



The

Alberta Provincial Rural Crime

CRIME WATCH CONFERENCE

February 22-24, 2007 in
Grande Prairie, Alberta at the
Grande Prairie Regional College

The Alberta Provincial Rural Crime
Watch **Annual General Meeting** will
be held on the afternoon of
February 24, 2007 at this location.

*For the social following the annual
general meeting - see the poster
and map inside your packages for
details. Registration to Bonnie in
the office, please. (780-422-0922).*

Message from the President – Frank Debogorski

*Once again the year has flown by, and many of us sit
and wonder where the time has gone and what we
have accomplished. In our rural communities we
have stood by our neighbours, supported each other
through difficulties and celebrated their successes.
This is not restricted to rural environments, however
it's a given that we are more dependent on each
other because of where we live. As members of the
many rural crime watch associations around the
province we are have the extra 'burden' of
responsibility for everyone – taken on gladly as we
know that we all benefit. To all of you – Board
members, honorary members and each individual
member of all those associations, thank you for your
caring, giving natures and your sense of community.
We are stronger because we work together. My
family and I wish you and yours all the blessings of
the coming holiday season and the very best of
everything you desire in 2007.*

Deadlines for Submission to the Bulletin:

**March 15, June 15, September 15
and November 15**

Contact the APRCWA Office

Address: #305, 7000-113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5H 5T6

Phone: (780) 422-0922 or Rite
Nbr: 310-0000 (ask for the 422 #)

Fax: (780) 644-7474

Email: aprcwa@interbaun.com
www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca



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**Thank you to UFA Co-operative Limited,
our sponsor for providing the printing and
envelopes for this publication.**

**Submitted by the Farmer's Advocate
Office.**

New Plan to Deal with Surface Lease Concerns For
Rural Albertans

The Farmers' Advocate Office continues to receive calls that sound like this, "The landman is coming in an hour, what do I need to know before I sign a surface lease". The answer to this question is unless you have pre-planned oil and gas activity on your farm, you could be setting yourself up for failure.

As a rural landowner, you need to prepare for a surface lease negotiation. Unfortunately, we tend to get some concerns AFTER the landowner has signed the contract. At that point, you are usually hooped!, says Jim Kiss, Farmers' Advocate.

With the FAO's approach to business planning we are looking at more risk management for Alberta farms and ranches. As our Farmers' Advocate, Jim Kiss says, "It is not a matter of IF the landman comes calling, but rather WHEN".

Rural landowners need to pre-plan oil and gas activity as part of their business operation. Seeking out information that is available, such as the new publications the FAO will have available this Fall is a good source. These will include checklists and quick process maps to help understand what to expect in typical situations. We also work closely with the other agencies that act as a resource, such as the Alberta Energy & Utilities Board, Surface Rights Board, Utilities Consumer Advocate, Alberta Environment, Sustainable Resource Development, National Resource Conservation Board and all the great knowledge within Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development. So, if we don't have the information then we will find someone who does and provide you with those contacts.

How we are managing these requests is by educating rural Albertans on best practices prior to the landman knocking on the door. Therefore, we need to get as much information out in the communities prior to the energy activity as possible. This is some of the proactive support the FAO is providing as a service to rural Albertans. The FAO would much rather deal with the unusual circumstance that lands in the gray area because we have educated rural Albertans on the typical lease process. That means we are doing our job well and

making a difference for farmers and ranchers. It also allows us to discover more root cases issues and continually improve our services.

For more information contact:
The Farmers' Advocate Office
"Informing rural Albertans on how to inform
themselves"

www.agric.gov.ab.ca/farmersadvocate
780-427-2433

From the desk of Cpl. Dave Heaslip,
K Div Livestock North
1 780 289 5510
(Olds straight north to the NWT border)

I am available at any time to attend meetings in the rural area to give our members of the RCW an update on some of my investigations and some of the new and unusual developments on some of the new legislation:

**(ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT/LIVESTOCK
IDENTIFICATION AND COMMERCE ACT.**

There is an initiative in progress to enhance the relationship between the RCMP and RCW's to provide consistency between liaison officers at detachment level and the community at large.





