



Newsletter



February 2021

CANADIAN CITIZENS ON PATROL ASSOCIATION

Serving our Canadian Volunteers working together with Police and the Community

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From the President

On behalf of the Canadian Citizens On Patrol Association board, greetings are sent across Canada. While this past year has been like no other, here we are in February of 2021. Winter is passing by, even though some provinces continue to have snowstorms and other provinces are in the deep freeze, it is past the middle of February, so the end of winter is in sight.

The topic of the day for the past year has been the COVID virus and how it has affected not only our daily lives, but also the lives of what we do whether it be for work, play, shop, travel or volunteer. New ways have been discovered to fill the days while sheltering at home. This virus has greatly affected the Citizens On Patrol programs across Canada. Volunteering as “extra eyes and ears” in our communities has virtually come to a standstill. Regular meetings have either taken a pause or continued by the popular method these days as a ZOOM meeting.

Having a meeting by ZOOM has allowed people to keep in contact with each other while keeping up with what is happening in our former activities. Some volunteers were able to continue with patrolling as long as they were members of the same households.

Now that we have gone this far, it is time to focus on the future – getting the vaccine, meeting in person with our families, volunteering for community events, looking for and training new members for the Citizens On Patrol programs and basically “returning to normal”. Normal may never be quite the same, but once able to communicate in person and participate in events, it may seem like we have gotten past this phase of our lives.

CCOPA has been meeting virtually since it started in 2013. The mission of CCOPA continues to be to support and foster growth and development for all Citizens On Patrol program across Canada.

Bev Salomons
President

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Alberta News

Like the rest of Canada, the Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association (ACOPA) has taken a pause in group activities. Due to the COVID -19 restrictions, patrollers have been limited to patrols only by people living in the same household. Some groups continue to meet in many ways. When it was permitted to meet outside, some groups met with their lawn chairs and coffee in a large circle. Other groups have met via ZOOM, which seems to be the meeting way of choice.

The ACOPA Annual General Meeting was cancelled for the first time and replaced with a ZOOM meeting. Hopefully, it will be ok to hold the AGM once again before the end of 2021.

The ACOPA I-Patrol app for the Android version was completed and is now available for free on the Play Station. Work is beginning on updates for the Apple version of the I-Patrol app and testing will take place over the next several months.

RCMP in Alberta are preparing to launch a notification system for the province to inform RCMP volunteers with alerts for what is happening in their neighbourhoods.

New Brunswick News

The Codiac Regional Citizens on Patrol, New Brunswick's first COP chapter remains active even during Covid with the continued support of the Local RCMP community policing division and the board of directors. There is local interest in the program from other neighborhood watch groups, which we hope to onboard when restrictions allow. The active members continue to patrol and report suspicious activities through the App and help provide a visual presence and a deterrence. Our social media remains active and look forward to a possible training session in March if conditions allow.

Check us out @

<https://www.facebook.com/CRCOPA/>



CODIAC REGIONAL CITIZENS ON PATROL
L'ASSOCIATION CITOYENS EN PATROUILLE DE CODIAC



Canadian Citizens On Patrol

Recently, the Canadian Citizens On Patrol Association (CCOPA) started Face Book. Please check it out and feel free to comment or share any of the posts. Here is where you will find the CCOPA Face Book:

<https://www.facebook.com/Canadian-Citizens-On-Patrol->

Prince Edward Island News



A few members of Stratford Citizens on Patrol laid a wreath at the Town of Stratford cenotaph on Remembrance Day 2020.

Nova Scotia News

COP patrolling in the province of Nova Scotia has slowed down a lot re: Covid, but it is up to the individual groups to go or not go. The Provincial COP meetings that were held previously at Division Headquarters in Dartmouth re-started earlier this month (after more than a year of no meetings) via teleconference with a new liaison officer.

Question at "open table" discussion: some members wondering how they can do patrols with Coronavirus. Response: very difficult. Advice is to not engage with anyone, especially those not wearing a

mask. Don't interact unless it's a medical emergency.

Another discussion at "open table" was related to "carrying of Naloxone". Response from RCMP: anyone who has first aid/first aid kit advised to have it along. Remember to always call first responders if you see a medical emergency.

British Columbia News

Most of our groups in BC and the other provinces are not as active as they would like due to the restrictions of COVID-19. A few groups are lucky enough to have family couples as partners so they can go out but that's not too many. Because we are off duty for awhile and not getting any ongoing training or keeping up our skills, we may see the loss of members and a push to recruit new volunteers when the pandemic is under control.

A conversation about Naloxone/Narcan came up at our latest meeting. The B.C. Government website advises that it is available without a prescription but with 3 requirements – you have a history of use of hard drugs, are likely to witness or respond to an overdose not including professionals for use on patients, and you are First Nations (called the Take Home Naloxone program). If you suspect an overdose, call 911 and follow the SAVE ME protocol on the website. The site offers info on how to respond to the overdose. Good reading.

Saskatchewan News

Director Sandeep Kumar has been looking for information on any Citizens On Patrol groups that are operating in Saskatchewan. To date, he has communicated with the towns of Meadow Lake, Yorkton, Wynyard, Kindersley and Rosetown. Meadow Lake has a small group of volunteers and are in the process of getting their group back up and running. Yorkton originally started the C.O.P. program in 1996 and is now working to find new volunteers through several interviews with the Yorkton CTV News, Saskatoon Global News, Yorkton newspaper and the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. There have been some patrols happening on the weekends there and they hope to increase the patrols as they sign on new members. Vehicles are provided for patrollers which makes it very convenient.

Eyes That Care North Battleford Saskatchewan

North Battleford wants to expand on the successes of their Community Safety Strategy and enhanced "Eyes That Care". This project empowers residents who want to address preventable crime challenges and encourages residents to do the following:

- Sign up for the Eyes That Care Program
- Meet your neighbours and share contact information.
- Watch for any suspicious activity.
- Report any suspicious activity to the RCMP.
- REMOVE ALL VALUABLES FROM YOUR VEHICLES
- LOCK UP YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY
- Ensure that your vehicles are locked, and the keys are on your person, NOT inside the vehicle.

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The City believes that if residents can be engaged to take responsibility for their areas, that we can achieve a 10 percent decrease in preventable crimes. In exchange for residents committing to this project, the City will provide:

- A solar motion sensor light thanks to support of Canadian Tire
- An Eyes that Care sign to be displayed in a front window.
- Monthly email updates on the progress being made towards the 10% reduction.
- An opportunity for residents to nominate a Monthly Eyes that Care Neighborhood Champion who will be entered in a drawing for a 50-dollar gift card.
- Working in close conjunction with the RCMP Crime Prevention/Victims Services Unit, we will be able to utilize data driven benchmarks that will guide our City resources to provide the best results.
- The City of North Battleford will announce Community Events where you can register and receive your Motion Sensor. To register now, visit <http://www.cityofnb.ca>, download and complete the form and email it to the Communications Coordinator at roberlander@cityofnb.ca or complete the form in person at City Hall 1291-101st Street.
- Let's work together to build a safer community.
- For more information:
Robert Oberlander, Communication Coordinator
Tel: 306-445-1710 | roberlander@cityofnb.ca
Jim Puffalt, City Manager
Tel: 306-445-1727 | jpuffalt@cityofnb.ca



Have you signed up for the Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network?

On March 7, 2019, the Honourable Christine Tell, Minister of Corrections and Policing, and A/Commissioner Mark Fisher, Commanding Officer of the Saskatchewan RCMP, along with some of our community partners, announced the launch of *the 'Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network'*.

The *'Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network'* is a crime prevention program that uses mass notification technology (Everbridge) to more effectively and efficiently communicate with participating residents, corporations, and organizations. The Everbridge Mass Notification system is used by frontline employees to send advisories to the public via text message, email, and/or landline. Community members will purposely sign up to receive these notifications.

There are two categories of police advisories:

- to seek help from the public to solve or prevent crime(s), or
- to inform the public about a crime trend or issue.

On April 18, 2019, the Province of Saskatchewan, and the RCMP, announced a further expansion of this initiative. The advisory network is now available to **all RCMP Detachments and communities in Saskatchewan**. The Estevan Police Service was added as a municipal pilot in the summer of 2019. **ANYONE** and **EVERYONE** should sign up. The initiative is designed so that all people, including

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volunteers, corporations, and organizations across Saskatchewan can help to ensure a safe and secure Saskatchewan!

