

Winter Newsletter

Presidents Report

Greetings, fellow Rural Crime Watch Members;

We are pleased to announce that our Virtual AGM will be held on Saturday February 27, 2021. Sign in/Registration is at 9:00 am, then the Call to Order at 9:30 am. The meeting is scheduled for 1.5 hours but may run a bit longer if necessary. The information packages will be sent out by email to the address that your association has registered with the provincial association. More details on signing-in and registering will be provided as we learn more about the meeting protocols and procedures.

This will be the first year that we have held an AGM in a virtual world. It will be different and hopefully just as informative as a face to face meeting. AHS requirements took away any possibility of holding a traditional meeting in early October. *(As a side note I feel much better about the decision to hold a virtual meeting, even with all the logistics that are required behind the scenes, I would feel terrible if our Association was the cause of a super spreader. That is not what we want to be known for and to inflict harm on our membership is not an option.)*

Policies are being developed, as I write this report, which give guidance in a Covid19 world or in a serious AHS determined public health situation in the future. We want to be ready for any health issues that our members may face in the future.

The latest crime prevention video has been released on our web site as well as the APRCWA YouTube channel. Congratulations to all members involved as well as Ben Wilson for an excellent job all around. We look forward to the next instalment of APRCWA crime reduction videos.

I hope to see many of our members sign into the virtual AGM February 27, at 9 am.

Stay safe and healthy;

Cor De Wit
President, APRCWA
president@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

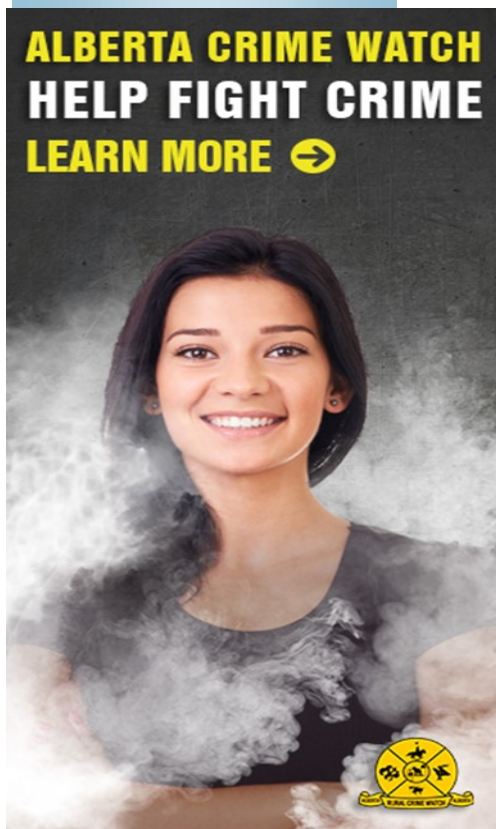


Inside this issue

Website Update	2
Local Association News	4
RCMP Dogs	10
Humor	11
2021 AGM Info	12

Special points of interest

- APRCWA Ad Campaign and New Video information
- Local groups share success stories in a difficult year
- COVID mental health info
- RCW group makes Community Impact Statement



Website Report

We hear it constantly how 2020 has been a year of change, redefining the limits and boundaries of how we interact and communicate with each other. The website portfolio has been the forefront of this delineation, finding new different ways to further education on crime prevention and the interaction with our partners.

After the Covid lock down Wise Owl presentations and the lockdown of seniors living facilities took the hardest hit of all the programs that we run. As a result, there was a determined shift to social media, a new look at how we can reach out to the seniors with education on fraud prevention. We introduced a Blog section to the website, linked it to the Reporting App and started posting to it.

A huge success story for us has been our Google Ad campaign of the awareness of crime watch and the importance of "Reporting Suspicious Activity".

The RCMP's physical interactions to the public were no more, so they started sending us material to post. Alberta Securities Commission, Fish and Wildlife, all casualties of face to face interactions have started sending us information. Our goal is to post something twice a week. Check it out if you are not already. We are starting to see about 3000 visits a month to the blog.

A huge success story for us has been our Google Ad campaign of the awareness of crime watch and the importance of "Reporting Suspicious Activity". For any of you that don't know how this works, basically anytime someone searches a predefined set of words in google, in rural Alberta, our ad is displayed. Our most successful combinations of words have been / rural+crime+watch / and / local+news / . For the campaign itself now, we are exceeding 15 million viewings of our ads for the year, which has translated into 40,000 visits to the website and 30,000 uses of the APP.

