

Winter Newsletter

Presidents Report

Hello everyone,

Welcome to our 2021-year end newsletter edition. With Alberta coming out of the 4th COVID19 wave, we continue to use virtual meeting formats for our Board and local association meetings. It almost feels like we are getting so good at hosting and running a virtual meeting, that we think this may well be the norm, going forward. We can see the future with a mix of virtual and face to face meetings. One beneficial side effect of the virtual meeting, is the cost savings of reducing the travel and hosting costs of any meeting going forward.

The Board continues to meet monthly which has reduced the length of our meetings. Pre COVID, saw our meeting quarterly lasting 1.5 days, where now we can accomplish the same effectiveness with a monthly 2 to 2.5-hour meeting, and still keep up to date, on any business of your provincial association.

Now, this brings me to the topic of this writing; the updating of the APRCWA bylaws. With the virtual aspect of our lives taking over how we meet and convey information, it was apparent that our bylaws were drastically out of date. And I suspect the local groups would follow with the same message.

The policy committee led by Rosemary Lindsay, with the help and advice of legal counsel, came up with additional bylaw material as well as some adjustments to the current bylaws. We basically brought the bylaws up to date with our new world as virtual life becomes the norm. We took the opportunity to update some minor sections of the bylaws such as alternating two year terms for the Executive members (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer). The advantage of this update, will be with succession

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Special points of interest

- APRCWA Crime Watch APP now on iOS AppStore and Google Play
- Local group wins award Justice Award
- Crime Symposium and AGM Registration and Info

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planning and a smooth transition of Executive positions. Also, a reduction in required Directors per zone as well as the mechanism to split a large zone into two zones to better represent the area. We also looked at the voting procedure in a virtual meeting. How to tally votes, move motions, asking questions, and so on.

We will be presenting a bylaw resolution to change our bylaws by accepting a new set of bylaws with the changes written into the new set of bylaws.

Other issues before us, the move to introduce an Alberta Police force for the province and other current items before our board. We will keep you posted on developments in the months and years ahead.

Preparing for the future - As we retire members on the board, as they have fulfilled their mandate with our association. We encourage the new Directors to bring forth new ideas and directions to strengthen our Association.

And finally, one large issue your association will be facing.

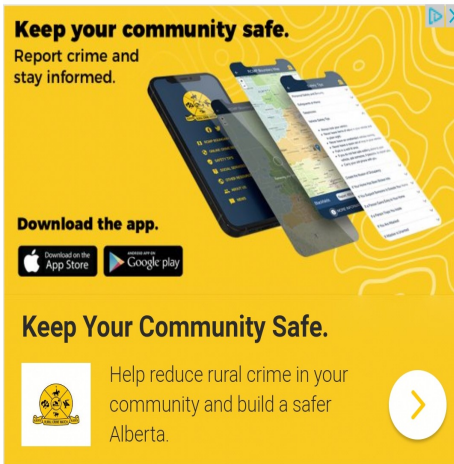
Succession planning. As we retire members on the board, as they have fulfilled their mandate with our association. We encourage the new Directors to bring forth new ideas and directions to strengthen our Association. Even with the move to digital information sharing, we need to progress in the new age of communications, we need to appeal and attract our younger membership population as we deal with the challenges of the future. As we strive to be viable in the years ahead, it is crucial that we evolve with social media changes and elect a diverse group of people that can take out Association to the next levels.

Stay healthy everyone and hope to visit with you at the Crime Symposium in February 2022.

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



Website Report



The big news for this fall coming out of the website is the launch of our APP from their respective APP Stores. Go to your respective store, search for Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch and download the APP. For any of you that are not familiar with the APP, among its other directory features it populates the phone number of the closest RCMP detachment anywhere in Alberta based on your GPS location and is the perfect tool for reporting of suspicious activity.

Download the Alberta Provincial Crimewatch APP, it's available in both Apple and Google play stores.

For the rest of the website, we have been operating our awareness campaign for roughly three years now. We have reached 3.5 million people over that time span with our message of reporting crime, suspicious activity, and vehicle theft. The Facebook Twitter campaigns have been running about a year now and its numbers are quite impressive as well, reaching roughly 65,000 people a month.

Slowly we are getting the word out about Rural Crime Watch, who we are and what we do. Stay tuned and keep checking the website for all your crime prevention information.



Dean Hart
Website Coordinator
website@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

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Download the Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch App today!

