



CCOPA SPRING 2023

For Citizens on Patrol Volunteers

One day it's spring, the next day not so much. Oh well, guess I'm not in charge!

Our hearts go out to the families of two Edmonton Police Service officers killed in the line of duty recently. Having a family member as a first responder makes you take time to honour these people who look after us day by day.



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.

We have established a contact in Quebec, finally. His name is Jean-Marc Dubois and his title is Public Safety Division Chief for the City of Cote Saint-Luc, Quebec. It is a city on the [island of Montreal](#) and in [Quebec](#), Canada. Along with Hampstead and Montreal West, Côte Saint-Luc forms an [enclave](#) within Montreal. Côte Saint-Luc also has two [exclaves](#) sandwiched between Hampstead and the city of Montreal. The larger one contains the residential development north of Hampstead and [Decarie Square shopping centre](#), while the smaller one consists of just fifteen residential buildings on Macdonald Ave. In the [2021 Census of Population](#) conducted by [Statistics Canada](#), Côte-Saint-Luc had a population of 34,504 living in 14,603 of its 15,548 total private dwellings, a change of 6.3% from its 2016 population of 32,448. Côte Saint-Luc is served by a unique [Emergency Medical Services](#) (EMS) first responder system. The only volunteer first responder service on the island of Montreal, the Emergency Medical Services responds to more than 3,000 calls for help every year. Advanced care and transportation to local hospitals is provided by [Urgences-santé](#).

Côte Saint-Luc also has a full-time Public Security Department that enforces municipal by-laws and in 2006 launched the Volunteer Citizens on Patrol (vCOP) program that allows residents to help deter crime.

Here is a snapshot of what they offer, copied from their website along with details of one of their key programs “Vacation Spot Check”. You might consider this in your program.

vCOP services



The Volunteer Citizens on Patrol (vCOP) program was launched in 2006. vCOP volunteers patrol the city to observe and report any suspicious activities or problems. Similar programs have been established in communities throughout Canada and the United States.

Côte Saint-Luc is the first city in Quebec to implement the Volunteer Citizens on Patrol (vCOP) program, an innovative approach to community safety and security.

Working in collaboration with Côte Saint-Luc [Public Safety](#), [Emergency Medical Services](#) (EMS) and the [Montreal Police Department](#), vCOP members patrol the city, observing and reporting any suspicious activities or problems. VCOP members are not law enforcement personnel; instead, they act as the eyes and ears for our emergency services. Visible on the streets and in parks, and at many special events throughout the year, the vCOP patrols help deter crime and assist people in need. They also assist residents and visitors by informing them about city services and municipal by-laws. VCOP members patrol in marked vehicles – numbered 901, 902 and 903 – as well as on bicycle and on foot.

Vacation Spot Check Program

Planning on going on vacation?

You should ask a trusted neighbour or friend to do periodic spot checks of your home. You can also use the free Vacation Spot Check service from the Côte Saint-Luc vCOP.

The service is available to residents of single-family homes, semi-detached homes, duplexes and townhouses. For now, it's only available to residents who will be away for at least two weeks.

Here's how it works.

vCOP members will visit your home and check for signs of forced entry, like broken windows, open doors, or torn screens. They'll also remove flyers, circulars and newspapers from the front steps. They won't take away your mail. You'll need a trusted neighbour or friend for that, or you can ask Canada Post to hold your mail while you're away.

If your side and back yards are accessible, the vCOP members will walk around your property and inspect those areas, too. If they spot any signs of forced entry during the inspection, they will notify the police.

Editor note: The application form is available on their site at https://cotesaintluc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/vCOP_VacationSpotCheck_request-form_EN.pdf

MANY THANKS FOR SEVERAL SUBMISSIONS BELOW. WE ARE ALWAYS INTERESTED IN ANY EVENT FROM YOUR PATROLS, COMMUNITY EVENT, OR OTHER HAPPENING.

Here is a submission from Wayne Cameron, our Ontario rep on CCOPA. I am always envious when I see how well volunteers and police work together. Its not that way in some police jurisdictions so this is a fine example of how it does work.

Wayne notes "that this is a new project for our COP program group in Barrie. The picture below was the first patrol out last night March 8th 2023.. We do speed watch surveys in areas of concern from City Council, concerned residents and BPS and feed our info back to the traffic unit to better utilize their manpower deployment. We are very excited about this pilot project in community base policing. We are out with a uniformed Auxiliary member in a marked car. Each patrol will be supervised by a Road SGT from the Regular Force to ensure they are safely set up with overall safety."