The preferred sign-up method is to download the 'Everbridge' App (Search for 'Crime Watch Advisory'): You can also sign up by going to the website: www.saskcrimewatch.ca Choose how you want to be notified:

- Text Message
- Email, or
- landline (text to voice) – preferred, only if no text or email

Choose the applicable Detachment(s) from which you would like to receive notifications. This initiative gives credit to the Rural Crime Watch program for its inception. It stems from the idea of the early Rural Crime Watch callouts (mass telephone calls). The network was designed, such that if success in RCMP jurisdictions that it might also grow and be used by all law enforcement agencies. It is for **EVERYONE**:

- Rural / City / Town / Village residents and neighbourhoods
- Indigenous peoples and communities
- Company employees, organizational volunteers, etc.
- Existing crime prevention volunteers or groups, eg. Citizens on Patrol
- Law enforcement personnel and their families, and the Media too!

The new technology promotes the idea that 'EVERYONE' can make a difference; however, it has also been uniquely designed to support our existing crime prevention programs and networks.

The vision is to build and maintain a robust and modern crime prevention network, one that effectively leverages today's telecommunication and smartphone technology, to connect the police and other law enforcement more directly to the public. The network is to be inclusive of all people and communities, such that EVERYONE can contribute in a positive way to ensuring a safe and secure Saskatchewan.

Further expansion to other municipal police services is anticipated for late 2020 or early 2021, so stay tuned.

Sample Advisory: **Police Pursuit – Possible Stolen Vehicle – Suspect at Large – Moose Jaw RCMP**

On Wednesday morning, October 9th, at approximately 10:30 am, Moose Jaw RCMP attempted to stop a Maroon coloured pick up truck on Highway #1 at the intersection to the town of Morse. The vehicle, suspected as stolen from the Swift Current area with two male occupants in their 30's, failed to stop for police. This resulted in a police pursuit which was terminated shortly after due to public safety concerns. The Ford F250 continued East bound on highway #1 toward Swift Current. The truck is described as an extended cab Super-duty Ford F250 with one missing rear passenger mud flap. A load of burnt copper wire was seen in the box of the pickup. The pick up is displaying a partial known Saskatchewan License plate of 358K??.

If you have any information related to this Crime Watch Advisory, please call 310-RCMP Sgt. Tim Schwartz – Moose Jaw RCMP

Canadian Citizens On Patrol website

CCOPA has updated the CCOPA website at www.ccopa.ca

Information is found there on each of the provinces where there is a Citizens On Patrol program. As well, there is information on what the goals of Citizens On Patrol programs are, who the CCOPA Board of Directors are and a history of how CCOPA started.

Under the provincial COP's, information about each province is found by clicking on the provincial flag. In the "Get Involved" section, volunteers who sign up for the Citizens On Patrol program can learn what the expectations and responsibilities of volunteers are.

Information is posted for how to start a Citizens On Patrol program. Any group wishing to start a C.O.P. group in their community should contact the provincial contact person for additional assistance. The appropriate person to contact is listed under "Contact Us".

Newsletters are posted on this website as well as updates from provinces under "provincial News".

Montana State Trooper

In most of the United States, there is a policy of checking on any stalled vehicle on the highway when the temperatures drop to single digits or below. About 3 a.m., one very cold morning, Montana State Trooper Allan Nixon #658 responded to a call there was a car off the shoulder of the road outside Great Falls, Montana. He located the car, with North Dakota plates, stuck in deep snow, and with the engine still running. Pulling in behind the car with his emergency lights on, the trooper walked to the driver's door to find an older man passed out behind the wheel with a nearly empty vodka bottle on the seat beside him.

The driver came awake when the trooper tapped on the window. Seeing the rotating lights in his



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rear-view mirror, and the State Trooper standing next to his car, the man panicked. He jerked the gearshift into "drive" and hit the gas. The car's speedometer was showing 20-30-40 and then 50 mph, but it was still stuck in the snow, wheels spinning.

Trooper Nixon, having a sense of humor, began running in place next to the speeding (but stationary) car. The driver was totally freaked, thinking the trooper was actually keeping up with him. This goes on for about 30 seconds, then the trooper yelled, "Pull over!" The man nodded, turned his wheel, and stopped the engine.

Needless to say, the man from North Dakota was arrested, and is probably still shaking his head over the State Trooper in Montana who could run 50 miles per hour.

Who says troopers don't have a sense of humor?"