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BEYOND THE CALL

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | ANNUAL REPORT 2005



What a Difference a Year Makes

LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME, when I wrote to you in our Annual Report 2004, I tried to address your concerns about your personal safety. I told you how we were doing in our fight against crime, the battles we were winning and the battles we had yet to win. It was clear that in 2004, crime in Vancouver was increasing. A change in how we reported our statistics accounted for some of the increase, but the fact still remained that the total number of crimes in 2004, compared to 2003, had increased by 16 per cent.

Here is the good news: it now appears that, thanks to the impressive efforts of the men and women of the VPD, the unwavering support of the Police Board, along with innovative programs and practices and increased cooperation of citizens and volunteers, and the 50 new officers approved by City Council last year, the crime rate in Vancouver is falling dramatically. In 2005, the total number of crime incidents fell 7.5 per cent and that decline is continuing this year. A more detailed breakdown of these incidents, which include traffic violations and collisions, is printed on the back page of this report and available on our website at www.vpd.ca

It was a busy year, with police being dispatched for service about 195,000 times. We made more than a million contacts with citizens while investigating thousands of criminal offences and non-criminal matters, such as missing children, family disputes, disturbances and other occurrences where police are called to help 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every week of the year.

We were also busy addressing one of your major crime concerns: the safety of your homes and vehicles. In our 2004 Strategic Plan we promised to reduce all property crime by 20 per cent over five years. I am very pleased to tell you that we are on track to hit that target with much of the reduction coming in 2005. Last year we saw the number of residential burglaries fall by more than 16 per cent and the number of stolen vehicles was reduced by 14 per cent. Overall, the total number of property crimes fell by 10.5 per cent.

It was another goal of ours to personally respond to every residential burglary that was reported to us. We are close to reaching that goal with almost 100% attendance in 2005.

While we can largely credit the reduction in property crime to increased patrols and innovative crime fighting programs, I must also give credit to the public, the media and our highly respected and valued corporate partners. Without their help, we could never have launched a unique and extensive crime prevention program, the "Are you Helping Thieves?" campaign.

The campaign launched in December last year. It involved public service announcements on TV and radio, posters in bus shelters and Skytrain stations, print advertisements in newspapers and magazines, brochures in direct mail and a groundbreaking internet site. It was a massive campaign that would normally have cost more than \$1 million to produce. But thanks to the generous donations of funds, talent

and media space from partners who included Rethink Advertising, ICBC, Kwantlen University College and others, as well as every major media outlet in the city, the campaign did not cost the VPD or city taxpayers one cent.

I am also pleased to tell you that the program exceeded our expectations. The campaign was designed to help homeowners secure their homes and vehicles by giving them the information they needed to discourage thieves. It also encouraged them to join Block Watch, the most effective crime prevention program there is. During the six weeks of the campaign, residential break and enters in Vancouver fell an unprecedented 20 per cent and membership in Block Watch tripled. We will continue to update the campaign in the future.

The news on the crime front, however, is not all positive. Assaults were up almost 6 per cent in 2005. This is a serious problem that continues to worsen. We are currently working on a number of strategies to reduce the violence, including getting more guns off the street. Drug offences climbed 3.4 per cent, which is a reflection on the hard work of our members to charge more of those involved in the drug trade. Traffic collisions were deadly with 32 people being killed, an increase of 39.1 per cent over 2004. Our Traffic Section is also working harder to make our roads safer for pedestrians and motorists.

The men and women of the Vancouver Police Department appreciate the overwhelming support and approval that you relate to pollsters concerning their performance. You'll notice on our new police cars the words "Beyond the Call" across the trunk. It is our promise of outstanding service to the people of Vancouver. Inside this report, you will see examples of how our members go Beyond the Call, often risking their lives to save others.

To continue to provide this level of service and meet new challenges, we will make every effort to maintain the most effective levels of officers and resources. With the ongoing support of the Police Board, coupled with your approval and that of City Council, we will find the resources we need to achieve our vision of making Vancouver the safest city in Canada and the Vancouver Police Department the best police department in the country.

