

Winter Newsletter

President's Report

Belated Holiday Greetings, fellow Rural Crime Watch Members;

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and ready to take on 2023.

As you read through this newsletter, you may find various topics of interest. My hope is that you take this information and concerns back to your membership, and share these concerns and celebrate the successful initiatives that have been initiated by local Chapters.

The latest fraud crime prevention video is available 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. There will be two more videos produced with similar subject lines [coming](#) in 2023 if funding is secured.

Now that most of our Zone meetings have taken place, we should have an understanding of the concerns of our area members. One concern that is coming through loud and clear is communication between our members and the provincial organization. In the months ahead, we will need to study the concern and hopefully come up with a solution to help engage the membership.

Apathy is alive and well in our groups and this can be a danger to the survival of the movement. We have several provincial board positions that are in need of new energy and support. When a new director is introduced to the provincial board, there is a spark of energy that drives us forward in our work to educate Albertans in crime prevention and innovative ways to work with our policing partners. With the number of chapters dropping drastically this year we are seeing well established groups not renewing their membership, with many citing no interest from their membership, as the main reason. This is very evident when we cannot fill vacant Provincial Director vacancies at the zone meetings.

Please keep in mind that apathy can be contagious and spread

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Special points of interest

- RCW Group hosts Firearms Safety Courses
- Understanding the “why” of Crime
- Crime Symposium and AGM Registration Information and Forms

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where we do not want it, and eventually destroy the good work done over many years by the provincial as well as our local chapter members. We must continue to engage our local members at community events where we can show the benefit of belonging to a well seasoned group of community minded individuals for community safety.

As in the past, I wish to emphasize the importance of having dedicated or a generic association email account such as yahoo, hotmail or gmail, to name a few. Many times this past year, we would send out an important email to our members, only to find many of you, did not receive the notice due to personal emails being used for board business and thus losing important information. With a general email, several board members, from your association, can access the account through a password and ensure that the information is read and measures taken, if required. Thank-you in advance, for taking this measure to help us communicate more efficiently with the membership.

Be sure to read the 2022 Committee report that comes out in January, before the AGM / Symposium in March 2023. The Committee Chairs have done an excellent job of keeping up with the changes in funding, policy and dealing with AHS protocols this past year. Feel free to send me your questions prior to the AGM. This will save time during our AGM.

We must continue to engage our local members at community events where we can show the benefit of belonging to a well seasoned group of community minded individuals for community safety.

Information on the 2023 AGM / Symposium registration is contained within this newsletter. Make sure you register early to avoid disappointment. Hope to see everyone there!

And finally, consider hosting a Crime Prevention Symposium for your crime watch and community next year, or two years down the road. Not only can it be a fundraising event for the community, it can be the beginnings of lasting co-operative networking with other like minded Associations. We will accept bookings for future symposiums right up to the AGM in 2023. Be the first to get your association booked.

Best regards;

Cor De Wit, President

email - president@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca





farmers'
advocate
office

Submit applications to:

farmers.advocate@gov.ab.ca

or by mail:

J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 St. NW
Edmonton, AB T6H 5T6

The Farmers' Advocate Office offers an annual \$1,000 award to a Rural Crime Watch group or association for an innovative program or project that supplements their base services and contributes to the prevention or mitigation of crime in their area.

The application can be in the form of a letter or other written format describing the program or project and its contributions toward reducing crime in the local rural community.

- The program or project must have been implemented within the last two (2) years.
- If the program or project is complete, list outcomes and provide an evaluation of its success.
- If the program or project is ongoing, include expected outcomes and progress to date.

For more information contact the FAO

Phone: 310-FARM (3276) | Web: alberta.ca/farmers-advocate-office



Who Snatched the Goodies ?

No matter what type of change arrives in our lives there is an old habit that sometimes pops up and we search for the WHO made the change happen rather than the HOW & WHY the change arrived. The fact that our volunteer forces have all had a real kick in the shins in the last few years is an understatement. Not-for-profit groups of people across the country, let alone in the province, are scrambling to re-group, re-organize, amalgamate and gather new people (volunteers) too. The dyed-in-the-wool holding strong to the (well) one might say, traditional approaches will be left in the dust, most unfortunately. There is no 'returning to normal' from this point; whatever that was. Different than before is the uncomfortable place we are all facing.

