



CCOPA NEWS New year 2023

For Citizens on Patrol Volunteers

Trust you all had a safe and happy Christmas holiday. The weather again played a role for many of us in deciding where we were visiting and eating! As I noted in the fall Newsletter, we had a great time in Edmonton with the Strathcona COP group and the Annual General Meeting of ACOPA. Very lucky we got out of there before the cold and snow of the past few weeks.

Our circulation is expanding. Not only is it sent to COP members and groups but it is now being sent to Crime Watch groups, Community Policing, and RCMP and Municipal Police where we have contacts. If you have a contact who would like an emailed copy, please let me know.

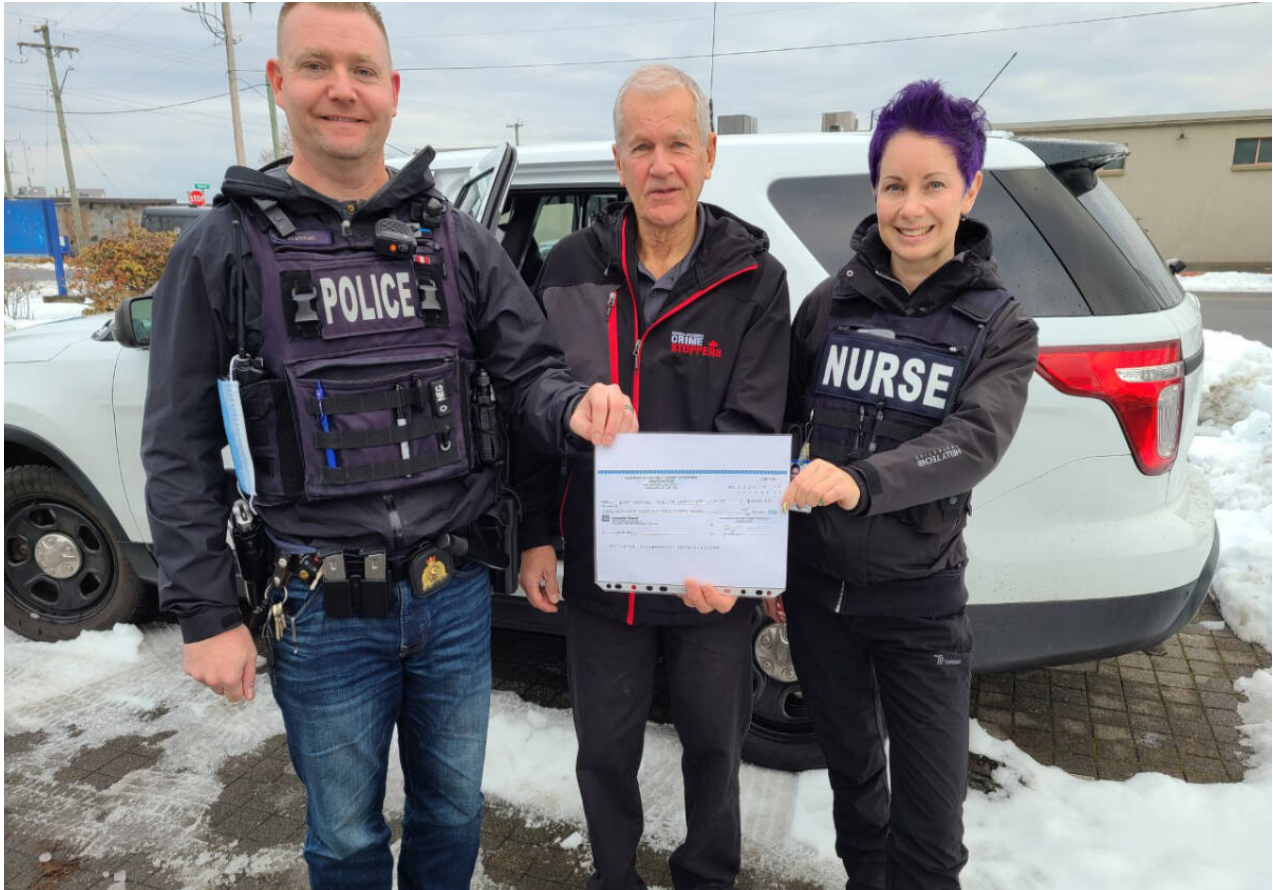
In addition to my involvement with the COP program, I am a member of the Nanaimo and District Crime Stoppers organization and loving the involvement. An item that came to us recently was in the dealing with the mentally challenged population in our area and I would imagine in most areas. To maximize the care necessary to this segment of our population, the police and Island Health formed a team of 2 to provide a level of support to the victims. One thing they noted was that it was difficult to engage the client in conversation from the front seat where the nurse was located. If there was a safe way for that Nurse to sit in the back seat with the client, then that would allow for some calming and providing some level of respect to the client. So as the article below reads, a minor change when made will go a long way to assisting this initiative.

