

*Bev Salomons, President; Shane Smith, Vice President; Beth Endresen, Secretary; Nickela Zais Treasurer; Elna Eidsvik Director; Ennio Ricci Director; Ken Ferguson, Director; Roy Dyck, Director; George Dowson, Director; Eugene Smereka, Insurance Liaison; Ray Brown, ID cards; Henry Salomons, Webmaster; Leona Gardecki, Newsletter Editor*

### Christmas Greetings from the ACOPA Board

*The Board members of Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association would like to wish all the C.O.P. members throughout Alberta the best of holiday greetings for the Christmas season and for the year 2015.*

*Each and every member is wished a safe year ahead with thanks for everything you do to promote safety in your community.*

*Citizens On Patrol are making a difference in communities throughout Alberta, so please continue to work at keeping your community a safer place to live.*



## ARTICLE OF INTEREST

### Canadian Pacific Holiday Train



The CP Holiday train rolled into Josephburg on Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> to the delight of thousands of spectators who came out to support the local food bank.



The Holiday train was decorated with thousands of Christmas lights and stayed in Josephburg for close to an hour and a half. During the stay, the sides of one of the train cars dropped and a band entertained the huge crowd singing Christmas songs.



The Holiday train visits 150 communities every December across Canada and the northern US. A temperature of plus 5 C made it enjoyable for the Citizens On Patrol members from Strathcona County and the brand new group from Heartland to volunteer for three hours manning the intersections in Josephburg.



### ACOPA CASINO



Welcome News...

The proceeds from the ACOPA casino, held in August, have been deposited into the ACOPA bank account.

ACOPA is very fortunate to have received \$80,904.30 as our share of the three months pooling in Edmonton.

The Board is currently working on how those funds will be spent over the next two years.

# Welcome

... to the newest C.O.P. group:

## Heartland Citizens On Patrol Society

### Little Bit of Humour

Southern cops have a way with words...

These comments were made by South Carolina Troopers and taken off their car videos:

"You know, stop lights don't come any redder than the one you just went through."

"The answer to this last question will determine whether you are drunk or not. Was Mickey Mouse a cat or a dog?"



## ARTICLE OF INTEREST

New Project that ACOPA is promoting... Information will be ready for distribution, to those who wish to participate, shortly.

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# AUTO THEFT AWARENESS PROGRAM

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## CRIME PREVENTION NOTICE

As part of our commitment to safety and security in our community, the Citizens On Patrol conducted an auto crime risk assessment on your vehicle and the following was found:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

- Keys left in vehicle
- Garage door opener left in vehicle
- Electronics in view (GPS, dash cam, power cords)
- Window(s) open
- Steering wheel lock:  in use  not in use
- Vehicle equipped with alarm/immobilizer
- Possessions or cash in view
- Registration decal expired
- Registration decal buildup/peeling
- Anti-theft device in use – good work!
- You've taken care to prevent yourself from being a victim of auto crime – thank you!

Comments:

**CAUTION:** For your own protection, please secure your vehicle night and day. Do not store your spare key in your vehicle, and ensure all belongings are removed. Please see the other side of this form for more ways to protect yourself from becoming a victim of auto crime.

ISSUED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

GROUP/ID \_\_\_\_\_

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



# AUTO THEFT AWARENESS PROGRAM



**IF YOU SEE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/PERSONS OR ANY AUTO CRIME IN PROGRESS, PLEASE CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.**

**IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF AUTO CRIME, PLEASE contact your local RCMP detachment.**

### Look before you leave

Next time you park, look inside your vehicle and see what tempting items you may have left in plain sight:

- Loose change/cash, wallets, I.D.
- iPods, stereo faceplate, MP3 players and accessories
- Shopping/sport bag and equipment
- Keys, garage door opener
- CDs, sunglasses and/or other valuables
- Coats and blankets

If these items are easily seen within your vehicle, then you may be a target for auto crime.

### Auto crime costs you money

Think of the time it takes to make a claim and repair damage... think of the insurance deductible and premium costs... there are better ways to spend your time and money.

