



Newsletter



Fall, 2016



Serving our Canadian Volunteers working together with Police and the Community



- CCOPA AGM
- Canada's Loneliest Hero
- Mountie + baby beaver
- Bio's of new Board Members
- News Release
- Auxiliary Members
- Police Awards
- Lest We Forget

CCOPA Board Contact information

- Bev Salomons – President
- Brian Cornborough - Secretary
- Betty Woolridge – Treasurer
- Gwen Watson - Director at Large
- Martin Parry – Director at Large

CCOPA Newsletter Contact information

- Bev Salomons – President
- Leona Gardecki - Newsletter Editor

CCOPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of your national group was held recently in Alberta in conjunction with the Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association Annual General Meeting. If you have never been to one of theirs, you need to make a point of it sometime. Besides the well thought out topics presented over two days, the friendship amongst the delegates and presenting police officers and other dignitaries was at a high level. And if that was not enough, the marching into the auditorium of the colors of Canada and each municipality and district in attendance was an outstanding effort. It was a symposium that when you walked out, you felt good about yourself and the organization you belonged to. Congratulations to the Airdrie Committee and the ACOPA committee.

We managed to get a few photos of the symposium found below.



Sgt Josee Valiquette – Liaison Officer from K Division for ACOPA on the left with ACOPA and CCOPA President on the right.



Some of the attendees - wide awake! If you want to get noticed, wear fluorescent t- shirts.



Our President giving her opening address to guests and volunteer members.



CANADA'S LONLEST HERO

The headline in the *National Post* Thursday October 20, 2016 was: Canada's loneliest hero: Why you've never heard of this RCMP officer who shot the Parliament Hill gunman.

Two years ago, Cpl. Curtis Barrett shot the perpetrator of a deadly crime at Parliament Hill. But the writer of the article noted that "Barrett's contribution was buried, redacted, and generally forgotten, leading him into a downward spiral of post-traumatic stress".

You have got to read the whole of the article and realise that something went sideways in looking after him. The link to the "National Post" is printed below. It is also on Facebook.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/m/wp/news/canada/blog.html?b=news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/canadas-loneliest-hero-why-youve-never-heard-of-this-rcmp-officer-who-shot-the-parliament-hill-gunman>

Mountie + baby beaver = most Canadian photo ever? Only thing missing is a double-double: commenter. [CBC News](#) August 22, 2016



RCMP Cst. Jason Pinder

That's a lot of Canadian symbolism packed into one photograph! RCMP Cpl. Jason Pinder, who volunteers with Regina's Salthaven West animal rehabilitation centre, posed for a portrait with this rescued beaver kit. (Megan Lawrence/Salthaven West)

It's hard to imagine anything more Canadian — or more adorable — than a photo of a Mountie cuddling a baby beaver. Sure enough, it happened recently at Regina's Salthaven West wildlife rehabilitation centre. The centre helps injured and abandoned birds and wild animals, and in May received four beaver kits whose mother had been killed near Fort Qu'Appelle.

Jason Pinder, who has volunteered his time with Salthaven for the past five years, works a day job as an RCMP corporal. When he stopped by the centre a few days ago wearing his red serge uniform, staff couldn't resist getting a shot with him and one of the furry critters.

The result: an iconic shot for the ages that delighted Salthaven's Facebook followers.

Most Canadian photo ever? Many agreed.

"Just missing a double-double!" Kimberley Belhumeur said in the comments.

BIOGRAPHY'S OF BOARD MEMBERS



Martin Parry (Prince Edward Island)

Hi, fellow members of Citizens on Patrol. I am a newly appointed member from the province of Prince Edward Island.

I was born, raised and educated in the Ottawa. Joined the federal public service and have worked in various departments/agencies since. I transferred to PEI in 1982 for what originally was to be a two to five year assignment. I quickly realized the beauty and lifestyle that this province offered and resided here ever since raising our family of three boys.

Over the years I have been a volunteer in several capacities spanning sports to the cadet movement. I recently volunteered with Citizen's On Patrol for the community of Stratford and hope to see the program strengthen and expand to other communities on PEI.

Gwen Watson (Manitoba)

Gwen Watson has been a COPP member since 2010. Gwen and her husband, Barry, first joined Manitoba's St Clements COPP group as patrol partners. Moving to the Interlake region, Gwen took on the role of region representative for the Provincial Advisory Council of Manitoba COPP. She is also the current secretary for West Shores COPP.

Gwen attended the University of Manitoba for her undergrad and graduate degrees, more years ago than she cares to admit. Gwen had long career in education both as a classroom teacher and as curriculum consultant. In her past lives, Gwen and her husband were small business owners. She has been a Girl Guide leader (Sparks, Brownies, and Guides) as well as on the Executive for the Manitoba Association of Teachers of English and East St Paul Figure Skating Club. Gwen is a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Honour Society.

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). Gwen Watson and Martin Parry are new to our Board and as is traditional, they supplied their biographies so that you could get to know them; their bios are found elsewhere in this newsletter.

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.

“RCMP makes U-turn, auxiliaries could be back”

Note: Editorial from *Victoria Times Colonist* written by Jack Knox Tuesday October 18, 2016. Printed with permission of the author.

The City of Victoria in BC has a great print newspaper, the *Times Colonist*, and on October 18, 2016, a columnist wrote an article with the headline as above. He was talking about the fact that the RCMP had pulled its auxiliaries away from policing. He called it “was a top-down decision made without input from the volunteers themselves or the communities they serve”. Apparently, RCMP HQ in Ottawa is taking another look. The force is asking municipalities for their opinion on three options for the auxiliary program, one of which would let them go back to doing much of what they did before.

