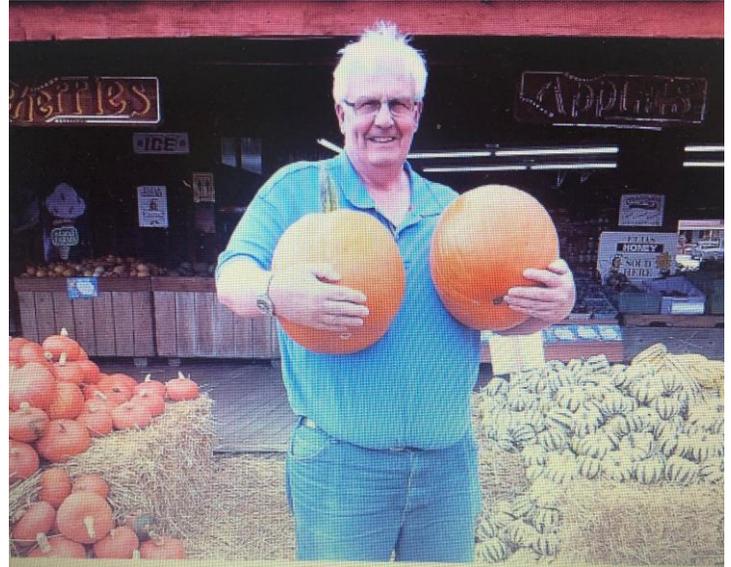


# Newsletter



Fall 2020



## HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

## Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association

### *In this edition:*

News from:

- President's Message
- Crime Prevention
- News from Hythe and Sexsmith
- ID Cards

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### *President's message*

Hello!

I hope that this finds everyone healthy and happy. The weather has been really great this fall and the farmers are getting their crops all in the bin. I realize that some of our groups are slowly getting started back patrolling, but better to not start until everyone feels comfortable doing so. The ACOPA board has decided to not charge a membership fee this year as everyone is having trouble doing any fundraising. Our annual Workshop and AGM were cancelled this year due to Covid – 19. We are really hoping that we can have one in 2021 and be able to get together and renew old friendships and make new ones.

Our Webmaster, Henry Salomons has been busy with redoing our Website and has been involved with developing and testing our new Patrol App for Android devices. The Android Patrol App will be available at the Play Store very soon so keep checking and I will email everyone when it is ready to go. There have been lots of changes to the Website, and I will notify everyone when it is completed.

If anyone is having any problems please let your Director know and we will try to get everything resolved as quickly as possible.

That is about all for now - please Stay Safe and Healthy.

Garth Kohlsmith  
President ACOPA

# Crime Prevention

## **Alberta RCMP launch online crime reporting**

On August 11, 2020, the Alberta RCMP rolled out a province-wide online crime reporting initiative. Albertans across all RCMP jurisdiction no longer have to report all crimes by calling or visiting a local detachment. Certain types of property crime under \$5,000 can now be reported online, including damage/mischief to property, theft, theft of a bicycle, theft of a vehicle and lost property. All reports will be processed and followed up with by a phone call from a police officer within five business days.

The rollout of this initiative takes place after a successful pilot of online crime reporting, which took place between June 1, 2020 and August 7, 2020. Airdrie, Banff, Cold Lake, Grande Prairie, Red Deer and Strathcona County were selected as pilot areas. 145 online crime reports were submitted throughout the pilot. This provided an opportunity for the Alberta RCMP to work out issues with the system, and test locations in each its four districts as well as locations near major centers such as Edmonton and Calgary to ensure there wasn't an issue with residents living outside RCMP jurisdiction reporting crime through the RCMP system.

Innovation and modernization are top priorities for the Alberta RCMP and offering an online option for reporting crime has become essential in today's world. The Alberta RCMP recognizes that in order to keep up with the changing times and needs of Albertans, they must adapt and offer new and creative solutions. Online crime reporting was initiated to ensure the public can report select crime types in whatever way is most convenient or accessible to them, whether that is online or by the traditional means of reporting crime such as phoning or visiting local detachments. Regardless of the method chosen by Albertans, all crimes will be taken equally as seriously as crime reported in any other way.

