



ALBERTA FEDERATION  
OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

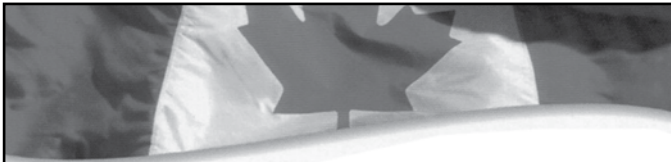
# ALBERTA POLICE BEAT

The Official Voice of the Municipal Police Associations in Alberta

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# From the Vice President

*Johnny Orr*

**H**ello everyone and welcome to the newest edition of the Alberta Federation of Police Associations magazine! As I write this, I am wondering where our summer went; and hope you got to spend time in the sunshine with family and friends!

Now, with fall upon us, it seems that our work lives are getting back into gear. Most of our colleagues are back from vacation and the kids are back in school. This is a great time to start new projects or reinvigorate old ones. It's no different here at AFPA. We will meet during the memorial weekend at the end of September in Edmonton and plan for the next few months.

This past year has been one full of surprising change for our province. A spring election brought us the "Orange Crush" and a brand new, majority, NDP government. I think that it's safe to say; all of us in the province were shocked by the outcome of the election, although it's clear that Albertans made a strong statement in support of change.

As a police officer, I had mixed feelings about this. As cops, I think we all share some "conservative" values, especially in the area of Crime and Justice. Any one of us who has had to comfort a victim in very difficult times, or visit fatal traffic collisions will understand that, quite often, the punishment does not fit the crime in this country. Conservative governments fit in very well with

these ideals. In Alberta in past years, Impaired Driving laws have strengthened, as have traffic laws. On a Federal level, this is even truer, with minimum mandatory sentences as well as the creation of more severe penalties for serious crimes.

That being said; there are several other conservative values that should not be appealing to police officers in Alberta. Gutting public sector pension plans and anti-union legislation are two "conservative" ideas that don't sit very well with most of us.

Given these reasons, I listened, as almost every police officer I know called out that the NDP majority would result is a complete apocalypse. The world as we knew it was going to end!!!! Everyone in Alberta would soon be unemployed, and Crime would run completely rampant.

Well; it's been six months and the sky has not fallen (don't get me wrong, these are difficult times, but you can't blame a new government for a world wide drop in oil prices!).

No matter what our personal opinions are, one of our jobs at AFPA is to build relationships with politicians at all levels of Government in a effort to advocate for positive change for our over 4,000 members.

And lets look at the "bright side" for a moment. During the over four decade Conservative rule in this province, a lot of things happened. Prior to 1992, our Pension Plan was administered (very poorly) by the Government of

the day. In 1992, the SFPP was created and with it came a massive unfunded liability, which we are still paying today (and are set to continue to pay until 2036). This same government took over the liability of the teachers pension plan, as they were quite a voting force. Just over 4,000 police officers must not have the same clout as we were never offered such a deal.

This was a government that made multiple attempts to change our pension plan, requiring police officers to work longer careers with less benefits (that bill died moments before it was supposed to pass).

We at AFPA (as well as the individual Associations) lobbied relentlessly in an effort to come up with a fair deal to make our pension sustainable. We were paid lip service, however the Finance minister of the day did not ever commit to assisting us with these efforts.

I am not saying that the NDP are going to fix all of our problems or that they will do a better job. All I can say is that we have a new group of people in charge and we have already started to build relationships with them. We will do our best to explain our issues and make attempts to work together to resolve them.

After years of getting nowhere, I am certainly willing to give them the benefit of the doubt; maybe we all should! ■

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Johnny O



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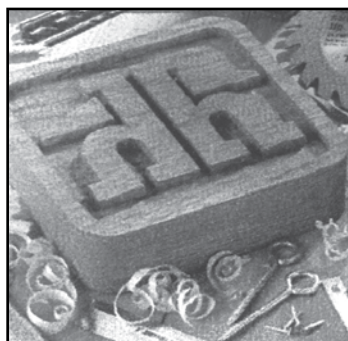
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# From the Treasurer/Secretary

Shane Kisinger

Greeting fellow brothers and sisters of the Alberta Federation of Police Associations. I would like to thank Brother Hubich for taking on the extra added responsibilities as editor for this magazine. Keep up the good work Darryl.

