



Enforcement *editorial*

<http://www.amea.ca/>

AMEA

*The Official Newsletter of the
Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association*

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association TRADE SHOW - November 28 & 29

As always the Executive is trying to get the message out about what we do and what we offer. For several years we have tossed around the idea of attending the annual AUMA Conference and Trade Show.

This past November we finally took that step; in an effort to not only get our message out to prospective members, but also to your employers, supervisors and council members.

John Wilson, Becky Oxtan, Vanessa Ergang and myself spent the better part of two days at the booth and met with literally hundreds of elected officials, and administrators of Towns, Cities, Counties and Municipal Districts. The booth we put together showcased some of our members at work in the various duties they perform, as well as past conferences, courses we have offered, awards we give out and information on what we can do to assist new people in the profession. The response we received from the conference attendees and other exhibitors was very good and as a result of the contacts we made, we have already been approached by the Town of Bassano to attend their council meeting in February with a presentation about what we do and offer. Bassano does not



Currently have a Municipal Enforcement Officer but is seriously thinking of creating a position.

Only time will tell if it translates to increased awareness of the association and membership numbers, but I am confident that this will lead to bigger and better things for the Association.

Fred Crittenden
Past President



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A Day in the Life...

Have you ever wondered who you really are when you are on the job? Do you ever have days where you shake your head and think, "what am I doing here?" Bylaw Enforcement certainly gives each of us plenty of opportunity to question society and our own sanity.

Some of the roles that I find myself in on a day to day basis keep my work life interesting yet, the mixture of these roles combined with motherhood, seems to make my life one to laugh at; some days I just have too. I wanted to share one of my extraordinary days with all of you. I hope you all can see a little of yourselves or at least know where I am coming from.

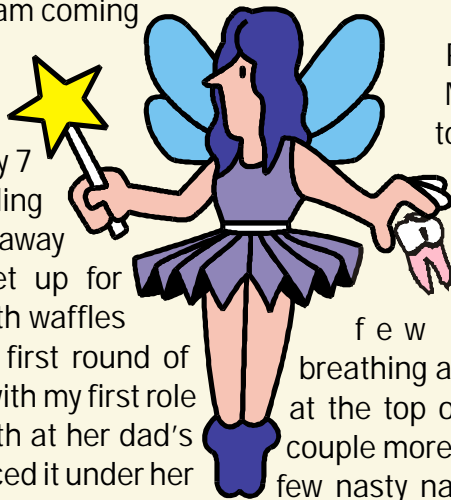
This day started out fairly normal, like any other. Abby and Bethany, (my 7 and 6 year old daughters) were hiding under their covers telling me to go away because they did not want to get up for school. As I started bribing them with waffles for breakfast, and picking out the first round of outfits for the day, I was presented with my first role challenge. My oldest had lost a tooth at her dad's house and brought it home. She placed it under her pillow but didn't tell me. I had to come up with some crazy story about how keeping secrets from your mom is bad and the tooth fairy would only come if she told her mom everything.....yep I lied. On with the day.

Once the girls were out the door and off to school things were peaceful and quiet. When I went to work that afternoon at 4 pm I had it in my head that, when I got home from work at midnight, I had to remember to get the tooth and leave some cash. I was certain another excuse for the tooth fairy wouldn't fly (no pun intended).

Work started out fairly normal; a couple barking dogs, a messy yard and a pig at large. Yep, that's right, a pig. He and I are quite well acquainted. My partner and I once tried to snare him and he started a leaping death roll like a crocodile. That was the worst sound on earth. He would squeal, jump straight in the air, do some kind of funky flip then land with the thud of a

meteorite. Once we had the entire neighborhood out for the show we released the pig and began negotiations with a banana.....well, many bananas. I was able to herd this fine pig back to his yard throwing fruit ahead of him and gently pushing him along.

Next on the list was to fingerprint an escort. Our escort bylaw requires all licensed escorts to be fingerprinted by our service. I called this young lady into the fingerprint room and begin the process. Once through all the formal stuff we began the prints and the small talk. We talked about our kids, jewelry and men. I won't go into what all we had in common, but I will say she had an interesting perspective to share. I declined meeting her and her friends for drinks later....I to have my limits.



Remand was calling as, you see, in Medicine Hat we go from Bylaw Officer to cell guard in a matter of minutes. Once in the cell block I booked in a local drunk, whom I am on a first name basis with. He and I have spent a lot of time together in cells. I spend the next few hours making sure he was still breathing after he was done singing Frank Sinatra at the top of his lungs for an hour. I booked in a couple more people while I was there, I was called a few nasty names and reminded who is paying my wage every ten minutes, and threatened with huge lawsuits....oh well, "get in line" I say.

Once I am able to get out of remand I am sent on one of my favorite animal calls. 10 foot long rattle snake in someone's yard. By this time it is dark. Who wants to catch a snake in the dark? Not me. But who else is there? Police won't; Fish and Wildlife are never around so, of course, it must be the Bylaw/ Pig herder (I won't write the term used to describe myself in cell block) to the rescue. To my relief when I pulled up to the house the 'Man of the House' is standing on the front step with a big garbage can. He assured me that the lid is on tight. At this point I am quite impressed. Most of my snake calls come from construction sites where every man on site is on top of a truck or roof and pointing me in the general direction of where they last saw the snake retreat.

the truck into the drivers seat and shut the door with out touching the ground, or at least I don't remember my feet touching the ground. Once all the shuddering stopped, I regained composure and pulled away. At a

safe distance away I had to stop the truck and get the garbage can back together and close the tailgate. I think I drove back to the city with all the lights on.

I was glad it was the end of my day. What more could I possible encounter today? On my way home I remember that I have one more duty to complete....the Tooth Fairy. I quietly take off my work boots at home, scramble for some loonies and head down to her room. Abby is a good sleeper so I expect this to be easy. I reached under her pink Barbie pillow and find nothing; crap. I pulled out my flashlight and took a closer look. There it was. The tooth had been placed in a zip lock sandwich bag and was being held in her right hand, tightly. I started to gently tug on the bag, she tightened her grip. I started to wonder if she was awake and waited a bit. Abby opened her eyes and with a big smile said....."Mommy, I always knew the Tooth Fairy had to be somebody." We laughed and decided to keep it a secret from Bethany for a while. She whispered "I love you mommy" as I left the room. "I love you too, sweetheart" I said.

Strange thing is this may sound as if it was an extraordinary. Funny thing is it was quite like all the others. Whether I am in the role of the Bylaw Officer, neighborhood mediator, animal negotiator, mommy and even the Tooth Fairy once in a while, I love each and every one of them. I hope each of you take the time to think about the roles you play everyday in your life. We all have unique skills and should be using them when ever possible. Being cognizant of our actions and impact is a rewarding experience. I would welcome any of you to write and share your stories about who you are. I look forward to your response.

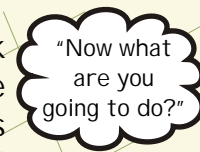
Heather

I placed the can into the back of my truck and assured the man that I would take this snake and release it far away from the city. I think to myself that I could really save time and take it to a park; it is probably a bull snake anyway. However the man was convinced it was a rattler and insisted the snake leave town. I drove about 3 mile south of the city and pulled into shallow ditch. I looked around and realized how dark it was, this was going to be a bit tricky. Suddenly I start to get a bit creeped out as the hairs on the back of my neck start to stand up (I don't really have a hairy neck....just a figure of speech). Once I let the tail gate down I heard it. It was the distinct sound of a rattle. I quickly ran back to the truck to think about this.....ok. I decided to turn on every light on the truck. Once the truck was lit up like a Christmas tree I went on to face the snake. I crawled onto the tailgate and moved the can toward the edge. I figured I would dump the snake out and he would take off afraid of all the lights, and that would be it. Good plan I thought to myself.

As the can reached the edge of the tailgate I began to remove the lid...or so I thought. That lid was on tight. I pulled and twisted and pried and it wouldn't budge. Of course I didn't have much room on the tailgate so I needed to reposition myself to gain leverage. I climbed onto the can, straddled the can and pulled with all my might. As I am doing this I begin to hear the faint sound of a vehicle headed my way. Great. The car drove by, slowly, and had a good look. There I am sitting on a garbage can, on the tailgate, all the directional lights lit up and it is 11:45 pm. God only knows what they thought.

With one final yank I got the lid off, pushed myself off the can and tipped it over the rear of the truck. I heard the snake slide out and hit the ground with a thud. Victory! I thought...until I looked down. There he was, waiting, staring as if to say "now what are you going to do?" Good question. What was I going to do? He wasn't leaving, he was just coiled up, rattle going strong and waiting for me to make my move.

I took a couple pictures of the snake with my cell phone in case no one ever believed my story. I waited a bit. Then I got cold.....that does it for me. I had to get down. I found some rocks in the truck bed and started pelting the snake. Thankfully he began to move away...or at least out of site. I did the old 1....2.....3.....run! I some how made it from the back of





AMEA 2007 Conference and Trade Show



Round Table Discussion



More Tradeshow Fun



Whose on Board?



Hold On!

Who's Coming Back?



Bev & Mitch



Becky, Doug & Vanessa



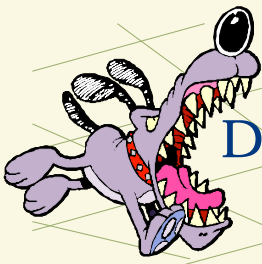
John



More Draws!



Giveaway table



Dog Day Afternoon For Animal Control Officer

Monday, December 17, 2007

The white minivan circles the block. Behind the wheel, animal control officer No. 117. She scans side streets and peers down back alleys, searching for a dog on the lam.

The faint scent of urine and bleach wafts from the back of the paddy wagon for pooches. Cages rattle as the vehicle turns down a back alley she recognizes all too well.

"I'm just hoping this isn't the dog I think he is," she says, hesitating. "Because his owner isn't very friendly." Aggressive dogs and elusive cats she can handle. It's the owners who can be animals.

Stacy Cameron, 28, is one of the city's 10 Animal Control Agency officers. It's their duty to enforce animal bylaws 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Last year, 2,202 animals were scooped up off city streets and 800 tickets issued for offences ranging from dogs not being leashed to unlicensed pets.

As the van stops in the back alley, a rottweiler appears in the rearview mirror. And disappears. It is the dog in question. Cameron backs up the van and parks on the street. The large dog stands in its owner's yard. A sign in the home's picture window has slid slightly from view. "Beware" is the only readable word.

Cameron slides on her leather gloves, grabs a leash and crouches down to the dog's eye level. The large canine stares back, hackles up, and barks.

"Hi Buddy. Hi Buddy," she says in a high-pitched voice, as if playing with her three-year-old daughter. Then, the dog comes right to her. Within 30 seconds, the four-legged fugitive is wrangled and ready for the ride to the pound. No one answers the door of the dog owner's house -- thankfully. The last time, the owner was aggressive.

"I've been called every name in the book -- a lot of racial slurs," said Cameron, who is from Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation. "I'm just there to make sure your dog and cats don't get shmucked."

She encounters yellers, swearers and it's not my faulters. Dealing with people takes up 80 per cent of her day.

When she started the job two years ago it was a shock. "I was picturing kittens and puppies and hugging them all day," she says, in the dark blue uniform of the enforcement class. Although there are people who get upset after receiving fines, there are those who are thankful when their lost pet is returned. "That's always nice," she says, with a smile.

Cameron also didn't expect to have to shake the dogcatcher stereotype -- the person with an oversized net chasing dogs and cats with a comedic outcome. "I kind of laugh it off if people say, 'I'm just a dogcatcher,'" she says. "We're out there to protect the public." Her arsenal does include an oversized net, but it's only used on cats.

Back in the van, Cameron drives the dog she picked up to the Saskatoon SPCA. Owners of the animal have five days to claim it. If they don't, the pet is assessed to see if it is suitable for adoption based on health and aggression.

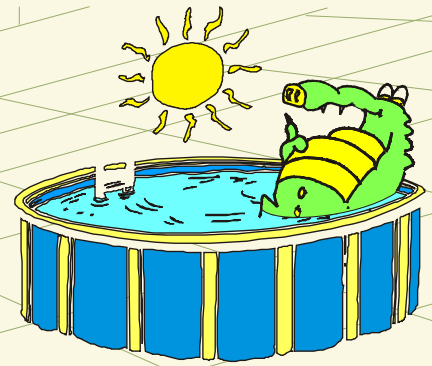
"He's been here a few times," the receptionist at the SPCA says, after typing the dog's identification information into the computer.

