

Spring / Summer Newsletter



President's Report

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Hi to all Rural Crime Watch Members.

It gives me great pleasure to write my first President's report upon being elected to this position after the AGM in Peace River in March. I would like to start out by thanking Cor for his leadership and dedication to the APRCWA and leading us to align our activities to our Mission and Values. I am pleased to say Cor will remain on the Board as a Zone 2 Director, so we continue to have access to his experience and humor.

I would like to congratulate the current Board Members on their work over the past year and as we stand up the Committees, some with new Chairs, for the coming year, I thank you for your dedication, support and work accomplished and look forward to more growth of the APRCWA over the coming year and beyond.

One of the items that came up at the AGM and was reiterated in the President's Report at the AGM was Communication. As you may know, we have increased the APRCWA's presence on Social Media – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter in addition to the email distribution of our one Newsletter (Separate to the Members Newsletter) . Working with the RCMP, we have been able to offer RAVE to the Members and with the announcement of RAVE going public, this will offer greater flexibility for opting in and opting out. Check out the announcement, on our Website and in this Newsletter.

We are discussing other ideas to keep the information rolling and would encourage you to please let us know your thoughts and keep us in the know of what is happening in your corner of the Province. Feel free to reach out to your Zone Directors for information and support.

Another item, I wanted to “put out there” is the need for Members at Large. We have openings on the Board and should you or someone you know have in interest in becoming a Member At Large, please contact me to discuss this opportunity. What better way to understand the working of your Association than to look from within.

Have a great Spring and take care.

Thank you for keeping your Communities safer

Yours Truly,

Rosemary Lindsay

APRCWA President

RAVE Fanout System

There have recently been significant changes made to the RAVE sign up process. Previously each local RCW group had to supply their members contact information in the form of a spreadsheet to us in order to have it included in the large database of contacts. This process was very time consuming for everyone and not very user friendly. There were many privacy and usability concerns brought up during the initial roll out of the program. Thank you to everyone that provided feedback on this important program, it was appreciated!

- ⇒ Opt-in or out at any time
- ⇒ Available to the public
- ⇒ Fanouts from multiple detachments available
- ⇒ Households can have multiple contacts listed under one account

Fast forward to May 2023, the RCMP have been working hard to address the concerns raised with RAVE and have revamped the RAVE platform to allow individuals to sign up. Read the instructions on the next pages, follow the links and please sign up.

This link is also available on the APRCWA website. There have been some good messaging already regarding the fires.

All associations will need to sign their members up to this new platform. Eventually the old platform will be deleted. It is important to get this out to all your members and get them to sign up. If you have any questions contact your local directors for support.



RAVE Opt In Process



RAVE Opt-In for Community Watch Advisories from Alberta RCMP

Login & Sign-Up Portal:

<https://www.getrave.ca/smart911/ref/login.action?pa=CrimeWatchAdvisory> A Friendly Tip – Keep this link saved on a bookmark

What is RAVE?

RAVE is a web based communication platform that RCMP officers are mandated to fan out real time alerts to community members in Alberta. Alerts are operational and

educational in nature. They might look like BOLOs (Be On the Look Out), Crime Prevention, Victim Services, and District reports. Alerts are sent via email, text message or phone call – preference is on the account user.

What are the Benefits?

This communication can strengthen partnerships between volunteers associations and police. Community members can assist police and be a useful resource to their local detachment and their respective community. RAVE will also be a useful

educational tool for Crime Prevention and Victim Services information. Information is trusted and received in real time.

RAVE Opt-In Instructions

1. Sign Up

- a. All volunteers wanting to receive alerts must sign up to RAVE. Open the Login & Sign-Up Portal in a browser of your choice, and then left click on the green 'sign up now' button.

2. Create Account

- a. A new page will open and ask for your first name, last name, email address, User ID, a unique password, phone number, and phone type. Fill in all

information. DO NOT INCLUDE A GROUP CODE; this does not apply to anyone.

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- b. User ID = Your Email Address
- c. To be able to utilize RAVE you must agree to the Terms & Conditions by checking off the adjacent box to the left.
- d. Then, left click on 'create account' button.

CREATE ACCOUNT

3. Confirm Your Phone Number

- a. The system will need to confirm that your phone number is correct. Click on 'Confirm Phone Call', answer your phone and press 1 on the dial pad.
- b. If you cannot confirm at that time you can click on 'Schedule a Later Call'. *It is encouraged to do this now, if you never confirm your number you will not receive alerts to that number.*

CONFIRM BY PHONE CALL

SCHEDULE A LATER CALL

4. Alert Opt-In

- a. Select whether you would like to receive alerts via phone or email, or both, by left clicking on the associated box.

NOTE: It is recommended that both be enabled as detachments may have a preferable method to share alerts. For instance, if a user only has enabled their email address and the detachment only sends out alerts via text/call, then this user will not receive alerts.

- b. A list of all detachments in Alberta will be present with three boxes for text, voice and email. To reset the checked off detachments, click on the box to the LEFT of 'Alberta RCMP Notifications'

The screenshot shows a 'Notification' section with a list of detachments. Each detachment has three checkboxes for 'Text', 'Voice', and 'Email' notifications. The 'Alberta RCMP Notifications' checkbox is highlighted with a red circle. The list of detachments includes:

Notification	Text	Voice	Email
<input type="checkbox"/> Alberta RCMP Notifications Notifications from Alberta RCMP Crime Watch Advisory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Banff.Crime Watch Advisory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Whitecourt.Crime Watch Advisory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wetaskiwin.Crime Watch Advisory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Westlock.Crime Watch Advisory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Waterton Park.Crime Watch Advisory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Buffalo (Fort McMurray).Crime Watch Advisory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wainwright.Crime Watch Advisory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- c. To subscribe to Citizen Watch Advisories in your area (also known as Alerts), find your local detachment and click on the box to the LEFT. Users can choose as many detachments as they wish.
- d. Once all detachments are decided, scroll to the bottom of this same page and click the green 'save' button to the left of the screen.

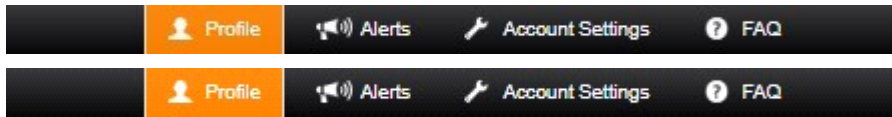
If all four steps are complete, the RAVE User Opt-In account is created. Logout at the top right of the User Profile Screen.

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Functions for RAVE Users

Once the account has been setup, the user has access to several functions within their account. The tabs are found at the top of the RAVE user account when signed in.



Profile Tab

This is where users can make edits to their profile; add people/household members, or home addresses. Adding people or the home address is not necessary but is up to the user preference.

Alerts Tab

This tab allows the user to see which detachments they are opt-in to. It also allows the user to make edits to who they receive alerts from and how they are received (text, call and/or email).

Account Settings Tab

The account settings tab is where users edit their phone number, email address, and name. Users should direct themselves here if they wish to deactivate their account.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Will my account deactivate on its own?

A: No. The only way a user can lose access Citizen Watch Advisories is if they delete their account on their end.

Q: How do I delete my account if I am no longer interested in receiving Alerts?

A: Log onto your RAVE account through the link. Click on Account Settings. Then Click on Remove Account. Confirm your password, then click unsubscribe.

Q: Where can I find technical support if I am having trouble logging in, receiving Alerts, or deleting my account?

A: Users can contact the following email proxy - RAVE_Support-Soutien_RAVE@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Q: What if I am concerned about the privacy of my information shared with RAVE?

A: Users can review RAVE's Privacy Policy and Terms of Use in the below links. If a user does not agree to the terms then they are free not to opt-in or delete their account at any time.

RAVE Privacy Policy: <https://www.ravemobilesafety.com/privacy-policy/>

RAVE Terms of Use: <https://www.ravemobilesafety.com/terms-of-use/>

Prepared by: Cassidy COMPTON and Sgt. Martin GIRARD

Membership Report

Membership to rural crime watch is going through some challenging times with engagement both locally and provincially as we move forward in a new normal.

Some local rural crime watches have disbanded their group while other struggling groups have amalgamated with another organization or are considering the option of amalgamation.

One of the tools available on the main page of the APRCWA website at www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca to attract members is the map which shows the boundaries of each active rural crime watch group in the province. If you hover over the pin, the email address for the group is populated provided the organization has a generic email address. This tool provides a contact directly to your organization if a local resident is searching the site for information and possibly wishes to start a conversation or join as a member.

Consider setting up a generic email address for your rural crime watch organization if you are currently using a personal email as your contact. Another bonus of a generic email is the ability to share the password with several board members to share the responsibility. Feel free to reach out to an APRCWA board member if you require assistance.

The 2024 Membership Renewal deadline of August 1st is only months away, so please mark your calendar so you don't miss the deadline which can prove costly to your rural crime watch group. Membership Renewals with all documentation and fees received by August 1st will be covered for \$2,000,000.00 Certificate of Liability Insurance as well as Volunteer Insurance to cover the members when they are volunteering for your organization.

Documentation and/or dues received after August 1st are eligible for renewal of membership to the APRCWA by providing a Copy of the privately purchased \$2,000,000.00 Liability Insurance Certificate, Membership Renewal Form, and dues of \$250.00.

The 2024 Membership Renewal information will have been received in the inbox of your listed contact email address for the organization.

Membership Renewal has moved to an online format only. To access the form please go to the Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association's website at www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca click on the associations tab, then click membership & renewals and the form will pop up. If you miss completing a required section of the form, it will populate in red "This field is required" before allowing you to move on to the next page. A link to the site is located below:

<https://www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca/associations/membership>

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Membership Report

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A requirement for the approval of membership is Proof your organization is in Good Standing with Alberta Corporate Registries. The “ANNUAL RETURNS FOR SOCIETY AND NON-PROFIT COMPANY - Proof of Filing” is required as the proof your rural crime watch organization is a society. The APRCWA must have the ability to provide this information to the insurance company.

Payment of your membership dues may be completed either by forwarding an e-transfer to: treasurer@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca or by mailing a cheque to: Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association. P.O. Box 4520, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 4T7

Since many of the local rural crime watch organizations suspend their activities for the summer months, please forward your membership renewal documents before you take your summer break. Your group does not have to wait for July to send in your renewal, we are happy to receive it earlier..

Have a great summer everyone and if anyone has questions regarding membership feel free to contact the APRCWA directors or myself.

Respectfully submitted,

Verna Hart - Treasurer

Local Rural Crime Watch Groups—News and Events

Drumheller Rural Crime Watch Celebrates a 50 year Volunteer

Taken from the Drumheller Mail, 19 Apr 2023 Written by Pat Kolafa | © DrumhellerMail.com

Rural Crime Watch has been an institution in the area that has helped to keep the community safe, and from the very beginning, Howard McKee has been as big part of the organization.

This year Howard decided to step down after more than five decades of dutifully volunteering to serve the community.

“I really haven’t counted it up. The earliest I can remember is we went to Delia and had a meeting, around 1955. We started out small and we built it up. People were interested but did not really want to get involved because of crime.”

Nonetheless, they saw the need and some momentum grew. Because of the sporadic unpredictability of crime, people were skeptical that it would make a difference.

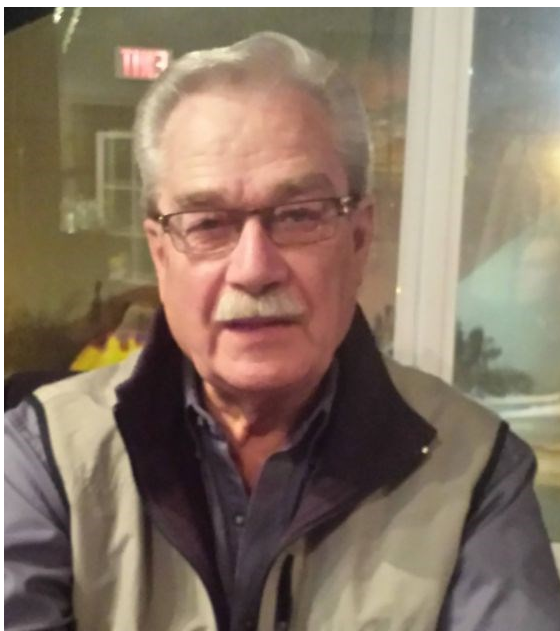
“The RCMP started to go in small groups. We met in Delia, Hussar and the Rumsey Rowley area and we picked places where we thought people were interested. It did work.”

He chuckles sometimes people would be hesitant to volunteer to be on the executive, and invariably he would end up becoming treasurer.

“I was the treasurer. No one seemed to like doing the treasury and I kind of liked it because when you complete your report, you’re done,” he said.

He shares, once people bought into the philosophy of a crime watch organization, being the eyes and ears of the community and looking out for their neighbours, it became effective. He says Chris Lowen was president for years and he was a driving force to make it successful.

“You have to protect yourself and your neighbour, too. If you are not going to be in it to help the next-door neighbour then you might not have any help when you need help,” said McKee.



This is not McKee’s only volunteer experience. He also spent in the area of four decades with the Drumheller and District Ag Society—you guessed it, as treasurer. This led to being involved with horse shows in Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton.

“It seems like a long time, but I enjoyed it and you meet a lot of people. Things were evolving then. At that time we were doing rodeos and all kinds of that stuff,” he said.

“You’ve got to like what you do if you are going to last long.”

He found getting involved in these organizations rewarding. You meet interesting people and feel like you were a part of building something. When asked what he would tell people is a benefit of getting involved, he says fellowship.

Local Rural Crime Watch Groups—News and Events

Flagstaff Rural Crime Watch Society Celebrating 6 Years of Education and Crime Prevention

SPRING 2023 UPDATE

Greetings from East Central Alberta. The snow has finally disappeared and the farmers will soon be in the fields.

Flagstaff Rural Crime Watch Society was very pleased, honoured and thankful to be awarded the Alberta Provincial Crime Watch Association John Fuga Award. Janet Patriquin from the Farmers Advocate Office attended our April meeting and made the Certificate of Award for Excellence in Rural Crime Watch presentation. Along with the certificate comes a monetary award which we plan to use towards one of several projects that we're working on with our RCMP detachment.

Flagstaff Rural Crime Watch Society continues to be active with our projects. We've completed 2 more Canadian Firearms Safety Courses, with the number of graduates now at 147. We have another class scheduled for early June.

Our information brochure has been completed and we are waiting for final approval from the RCMP. The webcam registry program proposal has also been presented to the RCMP and we will be following up on that in the next month.

A few of our board attended a Relationship Judo class hosted by the Parkland RCMP. Included in the class was an afternoon of self defense instruction. We are in contact with Constable Williams about bringing another self defense class to Flagstaff County.

We continue to seek out opportunities for education in crime prevention, personal safety and community awareness.

Local Rural Crime Watch Groups—News and Events

Wishing everyone a safe
and happy summer.

Jan Bergseth

Secretary

Flagstaff Rural Crime
Watch Society



L-R Mabel Thompson-Treasurer, Jan Bergseth-Secretary, Janet Patriquin-Farmers Advocate Office, Kim Cannady-President.



Local Rural Crime Watch Groups—News and Events

"I've got faith in you. You can do this."

Strathcona County RCMP Const. Desiree Matlock could be heard uttering those supportive words to youngsters on the obstacle course during the annual Bike Rodeo at the Strathcona Athletic Park on May 13.

Hundreds of children were taught safety tips on the course, including four-year-old Ethan Cohen who was pedaling his small bike - with training wheels attached.

"Ethan is really enjoying this. He was so excited to come here," said his mother Jessica Cohen, who along with husband James, was at the Bike Rodeo for the first time.

Another first-timer was Ashley Becigneul, who brought her sons Zachary, 5, and William, 3.

"Both boys are on their bikes everyday. This is really important for them to look both ways, to learn all the safety tips" she said.

While bicycle safety is crucial, she said the popular community event is important in other ways.

"It is so nice for the kids to see the RCMP in a helping role. They learn that they are there to help you," she said.

When told about the comment, Const. Matlock smiled and said, "You don't want them to be afraid of the uniform,"



Const. Allison Gyonyor gets set to lead two children around the obstacle course during the 2023 Bike Rodeo at Strathcona Athletic Park in Sherwood Park on May 13.



Const. Simon Bigras speak to the crowd at the 2023 Bike Rodeo during a demonstration

At least 10 members of the Strathcona County RCMP and Enforcement Services were on site for the four-hour event, including Const. Simon Bigras with his police service dog Maddox and Const. Liam King and his police service dog-in-training Rad.

Maddox, a four-year-old German shepherd, demonstrated her drug detection and suspect apprehension skills for the crowd.

Const. Chantelle Kelly said she estimated more than 500 attended the 2023 Bike Rodeo, a big increase from last year.

"This has been a great event this year. It was so good to see so many people," she said.

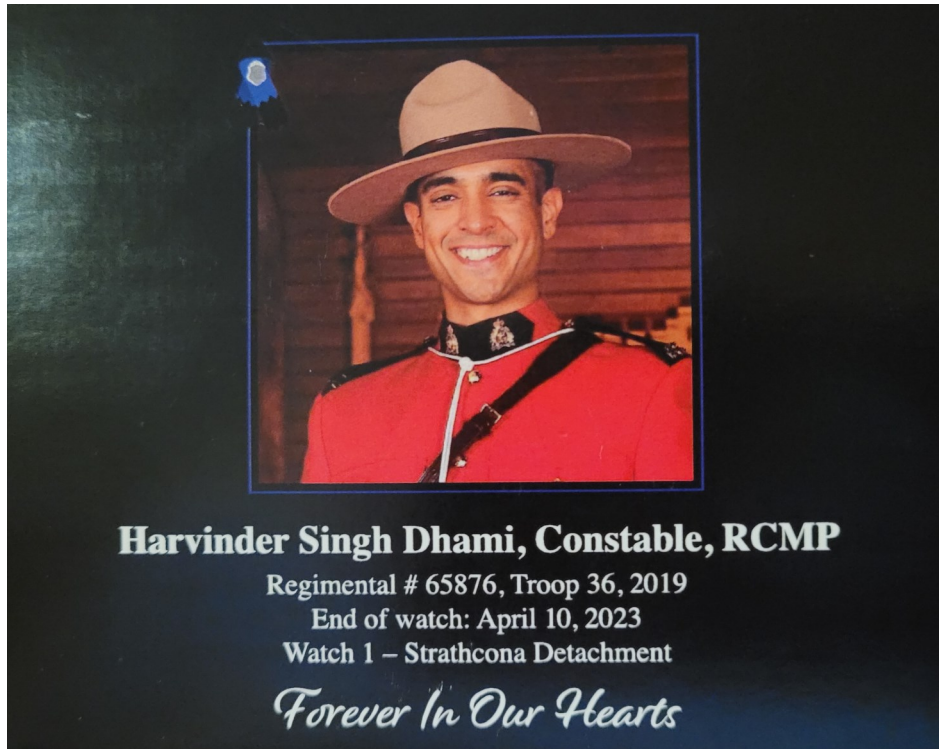
The Bike Rodeo included booths staffed by Strathcona

County Crime Watch Association, Strathcona County Citizens on Patrol Society and Mothers Against Drunk Driving. There were also community sponsors like Mud, Sweat and Gears offering free bike inspections and Enbridge providing a BBQ, cotton candy and popcorn.



Bonny Burton, Fran Melnyk and Ernie Melnyk volunteered in the Strathcona County Crime Watch Association booth

Local Rural Crime Watch Groups—News and Events

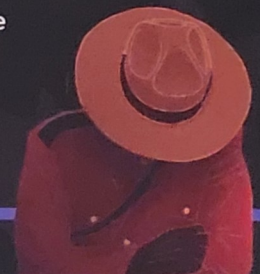


We Remember.

-Strathcona County
Crime Watch
Association

Cst. Harvinder Singh Dhani was tragically killed on duty on April 10, 2023 – a hero whose life was lost while bravely serving and protecting others. Harvinder was a valued Member of the Strathcona County RCMP detachment; a beloved and exceptional colleague; a caring and loving husband, son, brother and friend who had a brilliant and uplifting smile for everyone he encountered. His commitment to his community and those he loved remind us of why we serve, and he will never be forgotten.

If you need support at any time, please call the National Police Federation's Member Services Centre at 1-833-NPF-TEAM or 1-833-673-8326, or email info@npf-fpn.com, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Local Rural Crime Watch Groups—News and Events

The Red Deer/ Lacombe RCW held their AGM on April 29th 2023 at the Lacombe County Office (40403 RR 274 Lacombe County).

The AGM began at 10:00 with introductions of the Red Deer/Lacombe RCW board and greetings from Reeve Barb Shepherd (Lacombe County). This was followed by their guest speaker Sgt Kerry a member of the Northern Alberta Internet Child Exploitation (I.C.E.) Unit, who investigates incidents of child luring, sextortion, possession, transmission, and the making of child pornography as well as internet-related voyeurism involving youth. He discussed the role of I.C. E. in Alberta, current applications and internet platforms, and provided resources for our group to share so parents/teachers are able to develop healthy and productive online experiences for children and teens. Being as the internet plays an integral role in everyone's lives, and when it comes to youth their social lives exist largely in cyberspace. Throughout the past several years and the Global Pandemic, Alberta has seen a significant increase in cases of child exploitation on the internet. With more users online than ever before, and new apps and software being developed every day, it can be difficult for parents and teachers to keep on top of the latest trending platforms. Advancements in technology are exciting and helpful, but it opens an ever-growing gap between the knowledge of that technology between youths and busy adults.

His presentation focused on education, prevention and ensuring parents and educators are in a position to protect their children from online sexual exploitation. Kerry also provided the group with a list of resources for understanding social media sites. The sites contain educational material and information for parents and teachers which is easily navigated. As he noted the resources he provided were only a starting point and he advised the real challenge is to build a healthy relationship with our youth and children, in order to foster a safe and trusting environment for them to report anything to their parents or teachers when they go wrong online.

It was a great presentation and well worth bringing Kerry into speak to your community.

Kerry's email is kerry.shima@albertaicenorth.ca and his direct line is 780 509 3298 if you want to schedule a presentation



Sgt Kerry , Northern Alberta Internet Child Exploitation (I.C.E.) Unit

Partner Groups—News and Events

ACCPA Conference Presentation—Kendra Sieben, Community Policing Unit

During our 2023 Alberta Community Crime Prevention Conference held at the Delta South Conference Centre in Edmonton (May 1st to the 3rd) there was a presentation from Kendra Sieben; the Safe Communities Facilitator with the Brooks RCMP and the initial member of the Brooks RCMP's first Community Policing Unit. In her role, Kendra also works with the City of Brooks and County of Newell in managing all things; relating to crime prevention, community safety, and officer engagement. Kendra's education is in Social Work with a focus on Criminology and Communications.

Kendra's presentation was entitled "Hubbing Police Engagement, Social Media, and Crime Prevention" and she spoke of her role in crime prevention through active engagement with communities and social media/communication platforms. She also spoke to how being a social worker is beneficial when working with the many groups within her communities.

The social media/community engagement created in Brooks and Newell has "buy in" from the RCMP detachment/enforcement team, the communities of Brooks and Newell as well as buy in on a global scale! Their department is 2nd highest followed police platform in North America on TikTok reaching more youth and multicultural members than ever before.

Kendra is incredibly passionate about the work she does on a daily basis, and finds it very rewarding to be able to educate such a large audience through social media, all the while making meaningful connections with those her team reaches. Kendra is a believer in "prevention over intervention" and her current role allows her to bring that into focus while working collaboratively with community partners and agencies in developing and implementing strategic solutions when it comes to reducing crime and victimization.

For those who couldn't attend the conference and who would like to learn more about the work Kendra does as a "Safe Communities Facilitator with Brooks RCMP" you can reach her on Linked in,- Kendra Sieben R.S.W. or Instagram @kendra_thatsocialworker.

Her email is also kendra.sieben@rcmp-grc.gc.ca and telephone is 403 357 9939

It was a great presentation and Kendra has offered to present via Zoom to your Municipal council or RCW group so you can learn more and speak directly with her and find out more about setting up something similar with your group or municipality.

The Presentation abstract is on the conference page of our website <http://www.albertacrimeprevention.com/conference2023> so please do check it out.

"The new branch of "Community Safety and Wellbeing" of "K" division is about challenging the narrative "smart on crime and tough on causes". It's an investment in people and communities; offering a more inclusive, integrated proactive approach as opposed to a reactive approach of policing, prisons and courts. This new approach demonstrates "out of the box" thinking at leadership levels and is unique to AB and one of kind in Canada"



Partner Groups—News and Events



Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice - What’s all the hype?

The Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice Program has just completed its second year of service and we are proud of the accomplishments and the growing impact the program is having for rural Red Deer and Lacombe County residents, young offenders, those they have harmed and the courts.

One of the most significant accomplishments in the past year was the increased number and complexity of the cases referred as well as the originating source of referrals. Not only did the program double the number of files addressed from our first year, but we also received referrals from additional general duty officers from the Blackfalds RCMP, the Lacombe Municipal Police detachment and two local schools. The program is also currently working with the Crown Prosecutors office to extend the opportunity for restorative justice options for post-charge diversion cases and we anticipate that this will further impact the number and complexity of cases addressed in the future.

Here is a breakdown of this years’ activity.



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Partner Groups—News and Events

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Trained facilitators supported the persons who were harmed by these offences to meet directly with the persons who caused the harm to talk about the impact of their actions and agree on actions to repair the harms. As a result of this process, underlying factors that led to the harmful actions in the first place are often identified. Underlying factors identified included a desire to fit in with a group, retaliation for past harms or bullying, poor choices- thinking it would be fun and not thinking of the impact of actions on others, an unstable or chaotic home life, mental health issues, drugs and alcohol usage. The reparative actions agreed to by the offenders not only included actions to repair the harm, but also actions to help address or overcome underlying issues so that similar offences would not be repeated in the future.

Some examples of the reparative actions agreed to included: a direct apology from the offender to the persons they harmed, time doing volunteer or community service equalling the number of hours it would take to repay or replace items, presentations to schools and community groups on the hazards of fire, impact of vandalism or a topic related to their specific offence, enrollment in mental health, addictions and counselling supports, participation in social support programs and self improvement activities.

Although the RRDRJ program has had a busy year, the hype about restorative justice is not about program activity. It is about the outcomes being achieved and the involvement of communities and social support programs to help young offenders address the factors that are leading to their criminal activity. Ninety-five percent of case conferences held this year had community members and social support programs in attendance. 95 % of participants (persons harmed, offenders, and their families) in the RRDRJ program rated their satisfaction with the process and the outcomes as positive. 85% of offenders who participated in the program successfully completed all terms of their agreed upon reparative contracts and there was only a 5% recidivism rate.

The restorative justice process will not be successful every time, for every person, or every situation and it is not an option for everyone. It is a choice. Each individual who chooses the restorative path is making a positive choice. It is a choice of accountability, a choice to make things right, a choice to accept help from others so that they can overcome or address the challenges that led them to this place in their life. Each positive choice leads to another, and the result is cumulative. We applaud those who chose restorative justice this year, accepted accountability for their actions and followed through on their commitments. We think it's a choice that deserves a lot of hype.

Our sincere appreciation and thanks to the many volunteers who contribute their time, passion, dedication, and belief in the potential of youth and the opportunities provided by restorative justice to help make our communities safer. It is estimated that more than 4000 volunteer hours were contributed this year. This program could not succeed or be in existence without them.

Special thanks and recognition is extended to our financial sponsors: Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Vesta Energy and Blindman Valley Propane, Red Deer Polytech Justice Studies Student Society, as well as to our primary partner in service delivery- the Blackfalds RCMP. For more information about the Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice program- visit our website: www.rrdrestorativejustice.ca

Partner Groups—News and Events

ACCPA Conference Presentation—Inspector Oliver Fisher, Sussex (UK) Rural Crime Unit

At our 2023 Alberta Community Crime Prevention Conference in May we had a special guest present. Inspector Oliver Fisher from the Sussex UK Rural Crime Unit was asked to conduct a pre conference workshop and was also a keynote speaker the first day of the ACCPA conference.

His workshop was entitled “Rural Crime Strategy in the UK: Partnership, and Opportunities for AB and Canadian Municipalities” which was an interactive overview of the evolution of the Sussex (UK) police Rural Crime Strategy; something he and his team hoped to bring to Canada by providing a framework for the delegates attending. Inspector Fisher explained what Sussex Police had learned; rural crime was much different than urban crime and should be treated as such thus the formation of their Rural Crime Unit. Their priority was to keep communities safe ensuring their residents did not live in fear. As he began the workshop he asked the delegates to share their problems and were they understanding the Contributory Factors? He then went into what he called the “Partnership Landscape” and asked delegates to provide who their rural partnerships were? What level of partnership did they have? What partnerships are working well and who are the shareholders? If not what are the challenges and what is problematic? He spoke of the Overarching partnerships, the Thematic Partnerships and the Tactical partnerships and local operational initiatives. Following lunch he went further into the workshop by asking the attendees; what do you want the partnerships to do? What is the strategy of the partnership? Is it a strategic partnership? thematic or a tactic partnership? Can issues be tackled through partnerships? Who has unofficial influence or partnerships which are made informal; alliances, although not bonded by contracts but feed your community in a variety of ways...are these being leveraged? This workshop was followed up the next morning with his keynote, where he advised us from the onset “I am not here to tell you what to do, but to share what we (Sussex UK) have learned and put in place over time” He asked about their journey and Sussex’s definition of Rural Crime and in recognition of the unique pressures faced by Rural Communities in Sussex UK. Prior to this their police department treated all communities broadly similarly with their emphasis on towns and cities. As a result response times, awareness of rural affairs, understanding the impact on rural

communities all fell by the wayside and they realized they needed to change how they were viewing rural crime and the fallout within rural and remote rural communities. He went on to speak to the barriers to the creation of their Rural Crime Unit but he spoke about the capabilities, skills and knowledge of our enforcement partners and the training that needed to be done. He also spoke of the engagement, enforcement and prevention with those partners who had unofficial influence in communities? He also spoke to the importance of a “Future Structure; of building relationships and creating solutions are as a unified force, with all partners (large, small influence and uninfluenced) having the same message.

He ended by advising us 1) positive change is gradual and incremental 2) acknowledging a community concern (regardless of how small) goes a long way 3) strategic buy in from all partners is critical 4) find a way to make it relevant to leaders when competing with other priorities 5) define your mission and change every funding opportunity possible..



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Partner Groups—News and Events

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It was a remarkable workshop and keynote as he provided insight on what more we could be doing. To top off and finalize his trip to Canada (first time for him) was a visit and tour of “K” Division with Sgt Martin Girard and Chief Superintendent Peter Tewfik. A meeting had been arranged with Deputy Commissioner Curtis Zabloski however as the Deputy Commissioner was called away to a meeting in Calgary, Inspector Fisher was able to spend time with Chief Superintendent Peter Tewfik.

During this time here, he also asked for a tour of a rural detachment in AB to compare area, and Police processes as well as issues. This was arranged with the Rocky Mountain House detachment, with Sgt Pierre St Cyr conducting the tour and discussion with Inspector Fisher. Sgt Pierre St Cyr was the interim leader while the detachment commander was in the process of a transfer to Meadow Lake SK. Sgt St Cyr did a remarkable job and from there we took Inspector Fisher to the mountains west of Rocky Mtn House. Every visitor has to see our majestic Rocky Mountains ..

It was a great workshop and keynote presentation with some amazing insight on how we in AB could look closer who are our partners and the importance of these partnerships when sending a unified message to politicians, communities and the criminal element. Everything begins in the community.

His email is oliver.fisher@sussex.police.uk

If you attended the workshop or keynote there has been an email sent out with the passwords to download either or both of his presentations <http://www.albertacrimeprevention.com/conference2023>



Insp Fisher with Sgt Pierre St Cyr acting commander at the Rocky Mountain House detachment



Insp Fisher with Chief Supt Peter Tewfik

APRCWA Symposium and AGM Report

Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association hosted the APRCWA Symposium and AGM. Friday evening brought presentations from Marc Boychuk and Tammy Dawson. Marc presented the struggles with increasing homeless numbers, the dangers, mental health and addictions. Also his emotional stories of losing those that he connected with as Marc slept on the streets to experience the homeless life. He brings the awareness this is increasing across the country. Tammy brought an emotional story of her trials being accepted into a community. The bullying in school because she was different which led her to her addictions. The struggles bringing up her young family. It wasn't until she reached out to supporting programs that she changed her life around and is now proud to share her story in the hopes it will help another person reach out for help. Many great questions followed and open discussions about the homeless, mental health, addictions and rural crime that affects us all.

Saturday brought the AGM. Cor was thanked for his years of dedication to the APRCWA and will stay on as a director. Congratulations to Rosemary who takes on the presidency role. Martin Girard presented the crime stoppers and the increasing reports they are receiving. Saturday afternoon was full of information. Staff Sgt Dave Browne brought the history of NSRCWA his role and local updates. Cst. Mitch Guenette informed the attendees of his Community Liaison Officer (CLO) position. Mark Hilton presented the new community safety and wellbeing branch from K-Division that includes the auto theft unit, PROS data centre, offender management and more.



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APRCWA Symposium and AGM Report

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China Sieger presented Restorative Justice at the Symposium. Those in the RJ process answer hard questions and take full responsibility for their actions, taking into consideration the impacts on the victim, family, and the broader community. The long-term goal of reducing recidivism while restoring relationships. The outcome is often more meaningful to offenders as it is community-based and provides greater potential for personal rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. Rob Lamont brought Updates from Provincial and local Fish and Wildlife and enforcement. Many questions and discussions from the presentations followed. The silent auction raised \$2200.00 for the APRCWA, thanks to all that participated. NSRCWA would like to thank all those that attended. After 3 years it was wonderful to finally see everyone in person.

Northern Sunrise Rural Crime Watch Association

Corinna Williams



L—R; APRCWA Representatives Rosemary Lindsay (President) speaking, Verna Hart (Treasurer), Corinna Williams (Secretary), Trevor Tychkowski (Zone 5 Director)

APRCWA Board Contact List

Position	Zone	Name	Contact email
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Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association

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Your Resource to Take Action Against Crime

Rural crime rates remain high in Alberta, leaving communities on edge and overwhelmed. The Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association wants to help reduce crime in rural areas and to create a more thorough understanding and awareness of crime prevention and best safety practices. 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 and community organizations, we create a strong awareness, expand law presence and help reduce crime.

APRCWA 2024 Membership Renewal Deadline—August 1, 2023

A quick reminder the August 1st Renewal Deadline is fast approaching.

Please ensure your latest Proof of Filing from Corporate Registries, Completed and Signed Membership Form and payment is on the APRCWA desk before the August 1st deadline.

A copy of the receipt will be forwarded upon receipt of the completed membership renewal documents. If your organization has not received an email of the receipt either the funds have not been received or documentation is incomplete. The option of e-transfer to treasurer@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca is available as Canada Post mail can take a couple weeks to a month or better to arrive.

After August 1st you may still be a member of the APRCWA by providing a copy of your privately purchased Liability Insurance Certificate, Completed Membership Form and Renewal Fees of \$250.00.

The 2024 Membership Renewal information will have been received in the inbox of your listed contact email address for the organization.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact myself or your Zone director and we would be happy to assist.

Have a great day and I look forward to receiving your renewal documents.

Verna Hart

Treasurer, Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association

treasurer@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca