



Fall 2009

The Bulletin

The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is being held in Sherwood Park February 19/20, 2010 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Hall.

Cost this year is \$60.00. Registration forms have been sent out to all associations, and the form is also available on the web page for those who have access to the internet. Strathcona County RCWA is working hard to ensure a great event this coming February. Please plan to attend – and register early!

Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch

President's Message

As the seasons change, so it seems, does funding. With the current government cutbacks nothing is secure. Our association was started with the generosity of the membership, who helped cover the cost of operating the Board. The Provincial Government offered programs which we were able to take advantage of that allowed us to expand what was done for the membership. Now with the recession that is effecting the entire country, we too must look at our financial position.

We are looking into other sources of funding however if anyone has any ideas we would appreciate hearing them. We hope to be able to continue to offer all the current programs we have and expand with the needs of the membership.

As noted above, the Annual General Meeting is being held in Sherwood Park in February. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. The more we stand together, and help one another, the more stable a group we are, and we can withstand the ebb and flow of most situations. Supporting the associations that put on the AGM's is one simple way we show our strength.

Frank Debogorski

Editor's note. Articles are always solicited for upcoming editions of The Bulletin, and to date we have been very fortunate to receive information from a variety of sources. Please note that articles in The Bulletin express the opinion of the contributor/writer, and are not the opinion of the Provincial Board. The Board does not condone or promote vigilantism or the taking of the law into the hands of common citizens. Please take the information you glean from articles in this newsletter with a grain of salt, and consider the current climate that the article may have been written in.

BHF



Thank you to the United Farmer's Association for their support of APRCWA – they print and help distribute this newsletter. We couldn't do it without you!

Interview with Clark Steele, President of Wainwright and Area RCWA.

Clark Steele joined his local RCW in 1990 or 1991; he went to his first AGM in 1992 in Hanna, AB. He became a Director representing Zone 4 in 1995 at the AGM in Vermilion.

When asked, he says he was drawn to the Crime Watch Association “I guess it was part of the original thought behind it – being the eyes and ears of the RCMP” He thinks the associations have mostly lived up to that original idea. People in rural areas are also the eyes and ears for their neighbours, and if you take care of them, you are helping the RCMP anyway. It’s the old fashioned principle of watching each others backs - being there to lend a hand, or drive a vehicle or step up in what ever way is needed. The long and short of it is building neighbourhoods. Rural Crime Watch just carries that a little further.

Clark says that there hasn’t been one shining moment for his association, it’s been a steady, ongoing project, dependent on the local man in charge at the RCMP as to how well things went. He can site bringing in the “cowboy cops”, Livestock Investigators - and the response from farmers and ranchers; quite a few who came from outside the Wainwright area to listen and learn. He is proud of that. He is also very proud of the many years of work he has personally put into trying to get the 2 license plate system back in the province. It’s still a hot topic in rural areas, and it isn’t dead yet! He just had an interview on CBC radio October 13, 2009 on that very topic.

From his point of view, the fan out system has been a bit of a let down, as the change from the 7 to 10 digit phone numbers has been a challenge. His association is still playing catch-up, and he’s not sure when they will have a fully functional system

As is the case with every other association, the big challenge for a local association is the relationship with the local RCMP detachment. The make up of the detachment – and in particular the detachment commander - can make or break an association. Part of the problem may be that many of the local RCMP aren’t – “local” that is. Many of them now come from urban areas and don’t have the understanding of farming/ranching/country living that would build a strong community relationship. Local RCW members need to recognize the changing times and those differences and be prepared to work with the local police with that understanding.

“I think maybe it’s got to be an association that is both a social and a working club so that people bond a bit more” – Clark’s response when asked what makes a successful RCWA. The association is there for the betterment of the rural community, so always having something on the go keeps people interested and involved. He feels that for safety and to preserve the rural style of life, citizens need to be more even more vigilant and need to communicate with each other – two underlying principles of any successful association. It’s needed today more than ever, and communication is the key. Problems such as drugs or family violence used to be something that only happened in the city; it’s everywhere today, it’s happening in the rural areas and people need to step up to help each other. Luckily, Rural Crime Watch is ideally poised to assist their rural communities. They just have to accept the challenge.



