



Summer Bulletin

President's Report

Hello All,

In keeping with the APRCWA policy of increasing communication with our members watch for a series of memos from your association following board meetings over the next year. The purpose of this policy is to keep all of our members informed of the rural crime watch initiatives that your association, and its partners, have introduced.

Your APRCWA board has monthly video/phone conference calls on the fourth Thursday of each month except July, August and December. The following is a brief summary of the past few memos;

- ◆ Look for your 2020/2021 APRCWA membership in your email or regular mail after May 1st. New this year is the fee amount which was increased by \$50 after a motion at the 2020 AGM in Grande Prairie. The original motion was a \$100 increase, but with much discussion and any ramifications to all concerned, it was decided to only increase the fee by \$50 at this time. A reminder will follow in this newsletter.
- ◆ As we go through the COVID-19 epidemic, we have had some of our programs postponed or curtailed. A couple programs that have been cut are the Wise Owl presentations and the Town Hall meetings by any members that are planned around Alberta, due to social distancing and grouping provincial rules.
- ◆ Crime mapping will soon have a RCW local boundary overlay, which will give the public the ability to determine which RCW they may be part of. The contact information for each association member will be displayed once a public citizen clicks a spot on the map. Please ensure that your associations contact information is current. Consider a generic email as a main contact point for your association.

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Special points of interest

- Welcome New Members
- Membership Renewal Information
- Cochrane Foothills Protective Association has a milestone anniversary
- Road sign theft in Starland County
- Seniors Fraud Tips
- Social Media and Identity Theft—How to Protect Yourself

President's Report continued

(Continued from page 1)

- ◆ Due to diminishing orders for our crime watch calendar, we have decided to purchase only 1,000 units to save money and reduce waste. If you have not already sent in your calendar requirements, we suggest you do so ASAP. They will only be available as supplies last.
- ◆ Video production will start soon on our latest educational video. Titled 'Report all Suspicious Activity' (or something similar), the project is nearing the point in production that some of the field work will need to be started soon. We were able to team up with ACOPA (Alberta Citizens on Patrol Association) which will help us to keep the project cost to a minimum. ACOPA will have access to the rough video footage and will insert their own message. With the savings, we will have 2 x 10 second trailers made from the footage that we currently have, they will be used in the 'Target Marketing' initiative that we have been investigating over the last two years.

If you have not already sent in your crime watch calendar order requirements, we suggest you do so ASAP. They will only be available as supplies last.

- ◆ The above trailer video will be used extensively to target a certain demographic or crime area and target the crime wave. There is a cost to run this type of market targeting and we will test the effectiveness over the next few months.
- ◆ The clothing option on the web site will now only feature a preferred provider that has shown to be a good bargain and quality assurance has been met. This plan is in its initial stage as a policy needs to be produced to follow any eventualities.
- ◆ And, we have started issuing a blog feature on our web site. We are in discussions with the RCMP 'K' division on the matching material from their web site as well.
- ◆ The Alberta fan out system is still up in the air due to the Coronavirus situation interfering with the meeting possibilities. We believe that this will continue once the threat of the virus has passed. We will keep all the members updated as news is released.
- ◆ Policy updates and policy initiatives will be done on a timely basis as they continue to be developed. Feel free to download these policies and make them your own by inserting your association name.

Feel free to share this information with your respective boards and members.

Have a great summer and Stay Safe everyone.

Cor De Wit

President, president@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

Website Information

[https://
www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca/](https://www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca/)

Public Information

- How to find a local Rural Crime Watch Association near you
- How to start a chapter in your area if there isn't one established
- What APRCWA is all about
- Wise Owl program information
- RCMP "K: Division Detachment map
- APRCWA/RCMP crime prevention videos and safety tips, links to partner websites
- Newsletter/Bulletin Board

Member Only Access

- Access to Policies, Bylaws, Signs and Supplies, Media Kit, Presentation Slideshow
- Membership Renewal Forms
- Director Contact information
- RCMP Crime Map and Crime Reports
- Wanted Wednesday

Webmaster Report

Since the last Newsletter our whole world has changed. Some programs have been on hold because we cannot socialize, so budgets have been realigned and some projects that were on the back burner have been brought forward. One such project was the integration of the Association boundaries into the members map on the website. With feedback from the associations we compiled a good drawing that is now with the programmers. You should see this upgrade later this summer.