In a recent conversation I was reminded of a book that I've bought dozens of copies of over the years as gifts to groups and individuals. Come January 1, 2023 it will be 24 years since Dr. Spencer Johnson wrote "Who Moved My Cheese ? "

No suggestions here of a run on the bookstore; we're quite sure that the local library has a copy and or the audible book can be found easily. It's a playful (easy on your wellbeing) approach to recognizing and acknowledging when change happens and how to move through it . . . be you an individual or a group of people in a cause. Recognizing your "cheese" (goodies) has moved or is now gone can be distressing and the first habit for many of us is deny that it happened.

Moving through the denial, then comes the flippin' ticked off stage, we start to bargain our way out of the change and may even begin to feel great sadness before we move into the acceptance of what thing or event has happened. Us humans are complex. Once in acceptance, life gets lighter.

With a dedicated group of people, focused on a cause, & with appropriate leadership, the benefits of volunteering and community engagement are not to be questioned. Actually, you're going to live longer. Studies offer us such healthy social engagement will lower your blood pressure, (Who knew ?) can improve self-confidence, learn something new, possible physical activities and surely will connect you with Community.

Open and clear communication with your people is the ticket to forward and on we go. Sometimes the electronic digital age has cooled our type of connection with

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our groups. Canadians have been higher than average users of the phone because of our vast geography. Pick up the phone, call your people and ask them what they would like to or could contribute or what they've been thinking about lately. Those shy ones won't come forward and offer unless they are asked. Try it. There' always diamonds in the rough . . . and they might just know where the cheese has been moved to !!

2023 is a new day coming fully of potential of opportunities to make a difference in your area.

Brenda MacMillan

Zone 1 Director



The Most Punderful Time of the Year

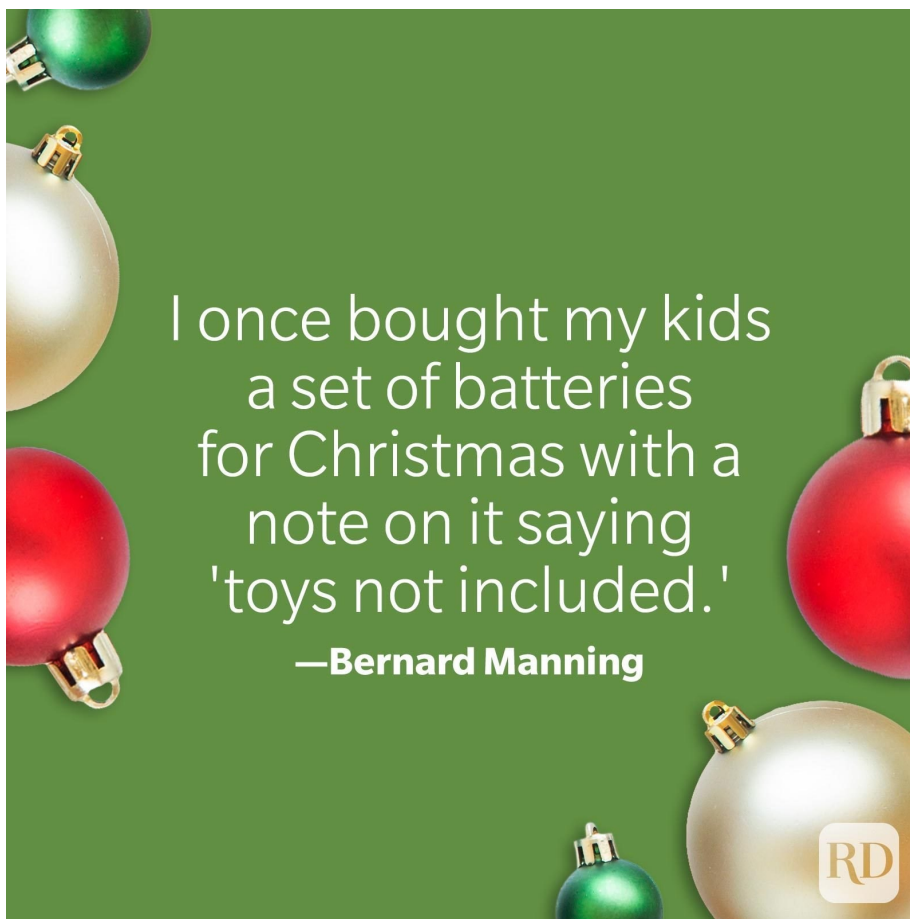


You: I love this time of year!
Me: You mean you 'ove' it.
You: What?
Me: Because there's Noël. —@tiemoose



