



Alberta Association of Police Governance

The P/G Post

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Photo Enforcement Saves Lives AAPG Pitches Minister To Boost Use



A T-bone crash, the most deadly. Speed at time of this collision: 90 km/hr. Crash severity, and the likelihood of injury or death, increases with speed.

will allow their use. Alberta's police commissions and committees have called on the government for change.

Members of the Alberta Association of Police Governance, at their semi-annual conference here at the end of April, passed a resolution calling for changes to provincial policy to allow greater use of photo enforcement technology.

the number of T-bone injury collisions have been virtually cut in half."

In a resolution passed Sunday by AAPG delegates the association called for a change in provincial policy to allow for what is referred to as speed-on-green. With minor adjustments red light cameras are capable of recording vehicles speeding through an intersection.

"There is a direct correlation between speed and collision severity," Mr. Wilms said. "The reason we are unable to take full advantage of photo technology, and introduce speed-on-green and other techniques, is that the province requires a person to monitor speed cameras." (Pole-mounted red light cameras are installed beside a roadway prior to an intersection.)

Strathcona County and Calgary have both experimented with speed-on-green technology and identified a sig-

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Fort Saskatchewan – Someone died today in a vehicle collision on a roadway in Alberta. Someone will die tomorrow and the next day and the next.

Technologies are available and capable of preventing some of those road deaths if the provincial government

"Over 400 people will die on Alberta's roadways unless we do something," Ian Wilms, president of the association told delegates.

"Red light cameras in Calgary have brought an end to fatal, right-angle, T-bone collisions at intersections with red light cameras," Mr. Wilms said. "And

Delegates ponder range of issues

Conference discusses crystal meth to red-light cameras

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Fort Saskatchewan – From the horror that is a crystal meth lab to the near invisibility of cyber crime to the challenge of public complaints against the police; delegates got an ear-full at the spring conference of the Alberta Association of Police Governance.

Delegates dished it out too! At AAPG's general meeting, following the conference, the association called

on the province to expand photo enforcement technology. Members also urged for greater integration of policing resources and establishment of an institute to combat cyber crime.

Presentations to delegates ran the gamut. Detectives from Edmonton's drug squad added a new, dangerous face to meth-amphetamines.

The detectives noted that all the ingredients of meth are

legal as well as being poisonous, toxic, flammable, explosive, and corrosive. Crystal meth is bad enough for its users but production facilities can be dangerous for people nearby. And it goes on.

Equally deadly production residues are being dumped along rural roadways. Detectives commented on a woman walking her dogs along a rural road. The two dogs walked

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We live in fast changing times. In many ways we are incredibly fortunate to live in Alberta where we face challenges that other local governments merely dream about. Those challenges come from growth.

Our association is about grappling with growth challenges but also the day to day demands of policing in a dynamic province.

All too often I think we have difficulty grasping the reality that others are facing those same challenges. Sometimes they do so successfully, other times less so. The opportunity the association offers is the value of learning from each other.

Turn-over, changing membership, is always a mixed blessing for any group. Members come and go for personal reasons but by law we each face a maximum term.

With turnover come benefits but also significant loss. We gain experience, we lose experience. We gain insight, we lose insight. If we are to serve our communities, and avoid

the frustration of reinventing the wheel, we have to capture and preserve the assets that each of our members contribute.

Bringing together experiences is certainly a way of doing that. Sharing is also a way of keeping in front of change all around us.

I hope *The Post* is helpful and gives some insight. Compressing two days of discussions into four pages guarantees we will fall well short of what really happens during our meetings. So my hope is that this newsletter will simply serve to encourage you to participate or, if you were there, to recall some of your discussions and keep a sense of the benefit you gain from dialogue with your colleagues and others during the conferences.

If you have comments, suggestions, issues you'd like to see discussed drop me a note. Even better, join us at our August 19 general meeting in Edmonton after the Canadian Association of Police Boards' conference. The shared experience — that's what AAPG is about.

Welcome

Jan Wilms,
President

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Results show time has come for speed-on-green

nificant need for enforcement action. "It is really unfortunate that municipal and provincial policymakers have allowed themselves to be spooked by a very loud but very small minority who scream about photo enforcement being a *cash-cow*."

Mr. Wilms told delegates that objec-

tive, credible local, provincial, and national public opinion polls consistently show that by very large numbers Albertans support use of photo enforcement technology.

Polls show wide support

"When surveys provide the public with information on the results of photo enforcement, support gets even strong," Mr.

Wilms added.