As you may have noticed we are adding more content to our Bulletin, trying to post to it at minimum of twice a week. We are receiving information from both the RCMP and Alberta

Securities Commission as well as material we gather through APRCWA. It is my goal to have this Blog added to the APP for your convenience, it is not progressing as quick as I would like. Good things are worth waiting for.

We are moving forward with a new video talking about the reasons why we should report suspicious activity. Covid has not disrupted the schedule so it should be out early this fall hopefully in time for the Zone meetings.

As another reallocation of monies, we are going to run an anti vehicle theft campaign in the fall once it turns cold. We will have more details on this as we get closer to the launch date.

Our awareness campaign is moving along. We are seeing the visits to our website rising and we are averaging over a million views of our ads a month. We are starting to build the awareness of APRCWA in rural Alberta. Keep your eye on the Blog, we will announce the completion of these projects there.

This is Wilson. He is now working from home 😊



-Dean Hart

Benefits of APRCWA Membership

- Cooperation with RCMP “K” Division, information provided only to Rural Crime Watch members
- Support system for local Rural Crime Watch groups in the form of signage, brochures, safety tips, and videos
- Large network of local associations that work together for a common goal
- Directors in each Zone that can attend local meetings and town halls to encourage membership enrollment and answer any questions members have
- Insurance coverage through membership fee for General Liability Insurance
- Optional Insurance coverage for Volunteer Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance (VFIS) for an additional premium
- Use of the Wise Owl mascot and presentations provided at no cost to the local rural crime watch association

Membership Renewal Reminder



The 2021 Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch memberships are now due.

A couple of items to note:

- Membership Renewal Date is *August 1st, 2020*, please ensure your funds are in to the Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association by August 1st.
- The 2021 Membership Dues have increased to \$250.00
- A signature is required acknowledging your Criminal Record Checks for your board of directors has been completed within the past 3 years.
- A signature is required acknowledging acceptance of the membership requirements.
- Include a copy of your organizations latest Proof of Filing you have in your records.

If your organization prefers you may scan and email the documents to treasurer@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca and;

mail a cheque in the sum of \$250.00

Or, e-transfer the funds to

treasurer@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca.

Thank you and Stay Safe

Verna Hart
Treasurer

Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association
treasurer@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

How to Protect Your Identity on Social Media

Social Media is growing larger every day. We use it to connect with other people, we explore new ideas and topics, places and cultures. This is what it was developed to do—connect us around the world, expand our horizons. There is nothing wrong with this, BUT, with all this sharing and connecting you do need to be VERY careful about protecting your identity.

With so many people around the world using some form of social media, an estimated 2.95 billion people worldwide in 2019*, this becomes a Candyland playground to hackers and identity thieves. With this cornucopia of personal information so easily picked from, what can you do to protect yourself?

- 1) **Don't Friend People You Don't Actually Know.** Become friends with only people that you know. If you receive friend requests that appear to be suspicious, you should block them and report them as spam.

Be very skeptical about the information you put out on social media. Before you take a quiz, figure out who created it. Is it a brand you trust? Just because something appears to be fun and innocent, doesn't mean there isn't an inherent risk. If you aren't sure—just don't do it.

- 2) **Privacy Settings Are Helpful.** With a few quick changes you can shield your personal information from the eyes of the world, or at least those that you don't know. It's best to share your posts with only your personal friends. You wouldn't invite random strangers into your home every day, would you? Well, this is just like that.
- 3) **Don't Share Personal Information.** Obviously we mean don't share your SIN, your credit card number, or your health care number. But what may not seem so obvious is also this: Don't share your address, your date of birth, hometown, maiden name and favorite pet / color / movie, and the list goes on. These seemingly insignificant details are all clues to passwords and security question checks that we set on our banking and billing accounts. It can even all add up to enough information to fill out a Passport application.
- 4) **Don't Participate in Quizzes.** Sometimes these require us to click on a link to participate in a quiz, and while we might really want to know what celebrity we look most like or what kind of pizza we are, the best thing to do is keep scrolling past. Not all social media quizzes are data collection scams, but the BBB cautions users to be careful about what they share online. Social media data and quiz answers can be used to steal your identity or enable a scammer to impersonate you to your friends and family.

Stay Skeptical and Stay Safe

Seniors and Investment Fraud

– from the APRCWA Bulletin Board June 1, 2020 edition

Current COVID-19 pandemic measures have dramatically changed how we interact with our loved ones. While social distancing affects everyone, seniors are experiencing increased isolation and loneliness as friends and family are unable to visit in-person.

