



CCOPA NEWS Summer 2023

## For Citizens on Patrol and Crime Watch Volunteers

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This issue has been retitled to CCOPA Newsletter as our Canadian Citizens On Patrol group is now becoming firmly established in **seven** of our provinces. It now has a Facebook page so we encourage all of you to 'like' our page so that we are joined with your many friends. We also have a website [www.ccopa.ca](http://www.ccopa.ca) and on that site, we have all the news that is news! We have information on the provinces and their representatives who are part of us – BC, AB, SK, ON, PEI, NB, and NS. So if you want to start a local group or just browsing, check us out. We are a well functioning group who communicates by email but mostly via ZOOM and we hold 3-4 meetings a year to talk about issues but also to help any groups who are struggling with keeping numbers etc.

Our group ([www.ccopa.ca](http://www.ccopa.ca)) is funded by other community COPs groups who help by providing donations of a few dollars when they can. We continue to lobby government, local, provincial, and federal for funding as well as private companies.

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**While we rely on input from our members, we also have to acknowledge that police are an integral part of our program and it is important to be aware of their news as well. Since our last newsletter, the RCMP have a new Commissioner in Mike Duheme. Following is an abbreviated story about him taken from the RCMP website.**

"Hailing from Chambly, Quebec, he began his career as a general duty investigator in New Minas, Nova Scotia. He has served in four provinces across Canada, and internationally on a Kosovo peacekeeping mission. Over the course of his career, he has been a member of the RCMP's Emergency Response Team, a VIP personal protection officer and Operations Commander for the Francophone Summit.

In 2015, Commissioner Duheme was promoted to Officer in Charge of Parliamentary Protective Services, and he became the first Director of the Parliamentary Protective Service. With over 500 human resources under his command, he implemented strategies to facilitate integration among three organizationally distinct units.

In 2016, he became Commanding Officer of National Division, where he oversaw the conduct of sensitive and international investigations that impact Canada's national interests, as well as protective policing services in the National Capital Region. His duties also included leading the establishment of a dedicated cybercrime investigative team focused on combatting significant threats from transnational organized crime groups and threats to Canada's critical infrastructure.

Prior to his appointment as Commissioner in March 2023, he served as Deputy Commissioner of Federal Policing. This core function of the RCMP includes investigating drugs and organized crime, economic crime, and terrorist criminal activity; enforcing federal statutes and securing Canada's border; conducting international capacity building, liaison, and peacekeeping; and ensuring the safety of major events, state officials, dignitaries and foreign missions”.

As we did with the former Commissioner, we will be adding Commissioner Duheme to our mailing list so he is kept apprised of what we are accomplishing in our goal of reducing crime.

### **From the volunteers at Canadian Citizens On Patrol, Congratulations!**

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To our request for input from the provinces, we have received two written responses which in addition to the details from our last zoom meeting of earlier this month, we do have news that is “newsworthy”.

Alberta, from day one of our existence, has always been the leader in the COP program, being the best organised, raising funding, and coordinating some fifty groups into a strong provincial group. They continue to hold a provincial workshop each year in a different locale (this year Lloydminster) and present their strength at the opening ceremonies when all groups march in with their flag. If you haven't been there, you should this year!

### **News from Alberta**

Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association (ACOPA) will be holding a Workshop and Annual General Meeting the weekend of October 13, 14 and 15, and will be hosted by the Lloydminster Citizens On Patrol group. Special training will be offered to new members as well as for advanced members. For information about the Workshop, go to the ACOPA website at [www.acopa.ca](http://www.acopa.ca), where you can view the agenda for the weekend. The Workshop weekend is an excellent opportunity for Citizens On Patrol volunteers to attend and meet other patrollers, get training,

listen to interesting speakers, bid on Silent Auction items, have meals catered, and learn what other groups are doing.

Five new groups starting in Alberta: Innisfail, Wetaskawin, Coaldale, High Prairie and Ryley.

Strathcona County (SCCOPS) patrollers participate at many community events. Recently, the RCMP 150 year Musical Ride took place where C.O.P. volunteers were on hand to operate the Child Find booth. Because the volunteers have enhanced security clearance, they can take charge of Child Find. Parents are encouraged to put a bracelet on their young children with a cell number where the parent can be reached in the event the child becomes lost. SCCOPS also operates Child Find at the July 1<sup>st</sup> activities where typically thousands of locals attend a day of special events.