Below is a copy of a media release from Barrie Police Service.

"Two volunteer based programs within the Barrie Police Service have teamed up for the month of March & April and are patrolling together conducting speed related assessments throughout the city. Thank you to our Auxiliary Unit & Citizens on Patrol who are working to make our roads safer."



In the last newsletter, we featured Nipawin COPs. They were in the process of rejuvenating their group. We had a note from executive members, Kathryn and Dalton, and they were to have a training session on March 26th so we hope they had a good turnout in establishing themselves as an important part of crime reduction in Nipawin, SK.

We all know that Alberta is the leader in the social media tech part of COPS, having provided the ipatrol app to many of us over several years.

The President of CCOPA from Alberta reports on a new app:

“ Check out this video on the ACOPA Patrol App. The app was designed to assist patrollers in report writing. The app is easy to use and allows photos to be taken and to be included in the report. The app also tracks where the patrol went, with dots to show where notes were taken. A microphone allows information to be added so the patroller does not need to take their eyes off what is being observed. The app keeps track of the kilometers driven and the time patrolled. Once the patrol is finished, the app will send the report to those desired by email. The report is easy to read and is quick for the Liaison Officer to receive the information in a timely manner.”

ACOPA Patrol App <https://youtu.be/WJu7Fqd02LI>

- Bev, President CCOPA

For any groups starting out or for groups rejigging their requirements/re-writing their operating manuals, here is a good checklist posted by the Barrie Police Service (BPS) when advertising for new volunteers.

These are the requirements for a volunteer:

Principle Duties and Responsibilities

- Mobile and Stationary Surveillance
- Observing and reporting crimes or suspicious activity
- Property checks
- Attend Patrol Training Meetings as requested
- Other duties as assigned by COP Program Coordinator or Sworn Police Members

Essential Qualifications

- Be at least 18 years of age

- Be a Canadian Citizen or hold Permanent Resident Status
- Possess a valid Ontario “G” Drivers Licence
- Possess a valid Standard First Aid and Level “C” CPR certificate
- Must be able to speak and read English; a 2nd language is an asset
- Be of good moral character

Strong communication skills

- Ability to obey lawful orders implicitly and obey rules of the program as laid out
- Able to take direction from senior COP patrol members and/or sworn police members
- Equipped to work effectively with minimum supervision, and cooperatively as a team member of an effective and professional unit
 - Proven ability to interact diplomatically, tactfully, and confidentially with all levels of the Barrie Police Service
- Dress and behave as a member of a disciplined organization
- Ability to attend Patrol Training as requested • Ability to commit to at least one patrol per month (5 hours minimum).

Working Conditions

- Citizens on Patrol Volunteers are required to work a minimum of 5 hours per month
- Volunteers will be required to perform day and/or night patrols
- Volunteers will work outdoors in a team setting, on foot and/or in vehicles
- Volunteers must be able to sit and/or stand for extended periods

Desired Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Strong communication skills
- Ability to obey lawful orders implicitly and obey rules of the program as laid out
- Able to take direction from senior COP patrol members and/or sworn police members
- Equipped to work effectively with minimum supervision, and cooperatively as a team member of an effective and professional unit
- Proven ability to interact diplomatically, tactfully, and confidentially with all levels of the Barrie Police

Auto Theft Awareness Program

Here are some guidelines that patrol groups should follow when setting up the program. Before any action is taken, you will need to discuss your plan and location with area detachment. If police do not feel comfortable with the program, do not go ahead with it. Law enforcement should be part of the ticket event.

Remember:

- When doing an Auto theft awareness ticket blitz, all vehicles must receive tickets, whether there are valuables in view or not.
 - C.O.P. Members doing the ticketing must wear clothing identifying themselves as C.O.P. Members
 - Please be very aware of zippers/buttons/purses and other items on your person that may scratch a vehicle when you brush against it.
 - C.O.P. Members cannot check door handles on vehicles.
 - Co-ordinate with local businesses prior to any Auto theft awareness ticket blitz, so that they are aware of what is happening.
 - The tickets are carbon copies, so please use the cardboard in the book between tickets so that you have a copy of each ticket.
 - Be careful when placing the ticket under the windshield wiper.
 - Tickets should be folded so that passersby cannot read what was checked off.
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CCOPA continues to expand with new members across Canada through our Canadian Citizens On Patrol Association which now comprises seven provinces and affiliation contacts in Manitoba, Quebec, Yukon, and Nunavut. We are on Facebook so “liking” our page will mean joining with your many friends. Our website is www.ccopa.ca and on that site, we can 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.

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 and their community. 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.

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