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BEYOND THE CALL

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Farewell from the Chief

AS YOU READ THIS, I will have already passed the “blue” baton.

This will be the last time that I will be able to address you in our Annual Report and the first time that you hear, in this format, from our new Chief, Jim Chu. As some of you might imagine, this is both a happy and sad moment for me as I approach retirement with lots of changes on the horizon. I've tried relaxing, but I don't know, I feel more comfortable tense! We shall see what the future holds.

I traditionally use the Annual Report to tell you how we're doing in the crime reduction area. The statistics I will share with you are for the year 2006 and will be compared to the year previous. Recent statistics you may have heard that reflect significant drops in some categories of crime are for 2007. The good news is that our continuing battle to reduce property crime has been successful. I know that many of you have told me that this is your number one crime concern. In our 2004 Strategic Plan, we set a five-year goal to reduce property crime by 20 per cent. In 2005, property crime fell by 10.5 per cent. Last year, it fell a further 4.7 per cent.

Don't be misled by the numbers. The amount of property crime in this city is a crime in itself. Residential break and enters went up in 2006 by 3.4 per cent after falling 16 per cent in 2005. More than 8,000 homes a year are being invaded by thieves. Our worst single problem, however, is theft from auto, with more than 15,000 vehicles being hit each year. I know that your new Chief already has plans to launch a concerted attack on this type of crime.

If you would like to help reduce the problem, please don't leave anything in sight in your car.

While extending kudos to our property crime specialists, I would also like to point out the stellar job done by our Traffic Enforcement Section. Traffic accidents dropped by more than eight per cent. The number of fatal accidents fell from 32 in 2005 to 20 in 2006.

These were the bright spots, because in almost every other category crime was up.



>> Chief Constable Jamie Graham (right) passes command to incoming Chief Constable Jim Chu.

Violent crime increased more than six per cent, drug offences were up almost eight per cent reflecting a more aggressive approach to enforcement, and other categories were up a combined total of 20.9 per cent.

We know that some of these statistics are being driven by a handful of criminals who commit the same offence over and over again. They go to jail for short periods and then get out and immediately re-offend.

In 2006, we created a Chronic Offenders Unit to target these worst offenders. We are trying to convince the courts to give longer sentences for these criminals who routinely plague our community.

We also launched another crime-fighting initiative in 2006 we call Compstat. A program that we successfully transplanted from the New York Police, Compstat involves monthly meetings where police leaders from each of the city's four districts are held accountable for crime activity in their area. Information is shared among sections and even neighbouring departments in this innovative and effective program.

These initiatives are all part of our efforts to go Beyond the Call to provide the citizens of Vancouver with a high level of service. I am very grateful for all the assistance and support I have received

from the Police Board, the media and the community. The old phrase that it takes a village to keep a child safe has never been more true today. We always see the greatest drop in crime in neighbourhoods where the community is actively engaged. It is one of the reasons our Block Watch programs and our “Are You Helping Thieves?” campaign have been so successful.

Over a 40-year policing career carrying a shield and a firearm, nothing has made me more proud than my last five years as Chief of this great police department. It has been my honour to serve and lead the civilians and officers of the VPD in their efforts to keep the citizens of our community safe. That has been, and always will be, our mission. I have held the office in trust until the new Chief takes over. He is here and I know Jim Chu will leave a great legacy.

Fare Well from the Chief

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP of Chief Graham, the VPD implemented a strategic plan that you can read in detail on our website at vpd.ca. You'll see that it includes our vision of making Vancouver the safest major city in Canada and the VPD the best police department in the country.

It is a vision that I fully endorse and will commit myself to achieving during my term as Chief Constable.

The details of how we will achieve that vision will become clear over time, but we have already taken great steps toward that goal and I intend to continue along that path achieving that vision. It will take the ongoing support of the Police Board and City Council, support I know I can count on. I am also confident that the men and women of the VPD can rely on the continuing support of the community.