- from the APRCWA Bulletin Board

Awareness

Report crime and suspicious activity as they happen. Protecting your family and community from crime and theft has never been easier. The new App features RCMP online crime reporting, RCMP boundary maps, safety tips, a social services section, and the news bulletin section of our website. Awareness is an important part of crime prevention. Together, with local RCMP detachments, we create strong awareness and a presence of the law to help reduce crime.

We strive to promote rural crime prevention through communication, programs, and support. Protecting Alberta's rural communities is a collective responsibility. The Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association provides opportunities and resources for citizens to take action in protecting what's most important to them.

Reducing crime is possible.

The App features easy access to RCMP online crime reporting. RCMP is encouraging all Albertans to report eligible crimes (select property crimes under \$5,000) because reporting less serious crime online helps emergency call takers and frontline members focus their time on high-priority calls. It is also a very convenient way to add your report and even include photos of your stolen or lost property. More reports have been made in urban areas than rural, and we are urging rural residents to consider making online reports when possible. These reports assist in crime analysis, aids in establishing trends and patterns, and ultimately leads investigators to the chronic offenders. It also assists in making decisions about how and where to deploy resources. Crimes reported online will be taken just as seriously as crimes reported in any other way.

Take action and keep your community safe. The App has plenty of other important information to help keep you and your community safe. A long list of safety tips on topics including personal safety and security, safeguards at home, vehicle safety tips, telephone scam safety and so much more. A helpful RCMP boundary map so you have easy access to helpful information no matter your location in Alberta. There is also a social services section of the App that provides links and phone numbers for health services, mental health supports, and much more.

How To download the App.

Download the Alberta Crime Watch App in any App store today.

For the Apple Store, follow the link below, click GET, type in your password, and press OPEN when the download is complete.

<https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/alberta-rural-crime-...>

For Google Play Store, follow the link below, click install, type in your password, and press open when the download is complete.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org...>

Friendly Reminders

Report crime online!

The RCMP are encouraging all Albertans to report eligible crimes online (select property crimes under \$5,000). Reporting less serious crimes online helps emergency dispatch and frontline members focus their time on high-priority calls. It provides a convenient way to share photos to the RCMP as well. These reports assist in crime analysis, aid in establishing trends and patterns, and ultimately leads investigators to the chronic offenders. It also assists in making decisions about how and where to deploy resources. Crimes reported online will be taken just as seriously as crime reported in any other way.

Help reduce crime, report online!
#ReportSmart

Follow us and share
Please share our social media accounts with your friends and family. Protecting Alberta's rural communities is a collective responsibility. The Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association provides opportunities and resources for citizens to take action in protecting what's most important to them. Together with local RCMP detachments, we create a strong awareness and presence of the law and help reduce crime.

Signs & Supplies



A few tips and reminders:

1. Orders cannot be processed until a paid invoice is received at our warehouse.
2. E transfers are fast. Sending a cheque by mail can take 2 to 6 weeks.
3. We cannot ship Canada post to a PO box number.
4. We have an account with Loomis, which is our preferred courier. You must provide a delivery address or local depot for your ship to information.

A very important part of the Crime Watch program is gate post signs. These bright yellow signs show that you are a member of a Rural Crime Watch program— the use of these signs has proven to be a deterrent to would-be criminals from illegally entering your property.

GATE POST SIGNS (pictured above)

1. Plastic ,reflective plastic, and aluminum (10 x 14 inch) Member of RCW gate signs.
2. These MEMBER OF gate signs are for the main entrance to your property only .
3. Member of RCW signs must be removed when that member sells, rents, or otherwise no longer lives on the property.
(Your duty is to prevent your sign from being used by criminals.)
- 4.If the sign is in good condition, please donate it back to your association. OR cut it up before recycling.