### Parking tips

Closing your windows and locking your doors is the first step to prevention:

- Purchase and install an anti-theft device. Advertise your use of the device with a decal on your window.
- Place an All Valuables Removed placard in your window to tell would-be thieves you have nothing of value in your vehicle. Get your free placard at any AMA centre.
- Remove all items, including garage door opener, spare keys, insurance and registration papers, from the vehicle prior to leaving it unattended — **leave nothing in sight.**
- Purchase a steering wheel lock from your local AMA centre.
- Lock glove compartments and consoles.

You can never be too careful when it comes to protecting the things you care about. AMA, RCMP, and the Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association want you to feel safe. We work together to educate and reinforce crime prevention strategies so you can help keep you and your family protected.

PRINTER CODE



### You might see more COPs on Slave Lake Streets

Members of the recently revived Citizens on Patrol (COP) group are currently undergoing training to help make Slave Lake a safer place to live.

“Citizens on Patrol is an organization that acts as ears and eyes for the police,” said Doug Bolan, president for the Slave Lake chapter

“We are not a vigilante group. We work very closely with the RCMP.”

In fact, RCMP provide their training which includes a list of dos and don’ts.

The first two-hour training session was in August and another will be held on Tuesday.

Potential patrollers are trained not only on what to watch for and how to report and record their observations but also, and most importantly, how to keep themselves safe.

“We are supposedly to contact the RCMP and it is up to them to investigate,” explained Bolan. “If we feel we’re threatened we’ve been told to back off”.

Once training is complete and everyone has their equipment (a safety vest and flashlight), the group will be ready to liaise with the RCMP – heading out in pairs to monitor trouble spots in the community.

“The RCMP will advise us on problem areas and that’s where we’ll be, but we also hear about stuff on social media.”

As sited on the Citizens on Patrol Association website, each COP pair will act as a presence in the community and support police by documenting and reporting suspicious, dangerous or unusual activities.

Although Slave Lake had a Citizens on Patrol organization a few years back, the group had disbanded before the May 2011 wildfire disaster.

This new collection of concerned citizens held their first meeting on a wintry night in January this year, when 24 people gathered to show their support in reviving COPs as social media complaints about local property crimes and youths wandering the street at night were rampant

Bolan and the other COP members just want to make their town a safer place...

“I grew up in Slave Lake and I don’t remember ever having to lock my doors. Nowadays kids are afraid to walk the street, now they want a ride.”

Anyone who is interested in becoming a part of COP must undergo a criminal record check and fill out an application form.

More information can be found on the group’s Facebook page: Slave Lake Citizens On Patrol.

Article reprinted as published in the Slave Lake Scope Saturday, September 13, 2014 Edition; Article by: Jan Stockdale

## STATISTICS



### Impaired driving is the traffic safety focus for December

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#### Hard facts about impaired driving

- When you drink and then drive, alcohol affects your judgment, reaction time and perception;
- 444 people were killed and 6,649 people were injured in alcohol-related collisions (2009 to 2013);
- Plan ahead for a safe way home.

#### The consequences of drinking and driving

- Choosing to drive while impaired by drugs or alcohol can get you a criminal record and can cost you: your freedom, your dignity, your job, your chance of future employment and even your life;
- If your Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is greater than .05, you may face an immediate 3-day licence suspension and a 3-day vehicle seizure on your first offence;
- If the police determine your ability to operate a vehicle has been impaired by alcohol or drugs, even if your BAC is below .08, you can be charged criminally with impaired driving;
- Police may disqualify you from driving for 24 hours if they believe your ability to drive is affected by drugs, alcohol, a medical condition or physical ability;

Cont'd in next column...

Cont'd from previous column...

- A refusal to provide a breath sample, refusing to comply with a demand for physical sobriety tests or refusal to provide bodily fluid samples is a criminal offence;
- If you are charged with a criminal impaired driving offence, you will lose your licence immediately until all of your criminal impaired driving related charges are resolved.



## 2013 Alberta Collision Facts

- 358 people killed
- 18,650 people injured
- 141,638 collisions

October 2014

Alberta  Government

[www.transportation.alberta.ca/statistics](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/statistics)

**Have a safe and happy holiday season**

**– Please don't Drink and Drive –**



LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR – HAVE A GOOD DAY - *When Canadians get bored... :)*