Jamie Graham
CHIEF CONSTABLE
VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT



Vancouver Police Join the Fight to Save Katrina Victims

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES and the call goes out for help, the men and women of the Vancouver Police Department are always among the first to respond, even if it means leaving their homes and families to travel hundreds of miles to put their lives at risk to save others. In the summer of 2005, that call came for six VPD officers who are members of the Vancouver Urban Search and Rescue Team.

The team, which also included other emergency personnel, travelled to New Orleans to help the Louisiana State Police rescue survivors of hurricane Katrina. They were asked to search the nearby town of St. Bernard's Parish. The town was under 28 feet of water and had been cut off from all outside contact for three days. To get there, the team had to travel up the Mississippi River through the ravaged city of New Orleans. They passed through a no man's land of roving gangs of looters and burning oil refineries.

"We had a one and a half hour commute every day and all you saw around you was devastation," said Operations

Chief Sergeant Jock Wadley, of the VPD. "It was very sobering."

For the next three days they would work 14 to 18 hour days in stifling temperatures, wading through toxic water full of fuel, sewage and poisonous snakes.

"We were able to restore some order out of the anarchy."

Despite the ever present danger and hardships, the team was able to rescue 119 people, many of whom would have likely died without help. "We found one woman screaming for help from her second floor window, but when we went in there was a man on the first floor with a shotgun, clearly out of his mind from lack of water and food. We backed out, but went back the next day so we could quietly talk them down and get them both out."

For their extraordinary humanitarian efforts and for going above and beyond the call of duty, the following officers were awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Commendation: Detective Constable Lynn Nofle, Kathleen Tchang, Constables Bev Mitchell, Dan O'Donovan and Sergeants Craig Cairns and Jock Wadley. ■

Staring Down the Twin Barrels of a Sawed-Off Shotgun Takes Special Courage

OUT OF ALL THE WEAPONS a police officer may have to face, few are more deadly or poses a greater threat than a sawed-off shotgun. At close range, it can make a blind man a killer. At long range, the shot pattern widens out, wounding everyone in its spreading path. In the early evening hours of July 12, 2005, members of the Vancouver Police Emergency Response Team faced a deranged man armed with a sawed-off shotgun.

The man was standing on the Lions Gate Bridge, alternately waving the shotgun and then holding it to his own head. It was clear that he was either intent on killing himself or having police do it for him. ERT members quickly moved onto the bridge, putting them well inside the range of the shotgun. Risking their lives, they moved nearer to stop pedestrians who, unaware of the danger, were walking directly into the scene.

Tension levels nearly reached the breaking point when the man fired his weapon over the guardrail and then passed the barrel in front of the officers' location. Despite the growing danger, ERT members maintained their composure and managed to get a cell phone to the man, who eventually agreed to surrender. The officers involved,



>> *This is a weapon specifically designed to intimidate.*

despite the risk to their own safety, protected the civilians on the bridge and saved the life of the man who seemed bent on destruction.

For valour, compassion and dedication to duty, Acting Sergeant

Tim Henschel, Constables James Flewelling, Don Chapman, Andrew Chan, Kalvin Penner, Ray Wong, Doug Jensen and Dennis Wong were awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation. ■

Beyond the Call 1912



Woman Officer Goes 4000 Miles Beyond The Call

BY CHRIS MATHIESON

NO ONE SAID THAT BECOMING A POLICE OFFICER WOULD BE EASY, but for Constable Lurancy D. Harris the challenges were unique. By 1912, the city had grown to the extent that women were becoming more often both the perpetrators and victims of crime, particularly in the area of vice. Responding to strongly-worded requests by local mission and church groups, Vancouver created a Women's Division "to render assistance to the young girls and women in the city." Mrs. Harris and Minnie Miller were hired and assigned to duty with the Detective Department with the rank of 4th Class Constable, becoming the first women in Canada to be sworn in with "full police powers."