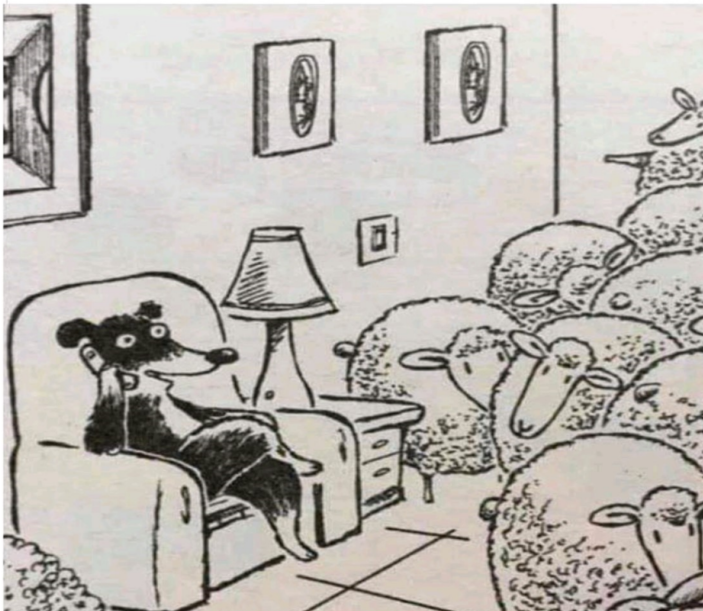
SUPPLIES: Lee Kasper
supplies@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

Funny Bone Ticklers—Part 1



A snail is heading home from work, very late one night. He gets mugged by a turtle. The policeman says "Can you describe the guy?" The snail says "I don't know . . . it all happened so fast."

Yes , I'm working from home today 🐾🐾



Joke of the Day

A man asked his doctor if he thought he'd live to be a hundred. The doctor asked the man, "Do you smoke or drink?" "No," he replied, "I've never done either." "Do you gamble, drive fast cars, and fool around with women?" inquired the doctor. "No, I've never done any of those things either."

"Well then," said the doctor, "what do you want to live to be a hundred for?"

#joke #doctor

Joke | Source:

Smilezilla Read more on page: <http://www.jokesoftheday.net/the-best-jokes/>

Strathcona County Crime Watch Association

Contact Information

Website:

www.strathconacrimewatch.ca

Email :

info@strathconacrimewatch.ca

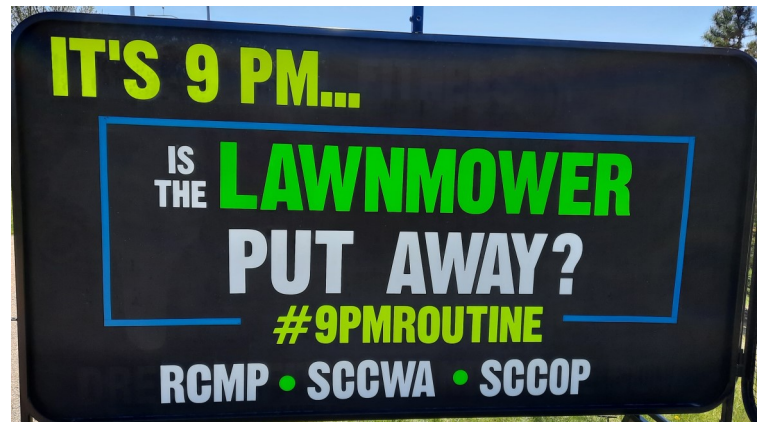
Follow us on

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Strathcona-County-Crime-Watch-Association-610340319045227/

Strathcona County Crime Watch Association

This spring and summer Strathcona County Crime Watch Association, in partnership with our Citizens on Patrol group has been reaching out to our community for crime and fraud prevention with portable signs. Submitted by Bonny Burton, Strathcona County Crime Watch Association President.



Red Deer & Lacombe Rural Crime Watch

Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice Program builds safe communities by investing in youth

Have you or someone you know been a victim of crime in the past? If the offender was apprehended and charged through the justice system, were you satisfied with the outcome? Did you feel that your needs were met and that the harms caused to you were corrected or addressed?

The Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice program provides an option for victims to be actively involved in addressing the impact of the actions that caused the harm with the offender and participating in identifying what the offender can do to correct or repair the harms caused. Restorative Justice holds the person who did the harm accountable for their actions and facilitates their ability to change the directions and decisions they are making in their life. It not only supports repairing the harm done, it enables the individual who caused the harm to restore relationships with the community.

The Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice program is a registered non-profit, community-based society that works in partnership with the Blackfalds RCMP to provide this option to young offenders between the ages of 12 and 25 who reside in the rural communities they serve. Since opening for business seven months ago, the program has received 8 case referrals from the RCMP and engaged and supported 28 victims,

offenders and their families and community members in the effective resolution of harms caused.

