



Newsletter



June 2015



Serving our Canadian Volunteers working together with Police and the Community



How You Can Be Safer

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CCOPA Board Contact information

- Bev Salomons President
- Elsie Reid - Vice President
- Brian Cornborough – Secretary
- Betty Woolridge - Treasurer
- Harry McLellan - Director at Large

CCOPA Newsletter Contact information

- Bev Salomons – President
- Leona Gardecki - Newsletter Editor
- RCMP Liaison

We live in a different world than we did before September 11, 2001. We are more aware of our vulnerabilities, more appreciative of our freedoms, and more understanding that we have a personal responsibility for the safety of our families, our neighbors and our nation.

But we also know that we can take action now to help protect our families, help reduce the impact an emergency has on our lives, and help deal with the chaos if an incident does occur.

Review the Citizen Preparedness Publications to learn about creating a Family Disaster Plan (PDF) and preparing a Family Disaster Supplies Kit (PDF) to last for at least 3 days, including drinkable water, non-perishable food (including pet food), first aid supplies, other emergency supplies like flashlights and batteries, clothes and bedding, and specialty items. Disaster Supply Kits should also be prepared for your car and workplace.

And get involved in helping others be safer -- when you help your neighbor, you help your country. Share what you learn with others -- and participate in Citizen On Patrol in your area. If you don't have a Citizens On Patrol program in your area, contact www.ccopa.ca for the provincial representative and work with your local officials to get one started.

Here are some other things you can do right now to be safer!

- Check and change the batteries in your smoke alarms and replace all alarms that are more than 10 years old.
- Make sure you know where your local fire department, police station, and hospital are and post a list of emergency phone numbers posted near all the telephones in your home.
- Organize and practice a family fire drill -- make sure your children know what your smoke detector sounds like and what to do if it goes off when they are sleeping.

- Locate the utility mains for your home and be sure you know how to turn them off manually: gas, electricity, and water.
- Create an emergency plan for your household, including your pets. Decide where your family will meet if a disaster does happen: 1) right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire and 2) outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home -- ask an out of town friend to be your "family contact" to relay messages.
- Prepare a 3-day disaster supply kit, complete with flashlights, batteries, blankets, and an emergency supply of water and food (and pet food!).
- Plan to hold a Neighborhood Watch meeting -- your local law enforcement can help you get started.
- Check the expiration dates of all over-the-counter medications -- discard all that are expired and replace any that are routinely needed.
- Make sure all cleaning products and dangerous objects are out of children's reach.
- Plan to sign up for a first aid training course. Call your local Red Cross chapter or National Safety Council to ask about courses in your area (www.redcross.org).
- Visit with your neighbors and discuss how you would handle a disaster in your area. Talk to neighbors with special needs and help them become safer too!

Citizens on Patrol Stratford PEI 2015 Merit Awards



Left to right: Queen Country CO Staff Sgt. Mark Crowther, Harry J. McLellan Chair Citizens on Patrol Stratford, R.C.M.P. Constable Tara McBride who started the Program in Stratford, then The Acting Commanding Superintendent Joanne Crampton and Mary Matheson Co- Chair of C.O.P. - Stratford.

Stratford Citizens on Patrol presented the 2015 Merit Awards to volunteers of its Stratford area program on Wednesday, May 20th at 6:00pm at the Stratford Town Hall.

In its eighth year, the program currently consists of 14 volunteers who are both male and female between the ages of 24 and 60.

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Police Week in Nova Scotia

Police week is an annual event that takes place the 2nd week of May. This is where the police and the community come together.

I had the privilege this year of attending two events, one at "H" Division on May 13th in the new RCMP Building in Dartmouth, NS.

This was very well attended with booths for Citizens On Patrol with 3 groups in attendance. There were 2 members from the Cold Harbour group, 2 members from the Tantallon group and 3 members from the East Hants group. As well, Crime Stoppers, MADD, Auxiliary Members, Veterans RCMP Association, Victim Services, Dog Master and his side kick, RCMP Youth group, Training Officers, Finger print members, members from the Forensic lab and also a group called "Adopt A Book" were all in attendance. The event ran for 4 hours.

There were many young people and lots and lots of kids. Among the members walking about were the CO Brian Brennan, and other top- ranking members in and out of uniform. Outside the building were patrol cars with lights flashing, a rescue boat with members, and the armoured vehicle with members present to answer questions from the public. The children really like this event and there were lots there, I lost count of the number of Boys Scouts, Cubs, Beaver, Girl Guides, Brownies and Sparks. I'm sure they brought them in in Bus loads. The parents and chaperons were just as interested as the youth with the volunteer programs that are under the RCMP umbrella.