## News from British Columbia

Its always a easier task to report on something good rather than not. The good news is that we have a renewed interest in a provincial COP organization. A member of the Ft. St. John, a small community with a large rural component located in northern BC on the Alaska Highway 450 km's north of Prince George. While the Rural Crime Watch has some 222 members and patrol in rural areas on ATV's and horseback, a move to add a COP group under the Community Policing banner is most interesting.

The following is taken from an interview with John Vetter, Chairperson of South Peace District Crime Prevention Association (SPCPA) and former police officer.

“ The South Peace District Crime Prevention Association is the umbrella group for Dawson Creek COPS and Dawson Creek and District Rural Crime Watch. It is a registered society and provides liability insurance for the volunteer groups through Co-operators Insurance. It also maintains the bank account and receives all donations and pays all bills for the two groups. I was a director of the Association until May and was then elected into the Chair position. Our COPS program has a coordinator, Tracey Pearson and 20 members; as of yet they have not established an executive. Our Rural Crime Watch encompasses 7 communities in our rural area and has a membership of 222.

As our name indicates we cover the entire South Peace area and are working with the detachment commander in Chetwynd to get a COPS group up and running, they will become another group under the Association umbrella. There is also interest in having a Rural Crime Watch in the Chetwynd rural area.”





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It is always a sad say when one of our own “decides” to take a permanent leave of absence (to retire) from the group. Just when we think that we have him trained in how we want things done – we really aren’t that hard to deal with – he leaves us for an unpaid job!

In addition, he was our first CCOPA Liaison Officer, one who we relied upon to correct the errors of our ways so that we get our facts straight and not look foolish. He is Sgt. Rob Cozine at RCMP HQ “F” Division. A fine gentleman who along with his wife registered for last years workshop in Sherwood Park where we got to put a face to the name. All the best from the members of CCOPA.



.....and speaking of asking ....., we can now ask Sgt. Cozine's replacement, Cpl. Colin Marco. Here is what I know about him, in his words.

"I was born and raised in Medicine Hat, Alberta. I've been a regular member of the RCMP since 2012. Since I joined the RCMP, myself and my wife Jennifer have moved all across Saskatchewan: Pelican Narrows, Rose Valley, Leader, Turnor Lake, Punnichy, and now Regina. I've worked in General Duty and Indigenous Policing as an investigator and a Supervisor, as well as with the Cannabis enforcement, Relationship Violence, High-Risk Offender, and Community Policing units. In my off-duty hours, I enjoy trying new recipes for smoked meats on my BBQ, writing, and spending time with a good book."

Thanks Colin for taking on this role with us. We appreciate your time and understanding.

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## Highlights from around Our Country

CCOPA recently ( Aug 8<sup>th</sup> ) held a monthly meeting via zoom in which all provinces except Quebec were in attendance along with our 2 liaison officers ( one retiring and one coming onboard). Each provincial Director was required to submit a one page summary of his/her activities, some lengthy, some not so long. But it's important that we all have the same information in any case. Here are a few highlights by province.

### **Prince Edward Island**

Presently has 2 groups on the Island. Patrolling slow with many completing out of province vacations. RCMP very supportive of the COP program.

### **New Brunswick**

Group in Moncton has 25 volunteers patrolling with another 20 who have expressed interest. Pilot program in Moncton with distribution of 800-900 flyers showing the merits of the program. The group has good rapport with the Codiack RCMP. See article on last page. e

### **Nova Scotia**

Many weather events this year with huge fires followed by torrential rainfall events. Along with similar staffing issues, it was more difficult for RCMP to consistently work with and develop the program. There are 7 active groups in Nova Scotia. They call their parking lot audit program "Operation Hawkeye ( Lock it and pocket) - similar to Lock It or Lose It in other provinces. Two key events were first, volunteers being recognized at a RCMP Volunteer event, and second, was a photo op with police at Peggy's Cove. Pictures next page.



## **Alberta**

New groups for our most prolific COP province. See writeup elsewhere in this newsletter.

## **British Columbia**

A sense of optimism again with the reconnecting of 2 of most northern groups in Dawson Creek and Ft. St. John. We have our past knowledge; it takes a change in thinking from our police partners to bring the idea of a provincial association forward. "E" Division HQ staff is always there with positive feedback; we need to use that energy in the field to promote COPs.

## **Ontario**

While it is a large province, running a provincial COP program has its headaches. With Ontario Provincial Police to major municipal services such as in Toronto, Ottawa, London, and numerous Regional Police Services such as York Regional and Peel Regional as well as smaller municipal services, it is a challenge to have them all on the same page going in the same direction. There are 5 active COPs programs. Barrie Police Service seems to be the most active with a strong COP group.