In the course of their duties, they patrolled dance halls, cabarets, pool halls, beer parlours, parks, beaches and "any areas of amusement where women might get into trouble."

Less than six months into her service, Constable Harris was assigned to the first big case of her career: Lorena Mathews had fled from Oklahoma to Alberta after being accused of killing her husband in what was one of that state's most sensational murder cases. She fought extradition for two years, but when it appeared that Mathews would be captured in Edmonton, she fled instead to Vancouver and was promptly arrested.

Given her unique status as a sworn police officer, Constable Harris was assigned to escort Mathews back to Oklahoma to face charges, a grueling trip of almost 2000 miles. Also, given the notoriety of the case, the travelling pair were treated as celebrities, appearing on the front page of newspapers from Denver to Oklahoma City.

Once Mathews was safely handed off to local law enforcement, Harris began her long return trip. After coming back to Vancouver, Harris was promoted to Sergeant and given authority over the Women's Department; she retired 17 years later, with the rank of Inspector. Thanks to the trail she blazed, almost 25% of officers in the Vancouver Police Department are women. Harris' dedication to her duties and to the department has proven to be truly "Beyond the Call." ■

Chris Mathieson is curator of the Vancouver Police Centennial Museum, which houses stories and artifacts of the VPD. Located at 240 E. Cordova St., the museum is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, year round.

"Gone Fishing" Doesn't Mean "Off Duty"



>> *Constable Michael Linde recalls a beautiful day that ended in tragedy.*

ALL POLICE OFFICERS KNOW that they are really never completely off duty. Circumstances beyond their control can jolt them out of their leisure in seconds. Those same circumstances can also press an unsuspecting civilian into service just as quickly.

That's what happened on September 26, 2005, as off duty Constable Michael Linde headed under the Lions Gate Bridge in a small boat for a day of fishing.

"I was thinking, as I motored along, what a stunningly beautiful day it was," said Constable Linde. All that changed in an instant when he saw a woman plunge off the bridge and into the water.

"The whole situation went from dead calm to surreal in seconds. At first I thought it was a mannequin and someone was shooting a movie.

An instant later I knew this was for real."

He tried to get to her on his own, but his small craft required two hands to keep it from capsizing in the strong current. He quickly turned towards the seawall to find help.

His cries for assistance were ignored by all except one man, Dale Mounzer. With disregard for his own safety, Mr. Mounzer unhesitatingly joined Constable Linde in his small boat. The pair got the woman to shore, where Constable Linde stood in the frigid water administering CPR while Mr. Mounzer called 911. Soaked and hypothermic, Constable Linde continued to perform CPR in full view of the park patrons for 25 minutes before he was relieved by

ambulance attendants.

"As cops, we often get to a scene after the fact, but this was a day I will never forget. Dale was phenomenal. I couldn't have done it without him and I will be eternally grateful to him."

While the woman was never revived, it is likely that without the decisive and courageous actions of Constable Linde and Mr. Mounzer, she would have been taken to the depths of the inlet by the undertow and never have been found.

For their outstanding courage in the face of personal danger, Dale Mounzer was awarded the Certificate of Merit, the Vancouver Police Board's award for civilian bravery and Constable Michael Linde was awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation. ■

Going Undercover Among Drug Dealers, Rats and Thieves

AMONG ALL TYPES OF POLICE WORK, few assignments carry more inherent danger than going undercover into a hostile environment for a prolonged period. It is normally so perilous that only the most highly trained

undercover operators are ever chosen. Undercover Constables Carla Young, Eugene Lum and Erik Kerasiotis had neither the high level of training nor the experience required for this assignment, but then no one would expect they

would. This type of project had never been attempted before in the history of the Vancouver Police Department.

It was called Project Haven. The goal was to create a safer living environment for the poor and vulnerable being victimized by some of the worst hotels in the Downtown Eastside. For two months these three officers lived alongside those they were trying to protect. They lived where many residents and staff were involved in drug trafficking and stolen property. Robberies, stabbings and assaults were common. The air was often contaminated with heroin, cocaine and marijuana and the beds and hallways with bugs and vermin. No amount of planning could guarantee their safety; every minute they spent inside the hotels they were at risk.