Unfortunately, fraudsters see this as a prime opportunity to become a “trusted” friend in a senior’s life to take advantage of them or their retirement nest egg through fraudulent scams or unsuitable investments. Fraudsters use a variety of methods to target seniors, including emails, mail, phone calls, and at times even in-home visits.

The danger of financial abuse is real. In a 2020 study conducted by the Alberta Securities Commission (ASC), one-third of Albertans 55+ believe they’ve been approached with a potentially fraudulent investment scam through a co-worker, family member, friend or even a member from a club, group or organization they belong to.

Fraudsters use a variety of tactics to defraud seniors, including:

- Leveraging their trust and politeness to establish friendships quickly.
- Instilling fear that they will run out of money in retirement and burden their family.
- Exploiting current events like the COVID-19 pandemic to offer fake investments in cures and new technologies.
- Using high-pressure sales tactics.
- Promising high returns with little or no risk and exclusive opportunities.
- Unsolicited investment opportunities and friend requests through Facebook and social media.

How can you help protect seniors in your life?

You can help protect your elderly loved ones from investment fraud by developing open communication about their daily lives and financial decisions. Calling them routinely can help reduce social isolation and disrupt any suspicious activity that might be happening. If you believe a senior might be at risk, be proactive and do the following:

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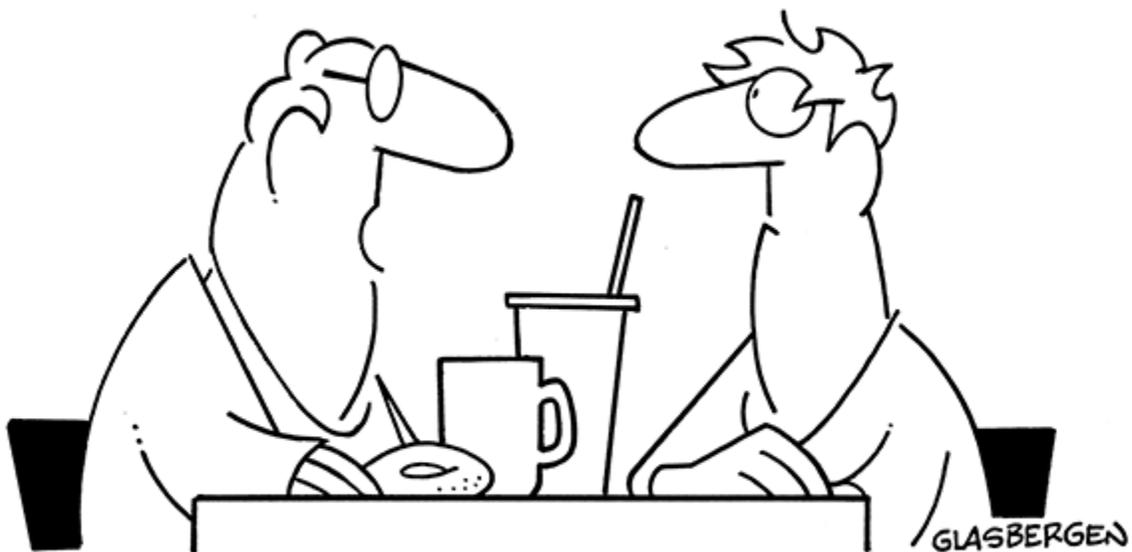
Seniors and Investment Fraud

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- **Listen and be engaged.** Be open to discussing issues or topics regarding their finances, and help them check the registration and history of any individual or firm offering them an investment opportunity at the ASC's investor education website CheckFirst.ca.
- **Bring up the topic of investment fraud.** Share the dangers of investment fraud during this time and send them information specifically created for seniors on CheckFirst.ca.
- **Pay attention to their social circles.** Have they been mentioning a new friend or someone that has started providing them advice, financial or otherwise? Ask questions respectfully and monitor any ongoing suspicious activities.

If you suspect you or a senior in your life may be involved in a potentially fraudulent investment scheme, contact the ASC at 1-877-355-4488 or inquiries@asc.ca. You can also find more information about investment fraud at Checkfirst.ca.

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glasbergen.com



“What’s the world coming to? Everyone at my class reunion had their identity stolen by some old person!”