The Adopt A Book was started by RCMP members years ago in New Glasgow Pictou County and it is a very successful program. I had the honor of meeting this officer about 15 yrs. ago when he started this program.

The next event I was part of on May 16th was in East Hants at the Enfield Detachment. What a beautiful day. COP's were there with their digital speed sign and members handing out brochures to the public. MADD members were present as well as Crime Stoppers, Victim Services, Fire Department and the usual number of uniformed police officers, with the Staff Sargent giving the public tours of the cells (there were no guests in the cells). Police cars, which the kids dearly love, had the lights and sirens going. Volunteers and members of the Fire Department were cooking and serving hot dogs and water. The Fire Department had an exercise where they were getting someone out of a crashed vehicle. This event was very successful as all the public events during police week are.

Other Detachments and the Regional Police also have their events. I know that Tantallon Community Police Officer was going to be in a Mall on the Friday and Mt. Uniacke was going to be in another Mall. These members are from the COP groups in their community.

Submitted by: Betty Woolridge

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Citizens on Patrol are a national program with more than 4,000 volunteers across the country. Volunteers in the program work with their local RCMP detachments to assist in keeping their communities' safe, often acting as the eyes and ears for the RCMP.

Volunteers with Citizens on Patrol Stratford are patrolling in teams year-round on weekends and special event or holiday evenings, such as Halloween, as well as adding Thursday evening patrols during the summer months.

Citizens on Patrol Stratford continues to have strong support from both the RCMP and Town of Stratford and will be making a presentation to Constable Tara McBride who was instrumental in setting up the program in Stratford eight years ago along with recognizing all current volunteers.

Submitted by: Harry McLellan, Director CCOPA



Honourable H, Frank Lewis - O.P.E.I.
Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island



Thank you to the following who have donated since the last newsletter in January to CCOPA. The financial support that CCOPA has been receiving from the COP groups is totally awesome!

Group	Value
Tracey Proctor, MB	\$40
Portage la Prairie COPP, MB	\$100
White Rock COP, BC	\$20
High Level Community Policing, Alta	\$15
Beaumont COP, Alta	\$100
Vermillion COP, Alta	\$25
North Battleford, Sask	\$100
Westlock COP, Alta	\$20
Cole Harbour COPA, NS	\$20
Sandpiper COPP, Mb	\$20
Wm Whyte Residents Ass COPP, Mb	\$36
Airdrie COP, Alta	\$50
Wabamun COP, Alta	\$50
Crowsnest Pass COP, Alta	\$200
Burnaby Citizens Crime Watch, BC	\$200

Manitoba Citizens On Patrol

Citizens On Patrol in Manitoba continue to be committed to community safety. As of January 2015 the Program had 55 groups in communities across the Province. The 1200 members provided 30,000 hours of volunteer service for 2014. Some groups are growing while others are having difficulty recruiting new members.

COP members are assisting with community events in addition to patrols which provide them with more public visibility. Residents realize the value of COP and consider becoming a member when they see the benefit to their community by volunteering their time and the satisfaction they gain by assisting Law Enforcement to make their community a safer place.

COP members also assist by providing traffic control for community events and do school crossing patrols and street patrols on foot with RCMP. They also assist Manitoba Public Insurance with the Speed Watch Program and assist the RCMP Traffic Division by taking part in Distracted Driving campaigns for seatbelt and cellphone use.

Starting up of new COP Groups and training of new members as well as updates of training are continuing as needed. Trained COP members assist the Provincial Coordinator with these responsibilities wherever possible. Sessions for periodic refresher of training are recommended to all groups.

COP groups in areas of the Province near Lake Manitoba are preparing for possible Spring flooding again this year. The COP members provided security and sandbagging assistance in the cottage and residential areas along the waterfront.

The Manitoba Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC), at their last meeting discussed a Strategic Plan for future increased capability and responsibilities for the Regional Representatives which may assist the Provincial Coordinator. More discussion is planned to ensure the best possible practices are in place for the COP Program in Manitoba.

One COP Group in Northern Manitoba was pleased to be a part of an event that made a historical inroad into the Metis culture. A signing ceremony was held with Federal, Provincial and Municipal dignitaries, RCMP and the Metis Federation leaders as well as members of the community in attendance to pass on the position of Staff Sgt. in the community from father to son. The departing RCMP Staff Sgt. worked closely with the local COP Group and the new RCMP Staff Sgt. continues to provide support for the local members of the COP Program as his father did.

The Provincial Coordinator for Manitoba Citizens On Patrol for the past six to seven years has transferred to a new position with Manitoba Public Insurance so a new Coordinator will be hired this year. It will be a learning curve for the new person due to the number of COP groups in the Province with a large number of volunteers. We are confident the Groups will work effectively with the new person. Manitoba COP volunteers continue to patrol with dedication to their communities.

Submitted by Elise Reid

B.C. Report



From left to right, Bill Rothery from Sidney/North Saanich COPs, Sgt. Bernie Smandych, and Brian Cornborough, Secretary of CCOPA from Nanaimo.

A retirement party was held Friday May 22, 2015 for Sgt. Bernie Smandych of "E" Division (BC) who is retiring after 35 years (it was a joint retirement as her husband was retiring from the BC Sheriffs also). Approximately 140 people gathered at the new (3 year old) headquarters for the RCMP in BC in Surrey. An informal open bar was followed by a huge buffet dinner (it was called a tail-gate with corn bread, smokies etc.), presentations, and lots of thank you's.

I was one of a few volunteers invited and it was a special moment to be in their presence. Sgt. Smandych was the best supporter one could have when running a COPs program. She was always right there when I needed something and went out of her way to be part of our program. When the RCMP needed up-to-date information on the COPs programs in BC, she arranged a 4 month contract for me to undertake this task.

Sgt. Smandych has had a great and varied working career. She went into training July 15, 1980 with her first posting to Swan Hills, Alberta followed by service to the community of Canmore, also in Alberta.

Enough of that urban policing, she transferred north to get a feel of the how our friends in a remote part of Canada live. In July 1984, she went up to the Northwest Territories to serve the Communities of Yellowknife, Spence Bay (now called Taloyoak) and Pine Point (a Cominco Mine town that went from Boom to shutting down in 1987).

Back to urban policing, she transferred to the University Detachment (UBC) in July 1988 and served there for 5 years after which she moved to the Mission Detachment for three years.

Another move came when she moved to the Ridge Meadows Detachment where she received her Cpl. promotion. Her last posting is her retiring location at "E" Division Crime Prevention Services where she came in 2006 and where she was promoted to Sgt. Her official retirement is July after 35 years of Service with the RCMP.

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She will be missed by many people but will be remembered as the kind of supporter all of our COP groups would love to have.

Submitted by: Brian Cornborough, Secretary CCOPA



From left to right: Sgt. Bernie Smandych and S/Sgt. Tom Norton, Operations NCO - "E" Division, Crime Prevention Services

The gift Berni is getting is called a Shabrack.

Article from B.C.

British Columbia continues to be running contrary to the rest of Canada. At the Nanaimo detachment, the Citizens on Patrol program has all but disappeared with the consequential loss of some talented patrollers who decided that the new direction did not fit for them. Along with the cancellation of the program was the suspension of the Lock Out Auto Crime initiative and our bike unit. A difficult time for some of us who just want to volunteer with the experience and talents they have learned over the years. In one other detachment, all night patrols have been suspended for reasons unknown although I understand it may be a lack of supervision. Possibly with a high crime rate, there is a safety issue but I know that day patrols are still taking place and they require supervision.

Provincially, we have not made any headway in our goal to become a strong voice in British Columbia. I had hoped that with the new President of the BC Crime Prevention Association being an inspector with the Vancouver City Police Department, and with the City of Vancouver having the largest Crime Watch group, we might expect a stronger organizational body to bring the volunteers on their way to forming a provincial body similar to that of other provinces with COPs and Crime Watch as that voice. However, the BCCPA Board again has confirmed that this will not happen and will continue to run contrary to what is happening across Canada. However, as long as we continue to keep in contact with each other, we will continue to grow with our goal to create a BC Association of volunteers run by volunteers. Our Secretary is from BC and welcomes your comments from your local group.

Submitted by: Brian Cornborough

C.O.P. in Alberta

Alberta Citizens On Patrol continues to expand in 2015 with the addition of 6 new C.O.P. groups that have organized and are up and in operation. New C.O.P. groups have started up in the communities of LaGlance, Carmangay, Lacombe, Peace River, High River and Brooks. ACOPA welcomes all the new members!

