

Newsletter



Fall, 2016

Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association



- ACOPA AGM & Workshop
- Board Members
- Canadian Citizens On Patrol Association News Release
- Back to school safety

From the computer of:

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Workshop 2016 Sept 16 and 17, 2016 Airdrie, Alberta

Workshop 2106 was a highly successful weekend hosted by the Airdrie Citizens On Patrol members. From all over Alberta, there were 175 attendees, including 20 R.C.M.P. Officers. As well, Board members from the Canadian Citizens On Patrol came from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and British Columbia.

Friday evening started with a question and answer session on topics that surfaced over the past year. ACOPA President, Bev Salomons, and ACOPA Liaison Officer Sgt Josee Valiquette, talked about concerns dealing with yearly criminal record checks. As well, the Alberta First Responders Radio Communication System (AFFRACS) was discussed as the system is ready to use, so it is just a matter of time before the law enforcement goes live. New ID cards were mentioned and the process to apply for. CPIC has been a topic of concern since recently, C.O.P. no longer can access the information to check plates. Procedures for starting patrols varies over all detachments, and this has been a concern for many groups. The solution needs to be worked out with individual detachments as conditions are not the same for all.

Elected Board Members 2016/17...

President, Bev Salomons, president@acopa.ca
Vice President, Shane Smith, vicepresident@acopa.ca
Treasurer, Mary Cliff, treasurer@acopa.ca
Secretary, Beth Endresen, secretary@acopa.ca
Director 1, Ennio Ricci, director1@acopa.ca
Director 2, George Dowson, director2@acopa.ca
Director 3, Joan Boekema, director3@acopa.ca
Director 4, director4@acopa.ca
Director 5, Garth Kohlsmith, director5@acopa.c

ACOPA Volunteer Board Members

Newsletter/Casino Chair, Leona Gardecki, newsletter@acopa.ca
Webmaster, Henry Salomons, webmaster@acopa.ca
Insurance Liaison, Eugene Smereka, insurance@acopa.ca
ID cards Liaison, Ray Brown, idcards@acopa.ca

ACOPA Liaison Officer

Sgt Josee Valiquette K Division Community Policing

ACOPA AGM & Workshop



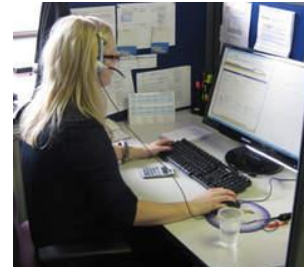
19:00 Friday evening was the Flag Ceremony with several of the R.C.M.P. marching in Red Serge following the piper. Groups with a flag followed and flags were set into flag holders for the weekend. Several speakers had short messages for the attendees, including Karen McPherson, MLA for Calgary-MacKay-North Hill; Assistant Commissioner M.A.Degrad, Criminal Operations Officer "K" Division; Inspector Gordon Sage, Detachment Commander, Airdrie Detachment; Sergeant Josee Valiquette, "K" Division; Carsten Erbe, Alberta Solicitor General's Department; Bev Salomons, ACOPA President and Airdrie Mayor, Peter Brown.

Following the opening ceremony, a session was presented on the ACOPA-Patrol app by Bev and Henry Salomons. The app will soon be put on the App store to be available for C.O.P. to use while patrolling.

Saturday morning started early with breakfast served at 7:30. The first session on Saturday was presented by Craig MacKenzie, from R.C.M.P. Strategic Communications at "K" Division. Craig had some advice for groups thinking about using social media. First, know the audience you wish to target. Twitter reaches the age group 25-45, whereas Facebook reaches an older audience. Second, know your "lane". Always give credible and accurate information and don't speak to things that risk damage to the group. Third, know the facts. Fourth, know your partners and make sure the information does not change direction. Last, be quick with the information. The average smart phone user checks email 110 times a day. Craig advised to use strong passwords, change the password on a regular basis, activate anti-virus and set social media accounts to private.



Internet Child Exploitation was the next session and presented by Cpl Kimberly Krasman, Investigator and Forensic Examiner Internet Child Exploitation Unit, ALERT. Cpl Krasman explained how her team was working to investigate the exploitation of child phonography on the internet and what a time consuming and horrendous task ALERT has to expose people who are engaged in this kind of activity.