Police management emphasize that manpower everywhere is stretched. Traffic section officers praise technology, such as photo enforcement, that makes it easier to have a positive and broader impact on traffic safety without affecting manpower. 🚓

Study Approves Calgary Complaint Process

It's a hot button issue just about everywhere — public complaints about the police.

One of the key functions of Alberta's police commissions and committees is oversight of the public complaint process.

Calgary's police commission seized the complaint bull by the horns in 2005 and called in independent consultants to examine the complaint system and report back.

The police commission's Public Complaint Director, Marilee Murgatroyd, provided the spring conference with a briefing on the report that found the Calgary Police Service complaint process is free of any barriers to access.

Deloitte and Touche Inves-

tigative Services, the forensic investigation service of the multinational consulting company, had high praise for the quality of work by the police service's Professional Standards Section.

Ms. Murgatroyd told the Saturday morning session that Deloitte was critical of

the number of hands through which investigation results must pass before a decision is made. The consultant said some results are reviewed by as many as 25 people within the Calgary Police Service.

Meanwhile, service executive counter that investigation results may pass through many reviews but the result is that few decisions by Chief

Jack Beaton are overturned in appeals to the Law Enforcement Review Board.

Deloitte had high praise for Calgary's complaint investigations. Ms. Murgatroyd said the consultants called investigations "top quality" and in some case beyond what the complaint warranted.

Investigations are "top quality"

Calgary's Professional Standards Section has some 1,400 contacts a year with only about 80 contacts proceeding to investigation. Ms. Murgatroyd noted that many complaints are resolved informally before they reach the formal, investigation stage.

Deloitte's report was delivered to the commission and released to the public in

March. During its research the consultants spoke to a wide range of individuals.

Ms. Murgatroyd said the two to three hour interviews included Calgary commission members, officials within the police service and the Law Enforcement Review Board as well as members of the public who responded to newspaper ads placed by the consultants.

A combination of designated and randomly selected files was assessed during the study. The consultants also spoke with the professional standards officials in Edmonton, Ottawa, and Vancouver.

Copies of the report are available directly from the Calgary Police Commission or at the commission's website. 🚓

Alberta Provincial Police

A concept whose time has still yet to come

Like the swallows returning to Capistrano or the buzzards to Hinkley Ridge, whenever the provincial policing agreement comes up for negotiation little birds begin landing on the concept of a provincial police force.

In 2006 the buzz is everywhere. Law enforcement sages point to sure signs like moss growing on the west side and wording in amendments to Alberta's *Police Act*.

Senior officials in the Solicitor General's department, the people who should know, firmly nixed the idea during the AAPG's spring conference in Fort Saskatchewan.

From the Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Law Enforcement, Brian Skeet, on down department officials rejected the idea of a return to the Alberta Provincial Police, disbanded in 1932.

Beth George, from the department, told the association's business meeting that the provinces have asked the federal government to open the current contract early for renegotiation. She said firmly that the province was looking to update the contract rather than replace the RCMP.

With support of K Division management, the province issued a request for proposals to undertake a value analysis study to look at a number of areas of the policing contract.

One long time provincial watcher said the subject of a provincial police force seems to come up regularly around contract renewal time. "All the local grievances come out of the woodwork," he added.

Local government officials and provincial politicians have more of a bone to pick with Ottawa than the local RCMP. Around the AAPG meeting commission and committee members expressed, with few exceptions, satisfaction with detachment personnel.

Launched on March 1, 1917, the Alberta Provincial Police became embroiled in the rum-running in the days of prohibition.

By 1931 the government, under economic pressure during the Great Depression, decided to cut costs rolling up APP. Like its counterpart, the British Columbia in 1953, APP's members

were taken in by the RCMP when it resumed provincial policing duties. ☹



An early Check Stop? Alberta Provincial Police at a rum-runner check point in the Crows Nest Pass circa 1925.

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Meth, cyber crime, public complaints make up busy agenda

through dumped waste and within hours both were dead.

AAPG President, Ian Wilms, shocked delegates with a briefing on cyber crime. The presentation, one Mr. Wilms has been showing to a large number of policymaker-audiences, included a segment from the CTV program W5 that showed just how easy and enormously profitable cyber crime has become.

Delegates later called for action by

provincial legislators urging passage of disclosure legislation requiring information holders to disclose security breaches.

While public complaints against police may be less dramatic, they are nevertheless a challenge especially for Alberta's major urban police services. Calgary Public Complaints Director, Marilee Murgatroyd, provided an overview of a consultant's study of the complaints system at the Calgary Police Service.