I think we all know what the auxiliaries did on a regular basis. They would do community work like traffic control at parades, crime prevention initiatives, and generally be good ambassadors. But some also worked closer to police in uniforms but without firearms. It is estimated that there were at the time of two high-profile incidents about 700 auxiliaries in 67 detachments in BC so a sizeable number. The two incidents were the October 2014 murder of an unarmed military sentry on Parliament Hill which left authorities worried about protecting people whose uniforms might make them a target; the other incident happening in January 2015 in St. Albert (north of Edmonton) where a RCMP member was killed and an auxiliary member wounded while trying to arrest a suspected car thief.

The columnist reported that *Postmedia News* found that “hundreds of willing auxiliaries were left sitting on their hands while police flew in regular members from as far away as Newfoundland to direct traffic and ferry officials during the Fort McMurray fires. “

The *Times Colonist* reports that Municipalities in BC are being asked for their thoughts on three options: first, keep the status quo where auxiliaries would remain uniformed peace officers but not do ride-along or patrols; second, restrict auxiliaries to a community roles only – crime prevention, safety education but take away their peace-officer status and be in civilian uniforms; and third, initiate three tiers of duty where the first tier would do community roles such as crime prevention and safety, the second tier do traffic and crowd control, foot and bike patrols, and wear their police uniform, and the third tier would do the ride-along with a regular member and work at traffic stops but with a midnight curfew.

The article is lengthy but it has some correlation to what the Citizens On Patrol do or “did” on a typical evening. To confirm, we did not dress as a police officer, nor did we do ride-along, or do traffic. But we certainly were out there looking to prevent crime by being eyes and ears and observing and reporting what we saw. We were taught to keep applicable distances from potential trouble and not park in close proximity to any properties which might pose a danger.

We did this by using our personal vehicles and never driving the same vehicle on consecutive nights so that no one would bother to run our plate. In 15 years of personal involvement with the Citizens on Patrol program, I have only heard of 2 instances where a volunteer was involved in an altercation and it was never initiated by the volunteer or police member in attendance.

So let’s hope that Ottawa will respect input from the volunteers, whether auxiliaries or Citizens on Patrol members, and not make it difficult for seasoned and trained volunteers.

Here is the link to some discussion on the topic from the Union of BC Municipalities.

<http://www.ubcm.ca/EN/meta/news/news-archive/2016-archive/rcmp-seeking-input-on-auxiliary-constable-program.html>

Another good news story!

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/rcmp-awards-calgary-1.3811281>

Mountie who climbed along bridge to stop girl from jumping among RCMP award-winners. Const. Matthew Doane climbed onto a bridge, using his body to prevent a 12-year-old from jumping

By David Bell, [CBC News](#) Posted: Oct 18, 2016 9:07 PM MT Last Updated: Oct 19, 2016 11:04 AM MT



Alberta RCMP Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan, left, honours Const. Matthew Doane at a private RCMP awards ceremony in Calgary on Tuesday. Doane used his body to prevent a 12-year-old girl from jumping from a bridge high above the North Saskatchewan River in 2014. (RCMP)

Cont'd from P. 4

When Const. Matthew Doane arrived at a bridge about 15 metres above the North Saskatchewan River after calls of a suicidal young girl, he knew he had to act quickly.

Several people had tried desperately to get a hold of the 12-year-old girl through the guardrails, but without success.

The Rocky Mountain House RCMP constable crawled to the unsecured side of the bridge and used his body to hold her to the bridge, preventing her from possibly falling or jumping to her death.

Then he asked another Mountie to get ratchet straps from his bag and tie them around the guard rails, him and the girl.

His quick thinking ensured the girl stayed safe until police, the fire department and civilians were able to talk her back to safety. That was back in March of 2014.

Const. Doane's actions, along with other officers, were honoured at the RCMP Commendation Awards at a private ceremony in Calgary on Tuesday.

"I am so honoured to be here today to recognize the inspirational efforts our employees have made," Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan said.

Doane is now posted at the Didsbury RCMP detachment.



Calgary police Det. David Keagan and Sgt. Gary Creasser, right, were honoured by Alberta RCMP Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan, left, for their quick response to a man who attacked RCMP Sgt. Andrew Johnson (not pictured) with a knife in June of 2010. (RCMP)

In early June 2010, an armed man showed up at the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) office in Calgary looking to speak with Andrew Johnson, an RCMP sergeant at the time.

The man pulled a knife and stabbed Johnson several times. A severely-injured Johnson did what he could to get the knife from the man but was unable to do so.

Calgary police Sgt. Gary Creasser heard what was happening and risked his own life to intervene, becoming injured while trying to get the weapon from the suspect.

Calgary police Det. David Keagan also jumped in to help, after having a receptionist call 911.

'Risking their lives to save others'

The attack ended after the man was taken into custody with the help of other ASIRT members.

The Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP said these officers are role models. "From dedicating their lives to serving the citizens of our nation to risking their lives to save others, I am so very proud of these employees and their contribution to the safety and security of Canadians," Ryan said.

The ceremony also recognized 33 RCMP employees with long service awards.

Editor's Footnote. The members of the Canadian Citizens On Patrol Association who work in conjunction with the RCMP and Municipal Police Services across Canada salute these members who protect us in many different ways.

Take a moment to remember...