Public safety will always be my priority and will guide our decisions and policies. The residents of Vancouver deserve to live in a city where they feel safe to walk anywhere at any time, without threat or fear. Our children deserve safe playgrounds without bullies or discarded needles. Homeowners should be able to sleep at night, secure and without worry.

It is the job of the VPD, along with the community and our partners, to help make Vancouver that type of city.

The efforts of Chief Graham and his leadership have brought us closer to that vision. On behalf of a grateful department and a grateful city, I want to thank him for those efforts and assure him that we will carry on and will never be deterred in reaching that goal.

We wish him well.



>> Chief Constable Jim Chu accepts command with appreciation and best wishes.



Message From Mayor Sam Sullivan

CHAIR OF THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

On behalf of my colleagues on the Vancouver Police Board I want to thank our outgoing Board members, the Executive, officers and staff of the Vancouver Police Department who serve our city in an exemplary fashion every day.

2006 represented my first full year as your Chairman. It has been an honour for me to serve you.

We started 2006 with a commitment to strategic planning, policy oversight and increased public disclosure. We accelerated work on the strategic plan and implemented measures to make the Vancouver Police Department the most open and accessible in BC. We finished the year by securing additional resources for staffing, training and equipment.

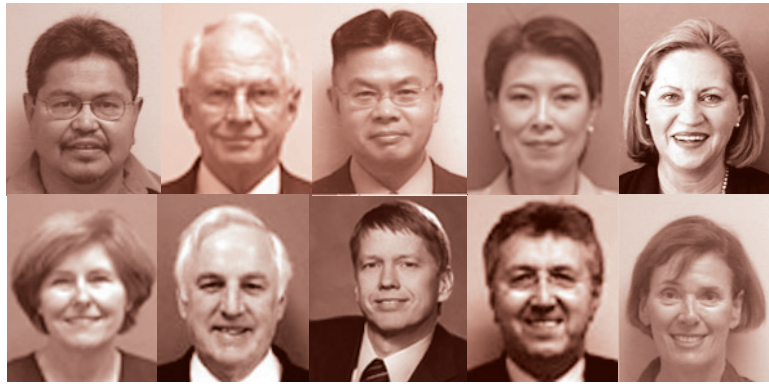
In 2007, the Board looks forward to working with the VPD Executive toward the completion of the revised Strategic Plan. The Board will also partner with the Police Department, the City of Vancouver and other stakeholders in support of achieving the goals laid out in Vancouver's Project Civil City initiative - a plan that sets targets toward the elimination of homelessness, the open drug market and aggressive panhandling.

To complement this report, the Board publishes its own Annual Report which provides information about our mandate and highlights some of the major accomplishments in 2006. You may view the report at www.vancouverpoliceboard.ca.

In conclusion I would like to thank Chief Jamie Graham for his years of service to Vancouver. 2006 represents his last full year of service to the VPD and many of the successes identified in the report are attributed to his leadership.

In the next year we will welcome Deputy Chief Jim Chu as VPD Chief Constable. From our initial discussions, I am confident that the future looks very bright for the department and our city.

VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD



Jerry Adams, Dale Parker, Glenn Wong, Janet Pau, Lynne Kennedy, Mary McNeil, Peter Webster, Sam Sullivan, Terry La Liberté, Patti Marfleet.

FINANCIAL RESULTS (FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31)

	2005 (\$000)	2006 (\$000)	05-06 % CHANGE
STAFFING			
Salaries & Benefits	\$124,569	\$131,307	5%
Uniforms & Related Equipment	\$1,886	\$2,376	26%
Travel & Training	\$1,135	\$1,032	-9%
TOTAL STAFFING	\$127,590	\$134,715	6%

	2005 (\$000)	2006 (\$000)	05-06 % CHANGE
OPERATING COSTS			
Building & Facilities	\$4,107	\$4,182	2%
Fleet	\$5,194	\$6,817	31%
Criminal Investigations	\$1,729	\$3,283	90%
Jail Payment to Province	\$2,125	\$375	-82%
Legal & Consulting	\$1,130	\$582	-48%
Equipment	\$2,459	\$3,616	47%
Administrative & Overhead Costs	\$6,309	\$7,699	22%
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	\$23,053	\$26,554	15%

	2005 (\$000)	2006 (\$000)	05-06 % CHANGE
REVENUES	(\$1,837)	(\$1,992)	8%
NET EXPENDITURE	\$148,806	\$159,277	7%

Noteworthy financial matters for 2006:
The Department took over the operation of the Vancouver Jail from the Province.
An abnormal number of high profile and very costly criminal investigations occurred.

	2005	2006	% CHANGE
AUTHORIZED STRENGTH			
VPD Sworn Members	1,174	1,214	3%
VPD Civilian Members	281.5	368.5	31%
TOTAL POSITIONS:	1,455.5	1,582.5	9%

	2005	2006	% CHANGE
CALLS FOR SERVICE			
Total	279,168	275,154	-1%
Dispatched	194,691	189,936	-2%

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 change in the alarm bylaws.

Did you know:

The Youth Services Section School Liaison Unit made over 400 presentations to more than 50,000 students this past year. Topics included Internet safety, bullying, drug awareness, gangs, domestic violence and street racing.



>> Constable Dave Krenz would like to see Block Watch in every neighbourhood in the city.

Block Watch Neighbourhoods Boast Lowest Crime Rates

THERE IS LITTLE ARGUMENT ON THIS MATTER.

When neighbours are willing to be watchful for strangers, incidents out of the ordinary and things that just don't look right, and then, most importantly, they are willing to report their suspicions to police, crime rates in those areas drop dramatically.

The Vancouver Police Department has a program to make those efforts easier. It's called Block Watch. It has been known to reduce neighbourhood crime rates by as much as 40 per cent.

Constable Dave Krenz is in charge. His goal is to make Block Watch a part of every neighbourhood in the city. He provides training to Block Watch captains and information sessions for those wishing to start the program. In 2006, seven Block Watch classes were held and more than 140 captains and co-captains were trained. There are now 622 neighbourhoods participating across the city, with 1,400 Block Watch captains and 13,588 households.

"When citizens band together to act as support for the police and a barrier against criminals, it is a very impressive and effective tactic," says Constable Krenz. "Some of the Block Watch captains have become crime-fighters in their own right."

One of those neighbourhood crime-fighters is Kelly Baker, who has been a Block Watch captain for about six years, originally in a South Vancouver neighbourhood and most recently in a community on the east side.

"When I first started watching out in our neighbourhood, I saw a house where people

were coming and going at all hours carrying multiple lightweight garbage bags," says Ms. Baker. "One day in three hours I recorded 22 different license plates at the house."

Her efforts were instrumental in the police shutdown of a large grow operation and drug ring.

When she moved to her new neighbourhood she organized a program that involved 40 homes.

"I think some people are still scared to say something, but the majority are watching out for each other."

Any criminals or drug dealers who want to do business in Ms. Baker's neighbourhood get a very decisive and immediate response. In one case, when a drug dealer tried to avoid prying eyes by doing business in the back alley, Ms. Baker installed web cameras in two bird feeder boxes in the alley, which quickly captured his license plate number so she could pass it on to police.

"He never came back," she says with a smile.

To find out more about Block Watch and how you can join, go to vpd.ca.

Did you know:

In 2006, more than 92 kilograms of cocaine were seized and \$800,000 forfeited in drug arrests.

The Grow Busters team dismantled 134 marijuana grow operations, seizing \$65.3 million worth of marijuana and \$1.1 million worth of equipment. Also seized was \$233,495 in cash.

Special Unit Reduces Property Crime

IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE A VICTIM OF CRIME in Vancouver, odds are you will be a victim of property crime. About 8,000 homes and 16,000 cars are burglarized in the city every year. The VPD is committed to reducing those numbers by using traditional police methods, along with new and innovative tactics.

In 2004, a special unit was created to conduct full-time surveillance in order to reduce property crime in District Four. With limited resources, funding and training, this team has achieved extraordinary results.

“We were committed to making an arrest every shift,” said Sergeant Mark Sykes. “We wanted to help the victims and give them a better quality of life.”

In 2006, the unit had a total of 79 surveillance-related arrests of property offenders. Surveillance work is stressful mentally and physically, and often subjects these team members to inclement weather, long hours and shift changes with no notice. Their performance of duty has been outstanding and has led to an 18 per cent reduction in property crime in their district and has been a major contributor to the divisional goal of reducing property crime by 15 per cent.

“The best thing the public can do to safeguard themselves against property crime is to call 911 when they see something wrong. They have to be the eyes and ears of the police,” said Sergeant Sykes. “When I get one of those calls, I go flying to the scene because it means I have the best chance to catch someone and send them to jail.”

For their dedication in reducing this serious category of crime, Sergeant Mark Sykes and Constables Amber McElroy, Sacha Walsh, Steven Eng, Terry Duesterwald, Cairns Graham, Blain Christian, Dirk Odendal, Colin Imai, David Menzies, Daniel Arbas and Nathalie Parel-May have been awarded the Chief Constable’s Unit Citation.



>> Constables David Menzies, Daniel Arbas and Nathalie Parel-May fight property crime in Vancouver.



>> The bean bag gun fires cartridges filled with tiny bags of sand.

Standoff Ends Safely

WHEN THE CALL WENT OUT on December 23, 2006, of a disturbance at a downtown store, officers responding were unaware that they were about to face one of the most challenging situations in policing. A drug-crazed man was throwing a fit and screaming at police to kill him. They call it suicide-by-cop.

In this case, a man who had ingested rock cocaine decided to make his last stand in the men’s room of a downtown store. He ripped the porcelain from the walls as he brandished lengths of pipe and hurled sharp pieces at police.

“It looked like the bathroom had been bombed, and the water was mixing with his blood to make a red river on the floor,” said Constable Mark Bradshaw, who was one of the first officers at the scene. The deranged man screamed at police to shoot him. Attempts to subdue him with non-lethal force, including the bean bag gun and the Taser, failed.

“We had to keep him contained because who knows what he would have done if he had gotten out.” Now naked, since he believed he was on fire, he

continued to throw razor-sharp missiles of porcelain at the officers cutting one in the forehead and another in the leg. “I glanced at my partner and saw blood running down his face,” said Cst. Bradshaw.

In the face of this high-pitched attack, police continued to show restraint, calling for a Spanish-speaking officer and a police negotiator. They eventually managed to talk the man down and safely arrest him without anyone being injured. For some involved it was a reminder that the Christmas season doesn’t necessarily bring joy to everyone.

“I remember thinking how strange it was that during all the screaming, destruction and chaos I could hear ‘Silent Night’ playing in the background,” said Cst. Bradshaw.

For their compassionate and professional performance of duty, Sergeant Bill Rattray, Acting Sergeants Carla Webb and Mark Bradshaw, and Constables Peter Da Silva, Oscar Alvarez de la Portilla, Gord Stokes and Elizabeth Crowther have been awarded the Chief Constable’s Unit Citation.



Vancouver’s Untouchables Defended City’s Morals

BY CHRIS MATHIESON

“The truth is not always pleasing--and it is the truth that during the last ten years the drug evil has required more strenuous handling by the Force in Vancouver than in any preceding years...The illicit drug traffickers of Vancouver have been taught to entertain a wholesome respect for two men of the police force.”

SO BEGAN A PROFILE of Detectives Donald A. Sinclair and Joseph Ricci in the department’s Annual Report of 1921. Assigned to the city’s first Drug Squad and tasked with suppressing the opium trade, these intrepid men quickly became experts on the trap doors, secret walls and other techniques used to conceal the drug trade from the prying eyes of the police. Thanks to the special skills of these men, finesse and the element of surprise were often adequate to gain entry to these secret spaces in basements and back rooms. Occasionally, however, more convincing force was required: “the stalwart detective began chopping at the door with might and main, flying chips and heavy thuds from his axe.” Confronted with three separate thick doors, strengthened by heavy timbers, entry was made even more difficult when an alarm of “police” was given; a sentry would push an electric button which would close numerous doors, turn off electric lights and release the trapdoors for quick escape.

“There also enters at all times a considerable element of danger in this class of work, as the drug trafficker of times is a drug user and therefore to be closely watched. On their raids Ricci and Sinclair have been trapped in burning buildings, have been shot at and have had to shoot, but they have pulled through and built up a success at drug seizures of which the Force is very proud.”

In less than five years on the Drug Squad, seizures by these two detectives were valued in the Annual Report at “hundreds of thousands of dollars,” which would be the equivalent of millions of dollars today.

They followed up this success by going to work on the city’s Dry Squad, using the same shrewd powers of observation and tenacious enthusiasm to curb the city’s illegal alcohol trade during and after Prohibition. Later, they also left their mark on the Morality Squad, clamping down on the “Social Evil” of prostitution.

As with other officers working on crimes of vice, Sinclair and Ricci were selected for their dispositions and ability to “disregard the unpleasantness attached to their work,” according to the 1921 Report. They further demonstrated all the qualifications of good detectives, namely: “shrewdness, reliability, honesty and energy.” For their invaluable expertise, marked cunning and immovable resolve, these two exceptional Detectives were singled out in 1921 for going Beyond the Call.

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

This is one of many stories shared during the museum’s “Sins of the City” walking tour; tours run every Friday and Saturday at 4 p.m. through the summer. Call 604-665-3346 for more information. Reservations required.

Recruiting Vancouver’s Finest to Go Beyond the Call

A COMMON HUMAN RESOURCES cliché is that an organization is only as good as its members. In the case of the Vancouver Police Department the quality of our members is only as good as our Recruiting Unit. They face an increasingly difficult task as they seek a high calibre candidate in a job market where exceptional people often have exceptional opportunities.

From January 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006, the VPD’s Recruiting Unit accomplished an extraordinary feat. Under the leadership of Sergeant Steve Rai, the members of this unit successfully recruited and hired 152 police officers, 30 Traffic Authority members and 20 Vancouver Jail guards.

The unit attracted a group of successful candidates in which almost half had university degrees, a quarter were women and a quarter were of diverse backgrounds reflecting the makeup of our community.

For their exceptional teamwork, commitment and dedication, Inspector Bob Huston, Sergeants Steve Rai, Al Gosbee and Ken Eng, Acting Sergeant Steve Elson, Constables Mark Burgess, Paul Cook, Megan Herrmann, Larry Melnyk, Peter Robertson, Howard Tran, Bob McClelland, Pam Dawes and Joanne Wild, and civilian members Jessie Liddar, Nicole Ulmer, Kim Waterhouse and June Yamamoto, were awarded the Chief Constable’s Unit Citation.

The leadership of the unit has now passed to Sergeant Carol Tarnowsky, who has the daunting task of recruiting about 100 new members next year.

“We are looking for people with academic degrees and strong writing skills, who work well in small teams,” says Sgt. Tarnowsky. “Second languages are a plus, as is volunteer community experience in any type of public safety role.”

The new campaign is designed to speak directly to ideal candidates, such as university athletes who have a tremendous track record of success within the department.



>> Sgt. Carol Tarnowsky will be looking for about 100 new officers in 2007.

The benefits of a law enforcement career with the VPD are extensive.

“We offer a great diversity of opportunities where a career might span everything from CSI-type forensics to specialty

horses, dogs or marine,” says Sgt. Tarnowsky. “The shift schedule is the most humane in policing and a new recruit can expect to start at a salary of about \$45,000 that will rise to about \$72,000 in their fifth year of service.” Find our more at vpd.ca.

Did you know:

The Forensic Video Unit handled approximately 900 cases in 2006. One case, the kidnapping of Graham McMynn, produced hundreds

of hours of video evidence for the trial. The brazen daylight kidnapping drew both national and international media attention and an intense nine day investigation resulted in the rescue of Graham McMynn. Seven people were charged with kidnapping.

The investigation involved many police agencies locally and abroad and was led by the VPD’s Robbery / Assault Squad.

Face off with a Firehose Terrifies Residents



>> Constables Darren Hall, Mark Bouchey, Barry Milewski, and Shane Kolb were some of the officers that helped arrest a mentally disturbed man intent on harm.

THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2006, was a terrifying one for many residents of a Burnaby Street apartment building. It was also a night that tested the bravery and resolve of half a dozen Vancouver police constables.

Late in the evening, residents were startled by a man who was screaming in the hallway and trying to kick his way into their apartments. Many frantic calls were made to 911 and when police arrived they learned the man had broken hallway windows and was possibly armed with jagged glass. But that wasn’t the worst of it. As they tried to approach him, he grabbed the firehose and blasted them full force to keep them back. They used the Taser and the beanbag gun. Five times the beanbag gun was fired. Five times it had no effect.

“When people are in this state of agitation they are very goal oriented and it takes a great deal to stop them,” said Constable Barry Milewski.

“We know they are not going to quit so the challenge for us is to make sure that everyone comes out of this safely.”

When a second blast from the Taser made him drop the hose, police rushed him. For the next few minutes they were involved in a violent struggle, until the man was safely subdued and eventually sedated and taken to hospital.

For their outstanding efforts and bravery that saved residents and a mentally disturbed man from serious injuries or worse, Constables Darren Hall, Peter Bowater, Shane Kolb, Mark Bouchey, David Swanson and Barry Milewski have been awarded the Chief Constable’s Unit Citation.

CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES

	2005	2006	% Change
	YTD	YTD	2006-2007
VIOLENT CRIME	7,514	7,971	6.1%
Homicide	19	15	-21.1%
Attempted Murder	17	13	-23.5%
Sexual Offences	535	528	-1.3%
Assaults	5,411	5,775	6.7%
Abduction	10	8	-20%
Robbery	1,522	1,632	7.2%
PROPERTY CRIME	52,287	49,736	-4.9%
Break & Enter	8,372	8,655	3.4%
Theft of Vehicle	5,742	4,339	-24.4%
Theft Over \$5,000	649	526	-19%
Theft Under \$5,000	28,504	26,784	-6%
Possession of Stolen Property	1,862	1,507	-19.1%
Fraud	1,865	2,160	15.8%
Arson	225	302	34.2%
Mischief Over & Under \$5,000	5,068	5,463	7.8%
OTHER CRIME	10,115	12,230	20.9%
Prostitution	363	285	-21.5%
Gaming and Betting	4	1	-75.0%
Offensive Weapons	1,393	1,611	15.6%
Other Criminal Code	8,355	10,333	23.7%
DRUGS	4,803	5,183	7.9%
Heroin	390	566	45.1%
Cocaine	2,047	2,376	16.1%
Cannabis	1,823	1,638	-10.1%
Other Drugs	543	603	11.0%
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT	2,429	2,171	-10.6%
Dangerous Operation of ‘MV	51	39	-28.2%
Impaired Operation of MV	2,065	1,778	-13.9%
Fail/Refuse Breath/Blood Sample	112	167	49.1%
Fail to Stop/Remain at Scene	106	121	13.1%
Driving while Prohibited	94	66	-29.8%
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	2,878	2,637	-8.4%
MV – Fatal	32	20	-37.5%
MV – Non-Fatal	2,030	1,374	-32.3%
Property Damage	817	1,243	52.1%
TOTAL INCIDENTS	80,026	79,928	0.0%

¹ 2005 & 2006 data run on 2007/03/13
These statistics are produced using the “all offence scoring method.”
NOTE: Small offence numbers make large percentage changes
Statistics quoted may differ from last year’s report due to ongoing investigations and the timeliness of when police reports were submitted.
**MV – Motor Vehicle