The program could not succeed without the dedicated support of the many volunteers who believe so strongly that this process can help us to grow strong, connected and safe communities. We are likewise



thankful to Red Deer and Lacombe Counties, the town of Blackfalds and the schools in both Blackfalds and Lacombe: Iron Ridge Junior Campus, Saint Gregory the Great Catholic School and Lacombe Composite High School for making space available to host family interviews and case conferences, community awareness and education sessions. The program could not have gotten started without the initial start-up donations received from the Red Deer and Lacombe County Rural Crime Watch, the Medicine River Crime Watch and the Central Alberta Fraud Prevention groups in January of 2021. As we move into the second year of service delivery sustainability of the service continues to be dependent upon volunteers, donations and sponsorships.

Currently, the program benefits from in-kind support from individuals and groups that equates to \$66,000 but requires a minimal annual cash flow of \$10000 to support office, education, mileage, insurance and other requirements. If you or a business you know want to invest in youth and help to build safe



The program could not succeed without the dedicated support of the many volunteers who believe so strongly that this process can help us to grow strong, connected and safe communities.

communities, your donations or sponsorships would be greatly appreciated. You can learn more about the program and services provided by checking out the website <https://www.rrdrestorativejustice.ca>. If your business is interested in sponsoring the program- contact Dean Hart at dean@rrdrestorativejustice.ca or Debbie Leitch at debbie@rrdrestorativejustice.ca, we would love to talk to you about how the RRDRJ program can recognize and promote your business on our website, social media platforms and public presentations.

Submitted by

Debbie Leitch, MN

Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice, Program Coordinator

Funny Bone Ticklers—Part 2

Does anybody know what kind of hummingbird this is?



**2020 has
helped me
understand
why horses
start cribbing.**

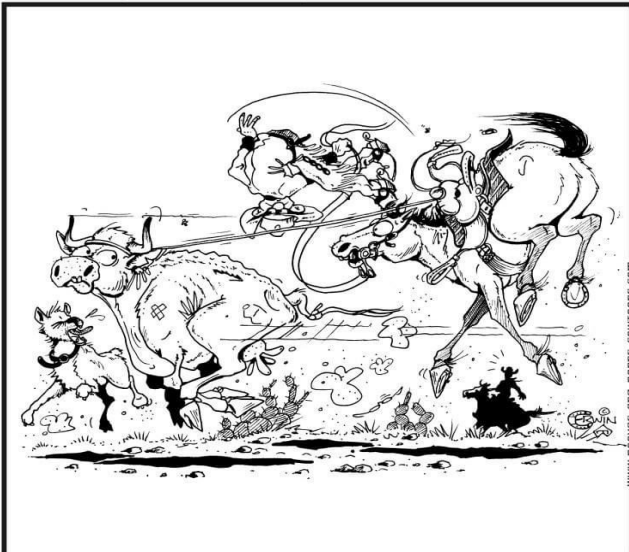


"The problem with experience is that it usually teaches you something you really didn't want to know."

-Mountain Ear

HOOVES & HORNS

BY A.W. ERWIN

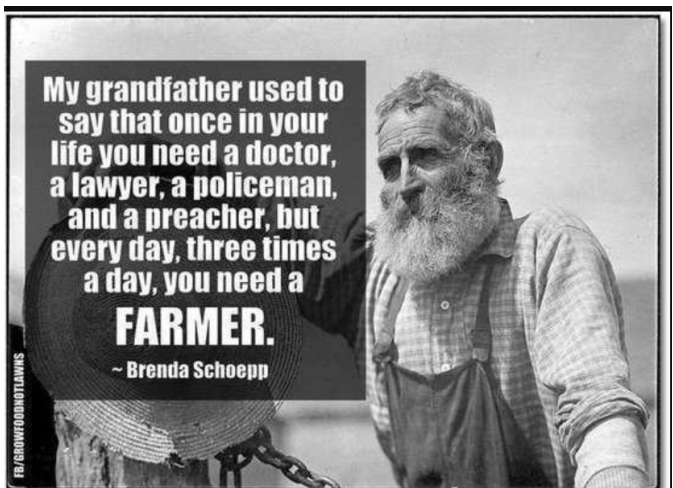


"Jus' think,.... If this don't kill yuh,.... Yer gunna have one heckuva story to tell!"

My grandfather used to say that once in your life you need a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman, and a preacher, but every day, three times a day, you need a

FARMER.