"The Alberta RCMP is always looking for new opportunities to modernize and streamline our services for all Albertans – no matter where they live in the province," says Deputy Commissioner Curtis Zablocki, Commanding Officer of Alberta RCMP. "Online crime reporting is accessible and convenient, and will help us capture more intelligence when it comes to property crime occurring in all of the communities we serve. Offering a contactless service is also vital in these times when physical distancing is so important."

The Alberta RCMP hopes that providing another means of reporting crime encourages Albertans to always report a crime or suspicious activity, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem. The Alberta RCMP is intelligence-driven and having accurate crime data is what allows police resources to be deployed appropriately in the areas that need it most. Albertans play a key role in this process and their reports of crime help police find crime hotspots and determine how to best use their resources.

Another benefit of reporting crime online is that doing so helps emergency call takers and frontline members focus their time on high-priority calls. This way, rather than adding pressure or workload to detachments or call takers, online crime reports can be filtered through other resources, which are specifically designated to follow up with crimes reported online.

The Alberta RCMP's Call Back Unit (CBU) is responsible for following up with all incidents of crime reported online. The CBU was created to establish a more efficient and effective method of managing non-urgent police calls for service. Because of the ever-increasing workload of frontline members, there often isn't enough time to deal with non-urgent calls in a timely or meaningful manner. The CBU is a unit made up of police officers whose primary duty is to respond to and investigate files that do not require scene attendance. If there is need for further investigation of any crime reported online, the CBU will contact the detachment responsible for the area the crime took place in and have them take over the investigation of the file. Having the CBU available as a resource prior to implementing online crime reporting in Alberta has been an incredible asset for the Alberta RCMP and has allowed for a smooth transition to providing alternate crime reporting methods.

At this time, the online crime reporting tool is limited to intaking relatively minor crimes, though the Alberta RCMP is interested in possibly expanding the system and allowing more crime types to be reported online in the future. Potential scenarios will be evaluated by the Alberta RCMP as the project continues to rollout. However, for the time being, the Alberta RCMP wants to ensure a thorough investigation at the detachment or specialized unit level is carried out for all serious crimes.

Online crime reporting is the newest addition to a complex, multi-faceted rural crime strategy in place across the province. It is a small percentage of properties and criminals that make up a large percentage of rural crime. The Alberta RCMP aims to break this cycle of criminal activity over the long term and that is why it is so critical all crime is reported. This information is needed for police to identify repeat offenders, crime hotspots and conduct targeted enforcement and prevention initiatives.

The Alberta RCMP's Crime Reduction Strategy is a collaborative approach that involves citizens, community groups such as Rural Crime Watch and Citizens on Patrol, enforcement partners, health partners and the Province. It is with everyone's help and support that the Alberta RCMP is able to develop a picture of the crime landscape across Alberta. Similarly, the success of the online crime reporting initiative relies on Albertans using it and partners engaging in conversations about it. It is with everyone's help that online crime reporting in Alberta will be a success.

For further information on the Alberta RCMP's online crime reporting tool visit <https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/alberta/en/Faq> and to report a crime online that took place within Alberta RCMP jurisdiction, visit <https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/alberta/en>.

# Crime Prevention

Crime Prevention is a topic we message about on a monthly basis. There is a new theme every month. For September, the theme is B&E (Business) with a focus on ATM thefts and CPTED tips.

Stats (Alberta RCMP jurisdiction 2019):

- There were over 5,500 Break and Enters to businesses last year.
- The three highest months for Break and Enters to businesses were:
  - o August (over 600)
  - o September (almost 550)
  - o July (over 500)
- There were close to 40 ATM thefts and over 40 ATM theft attempts last year.
- Last September there were 6 ATM thefts and 6 ATM theft attempts.
- The three highest months for ATM thefts occurred between September and November.
- So far in 2020, from January to July, there have been over 2,800 Break and Enters to businesses.

## **Key Messages:**

- Keep the ATM in an area of away from the front of the store (to deter vehicle ramming), but in an area where staff can see all activity around it.
- Ensure ATM is fastened to make it more difficult to remove.
- Have appropriate signage around the ATM stating that it is being monitored by video surveillance.
- Ensure ATM has a GPS tracking device and familiarize yourself with the system.
- Install an alarm system on the ATM.
- Install bollards in front of business to prevent vehicle ramming.
- RCMP encourage the public to report any criminal or suspicious activity to police. Reports tell us where to look, who to look for, and where to patrol in the future. If you see a crime in progress, dial 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at [www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com) or by using the “P3 Tips” app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