**UPCOMING CRIME WATCH
ASSOCIATION MEETINGS**

(see the events page on the web site for meetings that did not make this issue)

Barrhead & District RCW Association will be hosting the Fall Zone 5 meeting on Saturday October 17, 2009 at Glenreagh Hall near Barrhead Alberta. Registration starts at 0900, meeting starts at 1000. Cost \$ 10.00 for lunch. Agenda mailed out to contact people of each RCW association within Zone 5. For further information or registration please contact your association executive or Ken Porter at 780 - 584 - 3829, Cell 780 - 674 - 7474 or email: kjporter@telusplanet.net

ZONE 4 FALL MEETING

Sat Nov. 7, 2009
Senior's Drop-in Centre
Andrew, Alberta
Reg. 9:00 am
Meeting 10:00
Cost \$10.00 (lunch)

Contact John @ 780- 896 2164

**Out and about with local Crime
Watches**

Following picture was submitted by Patty Franchuk of the Smoky Lake RCW from a local parade..... the kids are darned cute, aren't they???



Onoway School calendar winner Lindsay Pelletier with Zone 2 Director Nick Semeniuk and Cst. Barb Roy



BUY YOUR FISHING & HUNTING LICENCES ONLINE

All recreational fishing and hunting licences can be purchased online at albertarelm.com

Please use this new service! It's convenient and easy to use!

If you want to read more about this service, go to albertaregulations.ca click on the graphic for the 2009 Alberta Hunting Regulations, click on Licensing and Costs tab and click on Internet Licensing.

DID YOU RECEIVE ORANGE TAGS FROM FISH AND WILDLIFE IN AUGUST?

If you did, they can be used to buy your hunting licences online. If you did not receive any or need more they can be picked up at the following locations or by calling 1-888-944-5494.

Online tags are available at all Fish and Wildlife District offices and

in Edmonton:

- Alberta Professional Outfitters Society #103, 6030-88 Street Edmonton, AB 780-414-0249
- Alberta Hunter Education #88, 4003-98 Street Edmonton, AB 780-466-6682
- Alberta Fish and Game Association 6924-104 Street Edmonton, AB 780-437-2342
- Information Centre Main Floor, 9920-108 Street Edmonton, AB 780-422-2079

in Sherwood Park:

- Alberta Conservation Association 101-9 Chippewa Road Sherwood Park, AB
- 780-410-1999

in Calgary:

- Alberta Hunter Education 911 Sylvester Cr. SW Calgary, AB 403-252-8474

Please do not hesitate to contact your local Fish and Wildlife office or call the RELM Help Desk at 1-888-944-5494. Comments and suggestions can also be sent to SRD.FWDLicensing@gov.ab.ca

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HUNTING AND FISHING IN ALBERTA GO TO mywildalberta.com

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development,
Fish and Wildlife
9920-108 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 2M4

srd.alberta.ca

Submitted by Kelly Semple – Hunting for Tomorrow



units through a partnership with Alberta police services and includes the following:

- Eight intelligence units which gather, analyze and disseminate intelligence information on organized crime and gangs;
- Seven enforcement units including drug undercover teams, integrated marijuana units and gang and organized crime units; and
- Three Sheriffs units: Fugitive Apprehension and Sheriffs Support Team (FASST) tracks down fugitives on outstanding warrants; Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) units target properties used for illegal activities by gangs, drugs and prostitution; and Sheriffs Investigative Support Unit (SISU) provides surveillance support to major police investigations.

ALERT will receive \$18 million dollars in Budget 2009-10 as part of government's commitment to tackle gangs and organized crime in Alberta.

Safe Communities Innovation Fund (SCIF)

The \$60-million Safe Communities Innovation Fund announced by Premier Ed Stelmach in November 2008 helps develop and support for community-based projects and community-police partnership projects. The following SCIF projects were announced by Premier Stelmach at the Alberta Gang Crime Summit to help reduce crime at a grass-roots level and address factors that give rise to gang activity:

Organization and Program	Description	SCIF grant
Native Counseling Services of Alberta - Gang Intervention and Diversion Program	The program will intervene and direct young people away from becoming entrenched in the gang lifestyle. A comprehensive care program	\$1.5 million

	provides resources to children, youth and their families to prevent involvement or engagement in gangs.	
Immigrant Services Calgary - Youth Inclusive Neighbourhoods	The program will reduce the risk and enhance protective factors for a core group of 135 low-income immigrant youth aged 13-16 at high risk of gang involvement. The project's guiding principle is that community engagement can reduce social isolation; a crucial underlying factor for gang recruitment.	\$900,000
Town of Chestermere - Chestermere Crime Reduction Partnership	The program will address the emerging issues involving at-risk youth and gang related crime in the community. A community social worker will work closely with the RCMP to offer support and referral services to those youth who have been identified as at-risk. Known violent offenders and the younger siblings of identified gang members will be	\$365,000



Rural Crime Watch Column for August 19, 2009 (BC RCW)

You ever flip someone the finger? Had it done to you? What motivated you to get so angry and out of control that you would present a stranger with the vulgar gesture? How did you feel being the recipient? This and similar behaviours have created a motor vehicle safety problem that is growing exponentially and manifesting itself in rural Canada.

It's Road Rage. You've probably associated the behaviour with urbanites, particularly Americans. Well now you're going to have to tweak your thinking considerably and include Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, then be prepared to extend that thinking even further. Expand your paradigm to include everywhere. *Road Rage* is alive and flourishing in just about every Canadian megalopolis and is expanding to rural areas rapidly.

"As*hle!"** That's what came out of the mouth of a financial courier as she manoeuvred her currency laden dolly the additional ten metres she had to endure by parking behind a car stopped in her "unusual" spot near the front door of a B.C. rural bank. Car Driver had stopped to let her spouse make his way to the pharmacy for his medication; all the handicap parking spots were occupied and the parking lot was full.

Maybe Financial Courier was having a bad morning. She had driven from Kamloops and maybe she'd missed her morning cuppa, but whatever the reason for her rudeness, it was

scary considering the ramifications had she spouted her expletive in Gangouver where she may have been met with a physical encounter. Considering her hiped .38 revolver, an urban altercation could be deadly. She was obviously not in control of her environment and as such, a prime target for an attack and robbery--- which might be precipitated by the vulgarity. *Road Rage* doesn't necessarily have to involve a vehicle. A look or glance could be misinterpreted, which is why prisoners walk with their heads down so body language can't be misconstrued.

Misread hand/eye movement or body language could be the reason for an increase in violent attacks at North American universities. A study at the University of British Columbia, the University of Wisconsin and Seattle's University of Washington published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* indicates twenty percent of male and female students experienced violence in the past six months. Fifty percent of all students in the study experienced "intimate partner violence".

Researchers believe the violence is about power and control, but what would prompt such behaviour; pressure from school, the need for super grades to joust in a highly competitive job market? Could the pressure be similar to that experienced by thousands of commuters fearful for their jobs in a declining economy? **Take** two drivers who share the stress of job, family and finances. Add summer heat and bumper to bumper traffic and you have a recipe for *Road Rage*. Add one driver texting or dialling their cell phone, or otherwise multitasking, not paying attention and tapping the bumper in front then it's out of vehicles and the violence begins.

As was the case recently in Port Mann, outside Vancouver, B.C.; Monday, 7 a.m., a grey pickup truck was travelling west on Highway 1 when it changed lanes in front of a dark pickup. Dark Pickup Guy apparently got angry and forced the grey pick-up into another lane. In the move, the Grey Pickup clipped a large truck and Grey Pick-up rolled over cement barriers and into a ditch sending all occupants

to the hospital while Dark Pickup Guy took off.

A Chevrolet Silverado tried to pass a Ford pick-up on a rural stretch of a Langley, B.C. highway around 2 a.m. In the process the Ford driver forced the Silverado off the road, then took off. Not satisfied with vehicle damage and obviously still angered by someone attempting to pass "Him", the Ford driver returned and smashed into the Silverado killing the driver.

There are numerous incidents across Canada's rural communities. Chemainus on Vancouver Island saw the above *Road Rage* recipe mixed with alcohol by a 69 year old driver who stopped for a red light after an erratic approach to the intersection. For reasons known only to the driver, he exited his car and assaulted the driver in front. Witnesses said there appeared no motivation. This crazy was subdued by bystanders who held him for the Mounties. Yes, we know some drivers can dress themselves, shave, put make-up on and even have sex while driving, but that's another column.

Some insurance companies are considering amending their policies to null and void your policy if you are guilty of texting or dialing and cause an accident. Then to add to your stress overload, they propose cancelling your policy--forever! In British Columbia you would be SOL because Canada Direct won't take you if ICBC cancels and vice-versa. In other jurisdictions, insurance companies are unlikely to take you as a customer after being cancelled elsewhere.

RCW advises that common courtesy be your norm and if you're harbouring anger or animosities while driving, stop, take a break and refocus. If you're harassed by another driver, don't stop to "discuss" the issue, pull over and let the other vehicle pass. If the other driver insists on a confrontation, multitask and call 911!

Submitted by Jon McCormick

Review explores solutions for pooling casino dollars, decreasing wait times for charities

Edmonton... An MLA committee will examine aspects of the province's charitable gaming model and make recommendations on how to improve wait times and the pooling of proceeds from licensed casino events to eligible charitable groups. The committee will also review the number of volunteers a group needs to provide to conduct and manage charitable casino events.

This three-member panel was appointed by Fred Lindsay, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security, responsible for the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC). The committee comes in response to concerns raised by some charities that proceeds and wait times between events vary throughout the province. Charities also expressed difficulty in recruiting and retaining enough volunteers to support their activities including casino events.

"Alberta has a unique charitable gaming model that allows eligible organizations to benefit from casino events," said Lindsay. "These charities earn revenue from casinos to support their many worthwhile causes and we want to help ensure the charitable casino model and gaming proceeds continue to serve the best interests of these groups."

In 2008-09, almost 3,500 licensed charities earned \$252 million in proceeds from casino events.

The MLA Committee consists of: Chairperson Rob Anderson, MLA - Airdrie-Chestermere and Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security; Dave Rodney, MLA for Calgary-Lougheed; and Doug Elniski, MLA for Edmonton-Calder.

"We look forward to meeting with the various licensed organizations and hearing their insights and ideas," said Anderson.. "From there, we'll review the options and make recommendations."

Meetings will be held with charities throughout the province between October 5 - 15 and written submissions will be accepted until October 30. A

final report with recommendations will be completed by March 31, 2010.

Background: Alberta's charitable casino model

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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Communications
Alberta Gaming and Liquor
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Phone: 780-447-8719

Rob Anderson
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Phone: 780-415-
0975

christine.wronko@aglc.ca

To call toll free within Alberta
dial 310-0000.



Immigration in Rural Canada

Immigration has become an increasingly important component in Canada's population growth, accounting for 60% of growth in the 2000/2001 to 2004/2005 period. We know that urban centres attract a lot of immigrants, but what about our rural areas? To compare, in the larger cities, immigrants represent about one quarter of the population while in rural and small town areas, they represent 5.3% of the total population and most arrived prior to 1986.