Two presenters from the Operational Control Centre spoke about how the OCC was set up in Alberta, with two centers, one north of Wetaskiwin and the other one south of Wetaskiwin. CM Tammy Waugh and CM Lochlan Rose explained what happens when a call is received by the OCC. Questions will be asked to determine where the call will fit in the priority line. The operator will be asking – who are you; where are you; what is going on; who is involved; when did the event occur; and are there weapons involved. For driving complaints, they will want to know the color of the vehicle, the year, the make, the body, anything else and the license number (CYMBAL). Public safety and police safety are a priority for the OCC. Some tips from the OCC: Don't hang up if in the queue (all calls must be checked). Call 911 if a life/death situation is in progress. Have the location and contact information ready. Let know if a C.O.P. Use the phonetic alphabet.

In 2015, the OCC received:

- 🕒 272,866 emergency calls
- 🕒 471,349 non-emergency calls
- 🕒 12,547 abandoned calls
- 🕒 175,632 information desk calls (for R.C.M.P. only)
- 🕒 932,394 total daily calls
- 🕒 2,705,334 radio transmissions
- 🕒 415,099 files generated
- 🕒 1,200 average calls every day

The OCC operators are professional communicators who are highly trained to triage and prioritize. They are adept at multi-tasking, can readily solve problems, provide support to the police, they enhance police safety with information and do data base queries.

The last presentation Saturday morning was from the Emergency Response Team (ERT) as presented by Sgt Brad Malacko. Sgt Malacko explained how ERT is set up in Alberta with a team in the north and a team in the south. In Canada, there are 18 teams in 14 Divisions with about 270 operators. The mission of ERT is to reduce risk, to support policing operations in Alberta, Canada and abroad, to protect our communities and our policing partners.

ACOPA AGM

The ACOPA Annual General Meeting was held after lunch. The Board for the term 2016-2017 are:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| • President | Bev Salomons | Ardrossan |
| • Vice President | Shane Smith | Raymond |
| • Treasurer | Mary Cliff | Edson |
| • Secretary | Beth Endresen | Sexsmith |
| • Director 1 | Ennio Ricci | Airdrie |
| • Director 2 | George Dowson | Pincher Creek |
| • Director 3 | Joan Boekema | Three Hills |
| • Director 4 | Shirley Hurst | Carvel |
| • Director 5 | Garth Kohlsmith | Westlock |



ACOPA Law Enforcement Recognition Award

Presented to Staff Sgt Dwayne Rawson from the Westlock Detachment. S/Sgt Rawson promotes the C.O.P. program to the community and to the Officers working at the detachment. He involves the Westlock C.O.P. in the Candy Cane Check Stop event every December. He personally trains the C.O.P. using scenarios, gives tips and advice. His commitment to the C.O.P. in Westlock is exceptional. Thank you S/Sgt Rawson!



Use 911 only to stop a crime, report a fire and save a life. Don't call 911 to report a power outage, to check the weather or to get government information. Using 911 for non-emergencies wastes time and ties up the line.



One of the highlights of the weekend was the session on Fentanyl and W-18 as presented by Cpl Brad McIntosh from R.C.M.P. Federal Policing North Serious Organized Crime. The group learned that there are 27,000 shipping places out of China for drugs. Carfentanyl is 100 times more powerful than Fentanyl. It only takes as much as 2 grains of salt to endanger a life. In 2016, there has been an increase of 14% in the drug related death rate from Fentanyl and Carfentanyl. Cpl McIntosh kept the group involved as he walked non-stop during his presentation.

Cpl Kimberly Mueller, from Stony Plain Crime Prevention, presented a session on Aboriginal Youth and Gangs. She spoke about a group of aboriginals who she worked with in an anti-gang program on the Enoch reserve over a 2-year period and how they turned their behavior around. The average age that kids are recruited into a gang is 12. About 85% of gang members are attacked by someone they know. Gangs promise protection, money, sex and respect for their members. Gang members are always looking over their shoulders. Gangs are associated with drive by shootings, human trafficking, drugs, guns, weapons, homicide and intimidation. The cost to put a youth in jail for one night is \$340. The cost to put a youth through the legal system over a 6-month period is one million dollars.