## **Social Media:**

- Alberta RCMP accounts will use #SaferBusiness every week for the month of September.
- Twitter: @RCMPAlberta Facebook: @RCMPinAlberta



# *COP News from around the Province*

## **Hythe citizens will be on patrol**

BY AUSTIN PAYEUR COMMUNITY NEWS TOWN & COUNTRY NEWS

Officials say the Village of Hythe is closer than ever to launching its Citizens on Patrol (COP) group. “It’s something that’s been looked at for the last couple months,” says Leona Hanson, chief administrative officer (CAO). “It’s really moving along now. “At this point there’s just a number of steps we have to take to set up the program itself.” Hanson describes mayor Brian Peterson as the “champion” of the COP group. “Rural crime is an issue in Hythe,” says Peterson. “Citizens on Patrol gives us an opportunity to have the local people participate and assist our police force with an extra set of eyes.” Peterson says Hythe will be scheduling a startup meeting in the next few days to iron out some final details before the group can be registered with the RCMP. “We need to run criminal record checks for volunteers,” says Hanson.

She also says the village needs to draft policies to structure the group. “Two volunteers is the bare minimum,” says Peterson. “Two sets of eyes more than what we currently have is better than nothing, although we already have volunteers who’ve stepped forward and are interested in being involved.”

Peterson says that he personally has received up to seven applications from volunteers, and that the village itself has received even more applications. “For now, the time commitment will be whatever volunteers can make for a commitment,” says Peterson. “That’s one of the details we hope to iron out at the startup meeting.” Const. Kenney of the Beaverlodge RCMP detachment will serve as the Hythe COPs’ liaison. “In the beginning his role will be a little bit of training,” says Peterson. “He’ll be telling volunteers what information to collect and where to distribute it with the RCMP. “As we move forward, he’ll be the guy we’re always communicating with. He may have somewhere he wants us to focus on for an evening, for example.” Hythe citizens interested in volunteering for the COPs can come down to the village office to pick up a criminal check requisition. “It’s important that we all chip in and participate and help make sure our community is a safe environment,” says Peterson.

*Good work Hythe!*



# COP News from around the Province

## Sexsmith

Last night, Isak Skjaveland stepped down as President of Sexsmith Citizens On Patrol after starting the group in 1998 and had remained the President, a patroller and chief recruiter for the program over those many years. To honor his commitment to the Sexsmith Citizens on Patrol, he was presented with a plaque and certificate from the group as well as a commemorative coin from the Grande Prairie RCMP detachment which was presented to him by Corporal Steve Oster. Presenting the plaque and certificate on behalf of the group is incoming President Ken Hildebrand.

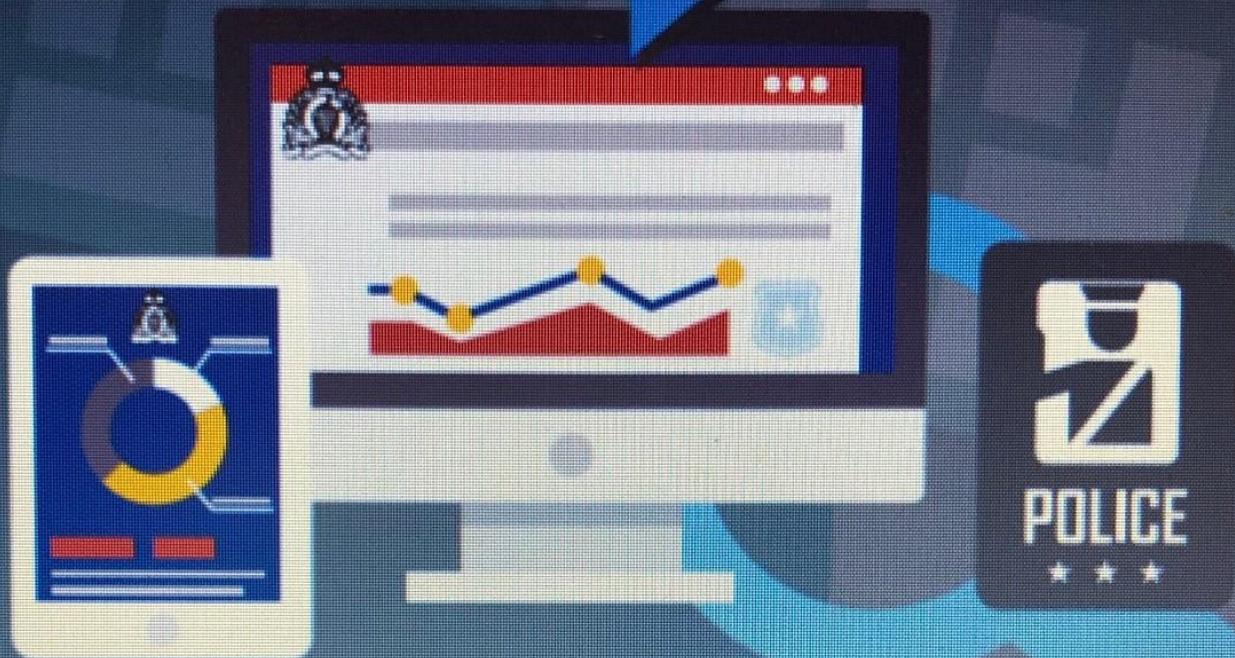
As well as recruiting many members, Mr. Skjaveland also was responsible for the purchase and placement of speed signs throughout Sexsmith and changing the batteries weekly and the set-up of an education bursary for post-secondary students in Sexsmith.





