



## Workshop/Grant Updates

# Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association

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### *Introduction to President Kimberly Hurst*

Welcome to a very jam packed Fall Newsletter full of updates from our ACOPA AGM and some updates from groups who have already received funding from the new ACOPA Grant. On the topic of the AGM I am excited to share that I am the new president for ACOPA with some BIG shoes to fill following the much deserved “retirement” of Garth Kohlsmith. Garth and I have been working closely the last few years with me shadowing him to take over the role of President after he stepped down. I have been with the ACOPA Board since 2018 as a Director and during that time took on more duties and responsibilities to help prepare me for the role of President.

I am a single mom to two incredible sons who keep me busy as a sports chauffeur travelling this great province. In October 2021, I completed Basic CPTED training with in person training with the Edmonton Police Service, I am a part of a new Community Led Partnership Advisory group which is in partnership with the RCMP, you will be hearing more about this great group in the near future. I am a Youth Wellness worker at Napi Friendship Association engaging primarily with Indigenous youth however our programming and services are open to everyone as we run status blind. I also enjoy being a guard for the RCMP within the Crowsnest Pass, Pincher Creek and Piikani Nation Detachments.

I look forward to working alongside our new ACOPA board and seeing where we can all take ACOPA together and what new communities we can assist with starting up new groups as well as building the current groups that have been doing great work in their communities around the province.

THANK YOU to all of you for volunteering your time to assist your groups and your communities to be a safer space for all. Your time and commitment do not go unnoticed and it is greatly appreciated.



Kimberly Hurst, President

### **A Farewell note from Garth:**

As your ACOPA President for the past six years, I wanted to thank all of the members from across the province for your continued volunteerism in this organization that I really believe in. Special thanks to all the past and present volunteer board members as well.

I was overwhelmed at the conference this past September to receive such special recognition in the way of a special plaque presented on behalf of "K" Division by our ACOPA Liaison, Liz Vandaele. Special thanks as well for the standing ovation by those in attendance, the parting gift from ACOPA, the special RCMP coins and even the four jars of pickles that I was outbid on in the silent auction.

It was a memorable weekend



ACOPA Liaison Liz Vandaele presents Garth with a Commemorative Plaque.

ACOPA Liaison Liz Vandaele, ACOPA Trainer Bob Gollan and new President Kimberly Hurst

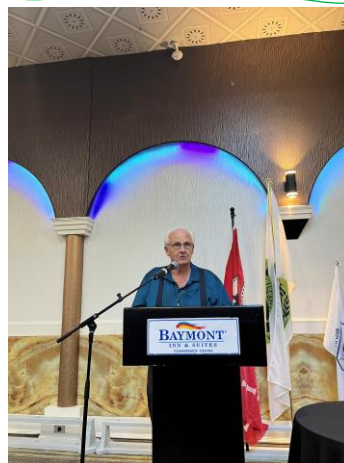


## **2024 Workshop Highlights**

Another successful Workshop and AGM is behind us. Thank you and congratulations to Red Deer Citizens on Patrol for hosting such a great workshop. You folks did it up right from the venue, to the presenters to the catering. It was very well put together. Thanks to everyone who brought silent auction items so help the host group and to everyone who bid on the items. Red Deer raised \$3,370.00 from the auction to assist with expenses and their portion of the 50/50 was \$288.50. Thanks to everyone who attended. We hope you had an enjoyable time and learned a little something along the way!!!



Superintendent Holly Glassford from the Red Deer RCMP gave opening remarks on Friday



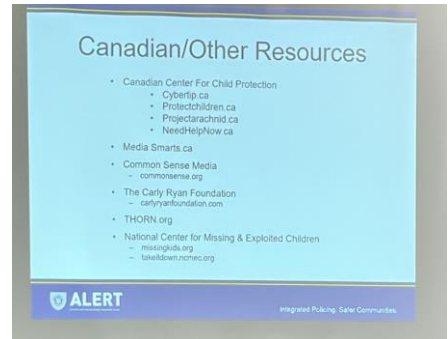
President Garth Kohlsmith welcomed all in attendance



Our Master of Ceremonies from Red Deer Mike Evans did a fabulous job!!!!

## Saturday Presenters

**The first presenter on Saturday was Constable Heather Bangle from the RCMP ALERT Southern Alberta Internet Child Exploitation Unit (I.C.E.). She gave a haunting presentation about the online threats facing youth and teenagers and the apps that pose the biggest threat.**



Here are some helpful links for parents



**Dave Ainsworth, Corporate Security Advisor from Strathcona County Enforcement Services gave a riveting presentation in responding to an active shooter and how to survive should this happen in your workplace or an event you may be present at.**

***RUN \* HIDE \* FIGHT***



Karleen Schnekey from SCAN (Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods) talked about dealing with problem properties that are being used for illegal activity such as drug trafficking or gang related activity. She touched on what her unit can do about these problem properties and how they work with landowners to get rid of problem tenants or Landlords who are aware of the issues but just want to keep getting rent payments so don't wish to deal with the problem.



