



Media release

Practice safety during school celebrations, remind AACPO

Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers cautions safety during graduation celebrations

May 28, 2015

(Alberta) Communities across Alberta are gearing up to celebrate as Grade 12 graduates are finishing their exams and are getting ready to cross the stage.

Another time-honoured tradition of graduation is the invariable parties, which William Norton, community peace officer for Morinville and surrounding areas, and information officer for the Alberta Association of Community Peace Officer (AACPO), says can be a deadly combination.

"We see students think they get a free pass on graduation day, and that's just not so," says Norton, citing some of the common traffic enforcement issues such as sticking one's head out the window or sunroof, or packing more bodies than are safe into vehicles. These traffic enforcement infringements may seem minor, says Norton, but each can have deadly consequences when combined with distracted driving, speeding or driving while intoxicated. These are also areas where peace officers see a rise during graduation time.

Instead of being participating in risky or dangerous behaviours during this celebratory time, Norton suggests mining information from the local community peace officer for smart and safe ways to celebrate. One of the most popular programs that provides alternatives is the P.A.R.T.Y. Program (www.partyprogram.com), which is an international program started at a medical facility in Toronto, ON. The program provides information for youth how to make informed decisions, as well as the consequences of making poor decisions.

"Sadly, no one is immune to injuries or fatalities during graduation time," says Norton. "So stay safe out there."

The Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers represents over 400 community peace officers across the entire province and is responsible for promoting the use of Community Peace Officers across the province of Alberta. The association works collaboratively with police and other law enforcement agencies to ensure effective working relations and ensures a strong and positive working environment with the Solicitor General of Alberta.

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For more information, or to find a community peace officer in your community, please contact

William Norton, information officer
Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers (AACPO)
info@aacpo.ca
780-718-7498