Another new project we have undertaken this year in partnership with RCMP K Division and the Red Deer RCMP Detachment has been to target vehicle theft in an 18 KM circle around Red Deer with an Anti Vehicle Theft campaign. The reason Red Deer was picked was because in 2019 over 40% of all stolen vehicles in the province were from this area. The campaign message is simple, 40% of all stolen vehicles have the keys left in them. LOCK YOUR VEHICLE. So this campaign ran from Oct 1 to Dec 30 2020 and at time of writing I do not have the final report to dazzle you with a realm of stats, but we have had approximately 3.25 Million viewings of the ad along with 200,000 showings of the anti theft video.

Link to the Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ntv7U741J-0>

(Continued on page 3)



Red Deer was picked was because in 2019 over 40% of all stolen vehicles in the province were from this area

(Continued from page 2)

A third project of note is the updates to the members map on the home page of the website. We have integrated a layered mapping system with several different layers that you can overlay and view. The significant new layer is the association boundaries in the province. Check it out and play with it. For any associations out there that do not have proper contact information displayed in your pop up, please send us some. To view your pop up select only the association boundary layer and then select your pop up. We are promoting people to get involved with there local crime watch. It will be a real tragedy if people have no way of reaching you to get more information on how to get signage or get involved.

Going forward from here in 2021, we are going to enhance our social media presence, Facebook and Twitter, link them to our blog and start posting more material on fraud prevention. This will be geared towards seniors but for that matter will be applicable for everyone. The website and blog are going to get face lifts to keep them relevant and we will be continuing with our google ad campaign, changing up our messaging throughout the year.

And finally, there has been a new 4 minute video and some promotion videos added to the media section of the website that you can use in promotion activities. The main video talks about the importance of reporting suspicious activity.

The Link to this Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZbarQJTs1c&t=1s>

Dean Hart
Website Coordinator

APRCWA Crimewatch APP

The RCMP are encouraging everyone to be the eyes and ears of the RCMP and report all suspicious activity.

The Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch is excited to announce the launch of an Application to assist you in the reporting of suspicious activity. The Crime Watch App will;

- Based on your GPS location, find the proper phone number of the RCMP Detachment closest to you; anywhere in the province of Alberta,
- Allows you to click on the phone number to initiate the call.
- Is a simple easy tool to assist you in finding the correct phone number for the reporting of suspicious activity.
- Provides addresses and more RCMP Detachment information, in the "more Information" Tab.

Also housed in the App are:

- Important links and safety tips for your convenience.
- Links to Crime Prevention information

For more Information or to Download go to:

www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

For contact information on any Local Rural Crime Watch Association in your area, visit our web site.

RCMP Detachment Boundary Map of all Detachments in Alberta. GPS Location brings up the Detachment that is closest to your location

Holborn Area Community Crime Watch Association

Contact Information

Email :

holborncrimewatch@gmail.com

Follow us on

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Holborn-Area-Community-Crime-Watch-Association-1522717437986330>

Holborn Area Community Crime Watch Association

2020 has been a very busy year for Holborn Area Community Crime Watch Association as we have welcomed new groups, and members, kept active in social media, met virtually monthly, networked with other crime watch groups, law enforcement, and created bimonthly fan outs to members, and provided links to reliable information on the pandemic. We are also pleased to have been able to sponsor the Kinsmen Christmas Hamper program to help local families in need this holiday season. We encourage our members to shop local and support the business in our community.

Holborn Area Community Crime Watch Association is very passionate about helping neighbours, communities and businesses in our area, as well as other rural crime watch associations and groups to deter crime. We are very pleased to network with the Parkland RCMP, local law enforcement, and Lightcatch. We have continued to meet virtually monthly throughout 2020.

Over the last year we recently have had West Parkland Gas Co-op, West Parkland Propane, and Jackfish Lake Management Association join as members of our organization in our joint effort to deter crime. A shout out to provincial for ordering decals for vehicles as West Parkland Gas Co-op and Propane will be ordering crime watch decals for their vehicles.

Since the pandemic started early last year, we have continued updating members through Facebook and started emailing reports biweekly of criminal activity that we compile from a variety of sources. We are very excited to share success stories from the RCMP on arrests made, vehicles, property and animals that are recovered. We would like to thank Cor deWit and Leduc rural crime watch, Drayton Valley RCMP, Tomahawk Rural crime watch and Keephills for also contributing information that we can fanout to our members. Blueberry Rural Crime Watch has recently also stated that they will be contributing to our fanned-out messages that we can share with members of

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

both groups.