For my article I have included below an article written by a fellow officer and fellow use of force instructor Cst Jonathan Brunning. Jonathan and I had a very interesting conversation which revolved around fitness in policing. After this conversation Jon had raised some very valid points and I asked him if he would be willing to write an article for me on this topic. I have included the article below and would like to say thanks again Jon for writing it. ■

Shane Kisinger

Secretary for Alberta Federation of Police Associations.

## Fitness in Policing

Being a police officer for almost 5 years in Lethbridge has been a great experience. As I didn't start my career in policing until I was 29, it has been interesting comparing how my preconceptions of police have changed or stayed the same during that time. I think the general public really doesn't even think about policing much until a situation occurs and they need help. In those times, the public expects us to show up, take care of the situation, and help them regardless of the problem. As most officers would agree, in this aspect, the majority of our job is reactionary and

beyond our control. I think it is what makes policing both a lot of fun and, at times, dangerous. What also makes the job unique is it doesn't matter if a 5'3", 110 pound, officer shows up or a 6'7", 300 pound officer. Both are expected to handle the situation, whatever it is. I find this very interesting especially when it pertains to use of force which is why I believe fitness and training should be a higher priority for officers.

The world of policing and use of force has, especially within the last couple of years, become a big media item. There are numerous examples of police use of force becoming the headline in the news. I have no intention in discussing any of those specific incidents to say if something was justified or not and I am not implying fitness and training had anything to do with any of those incidents. Those stories did however make me think about how I would react in similar situations.

In Lethbridge we use the reasonable officer response model when it comes to use of force decision making and articulation. Without going into great detail, the model is based on the concept that given a situation and all the factors presented or known, the officer will be able to decide how to respond and articulate why they used the amount of force they did.

In any given situation there are three categories of factors in play; officer factors, subject(s) factors, and environmental factors. Logically thinking about these you start to realize the officer has very little control over the majority of factors involved in a situation. Things such as environment; light vs dark, icy vs dry, deserted street

vs in front of a bar. Obviously subject factors are beyond our control such as their size, motivation, history, intoxication level, fitness or training level and others. Even some officer factors can be beyond our control such as where is your backup or how many hours have you worked. The officer factors, however, is what I want to focus on because it is one of the only things we can guarantee some control over in every situation. Specifically, are you prepared for what you are about to face? Physically? Mentally?

Prior to starting with the police I had the assumption there was going to be some high standards when it came to the physical nature of the job. Fitness, firearms, and control tactics or fighting to put it plainly. I was a little shocked to find out once I completed my application and recruit training physical I literally never had to lift another weight or strap on a pair of running shoes if I chose not too. This bothers me because I see fitness as a necessity and responsibility of the job.

With so many things beyond our control, isn't it our responsibility to work on what we can control? Don't we owe it to ourselves, our families, our coworkers and the public who we are trying to protect?

As I mentioned before, routinely when on my way to calls or after hearing about a use of force confrontation in the news I will play a scenario through my mind to get a sense of what I would do. Obviously you will never be able to imagine an incident perfectly but there are numerous studies showing visualization of doing an action or making a decision makes you faster ▶

should that scenario occur. This is why visualization drills are ingrained in sports and high performance athletes. If you become faced with someone you have never dealt with but have role played the scenario in your mind, your ability to respond quicker is increased.

With the recent shootings of unarmed subjects by police I have thought a lot about that scenario. Should I ever be in that situation I would want to know for myself I did everything possible to avoid it. None of us do this job to take someone else's life unless we absolutely have no other choice. For myself, I would need to know that DESPITE my fitness level and training, I was afraid for my life and had no choice but to use my firearm. In order for me to say that with a clear conscious don't I need to have some acceptable level of fitness and training?

So what is fitness? There are many ways to define it but in our line of work I would define it as functional strength. The ability to make movements quickly and powerfully for an extended amount of time without gassing out. Think how explosive athletes train; football players, sprinters, hockey players, mixed martial artists. That is the sort of training that is functional for our job as well.