The final session of the day was Special Tactics and Operations presented by Cpl Gary Fedrau from R.C.M.P. Special Tactics and Operations Lead.

All in all, it was a packed day and a half. Airdrie held a silent auction during the weekend. Thanks to all the groups who brought a silent auction item. Proceeds from the silent auction help to pay for the cost of the Workshop.

Thank you to the Airdrie Group for hosting the workshop.





Canadian Citizens On Patrol Association (CCOPA)
– News Release –

The Canadian Citizens On Patrol Association (CCOPA) held their 2016 Annual General Meeting in Airdrie, Alberta on September 18, 2016.

It was timed to be in conjunction with the Alberta Citizens On Patrol (ACOPA) annual symposium which was attended by some 175 delegates and guests including volunteers, community leaders, and law enforcement.

CCOPA represents Citizens On Patrol groups in many areas of Canada including British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia. In total, this accounts for approximately 150 groups and 2500 volunteers. Each of the provinces who make up CCOPA has a representative and they were confirmed or elected at this AGM as Betty Woolridge, Treasurer (Nova Scotia), Martin Parry (PEI), Gwen Watson (MB), Bev Salomons, President (AB), and Brian Cornborough, Secretary (BC). Other topics were a review of our goals to include the expansion of the program into new areas and provinces, connecting with new recruits and new managers, and seeking additional sponsors.

CCOPA offers and provides a variety of operational and educational tools to any member (s) at no charge so that they can enhance their volunteer duties. In addition, police provide support in most provinces for the program and in addition, a similar program called Crime Watch operates in the City of Vancouver but to different but equal criteria. These two programs are the only recognised training programs in Canada such that only volunteers who belong to these programs receive all the necessary training to effectively carry out the duties and responsibilities of their program.

C.O.P.'s groups across Canada support the national group financially as well to ensure that information on 'best practices' and other relevant material is disbursed via newsletters and our website. Materials and manuals, we provide cover such topics as how to start a COP group, operating in a police environment, seeking donations and sponsors, providing effective patrolling, and others. We update our website as we go at www.ccopa.ca.

For personal contact, please use either of our email addresses: bsalomons@ualberta.net or bcornborough@shaw.ca.

Dated 2016.09.24
Contact Bev Salomons, President, CCOPA



The focus for the month of September is **back to school safety**.

This month we are focusing our education efforts on back to school using billboards in rural communities.

Going to and from school might be the most dangerous part of your kids' day. To help them stay safe, reinforce all the pedestrian safety rules; always look both ways for traffic before stepping off the bus or getting out of a vehicle, and walk, never run, to and from a vehicle.

- Nearly 40 per cent of the drivers involved in collisions with school buses committed an error. The most common error was following too closely.
- On average, each year, approximately 238 children under 15 are killed or injured as pedestrians or cyclists (2010-2014).
- School buses in Alberta travel an estimated 450,000 kilometres a day – that's more than 10 times around the earth!
- The penalty for failing to stop for a school bus with its alternating flashing red lights activated is \$543 and six demerit points.
- 70 per cent of casualty collisions and over 90 per cent of property damage collisions involving a school bus occurred in urban areas.



Alberta's Official Road Reports

For more information or tools about back to school safety, please visit the following sites:

- [Saferoads](#)
- [Alberta Transportation](#)
- [Collision Statistics](#)
- 511.alberta.ca for up-to-date road information including traffic delays and construction.

Check out the ACOPA-Patrol app found on the App Store – no charge – use it for your patrols!

Get informed

- RCMP Self-Assessment: Internet Safety
<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cycp-cpci/self-assessment-autoevaluation/is-si/index-eng.htm>
- Need Help Now
<https://needhelpnow.ca/app/en/>
- Get Cyber Safe
<http://www.getcybersafe.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>
- Cybertip
<https://www.cybertip.ca/app/en/>
- Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre
<http://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm>
- RCMP Internet Safety Resources
<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/is-si/index-eng.htm>