Our goal is to bring awareness of criminal activities, provide education on crime prevention strategies and to help citizens recover stolen property, by encouraging reporting to the police and downloading the Lightcatch app so neighbours can help neighbours across Alberta. We are very excited and pleased to share when arrest and recoveries are made.

Statistics support crime prevention groups, strategies, and education in deterring criminal activity to help keep communities safer.



ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH. -- (HELEN KELLER)

“We are all the eyes and ears of our community in the fight against crime”



Red Deer & Lacombe RCW contributes to the Red Deer Rural Restorative Justice Project

In the spring of 2019, the Red Deer County & Blackfalds RCMP Police Advisory Committee (PAC) sought a project which would align with their mandate and assist with issues known to be occurring in their communities. The PAC mandate is: “to participate and work with the RCMP Detachment in keeping the detachment commander informed of emerging trends/ issues as well as making recommendations for community/policing initiatives in the communities served by the Blackfalds RCMP detachment”

Over the years, the committee has become increasingly aware of the severity and impact of the fall out of crime; not just for the victim and the community for also for the offender. The victim of crime is often left feeling unsupported, vulnerable, and even responsible for the harm that was done to them, while the offender is not held accountable for the harm that was inflicted, nor supported in efforts to address underlying circumstances that led to the wrong doing. The current Justice System represents a retributive system which provides little or no healing or support for the victim, offender or the community.

After extensive consulting with community partners & the Blackfalds RCMP, a decision was made to proceed with the development and implementation of a Restorative Justice Program for the Blackfalds detachment area. The principal philosophy of the Police Advisory Committee is that “the police are the community and the community is the police” and this was seen as an opportunity to work together to improve the safety of our rural communities.

Restorative Justice requires vision and creativity. The first recognized case of Restorative Justice in Canada was documented in Elmira, Ontario, in 1974. Restorative Justice is NOT just a set of new programs or a short term project; it is a new way of thinking about crime, community and working together for the future. Restorative Justice is an all-inclusive approach to addressing crime and conflict with an emphasis on helping offenders take responsibility for their actions with willing participation from all those affected by the conflict or acts of crime. The program is voluntary and is based upon principles of accountability vs. punishment, understanding vs blame, repairing harm vs ignoring harm and supporting the offender to improve behaviour vs abandoning them to worsen. A positive side effect of restorative justice processes is a reduction in repeat offences.

(Continued on page 7)

Trace Pens Information

It all comes down to the odds of getting caught. Informing would-be thieves that the contents of your home are marked and registered with unique identifiable numbers will make them think twice about stealing your property. Adding to the deterrent, Trace™ provides detection equipment to the stores and shops where thieves try to unload their stolen property.

Trace™ pens are filled with thousands of tiny discs, about the size of a grain of sand, suspended in a phosphorous acrylic adhesive. Each tiny disc holds a unique personal identification number (PIN) linking your property to you within a global database. This database is accessed by Law Enforcement agents when they suspect that they have located stolen property.

For over a decade, DNA's technology has been successfully used all over the world by the automotive industry to reduce theft rates for cars and trucks bound for chop-shops because micro-dot marked parts are identifiable even if they have been removed from the originally stolen vehicle.

from www.traceidentified.com

Cochrane Foothills Protective Association

Well, we are still surviving despite COVID and the inability to hold face to face meetings for the Board, the Annual General Meeting and workshops. The CFPA Board switched to virtual meetings, using Google Meet as part of the G-Suite package we have that allows us use Meet as well as other online tools. The Board has been able to keep up the operations of the Association and keep our membership informed via email. We held our AGM via a Zoom meeting and while we had a small turn out, we had a successful Meeting and decisions were made that keep the Association moving forward. One of these were the passing of our new Bylaws which help us to conduct the business of the Association in the current electronic environment along with other changes.

Thanks to a Grant, thru the Rocky View County, we will be able to offer free Trace Pens and RCW signage to our Members in 2021. This is an initiative that we have been working on for a while and it is nice to have it come to reality .

Going forward, we are looking to having more on-line meetings, not only to facilitate COVID protocols, but to encourage more of our membership to be involved as well as learn what trends are happening in our area, what resources they have and looking forward to using the new ARCWA Videos to help with this. We are looking forward to hosting virtual workshops as well as getting out into the Communities, when allowed and safe.