"It's what I became a cop for," said Constable Eric Kerasiotis. "I just had no idea that I would be doing this so quickly."

Constable Kerasiotis and Constable Eugene Lum were not long out of the academy. Nothing had prepared them for what they would find when they moved into these hotels.

"It was worse than I could ever have imagined," said Constable Kerasiotis. "I expected it would be dirty and gross, but not at that level. It is beyond me that those in authority who claim compassion for these people allow them to live in squalor like this."

For Constable Young, the danger to her health from the filth became real.

"I didn't think it was a good idea that she sit on the mattress in her room," said Constable Lum. "I covered it with a ground sheet tarp and two other pieces of plastic sheeting but she still got bit."



>> *Constables Eugene Lum and Erik Kerasiotis often work in an undercover world.*

Strolling Gunman in the Night Fires Random Shots in the Neighbourhood

IMAGINE THE TERROR of hearing bullets being fired randomly in your neighbourhood. Then imagine the courage it would take to run towards the sound of the gun being fired instead of away from it. That's the type of courage Sergeant Barry Kross and his team of Constables Evan Williams, Tim Henschel and Mark Steinkampf showed on May 15, 2004.

About 3 o'clock in the morning, residents of a Westside neighbourhood were awakened

by the crack of high-powered rifle shots. Sergeant Kross and his team were among the first to respond.

"Initially, we thought it was someone who was doing a little late night target practice," said Sergeant Kross.

They found a bullet hole in a piece of machinery parked on the road and then they heard a shot. As they moved towards the sound, 30 seconds later they heard another shot. The sounds were moving and so was the shooter. The officers were convinced they

were facing an active and random gunman.

"Now things were getting more dangerous. You wonder if the gunman is anti-police and you will be his next target. You worry that he may be aiming at passing cars. We were walking in the dark, tree to tree, hedge to hedge, knowing that we were now right in the area with the shooter."

As they moved closer to the shots, they spotted a man crossing a pedestrian overpass who appeared to be concealing

