

# Newsletter

Summer, 2017



## Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association



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### From the computer of:

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President

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### Comments from RCMP Liaison...

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new Alberta Citizens On Patrol program manager. First, I would like to thank Sgt. Josee Valiquette for her commitment over the last 2 years and sharing her knowledge with regards of the Citizens On Patrol Program. I'm approaching my 20th year of service with the RCMP, I was previously posted in McLennan, Banff, Maskwacis, Morinville and Ponoka.

I have had the opportunity to meet some of you, and attended your last board meeting. I have been very impressed with the level of dedication and the countless number of hours of all volunteers across the Province of Alberta. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, I had the privilege to attend the ceremony at K Division and witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the RCMP and Citizens On Patrol. The Alberta RCMP has been proud to support the Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association for numerous years and the CO of K Division Deputy Commissioner Todd Shean and Ms. Beverley Salomons, Chair of the Alberta Citizens On Patrol, signed an official memorandum of understanding which outline the partnership that has been fostered between the two organizations.

The relationship between Citizens On Patrol and the RCMP is one where both partners have a common goal of a safer community. As with any partnership, all partners must be actively involved in contributing to its success.

I am looking forward to work with all of you and to continue the excellent working relationship with the Citizen On Patrol Program.

Regards, Sgt. Martin Girard

## REPORTS FROM ACOPA



HIGH RIVER CITIZENS ON PATROL  
are hosting the  
**A.C.O.P.A. AGM & WORKSHOP**



SEPTEMBER 15 and 16, 2017

**Have you registered?**

XR P. 5 for greetings from High River



### Alberta Law Enforcement Outstanding Service 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 High River this year. The award will be presented during the Workshop weekend September 15-16, 2017

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 this nomination form and return it to A.C.O.P.A. no later than **August 1, 2017**.

The nomination form can be found on the ACOPA website under "Forms".



### Farewell to Sgt Josee Valiquette Welcome to Sgt Martin Girard

A.C.O.P.A. has been very thankful for the opportunity to have Sgt Josee Valiquette as Liaison Officer out of K Division. Sgt Valiquette has shown great interest in the Citizens On Patrol program in Alberta and has been a true promoter of the program through the Detachments in Alberta. While we are sad to see her leave, she is wished "all the best" in her new role in Ottawa.

At the same time, A.C.O.P.A. welcomes Sgt Martin Girard to continue the work from K Division in guiding A.C.O.P.A. and look forward to having a great relationship continued through Sgt Girard.



### Thanks to the Solicitor General

Once again, A.C.O.P.A. thanks the Solicitor General for the support in the form of a \$10,000 grant for operating expenses.

## REPORTS FROM VARIOUS GROUPS

### A.C.O.P.A. Elections

At the A.C.O.P.A. AGM which will take place in High River during the Workshop weekend, there will be an election held for the following positions: Vice President (2-year term), Secretary (2 year term), Treasurer (1 year term), 2 Directors for 2 year terms and 1 Director for a 1 year term.

If you have any question about the positions, or are interested in letting your name stand, or have a member who you think would fit the position, please contact Ennio Ricci at [director1@acopa.ca](mailto:director1@acopa.ca)



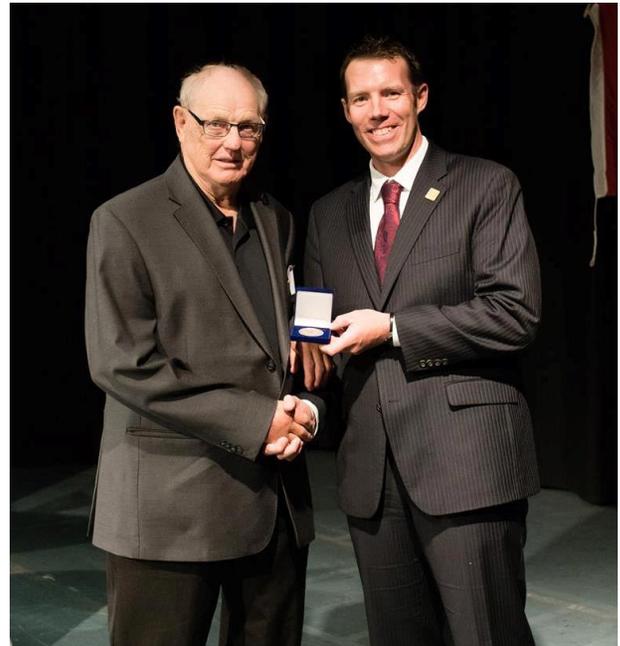
### Alberta Community Justice Award

For 26 years, the Alberta Community Justice Awards have rewarded innovative people and projects in the areas of victims' services, youth justice, restorative justice and other crime-prevention efforts.