The association's business session also passed a resolution urging great integration of policing resources to combat major crime. Director of Law Enforcement, Brian Skeet, earlier told delegates about a plan to address major crime through a joint provincial/city initiative funded by the province.

A fourth resolution calling on the province to fund an AAPG study of regional policing was tabled. ☹

We shall remember them . . .

Cst. Peter Schiemann • Cst. Leo Johnston • Cst. Brock Myrol • Cst. Anthony Gordon

Remember • Give Thanks • Contribute

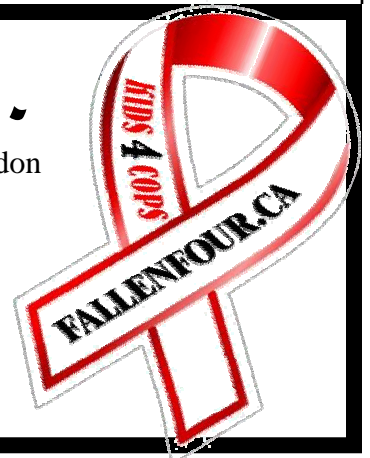
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Drugs now second fiddle

Cyber crime - way more than kiddie porn

By Ian Wilms & Brent Harding

An analysis

If it was an investment you would be delirious with a 345 per cent increase over three years. But a 345 per cent leap was in the number of child pornography sites on the Internet since 2002.

In every way cyber space has become about hyper-crime. And it's so big that reliable numbers are almost impossible.

Even the super-lucrative illegal drug trade has had to take a back seat to cyber crime that is estimated to generate over \$400 billion a year globally for its electronic participants.

Cyber crime has a mixed message. On the one hand governments have responded to an important aspect, child porn and child luring. Special Crown prosecutors have been appointed to follow cyber crime police units prosecuting those who prey on our children. So far these efforts have only succeeded in making cyber space a little less secure for cyber predators.

Reach out and rob some one

On the other hand, cyber crimes such as identity theft, fraud, and bank and credit card fraud are largely unprosecuted. Some countries, notably Australia and the United States, have been making inroads to protect their citizens but Canada still lags behind. Even worse for Canadians, businesses, notably the banks, refuse to co-operate.

Already stretched to the limit, the RCMP has few resources to tackle what is really a global crime wave. Cyber criminals operate with near impunity because they can operate from anywhere they can pick up a telephone. And with a connection to the Internet criminals can, to turn the old AT&T long-distance slogan, reach out and rob some one.

To the layman it may seem that cyber crime is at last the perfect crime. Money missing from a bank account, unauthorised charges to a credit card; where is the conventional

evidence of a crime? And the criminal? The could be your neighbour's daughter or son; the teen who always seems to be at their computer.

As much as cyber crime may seem like an almost hopeless situation, there is a certain truth to the saying about clouds with a silver lining.

Earp Made Dodge City Safe

Taking back the Internet from on-line crooks requires a bundle of initiatives. A key aspect of the initiative has to be dedication of investigative and prosecutorial resources to the task of making the electronic world safe. Making Dodge City safe required hiring Wyatt Earp who cleaned up.

In cyber space cleaning up means prosecutions but taking out the bad guys requires co-operation between jurisdictions locally, nationally, and internationally. Any gap in the virtual world and the bad guys will pour through.

Investigative and prosecutorial resources are one aspect but, oddly enough, disclosure, actually reporting the crime, is another crucial step. Banks, credit bureaus, and other businesses in e-commerce tend to keep the crime to themselves.

Seize a unique opportunity

At its spring conference APPG passed a resolution urging the province to seize a unique opportunity created by cyber crime protectorate. Cabinet ministers and members of the government caucus have been urged to establish a cyber crime centre to focus investigative resources but also to research cyber crime.

The oil industry has made Alberta a big user of computing time so developing a centre of excellence to combat cyber crime is a logical extension of our expertise.

Cyber crime, whether it is pornography or theft or any of the other crimes that fall into this category, may be prevented, detected, and prosecuted. 🚓

Checking out CAPB in August?
Check out AAPG's annual meeting,
same place, same weekend!

Call for details

The PG Post

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Thanks!

*To the members of the Fort
Saskatchewan Policing Committee*

Terry Noble, Chantelle Robertson, S/Sgt Chuck Jackson,
Judy Duncan, Josie Krokis, Rosanna Frey, Coreen Karst &
Bob Stonehouse

We appreciate your hard work and warm hospitality as hosts of a great spring conference!

AAPG's members across the province