Is fitness enough? In some cases it may be but if you've never tried jiu jitsu or wrestling, or been punched in the head before, how do you know how you will react if it happens in the street or even recognize you may be in a very bad situation. I am not saying every police officer needs to be a mixed martial artist. What I am saying is, even if it doesn't interest you rolling around on a mat with someone trying to submit them or sparring with someone, I think it is essential to bettering yourself as a police officer. Even if you find a group of guys from the station and train once a month you

gain an appreciation for how hard it is and what your ability level is. Just the knowledge that, "Wow, I am terrible at wrestling", is invaluable on street as it could potentially change how you deal with a subject to avoid it. Not only that but you will now know what it looks like when a person is getting ready to take you down and may be able to avoid it altogether. Being in shape, of course, allows you to perform all these tasks more efficiently and without tiring out too quickly.

I believe one of the most important aspects of police training is knowing your own capabilities and having a realistic idea of your skill set. I say realistic because I think as police we tend to think we are super heroes and the "We Win" attitude in use of force training gives us a false sense of safety. Allowing an officer to do a scenario in training and calling it a win just to save their ego, helps no one. I agree, "We Win" every confrontation on the street but in a training situation it should be the place to test yourself and see where you may not win if you try certain things. For example, I am in decent shape but not a big guy. If in my mind, I felt like I should be going hands on with an assaultive subject twice my size rather than using a tool on my belt, training is a perfect spot for me to try that scenario, and most likely fail. That way, on the street, I realize I have some better options. Of course, size is the classic example because it is something we can see and measure. The hard part is dealing with subjects who may seem manageable but either due to drugs, motivation, or training in martial arts, become too much to handle hands on. The training room with your peers should be the spot where you try, fail, learn, and try again. Do you think a black belt in jiu jitsu got his belt by never being tapped? Quite the opposite! Countless hours of training and losing, learning,

adjusting, trying again. Somehow in police training we are afraid of 'teaching a lesson' not in some sort of vindictive way but rather in an attempt to get a person to better understand themselves and their capabilities. Showing someone they may not be able to handle someone they thought they could, should only serve to make them smarter and safer on the street.

I understand it is not easy. Time is valuable and any time off people want to be with their families or doing what they love to do. Life is full of sacrifices and it is up to you what that means. I can't tell you what it will look like for you but I believe it is important enough to do.

This year the Lethbridge Police Service is taking, what I feel, is a good step towards promoting fitness and wellness in our job. With the backing of our Chief and administration we are having our first fitness competition within the service modelled after the Police and Fire games competition, toughest cop alive. It will consist of several events throughout the day and the winner will be sent to next years Police and Fire Games. I see it as a great opportunity for every member no matter how in shape, to come out and test yourself. Show up, bring your family, do your best, laugh at me when I come last in the 5k and have fun. Next year, if all goes well, you can work on beating your score and seeing some measurable success.

The job we do is difficult enough. Do yourself a favor and control the only thing you guarantee control over, yourself. Test yourself physically to learn your strength and weaknesses and visualize how to deal with situations realistically given your skills. At the end of the day, we do win, and we go home to our families. Be safe out there. ■

Cst Jonathan Brunning  
Lethbridge Police Service



# From the Editor

*Darryl Hubich*

**W**ow, where has the year gone? It is the end of summer and it seems like it was just yesterday that I was planning the release of our first issue of the A.P.B. magazine.

As I write this, the AFPA board of directors is planning our fall meetings to coincide with another Police Memorial weekend in Edmonton. For obvious reasons this Memorial will be especially moving with the additions of St. Albert RCMP Cst David Wynn and EPS Cst Dan Woodall's names to the Pillar of Strength on the South grounds of the Alberta Legislature.

There have been significant changes in 2015. At the AFPA AGM in Edmonton this past May, Michael Elliott took over for out-going AFPA President Paul Wozney. We want to thank Paul for the leadership and direction that he provided to the board in his tenure as President. We would not have had a Provincial Lobby Day if it were not for Paul's vision and way of "thinking outside of the box". Paul will continue to work with the Calgary Police Association but will now have a little more time to spend at home. We wish you all the best Paul!!