If a dog is found running free or off a leash, the first fine is \$50, the second, \$100, and each time after that, \$250. Some pet owners are on their eighth or ninth offense.

Even though the occupation has a cartoonish reputation, it is dangerous. After a year on the job, Cameron became too relaxed. Too confident. She began approaching all dogs -- big or small -- in the same manner: Treats in one hand, a leash in the other.

The Bizarre Things An Animal Control Officer Encounters

Posted on Friday, September 7th, 2007 at 3:56 am
in Misc. Pet Info., Boston, National Dog, Cat & Pet Info, Dogs, Cats, Other Pets.
By Emily Huh



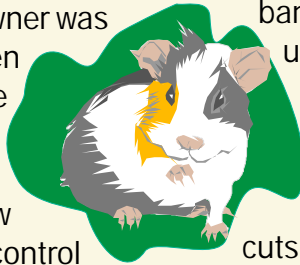
Animal control officers not only deal with cats and dogs, but they have to deal with any kind of animal in the book. Several Boston area Animal Control Officers delved into their stranger experiences on the job.

Alligator lounging in the pool: Animal control received a call from a resident saying there was a 3-foot-long alligator in her neighbor's pool. An officer came to investigate and there was definitely an alligator in the pool.

The man owned an exotic pet shop and somebody dropped the alligator off at his shop. He brought it home and put it in his pool. The neighbor was worried about the safety of the children in the area, so the environmental police was called and the alligator was taken to a place where it could be safe and sound (and without any nosy neighbors peeking at him sunbathing).

Trapped pony in a well: A pony that was living on a residence had gotten trapped when he fell into a well. When the animal control officer got to the scene, the pony was struggling to get out and was banging on the walls. The officer held his halter until a veterinarian gave him a tranquilizer. With the help of the Police Department, the Light Department, and a strong pulley, they were able to free the pony after several hours. The pony ended up to be fine and just had a few cuts and bruises.

20 Guinea pigs in a bush: A dog owner was worried because her dog had been acting strange and escaped out the front door. The woman followed her dog and saw a large guinea pig that had rolled over and died. She then saw another one that was alive. An animal control officer was called to investigate the scene. After two-and-a-half hours, the officer found 20 guinea pigs in the bushes. 19 of them were alive.



Sha<http://www.itchmo.com>>News for cats and dogs from Itchmo.

Continued from page 6

One day she approached a rottweiler that was "snarling, growling, teeth baring." And it attacked. A passerby had to help get the dog off. "After that, if it's a poodle I'm taking my (dog catching) pole."

She's had her skin broken by bites from one other dog and two cats, which are worse, she said, because their teeth are sharp and mouths are dirty.

Back in the van, the dispatcher lets Cameron know the dog she dropped off earlier is being picked up by its owner.

Cameron estimated the owner would be paying at least \$500 in fines to retrieve the canine. "The dog must really be loved -- but they should keep it inside."

Mkruchak@sp.canwest.com

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Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association

28th ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRAINING SEMINAR

May 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 2008

Capri Hotel, Trade and Convention Centre
3310-50 Ave Red Deer Alberta, T4N 3X9
Phone (403) 346-2091

MONDAY, MAY 12 and TUESDAY, MAY 13

INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control Committee

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Please join veteran animal control officers, veterinarians and other animal care professionals as they present the AMEA's Introduction to Animal Control course. This course will cover topics such as animal control legislation, officer authorities, vaccinations and diseases, tools and equipment and handling and capture techniques. The AMEA Animal Control Committee encourages all animal care professionals in the law enforcement field to attend this important introductory workshop.

TUESDAY, MAY 13

Conference Registration and Trade Show

7:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m. (Prize Draw starts at 9:00pm)

Food courtesy in part of Whyte Communications

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

8:30 am - 12:00 pm

STRESS MANAGEMENT
LEGAL WOES

IT'S RAINING CATS & DOGS
STAYIN' ALIVE

TOBACCO REDUCTION ACT
PUBLIC EDUCATION

When you attend the conference you are free to choose any of the following seminars that are of interest.