New Member Associations

We are happy to welcome the following groups to the Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association



Current map of member associations taken from APRCWA website

⇒ South Central Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association, based out of Taber, AB
Zone 1

⇒ 881 Rural Crime Watch Association, based out of Anzac, AB
Zone 3

⇒ Twin Rivers Rural Crime Watch Association, based out of the Village of Glenwood, AB
Zone 1

⇒ East Parkland Crime Watch Association, based out of Devon, AB
Zone 2

Thank you for joining Rural Crime Watch and getting your communities involved in crime prevention activities and awareness.



Cochrane Foothills Protective Association *Zone 1*

Look Who is Turning 50!!!

Yes, it has been 50 Years!

In 1969, a Cochrane area rancher and other residents formed the Cochrane Foothills Protective Association. Members volunteered to accompany RCMP officers acting as guides on back roads and hard to access ranch and farmland properties. It was seen as a response to a perceived increase in rural crime at the time. The feeling in the neighborhood was that we must take care of our neighbors and our neighbours would take care of us. Criminal activities lessened.

Interest in a protective association was high. Meetings at the Cochrane Community Centre were advertised largely by word of mouth and were well attended, with lineups and standing room only. Organized patrols were established.

The feeling in the neighborhood was that we must take care of our neighbors and our neighbours would take care of us.

In May, 1970 CFPA formed an Incorporated Society under the Societies Act of Alberta. The Association is a Registered Charity. The By-Laws provided for an elected Executive, Board of Directors and Annual General Meeting held each year. The Association encompassed the area of the Cochrane RCMP Detachment Rural Area. This prototype became the model from which the Provincial Rural Crime Watch program was formed.

The Western Stock Growers, Alberta Cattle Commission, Department of Agriculture and RCMP met to address rural crime activities in the Province and explore ways to address rural concerns. Thus, the name "Range Patrol" and the beginning of the Provincial Rural Crime Watch as we know it today.

In 1978, to enhance the image throughout the Province, Range Patrol was renamed "Alberta Provincial Crime Watch". In 1995, the Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association was formed with Directors across the Province. CFPA was one of the original Crime Watch Associations to join the APRCWA and is still a Member in good standing today.

CFPA TODAY 2020

CFPA has taken the grass roots of the Society in 1970 and expanded and grown to where the Society is today. From Range Patrol to Internet, Websites and Social Media. From Ranchers and Farmers to now include Acreage Owners, modern day large and small Communities and Subdivisions surrounding Cochrane, and all others in-between that desire to be a part of the Rural

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Cochrane Foothills Protective Association continued

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Crime Watch

Programs.

From the manual inputting of messages, alerts and bulletins into a Phone tree to send out to the membership to being able to send messages from phones or computers digitally.

Rural Crime Watch is a program of providing Crime Prevention through education and awareness. Though times have changed and our world has changed, over the years, this one of the fundamentals that has not changed. How we interact and support, you the Members, has changed over time, and the topics and trends have changed over time, but the mission remains the same. Whether it be back in the days of either riding with the RCMP sharing information and knowledge or

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driving with a neighbor on a “Patrol”, back in the day, the sharing of information is as important now as it was then. Sharing with our Law Enforcement Partners and neighbors is one of the corner stones of the Rural Crime Watch Program.

The CFPA Website is available to all at www.cfparcw.ca. The Website has been up and running for the last year, with many additions and changes. A Members Only Page has been added to the site. CFPA Membership can access this through See It Say It Reporter as well a log in to Reporter to post suspicious activity that has been observed in the area.

We would like to thank all past, present and future CFPA Members, Board of Directors and volunteers for their contributions to Cochrane Foothills Protective Association’s (CFPA) success. As well we would like to thank our CFPA Partners – Cochrane RCMP Detachment Rural, Fish & Wildlife - Cochrane and Rockyview County Enforcement Services and their associated liaison Officers for their contributions as well. CFPA Values your partnership and we could not have come this far without all of you.

Observe Record Report

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemary Lindsay
President CFPA



881 Rural Crime Watch Association *Zone 3*



HELLO APRCWA (Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association) MEMBERS

The Rural Community of Anzac and surrounding rural communities are excited to be a member of the APRCWA. We have struggled over the last 10 years to get a Crime Watch Program in our communities. We are extremely excited to start this new chapter in our community.

We became official just as COVID 19 started so we have had some issues getting started. We have talked to some members to get some much-needed advice and support.