Thinking outside of the box is an interesting concept, especially in policing, where repetition is what is generally accepted as the best way to learn. Too many times, however, this ingrained perception amongst us serves as a road block to new or fresh ideas.

When I break down policing to it's bare bones, I always go back to Sir Robert Peels principals of policing that have been followed by North American police agencies since the early 1800s. Two of them have always

stood out to me:

"The basic mission for which the police exist is to prevent crime and disorder." and "The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it."

If you look at the basic mission, then it is easy to see that we have always adapted to keep up with and combat the new ideas of those committing crime. Seems easy, yet most of us are resistant to change.

The test of police efficiency, to me, is where we (governments, Services, and members) have fallen short. For the last several years the media has been trumpeting the decreasing and flawed Crime Severity Index. But, if this is true, then the police should be praised for our efficiency according to Peel. Instead, it seems as though everyone is looking at ways to better account for our "down time" and for us to be increasingly "pro-active" and develop better training. These ideas seem to fly in the face of Peel's principles. When officers are seen by the public, criminals included, in alleys and checking businesses and homes, it takes away the opportunity to commit crime. If the amount of crime is truly going down, could it not be because we as front line officers are doing a good job of limiting the opportunities for criminals to commit crime? Which, in and of itself, is being pro-active. It seems as though, by preventing crime, we are told we are not maintaining a "standard"...but who sets the standard and how is set?

It seems as though we are all skeptical of trying new ways to do things, especially when that "new way" is introduced by the public or our

administrators. In the last few months alone, our MHPA members, have been asked to welcome a new way of training (with our first ever non-paid Cadet class graduating in August) and a new way of measuring productivity (stat keeping that tries to account for anything we may do during a shift). Both concepts are in steep contrast to tried and true methods that have been used successfully by us and others for decades. Those of you that have done this job for years will understand when I say it becomes harder and harder to learn new tricks as you get more and more comfortable performing the old ones!

I found myself suspicious, as were most of our members, when we were told that these were happening and we had to adapt. It is far easier to ask "what's wrong with the way we've always done it?" than it is to say "let's give this a try" and explore new ways of doing things. But, as any of my supervisors will tell you, nothing will send me into a spin quicker than the answer "that's the way we've always done it" when I ask why we do certain things. I need to know the answer to things, it is what drives me and I think it is why my time on the Association has been so rewarding.

After the usual, initial feeling of "they want me to do what?!", I took a step back and looked at the fact that at least we are not remaining stagnant and we are trying new ways of accomplishing our goals.

Since I have become more involved with our Association(s) our members expect me to be more skeptical and suspicious of new ideas because I have been voted in to represent their thoughts and concerns. Believe me, ►

I take that responsibility seriously. Having said that, I need to constantly remind myself that not all ideas are horrible, nor will all of them work. But the fact that we continue to try new ideas has to be considered refreshing to some degree.

We will see how our new "stat keeping" system works out. It is not fair for me or anyone else to discount it before it is given a fair shot. And, as with any recruit training, we will likely not see the successes/failures for

years. The only way we will truly know whether either of these ideas will become the new "standard" will be to give them a legitimate chance.

I will be a FTO for one of our successful cadets this fall. I always find it challenging but refreshing to be part of someone's new beginning. It is easy, after sixteen years, to fall into a rut and become close-minded. As a FTO I am always reminded of what it was like to have wide-eyed optimism and no pre-conceived notions about

what lied ahead. I look forward to grounding myself a little and being open to the new ideas and thoughts that my recruit will suggest. I am sure we will both learn a few things.

What I am trying to say in all of this, is let's not be stagnant or afraid to try a new idea once in a while in all aspects of our lives. As Wayne Gretzky once said "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take" (sorry Flames fans). ■

Go Riders!

Darryl



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# From the Director

John Corbett

## “HOPEFUL FOR CHANGE”

**W**ell, it's hard to believe, but summer is quickly coming to an end, and 2015 is nearly three quarters in the books already. In policing, and in life itself in Alberta, this year has proven to be quite an eventful one in a number of ways. For the first time in 44 years, the Province is governed by a non-Conservative party, the price of oil continues to plummet, and regretfully, two amazing police officers were killed in the line of duty in the first half of the year in Alberta; Constable David Wynn of the RCMP, and Constable Daniel Woodall of the Edmonton Police Service.

As I join my colleagues once again at the legislature grounds for the Alberta Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Day, I can't help but reflect on the kinds of situations that law enforcement officers continue to be exposed to every day, and what can be done to mitigate some of the risks that we encounter out on the street and how can we promote safer communities for the citizens we serve, as well as ourselves.

This year has been a particularly challenging one for us, like many other communities across the province, in that we have seen a fairly consistent escalation of the level of criminality that offenders are committing. Property offenders are more brazen, drug related violence is more severe, the availability of methamphetamine and fentanyl has become more prevalent, and with the economic downturn, organized crime groups appear to be more ornery with each other as they compete for less dollars available on the black market. As we continue the never ending process of investigating

crime and apprehending offenders, it is indeed abundantly clear that a disproportionately large amount of crime is being committed by a disproportionately small number of lawbreakers. And a trend that is unfortunately becoming the norm, is that these prolific offenders are often out on bail, on probation or parole, wanted or a combination thereof. It is certainly not uncommon for records checks on these inexhaustible criminals to reveal them to be out on three, four, or even five different bail recognizances, from various jurisdictions, with essentially, the same routine quasi-enforceable conditions attached. That, coupled with the reality that breach of condition charges and fail to appear charges are often discarded, or result in minimal, typically concurrent running jail sentences, lead to there being no real deterrent to disregarding what the courts are telling offenders what to do or not to do.

Don't get me wrong, I understand, and in many cases, support the Canadian Justice System's overall intent in applying rehabilitative measures, and safeguarding an accused's right to be considered innocent until proven guilty, however, with regards to habitual offenders with lengthy criminal backgrounds that are dominating our Criminal Justice System, and poisoning our communities, I believe that there is some room for improvement with our current bail practices.

The obvious issue in having these types of offenders out on various forms of release once they re-offend, is that there is a strong likelihood that they will commit further offences and

broaden their sphere of those victimized by their crimes. Another major issue, especially in the wake of recent tragic events, is that these offenders, become some of the most dangerous for our front line law enforcement officers. Once an offender has racked up a litany of charges before the courts, and the probability of incarceration as a sentence becomes a reality, there really is no deterrent preventing them from recklessly committing a barrage of further offences until their eventual court date, which in many cases, will be a non-appearance on their part. In addition to this, gathering enough evidence and gaining the cooperation of witnesses on a seasoned offender can be onerous enough. Once they are caught and released on bail, there is a real prospect that apprehending them on potential future transgressions will be much more difficult, and people can have a tendency to lose faith in the justice system as a whole.

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Cst. David Wynn was gunned down in St. Albert by Shawn Rehn, who at the time had an extensive criminal record, was out on bail for numerous serious charges, and had outstanding warrants for his arrest. This summer, at the calling of RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson, the Province announced that there will be a “comprehensive review of the bail system to assist government in deciding if and how the bail process could be changed to better protect Albertans.” Some of the things this review will consider are:

- Who should conduct bail hearings and in what circumstances;
- How best to utilize section 524 of



the Criminal Code (as it relates to cancelling the release order of an accused when they have contravened the order or committed further offences while on release);

- What information should be provided in bail packages prepared by policing agencies and how best to ensure the accuracy and availability of that information;
- How the Priority Prolific Offender Program and Habitual Offender Management programs can be utilized effectively to ensure accurate information is available during bail proceedings; and
- The coordination of bail proceedings between offices of the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service and the offices of the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, and other areas

related to the conduct of bail hearings that are appropriate.

This review is slated to be completed by February 2016.

As a result of this review, or otherwise, it is accepted that there is no perfect system, and that unfortunately, we cannot remove all risks associated with performing the duties of a police officer. This is part of the job and there will always be situations that we will have to deal with where information is limited, and potential danger may not be realized beforehand. But the climate right now is ripe to make changes and enhancements where necessary to ensure that we can promote safer communities, and put these dangerous and habitual offenders in jail where they belong.

The Alberta Federation of Police As-

sociations board will be continuing our lobbying initiatives on these and other important policing issues with both the Provincial and Federal Governments. To all law enforcement officers, please contact a member of the AFPA board if you have lobbying ideas or suggestions that you wish be voiced, and don't hesitate to get to know and engage in conversation with your local MLAs and MPs about issues affecting policing and public safety.

And as always, be safe and take care of each other out there. ■

John Corbett

President – Camrose Police Association

Director – Alberta Federation of Police Associations



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# From the Director

Ray Wong

## Sensible Shoes

When I got elected to the Calgary Police Association board back in 2009/2010 and was told I had to provide an article for every issue of our publication called the 10-4, it was pointed out to me that my director's message was not the place for ranting about stuff and humorous articles, or random thoughts. Some of my fellow board members at that time felt that I was not meeting the professional standards of our official publication, when I wrote about things that lack substance and that I should try to have more thought provoking content in my official Director's message column (those people got voted out of office shortly there after)

So here was my response to that, it's an article that all police officers to should take to heart, enjoy!

I was looking at our shoe closet the other day, wondering how it was I married Imelda Marcos without knowing it, when a strange thought came to me. How much my life has changed in the 20 years since I've become a police officer, and in particular how much it has changed since I've become a police trainer. There was time, in my youth and pre-police life where, I'm a little embarrassed to admit it, but I had as many shoes as my wife, and in particular, all kinds fashionable shoes, several pairs of fancy dress shoes, flip flops, cowboy boots, vans, sandals, etc, etc. Being a civilian at that time I gave very little thought to what shoes I would wear when traveling, or at large gatherings and events, (other than do I look good in these?)

My mindset was different back then, I had no responsibility to anyone but myself. When I was out for dinner at

a restaurant, I didn't care where I sat. When I was traveling on a bus, train or plane, I didn't really give the other passengers a second glance (unless it was a hot chick), and when it came to footwear, I never really gave it much thought other than fashion.

Now days, I always choose the seat where my back's to the corner and I have a clear view of the room, I pay a little more attention to everyone that's on that bus, train, or plane with me, and when I'm traveling or at some kind of large function or event with lots of people, I wear sensible shoes.

When we made the decision to become police officers, we made the decision to become "more", more aware, more alert, more capable and part of that "more" should include more prepared. Imagine this, you are at some kind of large gathering like a sporting event or at a place where there are lots of people like an airport or train station or the Calgary Stampede, when all of a sudden, something bad happens, a fire, an explosion, some kind of natural disaster or something that will require you to run for your life.

What if you have to pick a small child (perhaps your own) and run? Could you do it in those flip flops? How about those slick dress shoes with the long pointy toes? Ladies, how fast can you run in heels? Yes I know, you can always kick that flimsy foot wear off and run in bare feet, but what if there's broken glass, sharp rocks and debris on the ground. Do you think a 2 inch splinter of glass imbedded in the heel of your foot might impair your ability to run as fast as you can? This was the question I posed to my wife one day when we were sitting at

the airport waiting to go somewhere warm and sunny, and I noticed that she was wearing flip flops (I was wearing runners). She told me I was being "paranoid" I pointed out to her that the word "prepared" also starts with the letter "p" and has the same number of letters in it, and that if something bad was to happen right then, I would only effectively be able to grab one of our children and run for our lives, and that she would have to grab the other one, and she would suck at it wearing flip flops. She probably wouldn't make it, I would end up being a widow with one child (the lighter and smarter one of the two) and would be forced to sell all of her fancy non sensible shoes to pay for their funeral. Now days when we travel, she sports a pair of hot pink Nike's.

The thought provoking part of this article is this, as police officers we pride ourselves on being alert and prepared for any and all circumstances. The very nature of our job, demands that we are able to handle all types of emergency situations. This expectation doesn't end when we clock out at the end of our shift, we don't get the luxury of leaving our skill and mind set at the office door when we go home. Our mindset should be this, whether we want to admit or not, we are cops! in our hearts and in our minds 24/7 and because we are, the "event" will find us, and it may not be when we are on duty. Will we be able to be, all that we can be in those 2 inch heels or flip flops? Or would some kind of sensible shoes be better.