PLAYING THE MONEY GAME TO WIN!
Christine Murphy-City of Edmonton Finance
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

A fun approach to developing important money management habit. The Rocket Science of finances
Money Personalities: How you might be sabotaging yourself
Quick and easy ways to get ahead in the money game
Stuff you wish you had known sooner about finances...

CRACKIN' DOWN ON DRUGS
Cpl. Ian Gillan-Edmonton RCMP-EPS Green Team
2:45 pm - 4:30 pm

Throughout the course of duty, Officers are constantly faced with the potential danger when approaching properties. Learn the hazards and signs to look out for Crack Houses, Meth Labs and Grow Ops.

WHO ARE YOU? I DENTITY FRAUD
Robbie Robertson & Dustin Burns Special
Investigations Unit of Alberta Government Services
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

In addition to an open discussion about the Special Investigations Unit they will discuss security features of Driver's Licenses, how to identify a fraudulent Driver's License and how criminals are caught possessing more than one Driver's License.

PROVINCIAL WEED ACT
Paul Laflamme-City of Edmonton Weed Control
2:45 pm - 4:30 pm

The Province of Alberta is set to bring forward a number of changes to the current weed control legislation. Find out about what weeds may be in and out, terminology changes, new control regulations, other revisions and updates. Find out the difference between scentless chamomile and ox-eye daisy. Discover the latest species to terrorize your municipality.

Evening BBQ followed by "THE WILD GOOSE CHASE CHALLENGE" 6:00pm-9:00pm

Annual Conference & Training Seminar

To enhance and promote the profession of municipal enforcement through education, training and collaborative interaction

THURSDAY, MAY 15

PROVIDING CLEAR WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS

Trish Campbell

8:30 am - 10:00 pm

If you notice this notice you will notice that this notice is not worth noticing. What? WHAT?? WHAT??? Join Red Deer College's Trish Campbell for an informative workshop to help you compose effective, reader-oriented instructions that can get the job done. You will learn to analyze your readers needs, define your task, organize your document and create an accessible design.

TAKING OUT THE TRASH

John R. Wilson-City of Edmonton

8:30 am - 10:00 am

You've done it! You've been through all the appeal processes and now you can finally clean up that untidy and unsightly yard. But wait, what are you going to do with that clapped out old vehicle? And that new lumber, should you take it to the dump or should you store it and, if so, for how long?

John R. Wilson, Coordinator of Edmonton's general enforcement area, offers a practical guide to carrying out property clean-ups. Don't forget your garbage bags!

COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER COMPLAINT PROCESS

Gerry Vercammen-Solicitor General Auditor

10:15 am - 12:00 pm

Gerry will speak on the Community Peace Officer Program and common misconceptions that have arisen as a result of the complaint process.

LICENCE RENEWALS/REVOCATIONS

James E. Hittel, B.A., LL.B. -HITCO Legal Services

10:15 am - 12:00 pm

The legalities of failing to renew, canceling or revoking a business license. Exploring who can do it, why you would do it, when to do it and how to do it.

Annual General Meeting Starting at 1:15 pm

AMEA Banquet and Awards Ceremony Cocktails served at 6:00 p.m. The Banquet is Semi formal

FRIDAY, MAY 16

SAFETY AT THE DOORWAY

Jamie Erickson-Alberta Defensive Tactics Training Inc.

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

A Safety Information Session for Officer's approaching properties. Have you ever been at risk while serving a notice at someone's house? Jamie will show us a different side of Officer Safety with a presentation he designed specifically for us. We will look at hazards, signs and ways to protect yourself while at the door.

THE ULTIMATE PRIZE DRAW

12:00-12:15pm

Join the executive team for a brief conference review and your chance to win the Ultimate Conference Prize.