# ONLINE CRIME REPORTING

*is now available*



## Report it online!



### YOU CAN FILE A REPORT IF:

- You have lost something that costs less than \$5000
- Someone has stolen something from you that costs less than \$5000
- Someone has vandalized your property or vehicle and it will cost less than \$5000 to repair it
- The crime happened within the jurisdiction of the Alberta RCMP



[OCRE-SIELC-QA.RCMP-GRC.GC.CA/ALBERTA/EN](https://ocre-sielc-qa.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/alberta/en)

## Updated list of Board Members: October 2020

### Elected:

• <b>President</b>	Garth Kohlsmith	<a href="mailto:president@acopa.ca">president@acopa.ca</a>
• <b>Vice President</b>	Greg Mathias	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@acopa.ca">vicepresident@acopa.ca</a>
• <b>Treasurer</b>	Sandra Broderick	<a href="mailto:treasurer@acopa.ca">treasurer@acopa.ca</a>
• <b>Secretary</b>	Beth Endresen	<a href="mailto:secretary@acopa.ca">secretary@acopa.ca</a>
• <b>Director 1</b>	Kimberly Hurst	<a href="mailto:director1@acopa.ca">director1@acopa.ca</a>
• <b>Director 2</b>	Bev Salomons	<a href="mailto:director2@acopa.ca">director2@acopa.ca</a>
• <b>Director 3</b>	Vacant	<a href="mailto:director3@acopa.ca">director3@acopa.ca</a>
• <b>Director 4</b>	Chantel Frechette	<a href="mailto:director4@acopa.ca">director4@acopa.ca</a>
• <b>Director 5</b>	Dawn Heerschap	<a href="mailto:director5@acopa.ca">director5@acopa.ca</a>
• <b>Director 6</b>	Ron Pettigrew	<a href="mailto:director6@acopa.ca">director6@acopa.ca</a>

### Volunteers on the ACOPA Board:

○ <b>Newsletter</b>	Tammy Beach	<a href="mailto:newletter@acopa.ca">newletter@acopa.ca</a>
○ <b>Webmaster</b>	Henry Salomons	<a href="mailto:webmaster@acopa.ca">webmaster@acopa.ca</a>
○ <b>ID cards</b>	Mike Krochter	<a href="mailto:IDCards@acopa.ca">IDCards@acopa.ca</a>
○ <b>Insurance Liaison</b>	Bruce Paterson	<a href="mailto:Insurance@acopa.ca">Insurance@acopa.ca</a>
○ <b>Casino Chairperson</b>	Tammy Massa	<a href="mailto:casinochairperson@acopa.ca">casinochairperson@acopa.ca</a>

## *ID Cards*

Each group received an email in regards to the process of asking for ID cards for your new members.

Please follow this procedure as close as possible to avoid confusion.

Also assign **one member** to be the contact person for the ID Cards as this will also avoid frustration and confusion.

Mike Krochter ( [IDCards@acopa.ca](mailto:IDCards@acopa.ca)) is our ID card volunteer and is doing a bang-up job!

*Wishing you and your families a safe, and  
healthy Fall!*



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**