Kimberly Hurst was the final presenter of the day with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Kimberly gave a very informative presentation on how to not be a victim of crime with the use of lighting, landscaping and what criminals look for when deciding which house/business would be an easy target.

### Outstanding Liaison Office Award



There were three recipients of ACOPA's Law Enforcement Outstanding Service Award this year. Staff Sgt. Ian Ihme from Innisfail, Constable Chantelle Kelly from Strathcona County. Pictured here is Staff Sgt. Ian Ihme from Innisfail receiving a charcoal print from Teresa Cunningham and Vice President Jessica Frisby. Staff Sgt. Ihme was nominated because of his advocacy for the Citizens On Patrol program. He has organized Coffee with a Cop events which include citizens on patrol, the fire department and organized Town hall events in Innisfail and Penhold. He truly sees the value in the citizens on patrol program and how it helps the RCMP.



### 2024/2025 ACOPA Board

(L-R) Past President Garth Kohlsmith, ID Card Volunteer Leonard Bohachyk, Webmaster Henry Salomons, President Kimberly Hurst, Director Greg Mathias, Director Cam Wolfe, Director Holly Doll, Secretary/Treasurer Beth Endresen, Director Faye Chinn, Director Flo Robinson  
Absent: Vice President Teresa Cunningham, Director Mercedes Berger, RCMP Liaison Office Liz Vandaele, Bookkeeper Tammy Massa



### *Bev Says Goodbye to ACOPA*

In a surprise announcement during the AGM, Vice President Bev Salomons announced that she would be stepping down effective immediately. Trainer Bob Gollan gave a heartfelt tribute to Bev and spoke of all of her accomplishments during her many years of service to ACOPA. She will definitely leave a big void in the organization but we wish Bev all the best in her future endeavours.

Pictured are Bev and Henry Salomons and Bob Gollan

## **ACOPA GRANT RECIPIENTS**

### *Lloydminster Citizens On Patrol*

The First Responders Appreciation Supper event that the Lloydminster Citizens on Patrol Society hosted on Monday was well received by the City and RCMP. It was held at the Legacy Centre Gazebo located behind the RCMP detachment and had words of appreciation given by His Worship Gerald Aalbers and was also attended by Councillor Lorelee Marin, Councillor Jason Whiting. Also in attendance were media personality Kurt Price, Lloydminster Detachment Commander Brian Nicholl, Lloydminster Staff Sargent Brad Moulund, various RCMP members including the ladies from the 911 call centre, Lloydminster Public Safety Manager Andrew DeGruchy and various other city officials.

An emergency with the Pioneer Lodge and it's subsequent evacuation of over 200 senior citizens kept a large amount of First Responders from attending so meals were delivered to the various Firehalls and other locations. In all 100+ meals were given out.



## *Vilna/Bellis Citizens on Patrol*

On Sunday Aug 18, 2024 in conjunction with the Vilna Show N Shine event, the Vilna/Bellis Citizens On Patrol (C.O.P.) held a free BBQ that was a great success! Although the lineups seemed never ending, the laughter and conversations went on with positive vibes. Our hot dogs, buns, and condiments were generously donated by Ed Cordero (Vilna Golf Course). The burgers and beverages were supplied by the Vilna/Bellis C.O.P. and reimbursed with a generous grant from ACOPA. We can't forget our special helpers Kelly Bailey, Alan Farris, Kim Dorion, Gemma, Faith, and Grace Cyr, Tim Bodnar, Alton Mazur for helping with the tents, BBQ, tables, and taking everything down afterwards and cleaning up. We also thank ENT (Energy North Transport) for the use of their BBQ.

This event is held annually to promote community engagement, educate the community on what we do, plus to recruit new members. With the help of this annual event, our small group recorded the highest patrol mileage and km/member province wide as reported at the AGM in September 2024. We had a table setup with pamphlets for ACOPA, plus application forms for our group and did recruit a new member at this event! Our volunteers are the best people ever, rolling up their sleeves to help without complaints. You are appreciated! From Ron, Leroy, Marylou & Danny, Mark & Leanna, Gloria, and Marlean - Thank you for helping us make this BBQ another huge success!



Vilna/Bellis COP  
President Ron Cyr



Vilna/Bellis Citizens on Patrol  
host Community Barbeque



Display of programs  
run by Vilna/Bellis  
COP

## ***High River Citizens on Patrol***

A dozen High River Citizens on Patrol members were very happy to join with High River RCMP members including our liaison Cst. Manpreet KALER for a Bar-B-Q at our local RCMP detachment on September 19th. Several RCMP members – some only quickly - were able to enjoy beef on a bun and a visit on a lovely evening in September.



## **ACOPA IN THE NEWS**



ACOPA Trainer Bob Gollan led training which took place on September 7, 2024 in Fort MacLeod. Members from Fort MacLeod, Piikani, Pincher Creek, Coaldale, Nanton, Okotoks and Stavley attended. Law Enforcement from Fort MacLeod & Piikani attended as well as Bylaw Enforcement from Pincher Creek.

## *Nanton Citizens On Patrol*

The Citizens on Patrol in Nanton Alberta are very active doing crossing patrols on Saturday morning on the highway that goes through town. The Farmers' Market is right on the highway and there are hundreds crossing the highway from 9 am to 1 pm. Nanton COP President Victor Czap started this community initiative.

He has organized 2 hour shifts. One day they crossed over 300 at one crossing. People were so thankful and the comments of over 300 in Facebook called "Everything Nanton" was phenomenal. They thanked Citizens on Patrol for keeping them safe. From large trucks to speeding cars. The peace officer Carlos was so grateful as well.

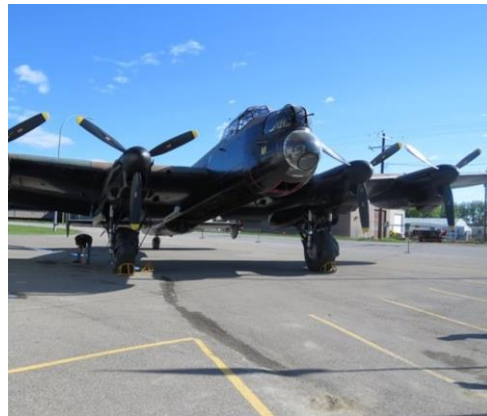
This helped to promote more members and this is growing . Thanks to Victor.



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Nanton Citizens On Patrol President Victor Czap in his truck for the Nanton Round Up Days Parade



Our team also helps to guard the Lancaster bomber airplane when it is out on special occasions. It is worth so much to the country and this little town of approximately 2000 people.



## *Ponoka Citizens On Patrol*

The World Chuckwagon Finals were held here in Ponoka August 28-September 2, 2024.

On August 28, Ponoka COP members along with our local members of the RCMP were able to hand out Project Lock Up pamphlets before one of the evening Chuckwagon performances.

Ponoka COP is trying to make the public aware of what's visibly seen in vehicles and why it's important to lock up your vehicle in order to help prevent theft.



Ponoka RCMP Detachment hosted an evening - "Coffee with a Cop". Ponoka Citizens On Patrol were also asked to attend answering various questions about working with our local RCMP and what citizens on patrol does in the community. Please use the link below to view the full article.

<https://www.ponokanews.com/local-news/ponoka-rcmp-coffee-with-a-cop-couldnt-have-gone-better-7555086>



Police reassured the public that they would be there in times of need



Ponoka Citizens On Patrol was on hand recruiting members

## Westlock Citizens On Patrol

Westlock Citizens On Patrol hosted a CPTED presentation on Tuesday, October 8th with an excellent presentation by Chad Cronk of Grande Prairie. Our Staff Sgt., the Corporal who is our RCMP liaison, the Town Bylaw Officer along with more than 30 residents learned a lot of interesting things about crime prevention by having proper lighting and landscaping. Some local businesses donated a few door prizes and our group supplied coffee and donuts so the event was a success in our books!



## Article on Kimberly Hurst in the RCMP Southern Alberta District (SAD) Newsletter Spring 2024

Kimberly Hurst, a long-time Pincher Creek resident, is the provincial director for the Citizens on Patrol (COP) Program and an active member of the Rural Crime Watch committee. Her mission is to bridge communication and cooperation between the local community and the RCMP. As a youth worker at the Napi Friendship Association, Kimberly collaborates closely with the Pincher Creek and Piikani RCMP, supporting community-recommended individuals. Her dedication extends beyond her job as she volunteers tirelessly to enhance community safety. Certified in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), Kimberly is now in her 11th year with Citizens on Patrol and her first year as a certified CPTED practitioner. She conducts assessments in Southern Alberta, working with detachment members to improve local safety.

As provincial director, Kimberly travels across the region to deliver COP presentations, conduct group training sessions, and support the formation of new community chapters. Her efforts promote transparency, open communication, and cooperation between civilians and law enforcement.

Through organizing events and meet-and-greets, Kimberly facilitates interactions between the community and RCMP members, fostering participation in community policing initiatives. Her leadership empowers communities to address safety concerns and build stronger partnerships with law enforcement, making her a pivotal figure in crime prevention and community engagement.