During this trying time, we have obtained the supplies and signage for our communities, and we hope to hold our first 881 Rural Crime Watch Association meeting with the community and the RCMP within the next month. **We are asking and hoping to get some advice and feedback from other APRCWA members to help us get started.**

We are now recovering from the 2016 Wildfire, COVID 19 and now the 2020 river flood. Its important to have this program in place and help with the growing crime in our Rural Communities.

We look forward to talking and working with the APRCWA groups now and in the future.

881 RURAL CRIME WATCH ASSOCIATION

Chelsey Van Ee - President
Nicole Gardner – Executive Administrator
780-334-2679 / willowlake1@outlook.com

**Editors extra info—Anzac is a hamlet in northern Alberta, within the RM of Wood Buffalo. It is located on Highway 881 along the east shore of Gregoire Lake, approximately 36 kilometres southeast of Fort McMurray.*

Drumheller & District Rural Crime Watch Association *Zone 1*



Vandalized Road Signs Discovered in the Ditch

These pictures are the evidence remaining of a rash of vandalized road signs left abandoned by the side of the road in the ditch. The signs were recently discovered by local Drumheller Rural Crime Watch members and reported to the Starland County Peace Officer. Signs included both directional signage for range and township roads along with checkerboard (dead end) road signs. The identified signs are from a wide area in Starland County.

Local residents are asked to pay attention to road signs in their area and to report any missing road signs to their local enforcement agency.

Our role as Rural Crime Watch members is to be the extra “eyes and ears” of rural Alberta to support community crime prevention initiatives. Thanks for your diligence in this matter.

Submitted by Lyle Rowe
Drumheller & District Rural Crime Watch Assoc.



SWIFT ACTION AT POST OFFICE STOPS SENIOR FROM BEING SCAMMED

By Patrick Kolafa, courtesy The Drumheller Mail, April 29, 2020

Canada Post workers at the Drumheller Post Office took swift action to stop a scammer from taking more funds from a senior member of the community.

Darin Sherk of the Drumheller Post office tells the Mail, that last week a senior came in and purchased a couple of express posts and was putting cash in the envelopes.

The next day the same person came in right when the post office opened in a state of panic wondering if they had sent the express post off and if there was any way to stop them.

“I asked if he was being scammed and he said he was,” recalled Sherk.

The senior told Sherk, an individual telling him he had won a prize from Publishers Clearing House was scamming him. He had sent one envelope with \$900, and a second with \$3,400. Then Sherk got on the phone and with the help of Canada Post’s Calgary sort location, they were able to stop the \$900 parcel and were also able to put a block on the second, which had already been sent on. As of Friday, it has not been stopped, but the block should end its delivery.

“The sad thing is, although he didn’t get into great detail, since April of last year, this couple has been defrauded of \$14,000 by people saying they are Publishers Clearing House,” said Sherk.

He said the senior figured it out when the scammer called saying the tracking number was invalid, and he had to send another.

Sherk says even with all of the awareness campaigns, they still regularly see people come in, and they are able to recognize it is a scam.

“This is about the fourth one we have stopped this year,” said Sherk. “It breaks my heart for this elderly couple because that was probably a lot of their savings.”

Sherk wants to let the community know there are still many types of fraud, and while they were lucky to intercept this particular one, residents need to be aware. There are many resources for people who have been scammed or believe they are being scammed. Go to www.aintifraudcentre.ca

*Submitted by Lyle Rowe
Drumheller & District Rural Crime Watch Assoc.*

Twin Rivers Rural Crime Watch Association *Zone 1*

Thankfully, we all have heard a great deal in the news about First Responders over the last few months. Be that Health Care, or Fire, or Police. The awareness, in the eyes of the general public, of our frontline people, and what they actually do, has gone up. In listening to the episode called "Engine 5" on a Pod Cast from the USA (freebie for us Canajins to listen to; called: Small Town Dicks) ~ one of the officers said " we risk nothing for what is already lost, and we risk a lot for what could be saved "