CLOSED until further notice - or at least until the hunting season opens again. And...then depression sets in! But wait, there is a cure. Here are some seasonal tips to help keep that depression at bay! Take advantage of some of these ideas to extend your hunting season. Even better, this is a chance to continue to introduce new people to the outdoors and help them understand and appreciate some of the reasons why you enjoy hunting so much. Quality time with friends and family in the great outdoors – just what the Doctor ordered!

WINTER:

- **Shed hunting for antlers** keeps you outdoors and helps to better understand where those big bucks spend their time after they elude you in the fall. Depending on the conditions and amount of snow, you can start right after Christmas and “shed hunt” until May. Most avid shed hunters like to get out early and have their best success in March and April. Look under spruce trees or willow patches and walk the trails. It is a very rewarding and relaxing thing to do!
- **Edmonton Christmas Bird Count** – take part in the 58th Edmonton Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, December 17, 2006. Participants watch and count the maximum number of birds for each species seen in a day. You may do this either as a **Bush Beater**, a **Feeder Watcher** or as an **Owl Prowler**. Bush Beaters walk through the parks and streets within a defined area in their zone. Feeder Watchers record the maximum number of each bird species seen at any one time at their home. The Owl Prowlers head out and watch or listen for owls at night and dawn. Zone Captains instruct new participants how to report results. To get involved, contact the John Janzen Nature Centre at 496-2925.
- **Stump shooting with your bow and arrow**, this helps you practice judging distance and picking a target.

- **Trail clearing, maintaining trails and shooting lanes**, definitely an easier job to do in the winter!
- **Check trails and build brush walls** to funnel animal movements, hopefully to coincide with your tree stand location.
- **Take photographs or video**. This provides great entertainment and allows you to learn more about the wildlife and habitat.
- **Consider creating new nesting blinds for waterfowl**. Organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl and the Alberta Conservation Association are good sources to contact if you'd like to get involved in this.
- **Coyote calling** – practice predator calling and become adept at calling coyotes.

SPRING:

- **Go scouting for new country** – why not set out well before hunting season and look for new hunting areas?
- **Start asking for permission for new hunting ground** – Sometimes it can take considerable time to cultivate the necessary respect and approval from landowners who are willing to allow you access for hunting. Start early!
- **Get maps and start to do research on your hunting areas** – There is an old expression about “time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted” – this is very true about learning more about your hunting area. Early research also helps to identify if your area is targeted for any kind of industrial, oilfield or forestry work – it's not a pleasant surprise to head into your hunting area in the fall, only to find that the landscape has changed substantially.
- **Varmint/gopher shooting** – believe it or not, there are places that offer this type of hunting excursion. Most farmers are glad to have some help controlling the gopher population. This is a great hunting experience for first time hunters, as it provides lots of shooting practice!
- **Spend time at the range perfecting your rifle or archery aim**. The majority of us, just simply do not spend enough time practicing. I believe completely in the expression, “Most people are over-gunned and under-shot!” Spend time making sure that your shooting skills are in top shape.

SUMMER:

- **Tree stand maintenance and practice setting up stands** – check your stands to make sure they are in good condition and make any necessary repairs. Practice setting stands, which will make you more efficient when you want to quietly set a stand in a new hot spot.
- **Bird watching and feeding program** – many people find it very rewarding to feed and observe various birds at feeders. Various organizations offer programs that involve you as a formal "Feeder Watcher". Generally you are recording the number of each species on a specific date, keeping track of the amount of time that the feeder was watched and recording the number of people who watched the feeder.
- **Participate in the various shooting competitions**, whether it is skeet, trap, bench rest competitions or 3D archery.

We really are very fortunate that we live in a Province with so many outdoor activities to participate in year round. Take advantage of the opportunity to spend quality time with friends and family in the great outdoors – just what the Doctor ordered to get you through until the next hunting season!

Kelly Semple, Executive Director

Hunting For Tomorrow

87, 4003 - 98th Street, Edmonton, Alberta. T6E 6M8

Phone: 780.462.2444 Fax: 780.431.2871

E-mail: ksemple@huntingfortomorrow.com



Attention!!!