The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon asked people to submit their worst Christmas office party stories. Here's what people sent in:

- I stayed sober to avoid embarrassing myself in front of my coworkers. Then my heel broke, and I fell into the punch bowl.
- My boss ordered two pizzas for 15 employees, then ate one all by herself.
- My coworker got so drunk, he asked his girlfriend whether she was single. She said yes.
- I did a Secret Santa gift exchange; mine got me a can of creamed corn.



Drumheller & District Rural Crime Watch

Contact Information

Website:

www.drumcrimewatch.com/

Email :

info@drumcrimewatch.com

Follow us on

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/875341205873037/>

Drumheller & District Rural Crime Watch

Year End update

As 2022 is soon to wrap up we are looking forward to 2023, our local crime watch group has recently had our annual general meeting. At this meeting I Steven Wannstrom was elected as the president and new member Brett Montgomery was elected as vice-president.

As we and many other groups have struggled over the last few years, we are now trying to rejuvenate our group. We have sent out letters explaining the plans for the upcoming year and the direction we are going; with the letter we have included invoice for membership and new application forms to get updated information. It is our hopes with getting a new staff sergeant in Drumheller RCMP detachment we can form a new active relationship with them, they have indicated they would like to get our members on the new RAVE system of notification and be a better partner in including us in crime prevention. We are also working on setting up a new group on WhatsApp to keep a better connection with our members.

We look forward to the new year and continuing to move forward with our members & partners

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year.

Yours truly,

Steve Wannstrom

Drumheller & District Rural Crime Watch

President swannstrom@netago.ca

Red Deer & Lacombe Rural Crime Watch

Could you make rural Alberta safer by understanding the root causes behind rural crime?

The Red Deer Lacombe Rural Crime Watch (RDLRCW) asked that question more than five years ago. They discussed the possibility of partnering with REACH Edmonton to explore the topic in the hope of getting some answers.

The REACH Edmonton and Red Deer Lacombe Rural Crime Watch's winning idea secured funding to coordinate a project investigating the root causes of rural crime in Alberta, with the group finally being successful in obtaining funding from the Alberta government through a Civil Forfeiture Grant over a two-year period for a project called "Building Capacity in Rural Crime Prevention."

"Until that time, we suspected or had theories about what was driving rural crime, but there was never any official research into it," explained Jean Bota, President of the Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association (ACCPA) and an active member of the Red Deer Lacombe Rural Crime Watch. "We believed that until you understand the 'why,' you can't effectively find ways to reduce or solve the problem."

The Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP) joined the cause as the research "arm" in providing assistance to REACH, ACCPA and RDLRCW in providing research and data-based evidence when looking at the "root causes" causing rural crime. The CMNCP research team was also responsible for preparing an Alberta Rural Crime Framework, which is a first in Canada as there was no framework in place. The framework is a living document, and is constantly updated and amended.

RCMP Chief Superintendent Peter Tewfik selected pilot sites (Beiseker, Wetaskiwin, Lac La Biche, Athabasca, Peace River and Northern Sunrise County) for the project based on the following criteria:

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- 1) high crime severity
- 2) rural or remote rural community
- 3) close proximity to Aboriginal and Metis Settlements
- 4) close proximity to large urban centres.

Fast forward five years—

The efforts and foresight from this research lead to the launch of an exciting announcement this year. On September 1, the RCMP rolled out the Community Safety and Well Being branch which is unique to Alberta only. The new branch is overseen by Chief Superintendent Peter Tewfik, K-Division and has undertaken several existing and upcoming programs. One of their existing programs is an initiative which pairs an RCMP member with a mental health technician, also



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.

known as the Rural Police and Crisis Team (RPACT).

The mental health technician will respond to appropriate calls, assess the situation, and (if fitting) send in the necessary paperwork to the appropriate health service support resource. Doing this helps speed along the process for those committing crimes due to mental health crises/addictions, rather than incarcerating them and clogging up the legal system. The hope is that with the proper treatment and support in place, these individuals will receive help instead of punishment and reduce the amount of crime in rural communities.

“One finding from the study was that many of the crimes committed were caused by mental health challenges, alcohol and drug abuse issues,” said Bota. “By focusing on treatment instead of jail time, we are addressing the root causes – the “why” – of the crimes and giving these individuals a better chance to get the

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help they need.”

Support from community partners has been key to the Red Deer Lacombe Rural Crime Watch group’s ability to champion meaningful change.

“We are fortunate to have such a passionate, dedicated and knowledgeable group involved with the Red Deer Lacombe Rural Crime Watch, as well as community supporters, like Red Deer County, Lacombe County, Nova Chemicals and Border Paving, who have been long time supporters of the Red Deer Lacombe Rural Crime Watch and its work in the community,” said Ken Wigmore, chair of the Red Deer Lacombe Rural Crime Watch.

Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice Program

As part of the effort to encourage additional meaningful change in our community, the Red Deer Lacombe Rural Crime Watch provided the seed money to start the Restorative Justice Program in the Red Deer Lacombe Crime Watch area.

The Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice Program’s motto is to Repair Harm, Restore Relationships, Build Community. The program is in its second year of operation and starting to get some good traction. Twenty-six cases have been adjudicated under this program, and with the support of the local RCMP, they believe that this program to divert youth headed down the road to a criminal career onto a better life path.

It is a community-based alternative to the traditional justice system. Trained volunteers facilitate Restorative Justice Processes by bringing together the person(s) harmed, the wrongdoer, their families, supporters, and/or the community for a discussion about the incident and how it can be repaired.

This option enables the young offender, if they are accountable for their actions and prepared to repair the harm they have done, to avoid a criminal record and the downward spiral for their future frequently accelerated by entering the criminal justice system.

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If you are person who was harmed, you can:

- Have a chance to tell your story
- Be certain the wrongdoer understands the impact of the harm
- Find answers to your questions
- Hold the wrongdoer accountable
- If possible, identify what can be done to repair the harm

If you are the person who caused the harm, you can:

- Have the chance to tell your story
- Accept responsibility for and acknowledge the harm caused
- Hear how your actions affected others
- Show that your actions do not make up all of who you are
- Participate in determining how to repair the harm
- An opportunity to avoid getting a criminal record

To learn more about the Red Deer Lacombe Rural Crime Watch, visit their website <https://www.rdruralcrimewatch.com/>.

For more information on the Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice Program, go to <https://rrdrestorativejustice.ca/>.

Red Deer Lacombe Rural Community Crime Watch Association

Flagstaff Rural Crime Watch Society

Contact Information

Email :

flagstaff.rcwa@gmail.com

Find Us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
flagstaffruralcrimewatch](https://www.facebook.com/flagstaffruralcrimewatch)

Flagstaff Rural Crime Watch Society

Celebrating 6 Years of Education and Crime Prevention

“Ninety Seven”

In late 2019/early 2020, the idea of hosting a class of the Canadian Firearms Safety Course for women only was suggested by one of our directors. As we searched for an instructor to teach this class, the world shut down with Covid and any plans to host any in person events were put on the back burner.

Fast forward to spring 2022 and the interest was still there for this first female-only class. Flagstaff Rural Crime Watch Society would cover the costs of the venue, lunch and snacks with students paying for the course. We found an instructor for May 7th and 8th, advertised the course for non restricted and restricted on our Facebook page and the class was full in no time. We received such positive feedback from all the women in attendance. They felt very comfortable asking questions and actively being involved in the demonstrations.

Since then, we have held 3 more classes, open to men and women; in June, September and November and 97 people have successfully completed the Canadian Firearms Safety Course that Flagstaff RCW has provided the opportunity to attend in 2022! We are quite proud of this and look forward to continuing the education process for this and

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other areas of crime prevention. Our next firearms course is scheduled for January 2023.

We are currently working on setting up a CAPTURE registration program. This is a voluntary registry of home cameras and surveillance systems which can ultimately help the RCMP when a crime occurs. We also are working with our Killam RCMP to produce a Question and Answer pamphlet of what to do when suspicious persons and vehicles enter your yard, looking for fuel etc. The Flagstaff Rural Crime Watch Society Facebook page continues to be our best communication tool for our area



and others.

Sending holiday greetings from our RCW to yours and wishing everyone the best for 2023!

Flagstaff Rural Crime Watch Society



I remember the first time it happened. While driving on the highway on a bright blue-sky day a very long narrow shadow appeared in front of the car sweeping across the road, and it was moving towards me. Shadows don't move, I said to self. The shadow swept over the car disappearing and I ultimately realized it was the blade trace of an active windmill cast by the low winter sun.

When we witness crime, the brain does similar things. That doesn't look right, what the heck was that ? And then, we don't want to be there in the first place. That empty, violated, and ultimate anger when one realizes one morning half the herd is gone and the fences are intact. We come home after a night out of celebration with friends, your inside dog is outside when you drive into the yard, and your home back door is wide open ~ what ?!



There are very sound reasons to “get out in front of crime” vs. relying upon the cleanup & great expense after it has happened. When we share information and openly communicate, we are informed and aware. If there is a single person or group of people habitually doing the nasty, and we are aware of such, we can get a stop sign in place through knowledge to protect the next future people that could be harmed.

Yes, there is technology available today and somewhat easily done, resources available, for a commercial frontage or home which is self-contained and centralized. Not so if one is

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talking about acres and sections of land. Who needs the court case after a half section of a winter wheat crop is stolen ? No one I know. Had neighbours called the farmer or flagged the police, we'd have better stories to tell.

Some days I want to change our namesake, dumping the word CRIME all together and start calling ourselves Provincial Friendly Neighbours instead. That's not a request, however, it's naturally our way to be good neighbours and don't let worldly events inhibit what comes naturally.

Best of wishes to you and yours over the holidays and throughout our New Year 2023.

Brenda MacMillan
Zone 1 Director



Alberta Provincial Rural
Crime Watch Association

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Edmonton, AB
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www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

E-mail:
aprcwa@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

Crime Symposium and AGM 2023

Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch 2023 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 March 24th —Registration will be at 4pm, a buffet supper will start at 5pm with a social hour and Fentanyl to follow.

Saturday March 25th —The AGM will be held in the morning with a variety of presentations in the afternoon as well as the annual silent auction. Wrapping up at 5:30 pm 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. Forms are also included at the end of this Newsletter. Please email completed forms to nsccrimewatch@gmail.com

REGISTRATION DEADLINE—FEBRUARY 10, 2023

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

We look forward to seeing you all there.



Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association Agenda
Hosted by Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association
March 24th and 25th 2023
Chateau Nova Peace River, Alberta

1. Friday March 24
 2. 1600 Registration
 3. 1700 Buffet
 4. Social hour with cash bar
 5. 1900 Fentanyl presentation with Brad McIntosh
 6. Saturday March 25
- Registration starting at 7.00am
7. 0700 Buffet Breakfast
 8. 0830 greetings from Mayor, Reeve and MLA
 9. 0900 APRCWA AGM
 10. 1100 Coffee break
 11. 1115 Crime stoppers – Northern Alberta and Edmonton Crime Stoppers Board Member
 12. 1200 Buffet lunch
 13. 1300 Peter Tewfik Data2Action
 14. 1430 coffee break
 15. 1445 Staff Sgt Browne & local updates
 16. 1515 F&W Provincial & local updates
 17. 1600 Marc Boychuk presentation for addiction and homelessness causing rural crime
 18. 1700 closing of silent auction
 19. 1730 closing of symposium

Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association 2023 APRCWA Symposium

March 24th and March 25th 2023

REGISTRATION FORM: * (information required to send you your receipt which will be emailed.)

*Name: _____

*Address: _____

*Email: _____

*Crime Watch Association: _____

*Zone: _____

Please indicate any allergies or dietary needs _____

Registration is \$ 200.00 Cut off for registration is February 10, 2023.

of Registrations _____

Total Submitted: \$ _____ Cheque # _____

PLEASE SEND YOUR REGISTRATION FORM AND CHEQUE MADE OUT TO:

Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association

Box 1266 St Isidore, AB T0H 3B0 or via email as below.

e-transfer is available at nscrimewatch@gmail.com. Please include your Rural Crime Watch name in the memo. Please email your security answer to the email above. Your registration form must be included to be accepted as registered

The room rates for the Chateau Nova are:

Two Queen Room	\$99
Junior King Suite	\$119

Contact for the hotel is 780-624-3344 . Please use the group code Provincial Crime Watch Symposium.

Please note, if you wish to reserve for the Saturday night please call the hotel to arrange this.