~ Brenda Schoepp



Cochrane Foothills Protective Association

Contact Information

Website:

www.cfparcw.ca

Email :

info@cfparcw.ca

Cochrane Foothills Protective Association

Cochrane Foothills Protective Association—Busy Summer of Activities

Rural Crime Watch has been fortunate to be able to continue our Board Meetings virtually, mostly through Google Meet. This has allowed us to continue to plan projects and conduct on-line workshops for our Members via Zoom. Our On-line workshops consisted of information on the Trace Pen and how to use it, an update by our Fish and Wildlife Liaison Officer on the RAPID Initiative and how that will look in supporting the RCMP on priority calls. We have now successfully held 2 Annual General Meetings virtually. Going virtual has been an interesting learning curve for our Board and our Members, but all seem to be able to participate.

In support of the Trace Pen Project, which was run in 2021, CFPA was pleased to donate the Trace Reader Kit to both the Cochrane RCMP Detachment and the Airdrie RCMP Detachment. Here is CFPA Treasurer, Bob Bleaney, presenting the Reader Kit to Cst. Nathan Moore, of the Cochrane RCMP Detachment. Unfortunately no picture is available for the donation to Airdrie. Sgt. Greg Tulloch, of the Airdrie RCMP Detachment, kindly received this donation.



Our Board is looking forward to 2022 planning new projects and hosting more Workshops, both virtual and face-to face, as conditions permit.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Lindsay
President, CFPA

Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association

NS Rural Crime Watch wins Justice Award— article by South Peace News, September 23, 2021

Efforts by the Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association have paid off not only for crime prevention efforts and victims of crime but for the organization.

The organization was awarded a 2021 Alberta Community Justice Award during a virtual ceremony July 16 in the Community Mobilization category.

The award recognizes the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations promoting community justice in the Alberta. The Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association [NSRCWA] has grown in recent years due to the commitment of the chairperson and other board members. The chair and vice chair have dedicated countless hours to sending out alerts, sharing crime prevention information and promoting crime reduction and community wellness in the Peace River Region. By building trust with surrounding communities, the organization has grown from 40 members to over 800 in recent years.



Northern Sunrise County councillors who represent the rural crime watch board show the plaque and a blanket presented to the organization. Left-right are Three Creeks – Wesley Creek Councillor Corinna Williams and Marie Reine – Judah Councillor Dan Boisvert.

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>

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“These members act as the eyes and ears of the RCMP within the community and work together to change the narrative of why people should report crime, as well as teach people how to report it,” reads a news release issued during the awards.

“The NSRCWA has delivered presentations about Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, supported Lock it or Lose it campaigns and promoted the use of specialized screws to prevent license plate theft.”

They do more. The organization has been involved with Fraud Prevention Month by sharing information about how to prevent fraud. The organization has also helped increase reporting of suspicious activities and is currently building a community safety and wellness plan with local organizations.

The group recently started submitting community impact statements for repeat offenders to be read in court on behalf of communities affected by crime. Similar to victim impact statements, these statements are a voluntary way for residents and communities who have been traumatized by a crime to have a voice without adding further emotional stress of having to appear in court before the accused.

Alberta Minister of Justice and Solicitor General Kaycee Madu offered congratulations to all the winners.

“Despite the unique challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s award winners have continued to make extraordinary improvements in their communities,” he says.

“Each of this year’s award recipients have enhanced their community in one way or another,” he says.

“You have set an incredible example for your fellow Albertans. Your proactive efforts to enhance community safety and prevent crime are truly invaluable,” he concludes.

Submitted by:

Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association



The plaque awarded to the Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association by the Government of Alberta.

Drumheller & District Rural Crime Watch Association

Contact Information

Website:

www.drumcrimewatch.com

Email :

info@drumcrimewatch.com

Drumheller & District Rural Crime Watch Association

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Cst. Dan LAJEUNESSE and I have 10 years service with the RCMP. I've had three posting, Piikani Nation, Hinton and I'm now posted to Drumheller and have been for just over a year.

I was excited about the opportunity to take over the Rural Crime Watch liaison position, as my passion lies in exploring Alberta's country side.

One thing that I recently learned is a lot of people never know when to call police, and should they wish to report something, they don't always want to call 911. As the police, we rely on the citizens we serve to call in anything that they feel might be out of place, such as a suspicious vehicle, suspicious person, break and enters or thefts. These sorts of thing should be reported to police, as it could be part of an active investigations, and could be the missing piece of the puzzle. If ever there is an immediate threat to life or property, citizens should call 911 immediately, but if people wish to report a suspicious situations, or something that happened in the past, they can report it to the 24 hr non-emergency line at 403-823-2630.