Your Executive is looking forward to seeing you:

Bev Bentley - President
Fred Crittenden - Vice President
Mitch Fast - Secretary
Vanessa Ergang - Treasurer
John Wilson - Education Officer
Beck Oxtan - Membership Officer
Heather Rann - Publicity Officer



Visit the AMEA Web Site at <http://amea.ca/>

Registration Form

CONFERENCE COSTS	Remittance
FULL CONFERENCE and the ANIMAL CONTROL COURSE May 12 to 16 Members \$410.00 Non Members \$510.00	
CONFERENCE Only May 14, 15, 16 Members \$270.00 Non Members \$320.00	
ANIMAL CONTROL COURSE Only May 12 & 13 \$250.00	
Any Single Day Of The Conference Members \$75.00 Non Members \$100.00	
Extra Banquet or Barbeque Tickets \$35.00	
Total cost for attendee	

Due the popularity of courses offered by the AMEA please register early.

Conference fees include the May 14th Barbeque and the May 15th AMEA Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Please make Cheques payable to:

Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association
c/o
Vanessa Ergang
10336-106 St., Westlock, AB T7P 2G1

For further conference information contact:

Bev Bentley - President
(780) 865-2455

or

John Wilson - Education Officer
(780) 496-5216

Name: _____

Address: _____

Municipality: _____

Contact number: _____

Please remove this section
and return with fees

28th ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRAINING SEMINAR

The Capri Hotel is located off of Highway #2,
Use 32nd Street off ramp. East on 32nd Street
approximately 1.5 km

Capri Centre is on your left at intersection
of Gaetz Avenue and 32nd



Remove registration form here

Attendees are responsible
for their own accommodations
**Please note you MUST register
prior to April 10/08 to guarantee a room.**

After this date the rooms will be released
to a different group attending their conference.

Capri Centre, Red Deer Alberta
For Room Reservations Call
Toll Free 1-800-662-7197
Tel: (403)-346-2091
Fax: (403) 340-0255

<http://www.capricentre.com/>



February 2008

2008 New Member Application

Current Members will be sent out a renewal notice

Surname: _____

Given Names: _____

Enforcement Jurisdiction: _____

City/Town: _____

Section/Division: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Telephone: _____ Home Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

I hereby make application for membership in the Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association and agree to uphold the constitution and bylaws of the Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2008

Signature of Applicant: _____

Yearly dues of \$60.00 per member must accompany the application.
When submitting payment for more than one applicant please make sure that all pertinent information for each applicant is included.

Make cheques payable to the
Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association
c/o Vanessa Ergang
10336-106 Street
Westlock, AB
T7P 2G1

Executive Committee



PRESIDENT:

Beven J. Bentley

Municipal Enforcement Officer,
Special Constable
Hinton R.C.M.P. Detachment
821 Switzer Drive
Hinton, Alberta T7V 1T8
Phone: (780) 865-2455 (RCMP)
Cell: (780) 865-0121
Fax: (780) 865-1410
Email: Bev



VICE-PRESIDENT:

David Aitken

Director of
Complaints and Investigations
Development Compliance Branch
Planning and Development Department
2nd Floor, 10250-101 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3P4
Phone: (780) 496-5207
Cell: (780) 446-1723
Fax: (780) 496-6054
Email: daitken@amea.ca



PAST PRESIDENT:

Fred Crittenden

Supervisor of Municipal Bylaw Enforcement
c/o Medicine Hat Police Service
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Office: (403) 529-8436
Fax: (403) 529-8444
Home: (403) 528-4246
Cell: (403) 952-6683
Email: Fred



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Fax: (403) 526-8958
Email: amast@amea.ca



TREASURER:

Vanessa Ergang

Manager of Enforcement Services
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Work: (780) 349-3346
Cell: (780) 206-7620
Fax: (780) 349-2012
Email: Vanessa



EDUCATION OFFICER:

John R. Wilson

General Enforcement Coordinator
Complaints and Investigations,
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Cell: (780) 446-7904
Fax: (780) 496-6054
Email: John



PUBLICITY OFFICER:

Heather Rann

S/CST Medicine Hat Police Service
884 2 Street SE
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8H2
Phone: Work 403-529 8400
Home 526-4651
Cell: 403-529 7366
Email: Heather



MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:

Becky Oxtan

Peace Officer
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5501 Magasin Ave
Beaumont, AB
T4X 1V8
Phone: (780) 915-5717
Email: boxton@amea.ca