"The recipients of this year's Alberta Community Justice Awards are invaluable partners in ensuring our province is a safe place to live. I am proud to shine a spotlight on their positive contributions and thank them for their hard work."

Kathleen Ganley, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, Bev Salomons, the chair of the province wide Alberta Citizens on Patrol Association (ACOPA), who has served as a bridge between local ACOPA groups and their community police detachments, as well as providing guidance to ACOPA members on member recruitment, best practices and the ACOPA code of ethics received the award for Leadership. The recipients were honoured at a June 2 ceremony at Government House, co-hosted by the Government of Alberta and the Camrose Police Service.

### PINCHER CREEK CITIZENS ON PATROL



**George Dowson - ACOPA Director 2 and Treasurer of the Pincher Creek District C.O.P. Group, being presented a Canada 150 medal from MP John Barlow**

The Canada 150 medal was presented to people who were nominated and then chosen for the volunteering work that the person has done over and above for his/her Community for many years.



This picture is of a BBQ that the Pincher Creek group had recently hosted by our local RCMP detachment on June 20th before our regular C.O.P. Meeting.

**Submitted by: Robyn Dowson, President  
Pincher Creek District C.O.P.**

## REPORTS FROM VARIOUS GROUPS

### PINCHER CREEK DISTRICT CITIZENS ON PATROL DISTRACTED DRIVING BLITZ JUNE 15, 2017 STATS

Number of Vehicles that went through – 4659

#### DISTRACTIONS:

- No Distractions - 4300
- On Cell Phone – 52
- Texting – 20
- Portable Electronics (mp3,GPS,Camera) – 1
- Digital Screen (DVD,TV,Laptop) – 0
- Animal on Lap – 3
- 2 Handed Eating – 10
- Grooming – 5
- Not Wearing Seatbelts – 300
- Reading – 2
- Not Stopping at the 4 way – 35
- Cannot see inside Vehicle - 14

### Candy Cane Check Stop

We did a Candy Cane check stop with our local RCMP and Liaison Cst. Annie Starzynski on December 13th/2016 in minus 29C weather, in Pincher Creek.

3 days later some of us did another candy cane Check stop in Beaver Mines and the weather was -30.

After the first check stop, we enjoyed a Pizza and cake dinner hosted by our local detachment.



Submitted by: **Robyn Dowson, President  
Pincher Creek District C.O.P.**

### Airdrie

**In March, the Airdrie RCMP** held the Regimental Ball in which we helped by canvassing for donations from our local businesses and also working various positions at the Ball. It was so much fun - everyone had a great time and it was very successful.

In June, we held a BBQ at the Airdrie RCMP detachment and while the weather was not very co-operative (cold, rainy) we managed to serve over 75 hamburgers and 16 hotdogs along with chips, salad, coleslaw, potato salad and dessert to RCMP members and staff.

July 1, we worked the Airdrie Canada Day Parade manning the barricades and directing traffic. I think there was a record number of floats and people (the streets were lined with people watching and cheering).

We also worked at the Fireworks (a beautiful display) at Chinook Winds Park that night and again a huge crowd watching (gratefully the rain storm was over by that time).

We are very grateful to and proud of those members that took the time to help out at these events.

**Submitted By: Dave Martin, President  
Sandra Broderick, Vice-President  
Airdrie Citizens on Patrol**

### Articles of interest

Some links for you to look at...

- o <http://rdnewsnow.com/article/542347/citizens-patrol-and-alberta-rcmp-sign-official-partnership>
- o <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2017/alberta-rcmp-and-alberta-citizens-patrol-association-sign-official-partnership>
- o <https://panopticnews.com/gatewaygazette/alberta-rcmp-alberta-citizens-patrol-association-sign-official-partnership/>
- o <https://article.wn.com/view/2017/06/20/Alberta RCMP and Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association>
- o <http://www.sundrroundup.ca/article/Local-effort-to-revive-Sundre-Citizens-on-Patrol-20170620>



**Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding**

The Alberta RCMP has been proud to support the Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association for numerous years and today Deputy Commissioner Todd Shean, Commanding Officer of the RCMP in Alberta and Ms. Beverley Salomons, Chair of the Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association (ACOPA), signed an official memorandum of understanding (MOU) which outlines the partnership that has been fostered between the two organizations. Citizens On Patrol is a police supported, community led program aimed at reducing crime in the community through the active participation of citizens in crime prevention and patrol activities. When a crime, or suspicious behavior, is observed, Citizens On Patrol members will immediately contact their local RCMP detachment.

"Citizens On Patrol members help us see a little farther, hear a little more and ultimately help make our communities safer," said Deputy Commissioner Todd Shean, "While today's MOU signing formalizes our cooperation, it's the countless volunteer hours spent by community-minded citizens that are most vital to this program's continuing success. Thank you for your selfless dedication to serving and protecting your communities."

Apart from patrol activity, Citizens On Patrol may also be involved in crime prevention activities relating to the awareness and prevention of community safety issues.

"Today is a step forward in sealing the relationship between the RCMP and ACOPA" said Beverley Salomons, "And the continued opportunity for citizens in communities to volunteer as extra eyes and ears in keeping their communities safer."

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The relationship between Citizens On Patrol and the RCMP is one where both partners have a common goal of a safer community. As with any partnership, all partners must be actively involved in contributing to its success.

**Greetings from High River!**

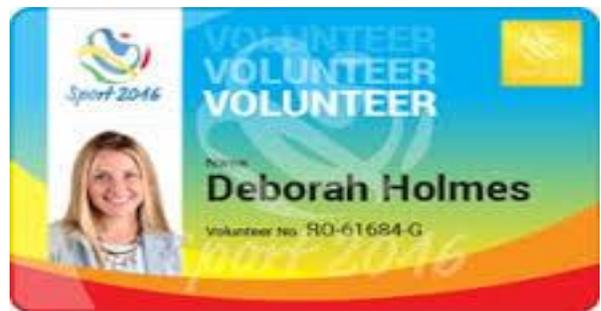
Please mark September 15 and 16 into your calendars - that is the weekend of the Alberta Citizens On Patrol AGM and Workshops in sunny High River!!

High River COP is excited to be your hosts and we have a great weekend planned! Our local Search and Rescue group is ready to lead you in their roles and we will have a visitor from the K9 patrol! We all need to know how to recruit and keep volunteers – our most vital part of our group, and I look forward to hearing about how we can do exactly that. We also have some fun planned and some great entertainment on Friday night by one of our very own members of the RCMP!

Please find the registration form attached with this newsletter, or head over to [www.acopa.ca](http://www.acopa.ca) and we'll also have a link to the form on the home page. Register by August 1 for \$65.00, because after August 1 registration jumps to \$75.00!

We have a great little town, a super dedicated group and we can't wait to see you!

**Submitted By: Tammy Beach  
President, High River COP**



**ID cards**

The ID card making has been passed to Leona Gardecki. The email for requesting ID cards remains the same at [idcards@acopa.ca](mailto:idcards@acopa.ca)

# A.C.O.P.A. BOARD MEMBERS

## Elected Board Members 2016/17...

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

## ACOPA Volunteer Board Members

- o Newsletter Leona Gardecki [newsletter@acopa.ca](mailto:newsletter@acopa.ca)
- o Webmaster Henry Salomons [webmaster@acopa.ca](mailto:webmaster@acopa.ca)
- o Insurance Liaison Eugene Smereka [insurance@acopa.ca](mailto:insurance@acopa.ca)
- o ID cards Liaison Leona Gardecki [idcards@acopa.ca](mailto:idcards@acopa.ca)
- o Casino Chair Leona Gardecki [newsletter@acopa.ca](mailto:newsletter@acopa.ca)



### Statement of Intent

Reminder to all groups - you should be thinking about filling out the Statement of Intent for a discount on your Groups insurance for 2017-2018. Before signing this statement of intent, groups must agree that they will follow the ACOPA Reference Manual to the best of their ability and this must be reflected in the groups minutes.

Eugene must have them on or BEFORE Sept. 1, 2017. Please email to [insurance@acopa.ca](mailto:insurance@acopa.ca) or mail to:

Eugene Smereka  
5611 – 57 St.  
Beaumont, Alberta  
T4X 1A8

### AVOID THE BLIND SPOT



- o June's traffic safety campaign focused on educating drivers about the differences between commercial vehicles and smaller passenger vehicles.
- o Occupants of a passenger vehicle are more likely to be killed or injured in a collision with a large

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- o commercial vehicle because of the differences in weight, stopping distance and rollover potential.
- o Between 2011 and 2015, 447 people were killed and 9,422 were injured in collisions involving commercial vehicles in Alberta. Of these, 235 people were killed and 3,042 people were injured in collisions with truck tractors.
- o "The safe operation of large commercial vehicles on Alberta highways is important to our economy and to the health and well-being of everyone using the highway network. Safety is a shared responsibility among all road users, and everyone needs to be cautious and aware when big trucks are travelling our highways." Brian Mason, Minister of Transportation
- o "We're making Alberta's highways a better place, for both the transportation industry and the public, with a steadfast focus on safety. Our members have developed transportation training programs to ensure their drivers operate safely and have clear-cut confidence behind the wheel. That confidence, paired with Alberta Transportation's dedication to sharing monthly Traffic Safety focuses with the public, shows both the AMTA and the province is committed to protecting and improving our roads." Lorraine Card, president, Alberta Motor Transport Association
- o In conjunction with this month's campaign, Road Check 2017, run by Commercial Vehicle Enforcement officers, will operate a series of commercial vehicle safety checks on Alberta roads and highways in June to heighten awareness of safety standards in the province.