I am proud and excited to be part of the Rural Crime Watch and look forward to working together.

Cst. Dan LAJEUNESSE

The following two pages show the English version of the RCMP Crime Reduction Brochure.

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> How Can I Help My Community?

- Get to know your neighbours.
- Don't give information about neighbours to strangers.
- Offer to pick up mail and maintain the yard for your neighbours when they're away. They'll return the favour.
- **Be aware of suspicious activity.**
Write down what you see and report it to police.
Don't assume someone else has reported it.
- Get involved with local crime prevention associations such as Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch or Alberta Citizens on Patrol.

What Should I Look For?

> SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY AROUND HOUSES

- Dog barking more than usual
- Alarm sounding
- Ladder against house
- Broken windows
- Unusually high traffic at a house

> SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES

- Erratic driving
- Idling near parks for long periods of time
- Vehicles driving at night without lights on
- Abandoned vehicles

> SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE

- People looking in vehicles
- People acting erratically
- People trying to hide

ROUTINE CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Valuables removed from vehicle
- ☐ Garage door opener removed from vehicle
- ☐ All doors locked (including between attached garage and house)
- ☐ All windows locked
- ☐ All gates locked
- ☐ Exterior lights turned on (at night)
- ☐ Expensive outdoor items stored in locked garage or outbuilding (tools, lawn mower, grills, ATVs, etc.)

OTHER TIPS:

- Keep a list and photos of belongings in a secure location or with someone you trust.
- Keep vacation plans off social media.
- For parents, ensure your children know your address and how to call 911.
- For rural residents, ensure your family knows your rural address and legal land address.
- Never let a stranger in your house unless they are with a company and you are able to validate their identity.
- An alarm system is a very effective deterrent to criminals.
- Mark your property with your driver's licence number or consider using a property marking kit.



RCMP "K" Division

HOME SECURITY

Simple Steps for Protecting Your Home

> Call 911:

for emergencies and crimes in progress

> Report all other crime to:

your local RCMP non-emergency line



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada

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Security Tips





7000 - 113 St
Edmonton, AB T6H 5T6
Telephone: 310-FARM (3276)
farmers.advocate@gov.ab.ca
www.alberta.ca/farmers-advocate-office

Local Rural Crime Watch Grant Applications

Deadline January 15, 2022

The Farmers' Advocate Office (FAO) offers a \$1,000 grant to a local rural crime watch association for an innovative project that helps prevent and mitigate crime in rural communities.

Rural crime watch associations can submit a letter as an application before January 15, 2022.

The letter should outline the association's ongoing or completed efforts to reduce crime in their respective communities.

Note: The grant process was suspended in 2021 due to issues related to COVID-19



Submit applications to:

farmers.advocate@gov.ab.ca

or

Farmers' Advocate Office
7000 - 113 St. NW
Edmonton, AB T6H 5T6

For more information, please contact the FAO 310-FARM (3276) or farmers.advocate@gov.ab.ca

Alberta Provincial Rural
Crime Watch Association

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Crime Symposium and AGM 2022

Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch 2022 Symposium and AGM

The Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association is excited to host this event and we have a great line up of guest speakers.

Friday February 25th—Registration will be at 4pm, a social supper will start at 5pm and presentations will start at 7pm.

Saturday February 26th—The AGM will be held in the morning with presentations in the afternoon as well as the annual silent auction. Wrapping up at 4:30 - 5pm to allow time to drive back home or those wishing to stay overnight can reserve another night and leave Sunday morning.

Registration details have now been emailed to all member associations. Please contact your local RCW board for registration forms.

Early Bird Discount Deadline January 15, 2022.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE—FEBRUARY 15, 2022

If you have any questions, please contact Corinna Williams Chair of NSRCWA at 780-219-9227 or nscrimewatch@gmail.com.

Due to the pandemic and the higher costs associated with the protocols, therefore the registration will be \$185.00. We are hoping to continue fundraising where we may be able to reduce these fees.

All AHS protocols will be followed. Proof of vaccination will be required or a negative covid test within 72 hours of the event. REP guidelines followed by the hotel. Rapid testing done on-site for a fee.

There will be a cap of 140 participants due to the spacing requirements.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