The Provincial Board would like to offer the individual members of each Rural Crime Watch in the Province the ability to obtain this news letter and other pertinent information directly to your home computer. We would like to build an e-mail base for sending this to you. All we require is your home email address and then the newsletter and information will come to you as a Bcc copy.

All that is needed is for you to send your email address to aprcwa@interbaun.com with a request that you be put on our email base. After this you can be the first in your area to receive all the new information.

Things are changing on our website too so go to

www.albertaruralcrimewatch.ab.ca and take a look. If there is something that you might like to see there then email us so we can look at your concerns.

This email base that is gathered will be in the sole possession of the Board and will not be sold nor distributed in anyway. All communications will be done as a Bcc.



Submitted by Dave Ferrier, Alberta Fish and Wildlife

WARDENS FOR WISHES CALENDARS ON SALE NOW!!

Support the Alberta Game Warden Association and The Children's Wish Foundation by purchasing a unique fundraising calendar (\$10 in person or \$13 if ordered off the website). All proceeds from the sale of the calendar will be donated to the foundation - your contribution will help make a child (battling a life threatening illness) wish come true!!

Visit your local Fish and Wildlife office, or log on to www.gamewarden.ab.ca and buy one from the AGWA Store!

Your support is appreciated, thank you from the Alberta Game Warden Association, and The Children's Wish Foundation of

Canada - Alberta / NWT Chapter

The Birth of a Charitable Program

The Wardens For Wishes program is only a little over a year old and already it's been responsible for granting wishes to Children with life-threatening illnesses.

In 2005 The Alberta Game Warden Association, a group that has been around for more than 30 years, conceived an idea. With little more than knowing where they wanted to end up, Fish and Wildlife Officers in Alberta decided that they wanted to reach beyond their traditionally recognized roles; they knew they wanted to support a worthy charitable cause. Which one? How would they go about achieving this commitment to an idea?

During their 2005 Annual General Meeting, a decision was made to create a fundraising calendar for 2006. Once the vehicle for fundraising was decided upon, the group was left with more decisions to make - what would be the theme for the calendar, and what charitable cause would be supported with the profits generated from the sale of the calendar? Discussion around the room soon settled on a theme. It was decided that the pictures to be included in the calendar would feature children outfitted in scaled down (miniaturized if you will) uniforms conducting various duties of an Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer.

With decision one made, discussion then turned to which worthy charitable cause would be the best to partner with; which cause would be approached as the benefactor of the work that dedicated Fish and Wildlife Officers in Alberta would work to support? As the theme of the calendar settled on children, it seemed logical that the charitable cause to be supported by the initiative would too need to focus on children.

The final decision of the day - approach the Alberta / NWT Chapter of The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada to assess their reaction to the proposed partnership. After a few phone calls were made, and a meeting attended, the relationship was forged and the Wardens For Wishes program was born.

In May 2006 The Alberta Game Warden Association donated a cheque in the amount of \$12,500.00 to The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada. Attending officers and their families were extremely proud to hear a wish foundation spokesman tell them that because of the donation at least one, and possibly two wishes for children would be fulfilled.

The Wardens For Wishes 2007 fundraising calendar was launched during The Children's Wish Foundation's Wishmaker Walk in Alberta on October 14. In talking with a mother that recently lost her daughter, officers learned more about the effects that a wish can have on a child, and on a family.

The mother confided that if only people knew what difference it made to a child - to their quality of life amid all of the battles that they fight each and every day - people would better understand the importance of such an organization. The families see a change in their children from the time when they are identified as a recipient of a wish, to the months, weeks, and days before receiving their wish, to all of the memories made with family during the granting of the wish. Members of the Alberta Game Warden Association are proud to support The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada through their Wardens For Wishes program, and will work toward establishing a similar program in each chapter area of The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada. To view the calendar, please visit our website at www.gamewarden.ab.ca to learn more about The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, please visit their website at www.childrenswish.ca to advertise in our next calendar, to sponsor our next calendar, or to become a vendor offering our calendar for sale, please e-mail Jason Hanson at agwapresident@telus.net

Story written by:

Jason Hanson
President
Alberta Game Warden Association

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For contact information please contact the
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