



Rural Crime Watch News – April 2019



Monthly Update to Members of Cochrane Foothills Protective Association

AGM REPORT CFPA held the Annual General Members' Meeting on April 6, 2019. We were happy to welcome CFPA Members and members of the public. It was also an honour to welcome Blake Richardson, MP – Banff Airdrie, Cam Westhead- MLA -Banff- Cochrane. It was terrific to welcome MD of Big Horn Deputy Reeve, Paul Clark. We also welcomed Ed Schrottner and Ed Kitt from Jepsen Petroleum, which has been partnering with CFPA for the past 3 years.

- **Blake Richardson MP**, brought greetings from Parliament and congratulated CFPA on the work that has been done towards Crime Prevention in rural communities. He presented a Certificate of Recognition to the CFPA Board. The picture is below.
- The CFPA thanked Blake for his support with the mailbox thefts and vandalism issue that has been occurring in Rocky View County. CFPA Director Samantha Wright reached out to Blake for discussion and awareness of the concerns. Blake's support and availability has provided communication at the Federal level to work towards sourcing solutions for this challenge.
- **Cam Westhead MLA** brought greetings from the legislature and applauded CFPA in their efforts to support crime prevention in the County and their Communities. He mentioned that coupled with the RCMP initiative, the Rural Crime Watch program and CFPA can continue to contribute, significantly, to continued crime prevention education and reduction in Rocky View County.
- **Paul Clark, Deputy Reeve for MD Bighorn**, brought greetings from the MD and commended the CFPA on their growth over the past few years, and commended the Board on managing this growth. As a former CFPA Director, he appreciates the work that has been done and the commitment from the current Board. He encouraged everyone to talk with their neighbours and to get involved in the CFPA and Rural Crime Watch program.

The business meeting commenced with the Community Partners introductions and reports.

- Cochrane RCMP Detachment – Cst. Nathan MOORE has been assigned to new duties, within the Detachment and **Cst. Mark SEAMAN** is now our new Liaison Officer. Mark provided a summary on his tenure with the Cochrane RCMP Detachment and is looking forward to working with the CFPA Board. He provided a report, later on in the meeting, on the current stats for the Cochrane Detachment and indicated there has been a modest decrease in some crimes. For a full copy of this report, please email info@cfparcw.ca and a copy can be emailed out to you.
- Cochrane Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch – **Officer Matthew Visentin**, who is the Liaison Officer for Fish and Wildlife, provided a brief report on the activities of the Branch and encouraged everyone to report suspicious hunting and trespassing activity to the Report A Poacher line. F&W have the most success with enforcement and charges on incidents that are



called in promptly by the public. While the Officers do regular patrols, he mentioned the broad area they have to cover and need the extra eyes and ears to help them know when illegal activity is taking place.

- **Ed Schrottner**, from Jepson Petroleum welcomed all in attendance and explained the benefit of the partnership between Jepson Petroleum and the CFPA through the Drivers Awareness Program. All of Jepson's fuel delivery trucks are equipped with dash cams and are in contact with dispatch while on the road. This supports the reporting of suspicious activity and capturing digital images for use by the RCMP or other Law Enforcement agencies, should it be needed.

Highlights from the Business meeting include:

- CFPA received grant funding from Rocky View County that lead to the development of the CFPA Website.
- CFPA also received grant funding from the MD of Bighorn to support the development and maintenance of the CFPA Website.
- Membership has grown in the past year. We have experienced more than a 10% increase in Membership.. This indicates more Rocky View County residents becoming involved in contributing to a safe community and learning more about crime prevention strategies.
- Website is up and running and you can now download the Membership and Sign forms from the site. These can be emailed to info@cfparcw.ca to become a Member or order Signs. CFPA now accepts e-transfer payments and these can be sent to payment@cfparcw.ca . CFPA is set up for auto deposit so no password is needed.
- Reporter – each member is now set up with an access to Reporter – CFPA's on-line reporting tool for members. This was developed so Members could log suspicious activity, after reporting to the RCMP. Members can log in as see what has been reported in their area.
- Fan Out system – CFPA is researching ways to enhance sending fan outs to the Members. We are investigating a “push communication” system that will have the capacity to provide text, email and phone notifications. More to come.
- Trace Pen – through “Project Lock UP” recently launched by Alberta “K” Division of the RCMP, the Trace Pen is now available. It is a micro dot marking pen that provides identification of personal equipment and belongings. This unique marking is registered through the Trace Pen database. The RCMP can identify who the owner is by tracing back the micro dot to the owner. More info to come on this as well.

Board of Directors (and officers elected by Board at a later meeting) for the 2019 term are: Rosemary Lindsay, President; Brad Jones, Vice President; Amanda Glover, Secretary; Bob Bleaney, Treasurer; Gayle Watson, Membership and Signs; Samannatha Wright, Director; and Will Glover, Director.

Thank you to retiring Directors, Jim Willson and Kelly Smith for your support and commitment to the Board over the past years. We look forward to working with you, outside of the Board function, on various projects.

Certificates of Recognition were provided to:

- Paul Clark – Past CFPA Director



Kelly Smith – Past CFPA Director



- Gayle Watson – for 20 years dedication as CFPA Secretary
- Jim Willson – Retiring CFPA Director

Following the Business Meeting

- The new Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Video was presented. This video 'What is Alberta Rural Crime Watch' is available at <https://www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca/resources/videos-media> .
- A presentation on navigating the new website was presented by Brad and Bob along with an update on the enhancements that have occurred in Reporter.
- We held a panel discussion, Collaboration and Communication – Sharing of information to enhance the existing Rural Crime Watch Program in which we discussed the Rural Crime Watch Program and the Citizens on Patrol Program; the similarities and differences. Bill Zuck and Duane Bailey, from Cochrane Citizens on Patrol provided a presentation on the C.O.P. program, requirements, process and commitment required. This was an informative session which discussed the difference of active patrols and expectations, and reporting of suspicious activity, done by C.O.P. and the passive patrols and reporting of suspicious activity as mandated by the Rural Crime Watch program. While each has a role to play in crime prevention, in a community, the approach is quite different and requires different levels of commitment from their respective Membership.

Writer this issue Rosemary Lindsay



L to R – Jim Willson, Gayle Watson, Brad Jones, Blake Richards, Bob Bleaney, Rosemary Lindsay