Take care everyone and be safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Lindsay
President, CFPA

Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association

The Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association read a community impact statement with regards to a prolific offender in Court middle of December. The NSRCWA would like to share this as a template for other RCW groups that are considering presenting one. NSRCWA has another repeat offender that we hope to read another impact statement in court during sentencing which we felt held an impact on the sentencing of the individual

Hello, I am Corinna Williams, and I am representing Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association. I am here presenting on behalf of the residents and members of which we have approximately 800. These words may come from me but are coming from our membership expressing the impacts of XXXX actions to their everyday lives.

The community does not feel safe. XXXX name is often in the media with reports of theft and firearms in his possession. He is seen in the community and residents especially seniors are afraid to leave their homes. Residents feel worried when they wish to take a holiday for fear of leaving their homes. Countless monies have been spent for security systems and families are afraid to have a regular routine for fear of being watched by XXXX. When the community has people visiting, we live in fear of their vehicle or property being broken into or stolen.

How can one person bring so much fear to us all. We all have chosen a rural lifestyle but now we feel that we are living in a city crime center and this is such a shame that we are exposed to this. This also has impacted our youth as many feel the justice system holds no consequences when a crime is committed. With XXXXX lifestyle, it portrays to our youth that crime does actually pay. Many people work hard for their belongings to only get stolen by an individual with no regard of personal possessions or respect of the community that tried to help him.

People are afraid to call the RCMP for fear of being victimized by reporting sightings of XXXX or even to report break-ins for fear of being exposed and targeted.

This tiny community no longer is a place where people want to live. This is not a town that wanted to be famous as being the town where XXXX is from. This has happened from the continuous media coverage of his violent crimes, firearm and drug possessions which has caused a spotlight on this town where people did feel safe and a place to bring up their families. Residents are now considering moving away even more now than ever before. XXXX behavior has affected our everyday living and being. The emotional toll is all consuming and again how can one individual effect so many negatively. We are talking of a total about 300 people. The surrounding Northern Sunrise County has a population of about 2300 and you would be hard pressed to find a person who does not know the name of XXXXXX or effected by his crime of which there are many.

Signed by

Corinna Williams on behalf of Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association.

Victim Impact Statements

Why make a statement

A victim impact statement is a chance to let the judge know how the offender's crime has hurt you. The judge will consider your statement:

- if the accused is found guilty
- when sentencing the offender(s)

The statement:

- is voluntary
- can be read out in court when the offender is sentenced

What it can say

You do not have to talk about anything you do not want to. If you want, your impact statement can talk about how the crime:

- emotionally hurt you
- physically hurt you
- cost you money
- made you fearful

What it cannot say

Your impact statement cannot be used to:

- ask for financial help
- talk about other crimes
- support the offender(s)
- make unproven accusations
- complain about the police or the legal system
- suggest what the sentence should be – unless approved by the judge, first
- make statements about the offender(s) or the crime which are not related to your suffering

For more information on how to make a Victim Impact Statement please go to <https://www.alberta.ca/victim-impact-statement.aspx#toc-1>

Quick Facts

- * A dog can search a car in approximately three minutes.
- * A dog can work up to four hours with rest intervals.
- * The healthy PS dogs cost less than \$1,000 annually to maintain.
- * A dog starts its police training when it is from 12 to 18 months old.
- * A police dog usually retires at the age of seven.
- * A dog entering the RCMP training program has a 17 per cent chance of succeeding due to the high standards required.
- * It takes from 125 to 150 dogs in order for 35 to 45 teams to graduate.

-Facts from <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/depot/pdstc-cdcp/dogs-chiens/quick-facts-faits-en-bref-eng.htm>

Did You Know...

Alberta RCMP Police Dog Services had busy year responding to 2,800 calls

Edmonton – Alberta RCMP Police Dog Services (PDS) had a busy 2020. They responded to 2,800 calls for service and captured over 900 criminals. Of these 2,800 calls:

- Approximately 650 involved firearms or other weapons
- 570 involved violence-related offences
- 450 calls were for missing people
- Over 950 calls were for property crime related offences
- PDS deployed in a tracking profile over 700 times which resulted in 400 captures

The majority of 2020 was spent with Albertans experiencing some stage of lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite these unique circumstances, there was no shortage of work for our Police Dog Service teams. Part of why they are so busy is their key role in rural property crime initiatives. PDS teams are used in a primary role in locating and apprehending rural property crime suspects.

The Alberta RCMP PDS is comprised of 18 teams strategically placed throughout the province. These teams are trained to track, as well as search for, suspects/missing persons, crime scene evidence, firearms, as well as controlled substances or explosives.