Where do our new community members come from? New immigrants, those arriving between 2001 and 2006, make up 0.8% of Alberta's rural and small town population with about half of those originating from South-Eastern and Eastern Asia (places that include China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia and Viet Nam). Nationally, there are relatively more immigrants from Northern and Western Europe and the U.S.A. in rural and small town areas but there are some differences in that pattern, particularly in Manitoba and Alberta where there is a long established Central/South American immigrant population.

Case studies of immigrant attraction and integration in four Manitoba communities point to some interesting results. In the case of two communities – Winkler and Steinbach – the communities focused on a particular ethnic group which has the advantage of leading to a critical mass of new immigrants who act both



as ‘boosters’ for the community and as support for the friends and family who follow. This is important as it has been shown that social and/or kinship ties are as or more important in location decisions than are economic considerations. This was also the case when our ancestors settled here. Immigrants would establish kinship/ethnic clusters and even within a region would choose poorer quality land to be near kin and countrymen rather than better land that was further away from that support.

Whether targeting a specific country-of-origin or not, a key piece in creating a successful immigration environment is pre-planning and having in place settlement and language services. Both in Alberta and in Manitoba, prior to the autumn of 2008, a good economy and/or labour shortages facilitated immigration, particularly through a Provincial Nominee Program. In the case of Manitoba’s Parkland region, planning at a regional level allowed for sharing of services and resources but it was also necessary to have a secondary level of support at the individual community level.

Unfortunately, attracting immigrants to a rural community does not ensure they stay. Rural and small town Alberta had a net out-migration rate of 4.1% of recent immigrants. Immigration will not be a cure-all for our rural communities facing out-migration and aging populations. Just like Canadian-born community members, new arrivals have a variety of motivations in making location decisions. Economic security, physical safety/security, opportunities for children, a rural lifestyle and associated quality of life and connection to family and/or similar ethnic community are all important. Successful efforts at retention must take into consideration suitable employment, language and professional training, a receptive community and social interaction, housing, access to community services, access to appropriate information for making informed

decisions and a wider cultural/religious/linguistic community. There are many available tools for communities looking to become immigrant-friendly. One such tool has been developed by the Alberta Association for Urban Municipalities. The “Welcoming and Inclusive Communities” Toolkit for municipal governments is about creating communities with positive reputations, where diversity adds to the social and economic vibrancy of the community and the quality of life enjoyed by all residents. The toolkit is available online from www.auma.ca.

Immigrant community members make diverse contributions to their new home communities. They increase labour and volunteer pool, participate in community life, increase demand for goods and services, expand cultural diversity, provide support for other newcomers, connect the community to their country of origin and provide new ideas and innovations. Sometimes it can be easy to overlook the contribution made by newcomers to our rural communities, whether they are from another country or from the city. Once we’ve lived in a small community long enough, we know ‘everybody’ (and may be related to quite a few!), and know we’re all friendly. But if you’re new, it can be hard to get included in the friendliness. Some communities have recognized this challenge and have organized a group of ‘host families’ who will adopt a newcomer family. The host family serves to introduce the new family at community social gatherings, in the local coffee shop and so on. In this way newcomers to a community have a way in to established social circles. *Members of Rural Crime Watch* know how important it is to know our neighbours, so if yours isn’t a community that hosts newcomers, consider doing so informally or setting up a host program through the municipality. Ensuring our communities are socially appealing and inclusive will go a long way to ensuring their longevity.

Submitted by Patricia Macklin, AB Rural Development



And then, it's Remembrance Day – take the time to remember our war heroes; those who gave their lives so we can live the life we do, and for those who are fighting to maintain that right.



HOPE EVERYONE HAD A GREAT THANKSGIVING AND AS MUCH TURKEY AND STUFFING - OH, AND PUMPKIN PIE AS DESIRED.....ON TO THE NEXT 'EVENT'

HALLOWE'EN!



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Disclaimer: Editorial opinions, reports and articles published herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association