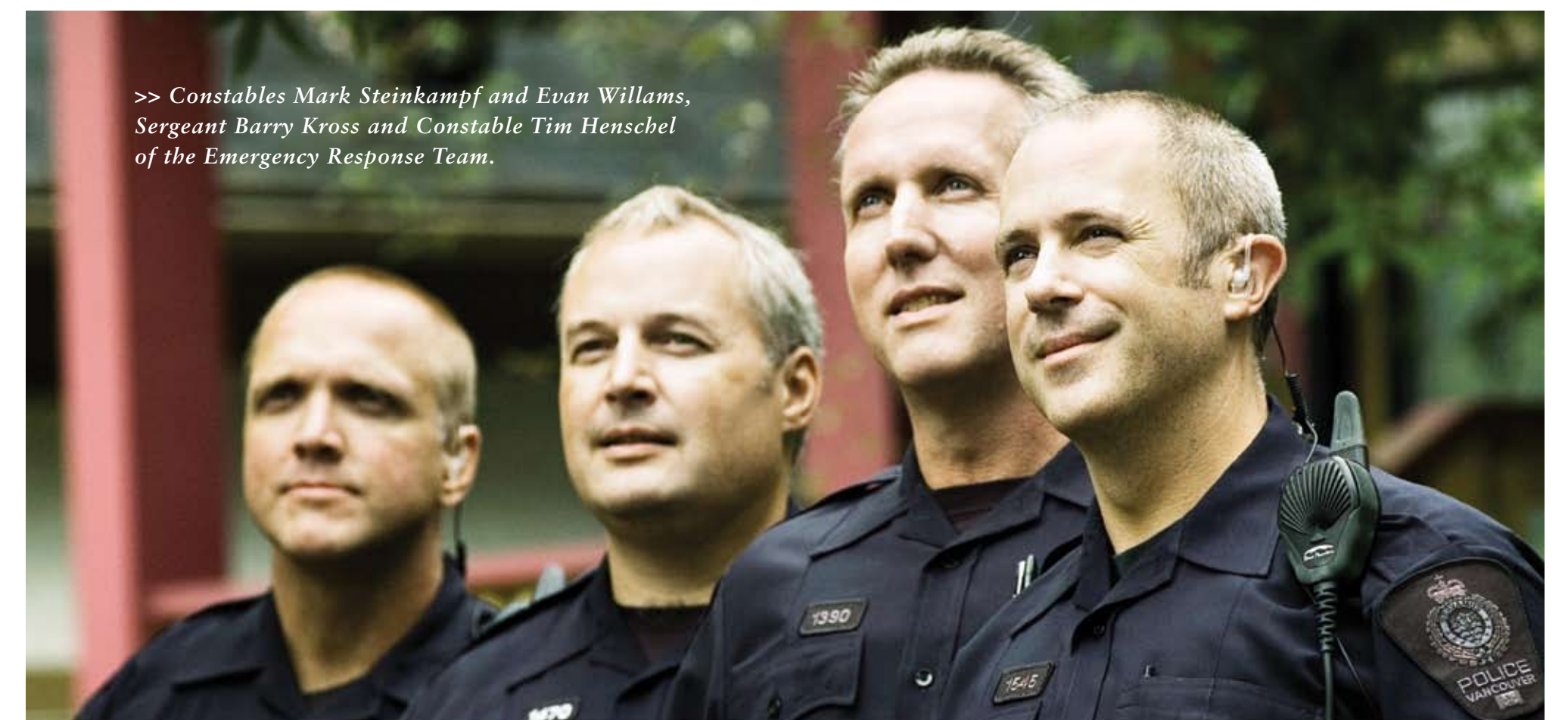
something long down the side of his body. The team moved from cover to confront him. Constable Steinkampf yelled, "He's got a gun." After a brief struggle, the man was taken into custody. His high-powered rifle still had a live round in the chamber. Four bullets had been spent.

"We felt relief when we caught him, but for a while we kept searching in the dark just on the chance that there was a second shooter."

The gunman was eventually

found guilty of three different weapons charges.

Sergeant Kross and his team put their own lives at risk to prevent the injury or death of others. They put themselves in harm's way knowing that at any moment they could fall victim to an ambush or a sniper's bullet. For outstanding bravery, Sergeant Barry Kross and Constables Evan Williams, Tim Henschel and Mark Steinkampf of the Emergency Response Team have been awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation. ■



>> *Constables Mark Steinkampf and Evan Williams, Sergeant Barry Kross and Constable Tim Henschel of the Emergency Response Team.*

FINANCIAL RESULTS

(FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31)

	2004 (\$1000)	2005 (\$1000)	% CHANGE
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STAFFING			
Salaries & Benefits	\$119,997	\$124,569	4%
Uniforms & Related Equipment	\$1,649	\$1,886	14%
Travel & Training	\$851	\$1,135	33%
TOTAL STAFFING	\$122,497	\$127,590	4%

OPERATING COSTS			
Building & Facilities	\$3,846	\$4,107	7%
Fleet	\$5,589	\$5,194	-7%
Criminal Investigations	\$2,233	\$1,729	-23%
Jail	\$2,125	\$2,125	0%
Legal & Consulting	\$1,363	\$1,130	-17%
Equipment	\$2,131	\$2,459	15%
Administrative & Overhead Costs	\$4,226	\$6,309	49%
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	\$21,513	\$23,053	7%

REVENUES	(\$1,452)	(\$1,837)	27%
NET EXPENDITURE	\$142,558	\$148,806	4%

AUTHORIZED STRENGTH	2004	2005	% CHANGE
VPD Sworn Members	1,124	1,174	4%
VPD Civilian Members	231.5	281.5	22%
Total Positions:	1,355.5	1,455.5	7%

CALLS FOR SERVICE	2004	2005	% CHANGE
Total	284,194	279,168	-2%
Dispatched	215,852	194,693	-10%

The decline in dispatched calls can be attributed to a change in the Computer Aided Dispatch system and a reduction in the amount of alarm calls due to a change in the Alarm Bylaws.

CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES

	2004 YTD	2005* YTD	% CHANGE 2004-2005
VIOLENT CRIME	7,385	7,514	1.7%
Culpable Homicide	22	19	-13.6%
Attempted Murder	19	17	-10.5%
Sexual Offences	518	535	3.3%
Assaults	5,116	5,411	5.8%
Abduction	21	10	-52.4%
Robbery	1,689	1,522	-9.9%

PROPERTY CRIME	58,445	52,287	-10.5%
Break & Enter	9,974	8,372	-16.1%
Theft of Vehicle	6,678	5,742	-14.0%
Theft Over \$5,000	596	649	8.9%
Theft Under \$5,000	30,929	28,504	-7.8%
Have Stolen Goods	2,210	1,862	-15.7%
Fraud	1,945	1,865	-4.1%
Mischief Over & Under \$5000	5,832	5,068	-13.1%
Arson	281	225	-19.9%

OTHER CRIME	10,704	10,115	-5.5%
Prostitution	360	363	0.8%
Gaming and Betting	2	4	100.0%
Offensive Weapons	1,203	1,393	15.8%
Other Criminal Code	9,139	8,355	-8.6%

DRUGS	4,643	4,803	3.4%
Heroin	339	390	15.0%
Cocaine	2,100	2,047	-2.5%
Cannabis	1,765	1,823	3.3%
Other Drugs	439	543	23.7%

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT	2,549	2,429	-4.7%
Dangerous Operation of MV**	71	51	-28.2%
Impaired Operation of MV	2,150	2,065	-4.0%
Fail/Refuse Breath/Blood Sample	131	112	-14.5%
Fail to Stop/Remain at Scene	73	107	46.6%
Driving while Prohibited	124	94	-24.2%

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	2,827	2,878	1.8%
MV - Fatal	23	32	39.1%
MV - Non Fatal	1,897	2,030	7.0%
Property Damage	907	816	-10.0%

TOTAL INCIDENTS	86,553	80,026	-7.5%
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* Data Run on 2006/02/28

These statistics are produced using the "all offense scoring method"
NOTE: Small offense numbers make large percentage changes.
Statistics quoted may differ from last year's report due to ongoing investigations and the timing of when police reports were submitted.

** MV - Motor Vehicle



Message from Mayor Sam Sullivan

CHAIR, VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

The Vancouver Police Board is the governing body for the Vancouver Police Department and provides civilian governance and oversight of policing. It is made up of the Mayor as Chair and six citizens, one nominated by City Council and five appointed by the Province.

The Board's main tasks are to:

- set policy and direction for the Vancouver Police Department, including strategic planning
- provide oversight of the Department's finances
- employ the Department's sworn and civilian staff
- act as authority for complaints made about the Department's services and policies

The Board meets each month in public and information about our meetings, including agendas, reports and minutes, is available on our website.

To complement this report, the Board has produced its own Annual Report for 2005.

Our report provides information on what we do and highlights some of our work and successes in 2005. You can find the Board's Annual Report online at www.vancouverpoliceboard.ca

Looking forward, in 2006 the Board intends to build on its work in the areas of strategic planning, policy oversight and development, and increasing public accessibility and disclosure. The Board will continue to work on securing the resources required for the Vancouver Police Department and increasing its efficiency and accountability.

Together with the Vancouver Police Department we work towards our shared vision of:

Canada's leader in policing — public safety for all.

VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD MEMBERS



2005: (above) Larry Campbell / Sam Sullivan; Lynne Kennedy; Terry La Liberté; Mary McNeil; Dale Parker; Janet Pau; Peter Webster.

NEW MEMBERS IN 2006: (left) Patti Marfleet; (right) Glenn Wong.



Home, Home on the Lane



>> Constables Darcy Henkel and Andy Russell.

The Vancouver Police Department Annual Report is available at www.vpd.ca