And if you don't think this article is thought provoking, next time you're at the airport, I bet you'll be checking out ►

what people are wearing on their feet.

My name is Ray Wong, I'm a 20 year veteran of the Calgary Police service and currently working as the senior

firearms instructor for our service. I'm excited about being the newest member of the board of directors for the Alberta Federation of Police Asso-

ciations, and look forward to providing you with more thought provoking articles. ■



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# From the Director

Bob Walsh

## Losing One of Our Own : A Fallen HERO

It is never really expected when one loses a loved one by any means, whether by medical issues, tragic incidents, or as a natural part of growing older. But, when one loses their life while performing their duties to the utmost of their abilities, it affects not only their family, friends and colleagues, but the whole community as well.

This year has been especially tough for police agencies in Alberta. It is with heavy hearts that we saw the loss of two members, Cst WYNN of the St. Albert RCMP and Cst WOODALL of the Edmonton Police Service. Both members sacrificed their lives while performing the duties of the profession they had sworn to do, protecting the public.

Cst. WYNN's life was cut short while attempting to affect an arrest on a criminal for a possible theft complaint. Cst WYNN was shot and killed. Cst WYNN left behind a loving wife and two small children along with family, friends and colleagues to mourn his death. It is also at that time that the community embraced the fallen hero and showed their support like never before.

Cst. WOODALL lost his life while attempting to execute an arrest warrant on an individual wanted for criminal harassment in southwest Edmonton. He too left behind his wife, two children, family, friends and colleagues. Once again, the outpouring of support from the community in and around Edmonton as well as the world shone through.

I write this with a heavy heart as I think back to the two funerals (WYNN

and WOODALL) I attended and everything that had to happen to honour these men with the utmost of dignity and respect. Cst. WOODALL was one of our own, a proud and respected member of the Edmonton Police Service and his death hit close to home. But I find solace in knowing that he did not die in vain. He was doing what he loved to do and was supported by his family and colleagues everyday he went to work.

I am humbled by the effect of what everyone around the EPS and community did to come together to make such a tragic event into an event that inspired people to celebrate life and embrace everyone around them. From the minute the media was reporting the shooting of two police officers (WOODALL and HARLEY), there was a rumbling of camaraderie that shook me to the core. It is with a thankfulness that cannot really be explained that we only lost one member that tragic day.

There are two things I want to focus on a little bit more in this article – community involvement and the memorial.

Community, the word itself means a group of people living in the same place with a feeling of fellowship with others coming together of a group of people. That is what happened once word broke in and around Edmonton about our fallen comrade. People banded together to help others recognize the extent of what had happened and to plan something so special that touched the hearts of everyone. The tireless hours of all those involved in organizing and following through on an amazing Blue Ribbon Campaign

and all of the other community initiatives is beyond words. People spoke openly about their feelings of what had happened and how it affected them. There was an unspoken language of love, yes love, and support for all first responders in communities everywhere, thanks to **community involvement**.

The memorial that was held was both respectful and touching. Tears were shed, laughter was heard and silence prevailed as people dealt with saying goodbye to Cst. WOODALL in a way that spoke to them. On the day of the memorial the public saw the result of countless hours of preparation by the community turn into something so special and grand that can only be described as remarkable. From the wee hours of the morning, when police and staff gathered at their stations to be bussed to the legislative grounds to get ready to march to the Shaw Conference Centre to the people who lined the roads to pay homage and everyone behind the scenes. The memorial took on a life of it's own. It was everything one would expect it to be when saying their final farewell to Cst. WOODALL.

As a community of police officers, office staff, and the public, we should be proud of how we came together to say thank you and to grieve one of our own – a fallen hero.

Every year, on the last Sunday in September at the Alberta Legislature, we pay our respect and honour to all of our fallen hero's from across the province who have made the ultimate sacrifice. ■

God speed, Cst. WOODALL.























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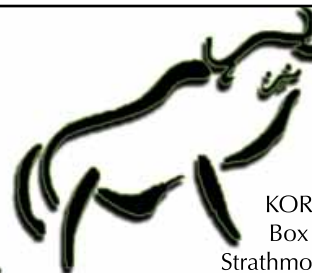
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