## **Saskatchewan**

Active province with predominance in the Battlefords. No provincial group yet but actively moving towards that goal. Involved in the City of Saskatoon who has set up the "Voluntary Security Camera Registry"

**Newfoundland and Labrador** - Not set up yet.

**Manitoba** - No COPs program

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A major development for us is to do with group donations. We rely on them as we have been unable to attract national business to sponsor us. Outside of the Prairies, some detachment volunteer groups do not run as Societies so that they never have to go into the community to seek funds but rather can rely on the municipal governments under which they operate. We have received donations from groups across the Prairies so we thank you as we seek new ways to fund our national group which will allow us to complete new projects and initiatives.

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### Comments – we want yours!

So what we ask of each of you reading this is please let me know if you have a COPs, Crime Watch, or rural Crime Watch group now or if you are interested in assistance from either of us or our national organization in getting/reviving your group.

Also your comments on having a provincial group that ties together all of the volunteers who can talk and meet to brag about their groups, about what's working and what's not working for them. Our national group, Canadian Citizens On Patrol Association exists in almost all provinces and is presently laying the framework to expand into the Yukon, NWT. and Nunavut. In the CCOPA toolkit are videos, iPatrol updates, operating manuals (for both vehicle patrols and bikes), and safety tips. Check it out!

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## Citizens on Patrol: Moncton group takes to the streets to deter crime

Editor note. Yves is our NB rep on CCOPA. Interview CBC News Posted: Aug 31, 2023 3:00 AM PDT. Edited for space.

As a member of the Codiac Regional Citizens on Patrol Association, Belliveau is part of a group of more than 40 volunteers helping to report information to the RCMP. They walk, drive and bike parts of greater Moncton, sharing photos and notes on suspicious activity through an app.

Citizens on Patrol is a well-established program primarily in Western Canada, but the concept is new to New Brunswick. The Moncton association started up three years ago and is slowly gaining volunteers in Moncton, Riverview and Dieppe.

People who apply to join have to undergo a criminal background check and a three-hour training session led by Goodwin, who explains safety practices, how to use the app, what to look for and how to interact with vulnerable people in the community.

On Monday night, seven members gathered for a group patrol in Riverview. While they typically head out in their own neighbourhoods, once a month the volunteers go together along with an RCMP officer. It's a time to ask questions and learn more about what to look for on patrol.



Volunteers Yves Belliveau and Leah Musgrove discuss what to look for on a patrol with RCMP Const. André Lirette. (Alexandre Silberman/CBC)

In the last few years, residents in Moncton's west end have been voicing concerns over crime, drug use and homelessness in the neighbourhood.

[Michael Boudreau](#), a criminology professor at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, said the citizen patrols are, in part, an attempt to address an under-staffed RCMP. "These patrols are also a response, one could argue, of communities, neighbourhoods being frustrated by a lack of what they may perceive as adequate policing, so they may try to take matters into their own hands," he said.

Boudreau said the citizen groups could have an affect on deterring crime, but there's not enough data to know how effective they are. He said they are largely a "stopgap measure," and could help as a liaison between police and communities.

"I think the potential could be there, so long as these groups don't try to take the law into their own hands because then things can get very dangerous very quickly," he said.

One risk, Boudreau said, is the patrols could simply shift crime to other parts of the city, without reducing it overall.

Belliveau, the association's chair, said he initially got involved to try to make his community safer. He lives in Moncton's Pinehurst neighbourhood in the city's northwest end. "We don't want to push things somewhere else. We just want to make sure we take care of neighbours, take care of our friends, take care of our family," he said.

Ed: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/citizen-patrol-moncton-residents-crime-1.6951810>

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From the Editor \_\_\_\_\_

As we expand our COP program, so does our circulation to include both volunteers and police. While not all articles are about COPs, I believe that the others that focus on the police generally are important as we all volunteer in a police environment.

We continue to see the advantages of groups being formed as Societies who are able to conduct the non-police business efficiently while being under the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) of their local police. Many of our members have excellent personal work histories which is a bonus to police in managing the business of what we do.

We need your local COP news. From meetings or community events, send a story/pictures for publication. If you know of new police officers in your local detachment, new liaison officers etc. let me know and we'll send them a letter outlining our program and a copy of this newsletter.

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