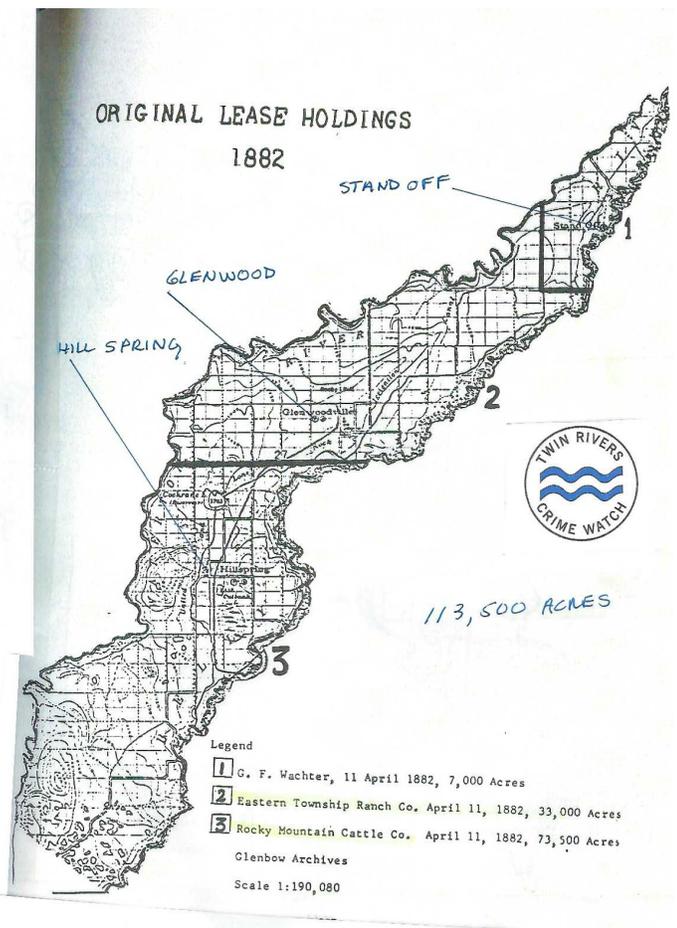
It is awareness we are all working on; us Rural Crime Chapters, and surely the Provincial Association has been busy since prior to 1978 with Range Patrol and ultimately Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch in the 90's. How to share information and education that (maybe) people are not interested in on the surface? " What's that got to do with me? I've never had any problems." There's an old Dutch expression (if memory serves), that roughly translated says, " a person convinced against their will, is of the same opinion still " The answer we offer is " SHOW THEM "

And with that, don't we wish we could offer up photographs of our great launch of Twin River Rural Crime Watch Association ~ NOPE. Word of mouth is what is going on now, with our social climate of people slowly coming back into meet and greet in person. We are thrilled to start as being the first Chapter south of Fort MacLeod in the Province. Couldn't have done it with without our Zone 1 Director Shannon and Treasurer Verna and our local RCMP liaison Val and, of course, our local Board.

We are very fortunate to experience low crime in SW Alberta, and with that, the goal is to keep it that way. The police have the message " it's coming " and so somehow our group (and soon to be neighbour Chapter from the MD of Pincher Creek area) have the job of sending out the message that we're all bush bunnies in tall grass, with hawks overhead. Try telling THAT to a Rancher / Farmer!! ~ showing is the only way.

Our beginnings and namesake comes from history. The original map of 1882 from Glenbow Archives shows our area of between the Belly and Waterton Rivers. It's a start, and we plan on growing !

We welcome any other Chapter contact through: twinrivers.rcw@gmail.com



-submitted by Brenda MacMillan

Would you like to submit an article for the next newsletter? We'd love to include your association's news and events, please email your submission to newsletter@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

About Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association

MISSION STATEMENT

Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association will strive to promote rural crime prevention through communication, programs and support.

VISION STATEMENT

Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association will be leaders in crime prevention by building relationships through promotion, community involvement and identifying future needs with effective communication and promotion.”

VALUE STATEMENT

Accountability

We believe that we will only be successful when we earn the trust of each of us on the Board and our members through consistently fulfilling their needs and keeping our promises.

Leadership

We rely on knowledge, dedication and team work to be leaders in crime prevention.

Collaboration

We make the effort to understand the needs of each Board member and our general membership and their communities, so that we can deliver relevant and meaningful support.

Transparency

We conduct ourselves with openness and candor in all aspects of our work, through behavior that reflects honesty, responsibility and fairness. We are forthright and truthful in our interactions with others.

Provincial

We seek to reduce crime in all Alberta, maintaining strong ties with the RCMP.

Current

Our organization is modern and provides value for our members and Alberta's population in a changing society.

Focused

We remain effective and efficient by prioritizing and focusing our efforts at a Board level to prevent crime in rural areas.