The ACOPA Workshop/Annual General Meeting will be hosted by the Leduc Nighthawks C.O.P. group September 18 and 19. Each year, a different C.O.P. group hosts the Workshop/AGM, so members get to visit a different community each September. Normally about 130 C.O.P. members from around the province attend the weekend of training. It is an excellent opportunity to meet C.O.P. from other communities and to hear what they are doing. Liaison Officers are also encouraged to attend and meet with other Liaison Officers. C.O.P. from other provinces are more than welcome to attend the Workshop weekend. Check out the ACOPA website at www.acopa.ca for the registration form.

C.O.P. groups continue to support the CCOPA with donations and that is very much appreciated. Thanks to Airdrie C.O.P. for their second donation \$100 and to Wabamun C.O.P. for their \$50 donation.

Crime Prevention Specialist Training

On May 11, 12 and 13 training took place in Red Deer, Alberta. The training was made available through the International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners and was attended by eight participants including ACOPA President Bev Salomons and Dave Pfeiffer, C.O.P. member from Beaumont and Leduc.

Training topics included History of Crime Prevention, Three Lines of Defense, Armed Robbery Prevention, Auto Theft (Carjacking), Child Safety, Credit Card Fraud, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), Crimes Against Older Adults, Domestic Violence, Identify Theft, Lighting for Security, Neighbourhood Watch, Public Speaking, Security Surveys, Sexual Assault, Cheque Fraud, Construction Site Crime Prevention, Crime Analysis, Gang Awareness, Internet Safety and Cyber Crime Prevention, Crime Prevention for Multi Housing Communities, Operation Identification, Personal Safety, Rural Crime Prevention, School Safety – Emergency Response, Retail Fraud Prevention, Volunteers and Crime Prevention and Workplace Violence Prevention.

Bruce Wall from Phoenix and Becky Wylie-Jardine, a retired RCMP officer from Red Deer were the trainers. To add to the information presented, there was two evenings of studying for the final test of 200 questions with a mark of 75% to pass. This was an excellent course to take to learn about so many crime prevention topics; all of which are useful to the Citizens On Patrol program. Any province interested in learning more about the Crime Prevention Specialist Training please contact your provincial contact.

Submitted by: Bev Salomons, President ACOPA

Welcome to Saskatchewan

Check out the CCOPA website at www.ccopa.ca and you will see that the Saskatchewan flag has been added. Click on the flag to see information about C.O.P. in Saskatchewan. CCOPA looks forward to having Saskatchewan included with CCOPA and is working at getting other provinces also on board.

R.C.M.P. Depot presentation

Permission has been granted for CCOPA to attend the R.C.M.P. Depot training facility at Regina for Saturday June 13th. Approval has been received for CCOPA President Bev Salomons (Alberta) and CCOPA Treasurer Betty Woolridge (Nova Scotia) to make a power point presentation to the Cadets in Training on the Citizens On Patrol program across Canada. CCOPA is very much looking forward to the opportunity to be able to inform the Cadets what the Citizens On Patrol program is all about so that when they get assigned a C.O.P. group they will already know what to expect. The expectation is that the new recruits and the C.O.P. volunteers will have a better working relationship and thus a more successful C.O.P. program.

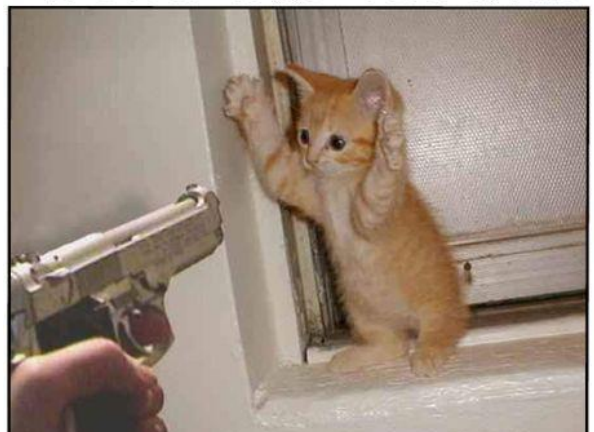
C.O.P. training power point

A power point presentation on Citizens On Patrol training has been developed by Scott Henley, C.O.P. member from British Columbia. Any group interested in using this power point presentation should contact their provincial representative on the Board for a copy of the power point.

Submitted by: Bev Salomons, President CCOPA

The Lighter Side of Law Enforcement

West Side Cat burglar nabbed by cops



No Charge:

- Policeman: "I'm afraid that I'm going to have to lock you up for the night."
Man: "What's the charge officer?"
Policeman: "Oh, there's no charge. It's all part of the service."