All Alberta RCMP Police Service Dogs are purebred German Shepherds. The RCMP has been breeding German Shepherds since 1999. They are able to produce enough puppies to satisfy their training needs and no dogs are purchased for training. Generally, one in three puppies will become an RCMP working dog or breeding female.

Our dog teams will continue to respond to calls over the holidays and we would like to thank them for working tirelessly to keep Albertans safe in 2020.



Story used from APRCWA website blog

Picture from Winnipeg Free Press

Feeling stress, anxiety and depression due to the COVID-19 crisis?

Text4Hope

Supporting Mental Health & Wellness in a Time of Stress & Isolation
An Alberta-based innovation, Text4Hope is an evidence-based tool that helps people identify and adjust the negative thoughts, feelings and behaviours a pandemic might be expected to provoke.

Through a set of daily messages, people receive advice and encouragement helpful in developing healthy personal coping skills and resiliency.

Community members simply subscribe to receive ongoing supportive content. There is no cost, however standard message rates pay apply. Please check with your mobile provider.

How to Connect

Text **COVID19HOPE** to 393939 to subscribe.

Text4Hope-Addiction Support and Text4Hope-Cancer Care are also available and designed to help Albertans dealing with psychological issues related to addiction and cancer issues. The expanded services are funded by the Mental Health Foundation.

Text **Open2Change** to 393939 to subscribe to the addiction program.

Text **CancerCare** to 393939 to subscribe to the cancer program.

The program provides one-way communication and does not replace other mental health therapies and supports. It is a helpful option for people in self-isolation who can't access face-to-face services, as well as those in remote locations.

Text messages are free, dependent on the users cell phone plan.

Funny Bone Ticklers...

Our newsletter committee asked for local member activity reports and any comedy relief from the Covid19 effects over the past year. Upon searching the internet for clean jokes, I came up with a few which I will share with you;

Here are some examples of humor that I have found trolling the internet;

Quarantine Diary

Day one; I have stocked up on everything that I could possibly need for the foreseeable future.

Day two + 45 minutes; Went to the store today to get a chocolate bar...

Day 2 without sports; Found a young lady sitting on my couch, apparently, she's my wife. She seems nice!

Nurse to patient;

Nurse; You're Coronavirus test came back positive,
Patient; That's impossible, I still have 300 rolls of Toilet paper!

- * Why did the chicken cross the road? Because the chicken behind it didn't know how to socially distance properly.
- * Two grandmothers were bragging about their precious darlings. One of them says to the other, "Mine are so good at social distancing, they won't even call me."
- * Day 121 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture!"
- * Being quarantined with a talkative child is like having an insane parrot glued to your shoulder
- * I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch them with a six-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
- * This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog—we laughed a lot.

Humor always makes a bleak situation more tolerable.

-Cor De Wit

There are 2 types of people in the world...



Alberta Provincial Rural
Crime Watch Association

PO Box 4520
Edmonton, AB
T6E 4T7

www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

E-mail:
aprcwa@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca



Annual General Meeting

Happy New Year Everyone

2020 the year of many challenges is behind us and we move forth into 2021 with the hope of better things to come.

COVID 19 has forced all of us into a new reality for doing business and the Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association Board of Directors is powering their way through the changes.

With health regulations as they are, to keep everyone SAFE, the APRCWA has made the decision to host the 2021 Annual General Meeting Virtually. A new experience for all involved.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 27, 2021 from 9:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. for the Virtual 2021 AGM.

Stay tuned for more updates and information as they become available.

The information package for the 2021 AGM, which includes Presidents report, Financial Report, Financial Reviewers Report, and committee reports will be available soon on the APRCWA website. This package will also be available from your local association.

Due to time constraints, we ask the following:

If your organization has questions that arise from the review of the information package, please forward them to aprcwa@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca and we will gather the responses to all questions and forward them to the full membership via email. All questions should be forwarded on or before February 1st, 2021 to allow the APRCWA board sufficient time to respond. This step is new this year, and we hope this will give everyone the opportunity to forward any questions to the board prior to the AGM.

Voting – Each member association has one vote and when the registration form is forwarded please advise who will be the designated voter for your group. At the previous AGM's we provided one voter card in each Rural Crime Watch Association's package. This year the name and contact information for the voting delegate is required as this is where the meeting invite will be sent.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks

Stay Safe and look forward to your attendance at the Virtual AGM

Verna Hart

Treasurer,

Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association

treasurer@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca