

Winter Newsletter

President's Report

It was with knowledge of the shoes I had to fill and with the support of the Board of Directors; I accepted the President position earlier this year. I would like to give a huge shout-out, and thank you, to Cor De Wit for his leadership, dedication and commitment to the APRCWA in his years as President and thank him for all the work he has put in supporting and being a wonderful Ambassador for the APRCWA.

With my taking on this role, Cor De Wit now has the Past-President position and Shannon Pakula is now Vice-President. The balance of the Executive has remain unchanged with Corinna Williams remaining as Secretary and Verna Hart has agreed to remain in the Treasurer position.

The Board of Directors has continued to meet on a monthly basis, excepting the summer months, to keep the business of the Association moving forward, updating and maintaining our Social Media presence and looking towards the future. Once change this year, was the Board did partake in a couple of Strategic Planning sessions over the summer months to set new goals and ideas for the coming years. At these sessions, some of the ideas and initiative that came about were:

- Develop Webpage landing pages for all Members to be able to have a web presence. This will allow all Members to upload events, notices and advertise their Association to the public. This page will be linked to the Member information on the interactive Map and APRCWA Member Association will be assigned an APRCWA email address as well. More details to come as this rolls out. Note: Microsoft has donated the email addresses for the landing pages. This is a BIG donation from Microsoft and we appreciate it greatly.
- Another initiative, in the effort to increase the APRCWA Communication, with the Members is to provide "Member only" communication in the form of a fan out email. This communication will have information that is only being released and shared with the Members and is intended for flow down to and share with their members. Information regarding Granting opportunities, news and other items will be shared. This email will be sent to all of the Member Executive in an attempt to have a wider distribution to the Members emails.

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- While we have a very visible Web site, which is being viewed by individuals in the US and Yukon, and is a great resource for Crime Prevention, the Board has agreed it needs an update. All of the information will still be available, along with new resources, it will be updated to be more organized and have the information easier to find.

As President, I was invited to represent the APRCWA to be a part of the Community Lead Association collaborative meetings being hosted by RCMP K Division. My self and a couple of other Board Members have been taking part in these meetings which also include representatives from ACCPA, C.O.P. and Crime Stoppers. The purpose of these meetings is to collaborate on Crime Prevention initiatives and messaging, in the Province and coordinate messaging themes throughout the year. As this group represents various levels of Community, Rural and Remote Rural, Municipal Government, and Urban areas, the messaging is tailored to the need of each group. Crime Prevention by Environmental Design has been one of the main topics of discussion and how each of the Groups sees this concept applying to their Organizations. I am looking forward to seeing this in action in the near future.

We have an update regarding the RCMP involvement with APRCWA. We have a new K Division Liaison Officer; Cpl Mike Fulton has stepped into Sgt. Martin Girard's position as Sgt Girard is on leave. The Board has started working with Cpl Fulton and find him to have fresh energy and great ideas. He is eager to support us and has a long standing working relationship with all of the Alberta RCMP Detachments as he has transferred from the Serious Crimes Unit. We are looking forward to working with him.

APRCWA AGM and Crime Symposium will be hosted by APRCWA in Nisku in March 2024. We have been able to confirm some dynamic Speakers, for this event, as well as some fun with the Silent Auction. More information is available later in this Newsletter. Mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you in Nisku, AB in March 2024.

I want to thank you, our Members, so much for the work that you continue to do, in your Communities in the name of Crime Prevention. The Board and I welcome your ideas and please let us know what you would like to see more information on in the future.

Thank you,
Rosemary

Rosemary Lindsay
APRCWA President president@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca
aprcwa@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca



Website Report 2023



Mobile devices have gained a permanent spot in our lives and are the primary vehicle in which we communicate and interact with each other. Our website and social media goals reflect this reality, with Google ads still being our primary focus followed by email, Facebook and Instagram.

In conjunction with our core Google ad campaign this year, we ran a special project the month of December targeting vehicle theft in two high theft areas identified by the RCMP. Vehicle theft is still the number one crime in rural Alberta with over 40% of the stolen vehicles having the keys left in them. Public parking areas were a focus. Vehicles left running while you run in for something. If we could just get everyone to lock their cars how we could change the landscape. It trickles all the way down from, if it is harder to steal a vehicle it

becomes harder to commit a crime and not be identified.

Our website has seen continued growth in both the people that source information and information presented. Last year we saw over 29 thousand visits to our website from a combined 8.3 million viewings of our social media. The month of December alone produced 15,500 visits to the website from 1.57 million viewings of our ads. The takeaway from this shows the potential of reach that is available have we the budget.

The website is constantly under change, adding new information and resources and reorganizing it to make information easier to find. This past year our focus was on youth and providing both parents and youth, resources to navigate the landscape.

An email campaign we started this fall is a bimonthly email to all the executive of the associations with pertinent information. This should help with missed information not making to all the executives.

Something new coming in 24 is a landing page for all the associations, tied to the map. The page will have all your contact information, will have a generic email that the public can reach you at. You will be able to go in and add your own material to it. We are going to promote becoming a member, direct them to your page, to enter their information. In 24 we will promote membership and drive traffic to you.

Visit the website often and explore the pages, you are sure to find something relevant to your world and what is going on around you.

Dean Hart

APRCWA Website Coordinator

website@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

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.

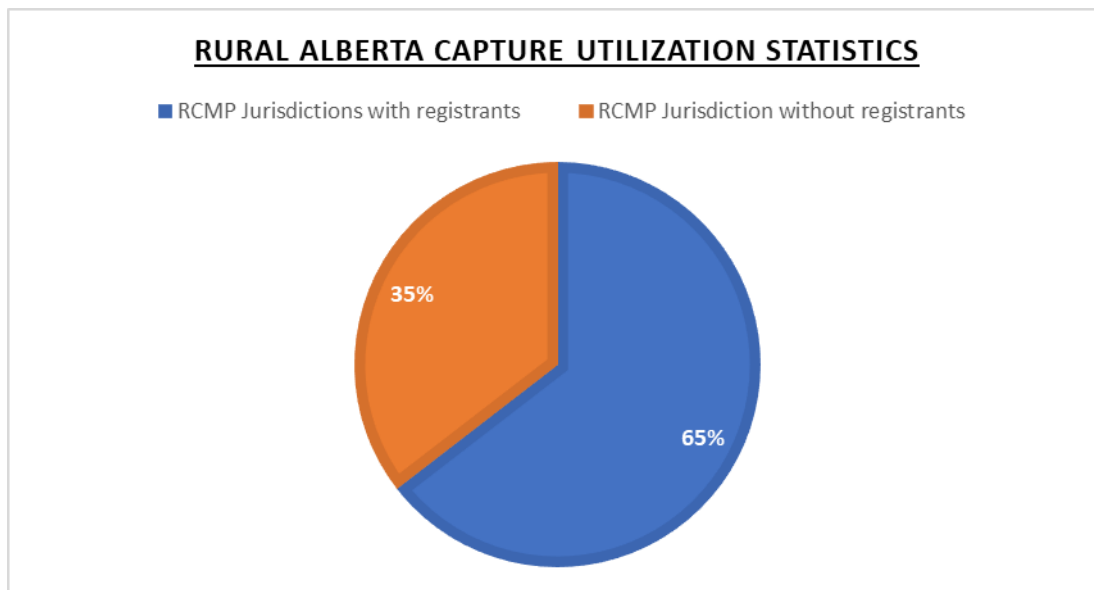
SUPPLIES: Lee Kasper
supplies@ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

K-Division CAPTURE Program

CAPTURE (Community Assisted Policing Through Use of Recorded Evidence) is a voluntary surveillance camera registry allowing residents and businesses who have their own security cameras to register the location of their cameras with the RCMP. CAPTURE reduces the time it takes a police officer to search for and gather video evidence by providing them with a map of registered security cameras in the area of a crime scene. If an investigator believes a registered camera may have captured video that could assist in their investigation, they will contact the owner using the email or phone number they provided when they signed up and arrange for viewing/ collection of the video footage.

Local versions of CAPTURE have been in place for several years in a number of Alberta communities, including Sylvan Lake and Red Deer. In an effort to expand this service to the rest of Alberta, the Rural Alberta CAPTURE program was created and launched in June of this year. So far, we have seen great participation within the program from communities and RCMP detachments across the province.

For reference, Rural Alberta CAPTURE is the designated registry for 93 separate RCMP jurisdictions within Alberta. Of those 93 jurisdictions, 60 are actively utilizing the program (65%) meaning that there are residents or businesses from communities within those RCMP jurisdictions that have registered cameras on the CAPTURE program. We are extremely thankful for the level of participation we have received from Albertans thus far as this program would not be a success without you!



K-Division CAPTURE Program

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This strategy is another way the Alberta RCMP are working with communities to help solve crime faster, together, with an overall goal of improving the safety and well-being of those communities. By providing video footage to police during an investigation, residents and businesses can play a crucial role in increasing the chance of a successful prosecution.

If you would like to register your home or business' security cameras with CAPTURE, visit www.ruralalbertacapture.ca and create an account. From there you can enter your contact information and the location of your video cameras on the secure site. Registrants are able to delete their account at any time without their personal information being retained. Access to your personal information is strictly limited to authorized RCMP employees. For more information, contact KCAPTURE@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.



 **Register your security camera**

Help police investigate crimes and keep your community safe.

The registry is voluntary and secure. Sign up and help protect your property, your family and your community.

REGISTER YOUR CAMERA(S) AT
ruralalbertacapture.ca



Alberta Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services



Alberta Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services is pleased to report the recent fulfillment of officer vacancies across the province with the hiring and placement of 19 new officers. To facilitate the ongoing Fish and Wildlife officer recruiting needs across western Canada, a cross-jurisdictional recruiting/training academy model known as the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy (WCLEA) is used. Qualified applicants are interviewed and only those who meet eligibility criteria are invited to WCLEA. Held annually in spring/summer as a focussed 16-week training program, the

WCLEA model achieves efficiencies with participating agencies by sharing common resources such as budgets, facilities, equipment, instructors, and best practices in training. Agencies partnering in WCLEA include Saskatchewan, BC, Manitoba, Yukon, and Alberta.



Operated as a paramilitary academy, there are protocols for structure and consistency. An officer in charge (OIC) is appointed by the home jurisdiction and seconds in command (2IC) are supplied by other jurisdictions. Strict rules and chain of command are enforced by the OIC/2IC to instill pride, integrity, honesty, leadership, humility, and professionalism in the recruit officers.

WCLEA courses delivered are designed for the vocation of a fish and wildlife officer as required for appointments to conduct a wide range of law enforcement functions while other courses focus on

problem wildlife management and control. Additional courses are geared to travel and rescue with respect to the many modes of transportation and the physical environments that an officer will be deployed. Examples of training at WCLEA include emergency vehicle operations, firearms (pistol, shotgun, rifle), investigator (arrest, search, seizure, interviewing, case file mgmt., etc.), boat operations, swift water rescue, 4x4 operations, verbal judo, ATV operation, human-wildlife conflict, defensive tactics/use of force, snowmobile, ice safety, wildlife chemical immobilization cross-

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Alberta Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services

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cultural awareness and others. Each 16-week academy culminates with a traditional formalized graduation ceremony which includes pipes and drums, colour party, troop inspection by dignitaries and badge presentations.

Below is a list of Alberta's newest Fish and Wildlife officers and current postings. Each of these men and women have worked very hard to achieve their personal and professional goals involving a chosen career in law enforcement and to conserve and protect Alberta's public resources. Don't miss an opportunity to say "hello" and discover common ground with your new local Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer.

Danika WITTENBERG	Barrhead
Michael ENNS	Bonnyville
Mackenzie HARRISON	Claresholm
Chaz PERRY	Cochrane
Carter MARTINDALE	Cold Lake
Harrison PRONICK	Drayton Valley
Darien SAGER	Drumheller
Brandon MILLINGTON	Edmonton
Nathan JANZEN	Fort McMurray
Riley SCHAFFRICK	Fort Vermilion
Simon SHARP	Hinton
Ethan HAWLEY	Lethbridge
Tristan UNREINER	Slave Lake
Chase COOPER	Smoky Lake
Jebidiah SHPAKOWSKI	St. Paul
Tanner TAYLOR	Strathmore
Logan UNREINER	Valleyview
Anthony JONES	Vermilion
Dawson ROSENKE	Wetaskiwin

Submitted by:

Alberta Fish and Wildlife Enforcement
Services

Sheriffs Branch, Public Security and
Emergency Services



Community Led Partnership Group

This year the RCMP initiated a community led Partnership Group, as part of the Community Safety and Wellbeing Division of the RCMP, to bring all the Crime Watch organizations to collaborate on crime prevention strategies. We held three meetings this year, May, Sept and December. ACOPA, ACCPA, Crime Stoppers, the RCMP and APRCWA had representatives present in these discussions. One of the takeaways has been to have a unified strategy for monthly crime reporting topics. A calendar was produced that we will use as we develop our social media and blog writings for this year.

A strategy that is being worked on is CPTED. There is discussion around building a training/presenters guide to access both training and actual CPTED assessments. This guide can then go out through our channels promoting its virtues and use along with where and how to access it.

A special campaign was developed to run the month of December targeting vehicle theft. APRCWA ran a special Google ads campaign targeting two high target areas in the province. Since 40% of all stolen vehicles have the keys left in them or are running. the message was “Lock it or Lose it.” So far the program is deemed as very successful.

This collaboration has been a significant benefit for us. We sure look forward to more meetings in the coming months and years. It has sure been a good way to build some relationships with the various departments in the RCMP.



Fortis Alberta Copper Wire Theft – More Than a Pretty Penny

They call it the ‘red gold rush’. And in the last two years, utilities across north America say it’s a growing safety and security threat. Theft of copper wire from FortisAlberta’s electricity distribution system costs millions and damages the integrity and reliability of delivering power to your home or business.

Crime is driven by the world market price for copper which has soared 400 per cent in the past five years. Copper is the most valuable non-ferrous metal. Utilities are not the only targets. Construction, oil and gas companies, municipalities and other businesses are also common victims of crime.

In 2022, FortisAlberta had nearly 380 thefts. Along with the considerable cost of repairing our power poles, wires, transformers and other assets, is the cost of the environmental clean up which averages \$15,000 per site.

When energized services are vandalized, not only is there potential for injury and death to those committing the crime, but also to workers and innocent victims who may come upon energized lines when trying to make repairs.

The safety of our customers, communities and employees is our number one priority. So, FortisAlberta has partnered with the RCMP and other local law enforcement agencies. We are asking crime agencies and volunteers for help as well by reporting any suspicious activity to local law enforcement. This includes:

- Non-branded employees and vehicles working around a pole or transformer
- Downed lines that appear to be ‘cut’ or ‘dragged’ to the ground
- Broken poles or open transformers



Please do not put yourself at risk by approaching anyone who you feel might be suspicious. Assume all downed lines are energized and stay 10 metres away. Ask law enforcement to contact the utility. If you have questions, FortisAlberta Contact Centre agents will be happy to help 24/7 at 310-WIRE (9473).

We appreciate all volunteer crime agencies and know that by working together with our 1,300 employees around the province, we can keep the system safe and lights on for the over half-million customers that FortisAlberta serves.

For more information on scrap metal, wire and equipment theft or vandalism, the Government of Alberta has outlined the steps to reporting incidents, the legal requirements as a buyer or seller of metals, as well as the penalties when caught engaging in illegal metal theft.

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

The Strathcona County Crime Watch Association continued to connect with the community in 2023.

SCCWA president Bonny Burton said - as of October - a total of 62 RCMP information fan outs were emailed to the 517 members registered with the group.

She told the SCCWA annual general meeting at the Strathcona RCMP detachment on November 2 that the association's Facebook page has 3,371 followers.

The association's website (www.strathconacrimewatch.ca) also provided important information about the SCCWA to keep residents of the county informed.

Burton said the website includes; monthly themed safety and awareness topics, membership information and forms, ability for members to email executive, RCMP releases, a photo gallery and links to SCCWA's partners and their websites.

During 2023 the SCCWA participated in a handful of high-profile events including; the Chamber of Commerce Great Canadian Trade Fair, the Ardrossan Safety Fair, the ACCPA Conference, the RCMP Bike Rodeo, the RCMP and Enforcement Services Golf Tournament, the Ardrossan

Parade and the South Cooking Lake Trail Days Parade. In March, Burton attended the Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association Annual General Symposium in Peace River.

Looking ahead, the SCCWA president said the executive and members will continue to play a key role in crime prevention across Strathcona County.



Members of the Strathcona County Crime Watch Association executive joined members of the Strathcona County RCMP and Enforcement Services at the Ardrossan Parade in June.

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Members of the Strathcona County Crime Watch Association executive joined members of the Strathcona County RCMP and Enforcement Service at the South Cooking Lake Trail Days Parade in August.

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She said, "As we move forward into 2024 we will strive to achieve the goals and objectives set out by the committee, focusing on community crime prevention and awareness and recruitment of members to the Crime Watch program. We will continue to network and connect with community partners and like-minded groups."



The RCMP Musical Ride was held in Ardrossan in June.

Flagstaff Rural Crime Watch Society

Contact Information

Email :

flagstaffruralcrimewatch@gmail.com



Flagstaff Rural Crime Watch Society

Celebrating 7 Years of Education and Crime Prevention

As we start our seventh year, we've had a chance to look back at what we have accomplished in 2023.

The Canadian Firearms Safety courses that we've hosted has had 167 graduates since May of 2022. For a time, it seemed that we had hit the limit of interest, however we were asked again about having more classes and have a January 2024 course scheduled.

Our information pamphlet was approved by the RCMP and sent to the printer. We distributed over 2000 of the pamphlets into mail boxes within Flagstaff County. We've had great feedback from the residents. Future pamphlets are being planned and we will reach out to the public to get feedback for topics they'd like information about.

The webcam registry program is still in the works. By the time the RCMP had made the decision to roll out the CAPTURE program province wide, our platform and web design had been completed and funded. We plan to have the registry set up in early 2024.

Catalytic converter theft continues to be a province wide problem. Kim Cannady, president, visited all the mechanical shops within Flagstaff County. He provided a letter, explaining the program. Most of the businesses are willing to participate. We are providing window decals (see attached), along with engravers if the business requires one.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT WHEN AND HOW TO REPORT A CRIME



The front cover of our pamphlet

We continue to seek opportunities to educate the public about all forms of crime.

Self defence classes and a ICE presentation from Detective Kerry Shima are planned for 2024. Our Facebook page is the best way we have of sharing important information in the most timely manner.

Leduc Rural Crime Watch

Leduc Rural Crime Watch

Contact Information

Email :

LeducRuralCrimeWatch@gmail.com

Time to resurrect the Rural Crime Watch mission and movement!

It is time for the rural crime watch movement to help the community deal with crime through crime prevention tools and techniques. We have the tools; we just need the volunteers and the motivation to get the job done!

Leduc RCW, (Leduc Rural Crime Watch) held a public tamper resistant license plate mounting screw exchange event August 19 in Leduc. Our first public event since COVID19 had everything shut down.

With the assistance of the Leduc RCMP and Leduc Bylaw officers we exchanged 36 vehicles over to a tamper resistant mounting screw. We had a problem with the scheduling as the forest fire evacuation was in full swing as well. Two positive benefits of the event were the RCMP and Bylaw officers getting out in the public and Leduc RCW also putting our name out into the public. We also gave away pencils for the kids as a reminder of what we do in the community.

Because we only had 36 participating citizens, and it was the middle of August, we decided to do another event September 16 at the RCMP Detachment parking lot on a Saturday. The resulting change in venue and time of year resulted in 42 additional installations, making a total of 78 secured license

plates in the community. It is a start and we have plans to continue into the next year.

We also resurrected our CPTED presentations in the fall of 2023. Our first one was at Strawberry Hall near Thorsby, with an enthusiastic group of Neighbors that had lots of questions for us and the RCMP in attendance. We finally shut down the event at 9 pm. A second presentation / exhibiter was

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held at a community awareness meeting put on by the county. A very good response to our exhibit items on crime prevention, and we were visible.

I have included some pictures of the License plate event as well as the signage that we made to be used for this project. Feel free to copy any item for your groups use.





Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association
2024 Crime Symposium/Annual General Meeting
March 15th and 16th, 2024

Friday – March 15th, 2024

Registration, Networking, Meal, Cash Bar and Speaker -

Speaker – Cpl. Brad McIntosh – K Division RCMP

Addictions to Fentanyl and Effects on Crime

Saturday March 16th, 2024

The Crime Symposium and AGM

Speakers:

Sgt. Kerry Shima – Internet and Child Exploitation Unit- K Division RCMP

Child and Internet Exploitation and Safety

Dr Richard Jobin – Alberta Fish and Wildlife DNA Forensic Lab

DNA and Forensics role in Investigations and Convictions

Silent Auction – Watch for more information in early 2024.

Location

Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites Edmonton Airport Nisku

1100 4th Street Nisku AB

Call 1 877 660 8550

or

Book Online at [Crime Symposium 2024](#)