

Newsletter

March, 2015

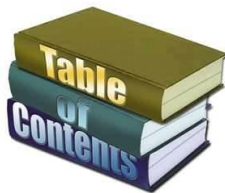
Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association

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 is a proud supporting partner
www.acopa.ca



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From the computer of:

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Distracted Driving observations from 2014

Over 2014, 10 ACOPA communities gathered Distracted Driving statistics and sent the data in to be compiled by the AMA. This data has been very helpful in understanding different behaviours in communities. The AMA shares this compiled data with RCMP and looks for opportunities to use it in the media, to help municipal planners, and as part of public awareness messaging. Have a look at this article from Airdrie late last year. (XR: P. 5 of Newsletter)

Region	Vehicles	Distracted Drivers %	Source of Distraction	
			Mobile Phone	Other Distractions
Sherwood Park	36,215	2.23%	81.81%	18.19%
Pincher Creek	4,015	2.29%	51.09%	48.91%
Crowsnest Pass	4,762	1.91%	57.14%	43.96%
Westlock	2,521	2.02%	76.47%	23.53%
High Level	1,495	8.36%	86.40%	13.60%
Airdrie	1,223	14.55%	92.13%	7.87%
Devon	861	3.48%	73.33%	26.67%
Wabamun	514	2.33%	91.67%	8.33%
Didsbury	473	5.50%	57.69%	42.31%

What sets ACOPA's observations apart from the rest?

Some 'publicity stunt' (XR: p. 3 of Newsletter) observations are good for raising awareness, but are ultimately flawed. They do not account for what is defined as distracted driving in Alberta, and often they are one-shot observations done by people without any training. The AMA is confident in the data we receive from ACOPA because we are confident in your skills, patience, training, and that you are able to complete observations from similar locations over multiple periods.

Liam Crotty | Program Coordinator
Advocacy and Community Services
Alberta Motor Association

Parking Lot Ticket Program

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:



Parking Lot Ticket Books

The Ticket books are now available for C.O.P. groups to use for the "Parking Lot Ticket Program"

Groups should follow these guidelines as were set up by the AMA and "K" Division:

- ✚ Please discuss your plan and location with area detachment before doing any ticketing
- ✚ If your area RCMP do not feel comfortable with the program, do not go ahead with it. Please let Bev know.
- ✚ When doing an Auto theft awareness ticket blitz, all vehicles must receive tickets, whether there are valuables in view or not.
- ✚ C.O.P. Members doing the ticketing must wear clothing identifying themselves as C.O.P. Members

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- ✚ Please be very aware of zippers/buttons/purses and other items on your person that may scratch a vehicle when you brush against it.
- ✚ C.O.P. Members cannot check door handles on vehicles.
- ✚ Please coordinate with local businesses prior to any Auto theft awareness ticket blitz, so that they are aware of what is happening.

Groups who have already used the Parking Lot Tickets have worked alongside the local law enforcement. If your group is interested, contact your ACOPA Director.



ACOPA Board:

President	Bev Salomons	president@acopa.ca
Vice President	Shane Smith	vicepresident@acopa.ca
Secretary	Beth Endresen	secretary@acopa.ca
Treasurer	Nickela Zais	treasurer@acopa.ca
Director 1	Ennio Ricci	director1@acopa.ca
Director 2	George Dowson	director2@acopa.ca
Director 3	Ken Ferguson	director3@acopa.ca
Director 4	Elna Eidsvik	director4@acopa.ca
Director 5	Roy Dyck	director5@acopa.ca

Assisting the ACOPA Board:

Insurance	Eugene Smereka	insurance@acopa.ca
I.D.Cards	Ray Brown	idcards@acopa.ca
Newsletter	Leona Gardecki	newsletter@acopa.ca
Website	Henry Salomons	webmaster@acopa.ca

A.C.O.P.A. Director Contacts



Shane Smith:

Raymond; Taber; Wabamun

Ennio Ricci:

Airdrie/Crossfield; Carstairs; Cochrance; Didsbury; Edson; Olds; Red Deer; Gull Lake; Langdon; Linden

George Dowson:

Brooks; Claresholm; Crowsnest; Fort Macleod; Hanna; Nanton; Pincher Creek, Redcliff; Strathmore; Three Hills; West Foothills

Ken Ferguson:

Drayton Valley; Fox Creek; High Level; Kinuso; Kapasiwin; Pembina/Entwhistle; Slave Lake Westlock; Wood Buffalo

Elna Eidsvik:

Beaumont; Devon; Heartland; Leduc; Lloydminster; Mannville; Strathcona County; Vermilion; Viking; Wainwright;

Roy Dyck:

Frog Lake; Gibbons; Morinville; St Albert; St. Paul; Vilna/Smoky Lake;

Beth Endresen: Grand Prairie; Sexsmith

LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR



- HAVE A GOOD DAY -



NEW WEB SITE

Check out the new website for Canadian Citizens On Patrol Association at: www.ccopa.ca



NEW A.C.O.P.A. LIAISON OFFICER

Welcome to Cpl Marcia McDermott – the new Liaison Officer for ACOPA. Marcia has recently transferred from the Drayton Valley RCMP Detachment to “K” Division. ACOPA is looking forward to working with Marcia.



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

Wood Buffalo Citizens On Patrol Society



2015 Shredding

See attached tentative calendar for 2015.

For updated information go to the AMA WEB site.

Articles of Interest



MULLEN, James (Jim) Arthur

On Monday, February 2, 2015 James (Jim) Mullen of Sexsmith passed away suddenly at the age of 48 years. James will be sadly missed and forever remembered by his wife and best friend Bonnie , by their children: Kaila (Dean), Travis and Brittni; and by his sister and brothers, nieces, nephews, and all who knew him.

Jim was a 5 year member of the Sexsmith COP.



Thank you to the C.O.P. groups who continue to send in the voluntary \$1 membership to the Canadian COP Board. Your support is very much appreciated and will enable the National Board to carry on promoting the Citizens On Patrol program across Canada.



Sgt Colin Campbell, Sgt Gulash Wally and his wife Laurie

Leduc Nighthawks celebrated their Christmas Party and Inspector Wally Lynd's Farewell on Jan 17th at Telford House in Leduc.



March is Fraud Prevention Month

Organized and coordinated by ACCPA, the annual Fraud Prevention Month promotes awareness of trends Albertans need to be aware of.

To increase awareness, law enforcement, government agencies and other community organizations have formed Fraud Prevention Alberta. Partners include: Better Business Bureau, Service Alberta; Alberta Justice and Solicitor General; Seniors and Community Supports; Alberta Securities Commission; Alberta Community Crime Prevention; Competition Bureau; Bank of Canada; Association of Certified Fraud Examiners; RCMP; Camrose Police Service, Medicine Hat Police Service; Lethbridge Regional Police Service; Calgary Police Service; Edmonton Police Service; and Alberta Motor Association.

During the month of March 2015, Fraud Prevention Alberta members will highlight the following types of scams... For more information and a list the various sessions, go to...

<http://albertacrimeprevention.com/media/news-releases/fraud-prevention-month/>

... for a session in your community or surrounding area.



Airdrie tops statistics for distracted drivers



By: Christina Waldner

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/Rocky View Publishing

Airdrie drivers are driving distracted more than residents of seven other Alberta communities, according to statistics collected by the Airdrie Citizens on Patrol.

Other areas included in the statistics include Sherwood Park, Didsbury, Wabamun, Devon, Crowsnest Pass, Pincher Creek and Westlock.

Airdrie COP President Ennio Ricci said he's not sure why Airdronians aren't getting the message about the dangers of driving while distracted.

"Maybe it's the high volume of traffic slowing things down when people are commuting to and from Calgary," Ricci said. "When people spend a long time in the car to commute, maybe they feel like they need to make that time useful?"

Volunteers from ACOPA were out over the summer, looking for distracted drivers and monitoring speeding through playground zones, according to Ricci. The campaign was done in partnership with Alberta Motor Association (AMA) and Citizens on Patrol organizations from seven other communities.

Alberta's distracted driving law went into effect in September 2011. Under the legislation, motorists caught talking on a cell phone, texting while driving or other activities that are considered distracted, face a \$172 fine.

ACOPA volunteers were out looking for distracted drivers three times in July, observing a total of 1,223 vehicles. Of those 14.5 per cent of the drivers were driving distracted as defined by the law. This is significantly higher than the average number of distracted drivers seen in the seven other communities where the number was 2.4 per cent of drivers.

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Airdrie drivers seem to be using their cell phones with 6.9 per cent of those observed seen talking on their mobile, compared to the 1.29 per cent seen in the other communities, and 6.5 per cent seen texting while driving (0.71 per cent in Alberta.)

Two-handed eating, driving with a pet on the driver's lap, reading or writing while driving, personal grooming, and cleaning the vehicle were also observed as part of the blitz. In Airdrie, 1.1 per cent of the drivers observed were engaged in these activities compared to 0.37 per cent for the other communities.

"Looking at the results in each community, I had to go back to check and re-check the numbers I saw coming out of Airdrie," said AMA Traffic Safety Program Co-ordinator Liam Crotty. "When the average across all of the communities we're looking at in the province is 2.4 per cent of drivers driving distracted, to see a 14.5 per cent distraction rate in Airdrie was surprising to say the least."

Ricci said the volunteers were set up in a number of different locations in Airdrie.

"Kingsview Boulevard was one," he said. "First Avenue was one that we went out to the most, near the Bethany (Care Centre) and Ralph McCall (School). That area is pretty dangerous. People speed there."

Looking for distracted drivers wasn't the only thing ACOPA volunteers were involved in recently.

"In the summer we do (observations) for distracted drivers, and a little bit of playground zones but in September, we were requested by the City of Airdrie to do a blitz on school zones, so that's what we did," Ricci said.

Ricci said observers focused once again the area around Ralph McCall School. "We went to other schools too, but that one was the focus because we've been getting a lot of complaints," Ricci said. "East Lake Boulevard, too, for speeders, going northbound."

According to statistics provided by ACOPA, Airdrie drivers do seem to understand they need to slow down in school zones, once the school year has started.

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Articles of Interest

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Only 46 per cent of drivers were observed by the volunteers to slow down in playground zones during the summer months, but that number rose to 93 per cent in school zones in September. Volunteers set up three times in playgrounds and six times in school zones, observing a total of 1,530 vehicles.

"We set up in the school zones around 7:30 a.m. when the speed limit drops to 30 kilometres per hour," Ricci said. "We were there from before it gets busy through that real congested period when vehicles don't have much choice but to slow down. We stay until late morning to see how the traffic behaves once the congestion is gone."

Ricci said he was pleasantly surprised by the results in the school zones.

"It was great to see that even once the rush was over, most drivers seemed to be taking it easy and those that were speeding were still under 40 (kilometres per hour)," he said.

Ricci estimates volunteers put in a minimum of 30 hours for both the distracting driving and playground/school zones initiatives.

"We have specific people who do the observations and run the program. They put in countless hours. When they go do distracted driving (observation), they go there for hours. They go in the morning and then they go back in the afternoon," he said.

For more information about Airdrie COP, or to become a member, call Ricci at (403) 861-8247 or visit the RCMP detachment on Highland Park Way for an application.



A.C.O.P.A. AGM & WORKSHOP September 18 & 19, 2015.

The 2015 A.C.O.P.A. Annual General Meeting & Workshop is going to be held in Leduc, Alberta.

Keep an eye out for future updates.



Congratulations to Dean in his retirement from the RCMP. Thank you, Dean, for everything you did as the ACOPA Liaison Officer. It was really great working with you. We wish you success in your new career.



Staff Sgt Dean Hamm and Bev Salomons, President, ACOPA

"To Remember Our Fallen Heroes"



The Alberta Police and Peace Officer's Memorial Day is the last Sunday in September on the provincial legislature grounds in Edmonton. If you can please attend this year.

Thanks for all your hard work and supporting the Police Officers and K9.

If you wish to see the Newsletter, go to:

Info@memorialribbon.com

**Submitted by:
Terrance Hanna, Linden COP**

2015 Upcoming Shredding Events



WHEN AND WHERE IS THE NEXT PAPER SHREDDING EVENT?

Last updated February 25, 2015.

2015 Shredding Schedule

Identity theft costs Canadians up to \$30 billion each year. It doesn't take much – with just a few bits of information like your name, date of birth, social insurance number and banking information, thieves can steal your identity to commit fraud.

Attend an AMA Shredding Event in your community and take a bite out of identity theft by safely disposing of your personal documents. Did your father warn you there's no such thing as a 'free lunch?' Thanks to our partners [Shred-It](#), [Lethbridge Mobile Shredding](#) and [Paper Cuts](#), we're happy to provide shredding service free of charge but you can always pay it forward with a food bank donation. Thanks to the generosity of AMA members, together we've raised over \$90,000 and 43,000 lbs of donations for local food banks.

How Our Shredding Events Work

Plan to be at the shredding site for a minimum of 30 minutes. All shredding events are outdoors, so dress appropriately. Most venues are 'drive-thru' service, but at some sites you have to park and walk your boxes over to the shredding truck. Our friendly staff is there to help, so just holler if you need a hand. If it's lined up and you're in a hurry, feel free to leave your boxes beside the truck and we'll shred them onsite as soon as we can. Events are staffed by AMA volunteers, local law enforcement and shredding company staff who have security clearance and know how to safeguard your documents.

What to Bring

Each year, our free shredding events become more popular. We love to feel the love, but to keep things moving we have to limit our services to just six boxes of personal documents (not for businesses) per vehicle. If you have more personal documents, you can always circle to the back of the line and take another run.

Items that can be shredded:

- Credit card slips, cancelled cheques, and bank receipts
- Banking and investment statements, bills, non-solicited credit card applications
- CD-ROMs/CD-Rs/DVDs, diskettes

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What can't be shredded:

- Heavy cardboard, metal, glass, or plastic
- Batteries, lighters, or matches
- Electronics, computer hard drives, or toys

Get your papers ready:

- **Make sure we can shred it** – Remove all large plastic clips or coils (small staples and regular paperclips are fine). Please check for and remove all non-document items like batteries, matches, and coins which can cause serious damage to the shredding trucks (and the friendly operators).
- **Make sure you can carry it** – Bring all documents in sturdy, easily transportable boxes or containers.

Make sure you should shred it – Not all documents are created equally. Some you need to shred regularly, some annually, and some should never be destroyed. [Review this list to find out what to shred and what to keep.](#)

Paper Shredding Services

Are you getting buried under a mountain of paperwork? Consider a home shredder to safely recycle every document or piece of mail that has your personal information. If you run a small business or can't wait for our next round of shredding events, contact one of our preferred suppliers or check your local yellow pages to ask about fee-based services.

Edmonton: [Shredit](#) – 780-800-9610

Calgary: [Shredit](#) - 587-355-0090

Red Deer: [Paper Cuts](#) – 403-342-0585

Lethbridge: [Lethbridge Mobile Shredding](#) – 403-382-5181



"He handles all our shredding"

Tentative Shredding Calendar

Calgary

<p>Saturday, April 25 Southcentre Mall 100 Anderson Road SE (South parking lot by CIBC) 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.</p>	<p>Saturday, May 2 Centennial High School 55 Sun Valley Boulevard SE 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.</p>	<p>Saturday, May 23 Sir Winston Churchill High School 5220 Northland Drive NW 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.</p>
<p>Saturday, June 13 Calgary Mount Royal University Parking Lot B, 4825 Mount Royal Gate SW 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.</p>	<p>Saturday, June 20 Calgary NE Exact location TBA 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</p>	

Edmonton

<p>Saturday, April 11 AMA South Centre 10310 – 39A Avenue 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.</p>	<p>Saturday, May 23 Beulah Alliance Church 17504 98A Avenue 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.</p>	<p>Saturday, June 6 AMA Manning Centre 5040 Manning Drive 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.</p>
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Camrose

Fort McMurray

Grande Prairie

<p>Saturday, June 13 AMA Camrose Centre 6702 48 Avenue 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</p>	<p>Saturday, May 23 Ecole McTavish 352 Parsons Creek Dr. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</p>	<p>Saturday, May 9 City Hall 10205 98 Street 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.</p>
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Lethbridge

Medicine Hat

Red Deer

<p>Saturday, March 28 AMA Lethbridge Centre 120 Scenic Drive South 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</p>	<p>Saturday, April 18 AMA Medicine Hat Centre 2710 13 Avenue SE 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</p>	<p>Saturday, May 2 AMA Red Deer Southpointe Centre #141, 2004 – 50 Avenue 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</p>
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Sherwood Park

St. Albert

<p>Saturday, May 9 Strathcona Athletic Park 1100 N Cloverbar Road 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.</p>	<p>Saturday, May 30 Riel Recreation Park Riel Drive 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.</p>	
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