I present this article as an item of interest and good to keep in the back of your minds so that if you're on patrol, you will have a better understanding of what they are doing.

“Nanaimo RCMP modifying cruiser to accommodate better mental health crisis support”.

As reported by the Nanaimo News Bulletin Dec. 16, 2022

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Central Vancouver Island Crime Stoppers program vice-president Brian Cornborough, middle, presents a cheque for \$4,800 to Const. Josh Waltman, left, and mental health nurse Lianne Rear to have a back seat security divider installed in Nanaimo RCMP mental health crisis team’s patrol car. (Photo submitted)

The Nanaimo RCMP’s mental health crisis team is happy about an upcoming division for their ranks that is also being endorsed by the Central Vancouver Island Crime Stoppers.

Crisis team members have proposed a modification be made to the back seat of their patrol car, which they refer to as Car 54. The team came up with the idea of having a customized plastic or glass divider installed in the back seat of the cruiser so that a family member, mental health nurse or even an observer can ride safely in the back seat when a person suffering a mental health crisis is being transported.

“It’s a big job,” said reserve Const. Gary O’Brien, Nanaimo RCMP spokesperson. “They’ve got to completely retrofit the whole back seat and it will be the first car on the Island to have that.”

According to a Nanaimo RCMP press release, the presence of a family member or trained mental health nurse has been shown to significantly reduce the negative impact on someone in the throes of a mental health crisis.

The Central Vancouver Island Crime Stoppers program, formerly Nanaimo and District Crime Stoppers, has shown its support for the idea by donating \$4,800 to help cover the costs of the car’s modifications to install the secure divider.

O’Brien said the donation was presented Dec. 5 and the vehicle modification will be carried out next month.

The following was written by the Nanaimo RCMP Media Relations Officer to show what a typical 12 hour might look like.

Nanaimo 2022-12-21 15:39 PST File # 2022 “The Life of a Mountie”

The Nanaimo RCMP is arguably one of the busiest detachments in BC. With a population of just over 100, 000, the 150 plus officers assigned to work in Nanaimo, arrive each and every day committed to keeping the citizens of Nanaimo safe and out of harms way. " While the following is a fictional account of a 12 hour shift, it is not far from the truth from what a front line responder can expect to deal with on any given shift, said R/Cst Gary O'Brien of the Nanaimo RCMP.

4 PM The officer arrives at work and heads to the gym to hit the treadmill for 30 minutes.

5:30 PM Watch briefing. He greets his Watch mates with a heartfelt Merry Christmas while settling in for the daily briefing. At one point he reaches for his wallet and finds a hand written note inside it from his 4-year-old daughter. The note says Daddy, I luv U, Bee Safe, C U in the morning. He smiles and tucks the note back in his wallet for safekeeping.

6 PM After a quick safety check of his vehicle he lets dispatch know he is 10-8 in service. Calls are already waiting.

7:45 PM The officer and one other officer respond to a domestic dispute between a man and woman inside a residence. They arrive to find the two embroiled in a heated argument over finances. There are no signs of a physical assault so one party is asked to leave for the night to cool off. The officers wait while the husband finds his keys and waits until the husband drives off. After offering Victim Services to the woman, he writes up his file in his vehicle, then lets dispatch know the two are both 10-8. More calls await.

9:00 An emergency tone alert is activated. A convenience store owner has called 911 to report they were robbed by a man brandishing a knife. The officer is first on scene. The suspect has fled on foot so the officer calls for Police Dog Services to attend. Other officers secure the scene, take statements and review video surveillance, while the officer runs with the Police Dog and its handler. For 45 minutes then make their way through ankle deep mud and thick bramble bushes. The track stops abruptly at a clearing and is eventually called off by the handler. The officer returns to the store and discusses possible suspects with other officers. After writing up his involvement, he lets dispatch know that he is 10-8 in service and tries unsuccessfully to get the mud off his boots.. He eventually gives up. He also notices he ripped his patrol jacket while running with the Police Dog and has re-aggravated a previous lower back injury.

11 PM The officer conducts a traffic stop for a vehicle that has no tail lights. The 17-year-old driver receives a verbal warning and is sent on their way.

11:15 PM The officer patrols through downtown and notices that the bars appear to be full. He makes a mental note to ensure he and his Watch mates do some bar patrols later on.

11:30 While on patrol, the officer comes upon an individual lying face down on a sidewalk. The person is unconscious, their breathing is extremely shallow and their pulse is almost non-existent; the officer believes they are in the throws of an overdose that could be fatal. EHS is called to attend and he administers Naloxone. The person responds immediately. EHS arrives and transports the adult male to hospital for an assessment. The file is written up. Dispatch, I'm 10-8.

12:30 AM The officer and others park downtown and head on foot to check out the nightclubs. They talk to staff and scan the crowd for underage patrons and known trouble makers. All seems good and most seem to be in the Holiday spirit. Dispatch, were all 10-8 from the bar checks.

1:45 AM The officer assists with a report of a 3 vehicle crash south of town. EHS and Fire are on scene. One occupant has been thrown clear while two adults are still inside with relatively minor injuries. The officer detects a strong odor of liquor from the vehicle and the injured persons. The officer is the second car on scene and is tasked with taking pictures and obtaining witness statements. The officers close the highway to allow a medical air ambulance to safely land and transport one of the injured persons to hospital. Dispatch, I'm clear of the MVA.

4:15 AM The officer meets with two other officers for a long overdue coffee break at an all night coffee shop. They discuss their evening and the armed robbery from earlier, flushing out more info on possible suspects. 15 minutes into their coffee, their down time is cut short when a tone alerts them to a report of three men fighting in a nearby parking lot, one is bleeding and another may have a firearm. All officers respond leaving behind their coffees and bowls of soup. The individuals are located, arrested and searched for weapons. When the scene is secure, EHS responds to the injured party. One of the individuals is found with a loaded Beretta pistol shoved into his waist band. This individual is well known to the officers and will be appearing in Nanaimo Provincial Court in the AM on various weapons charges and several outstanding warrants. Dispatch, were clear of the fight, 10-8.

5:45 AM The officer and a few others gather in a parking lot for a few minutes to take in the sunrise and discuss their Christmas plans. They remark it is the first Christmas in 5 years that they are not scheduled to work.

6:00 AM The officer heads back to the detachment and signs off. Dispatch, I am 10-7, off shift.

6:30 AM The officer arrives home. The first thing he does is checks in on his 4-year daughter who appears to be sleeping peacefully. He ensures the house is secure. He then takes a few minutes to admire their Christmas tree and the beautiful hand made ornaments that his 4 year old made at daycare. He feels blessed.

6:35 AM He hits the sack and falls to sleep instantly.

Released by
Media Relations Officer | Nanaimo RCMP

FEATURE: The CAPTURE program (Camera Registry)



CAPTURE is a voluntary camera registry that records the locations of security cameras in Red Deer. The purpose of CAPTURE is to build a registry of private security camera locations to assist in police investigations. Often, security cameras capture evidence that can be used to solve a crime. If an incident happens, Red Deer RCMP can view the list of camera locations, and contact the registered camera owners. By providing the Red Deer RCMP with the location of your security cameras, you could be helping to shorten the required time for investigations and providing key information to ensure people responsible for crime are held responsible.

You can help protect your property, your family and your community by registering your security cameras with Red Deer Capture Program. By registering your camera, you are taking an active role in deterring crime and assisting the Red Deer RCMP with their overall crime prevention goals in your community.

The goal of the Red Deer RCMP Security Camera Registry program is to deter crime and promote public safety through collaboration between the Red Deer RCMP and the communities we serve. Accordingly, all Security Camera registrants agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. The Red Deer RCMP may request access to video footage containing or related to criminal activity, that was collected by the home or business owner, for use in investigating criminal activity or for use as evidence during any stage of a criminal proceeding . When requested, the home or business owner may decide to disclose the requested video footage to the Red Deer RCMP.
2. If necessary, the Red Deer RCMP will contact the home or business owner directly, using the information provided on this site, to request the appropriate video surveillance footage.
3. Under no circumstances shall registrants construe that they are acting as an agent and/or employee of the City of Red Deer and/or the Red Deer RCMP through the Security Camera Registry program.
4. Under no circumstances shall the Red Deer RCMP obtain any information or footage/feeds without the direct assistance from the registrants.

Editor note: This information taken from the Red Deer RCMP website and CAPTURE program. While only the Red Deer detachment is mentioned, others across Canada have or are contemplating the use of this or similar other program in identifying those involved in crime.

A Newsletter relies on input from its readers. In the absence of any articles over the holidays, I have decided that as we grow in numbers, being proactive might spurn some interest in having a geography lesson to understand where some of the towns and villages are located across Canada. As we move forward with a goal to establish a provincial group in Saskatchewan, it would be appropriate to look in on a small town in that province and what better than the Town of Nipawin located about 370 km north of Regina and generally north and east of Saskatoon and Prince Albert. To their credit, the local group had 2 members at the Alberta ACOPA conference recently, namely Dalton and Linda Clifford, and so we are pleased to present a short summary of their town and their COPs program.

Nipawin lies on the [Saskatchewan River](#) portion of [Tobin Lake](#). The town lies between Codette Lake, created by the [Francois-Finlay Dam](#) (built in 1986) and [Tobin Lake](#), created by the [E.B. Campbell Dam](#) built in 1963, renamed from Squaw Rapids. The construction of Francois-Finlay Dam earned Nipawin the [nickname](#) the "Town of Two Lakes". [Highway 35](#) and [Highway 55](#) intersect in Nipawin. The [Nipawin Airport](#) and the [Nipawin Water Aerodrome](#) also serve the community.

Nipawin is a [Cree](#) word meaning "a bed, or resting place" which referred to a low-lying area along the river now flooded by Codette Lake where [First Nations](#) women and children would camp and wait for the men to arrive.

The [2021 Census of Population](#) conducted by [Statistics Canada](#) showed Nipawin had a population of 4,570, a change of 3.8% from its 2016 population of 4,401. With a land area of 8.93 km² (3.45 sq mi), it had a population density of 511.8/km² (1,325.4/sq mi) in 2021.^[8]

I had thought that a quick summary of their activities would be appropriate but the Cliffords pointed out that their group had gone quiet for the past couple of years and that they were in the process of rejuvenating the program. Its' great timing as CCOP's National Liaison Officer is Sgt. Rob Cozine with the Saskatchewan RCMP in Regina who has taken on the task of planning to bring together the individual groups to form a provincial group.

So in conversation with the Cliffords, it was exciting of course to hear that they are doing. They reported that they had a first meeting on the 5th of January where they elected an executive of 11 members – four "designated positions": President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the remainder members at large who will head up committees for communications/advertising, training, scheduling, supplies, fundraising, etc. The members felt that having more resources to draw on would make the group set up a lighter burden on the individuals.

They elected to use "Nipawin and District Citizens on Patrol" (waiting for regulatory approval) so that they could potentially expand to assist other rural communities in our area. They also discussed other administrative tasks such as bylaws and getting quotes on insurance and bank fees. They also agreed to schedule a first training session for the evening of Monday, January 30th. CCOPA and especially ACOPA (Alberta COPs) have a huge library for just this purpose so that message will be passed onto them.

The meeting had two RCMP members in attendance, one of whom was Cst. Duke, their liaison officer who fielded questions. The members indicated they would likely attend the training sessions where possible so it looks like they will enjoy a good relationship with the local detachment. We will be following their successes on Facebook soon!

As a bonus, they have a very community minded detachment commander. I found a recent (2021) news article on Sgt. Terry Posnikoff and his history within the Saskatchewan policing community which shows his commitment. In one of this postings, he was part of the organizing effort for Saskatchewan's first Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth (PARTY) Program. Now an annual program in many communities across Saskatchewan, PARTY is designed to teach students that driving impaired or while texting has serious consequences. The program is a partnership between different agencies which has students watch a demonstration of a vehicle extrication and listen to presentations from experts such as the RCMP, emergency room nurses, addictions counselors, the hospital therapies department, funeral home director and coroner, and/or survivors.

As detachment commander, Posnikoff said he hopes to work with local groups and programs and help community members to get back on their feet so they don't have to go back to crime.

“I’m not here to invent the wheel, but I’ll add my support to existing programs. Often times it’s the programs towns themselves put in place, it’s also programs that the province [uses] through Social Services, or other work programs, employment programs— that kind of thing.”

“I’ve always concentrated on public safety and safer homes and communities. Crime reduction has always been sort of a hallmark of places I’ve gone. That has always been a big priority for me – crime reduction,” he said. “[I’ve] focused a lot on prolific offenders, reducing the rate of repeat offenders.”

Taken from “Humboldt Journal” July 20,2021

Ed: The positive attitude of everyone here will bode well for the local group as they begin the process of re-establishing their group. Congratulations.

EDITORIAL

With many new members and new groups, always remember that you are an important part and vital contributor to your community. You are educated and bring all your life skills to your organization. You are committed to the needs of the community and our clients who include first responders, civic leaders, and the general public. That is no easy task!

As you learn, remember that if something doesn’t work for you or your group, don’t keep repeating it; make a change. It is insanity to keep doing things the same way if they are not the best solution to the issue at hand. You won’t change the outcome if you only suppress the crime – you need to change the motive!

It is important that Citizens on Patrol groups have a relationship with their police; working together is the proof of a successful initiative to reduce crime.

The views expressed are those of the Editor and do not necessarily represent the views of CCOPA nor any affiliated organization.

CCOPA continues to expand with new members across Canada through our Canadian Citizens On Patrol Association which now comprises seven provinces, an affiliation in Manitoba, Yukon, and Nunavut. We are on Facebook please “like” our page and so that we are joined with your many friends. Our website is www.ccopa.ca and on that site, we have a enjoy our news. We have information on the provinces and territories and their representatives and as members, you are welcome to send the administrator your good news anytime. Been involved in police projects? Send a story and picture.

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