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BEYOND THE CALL

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | ANNUAL REPORT 2008

COMMUNITY

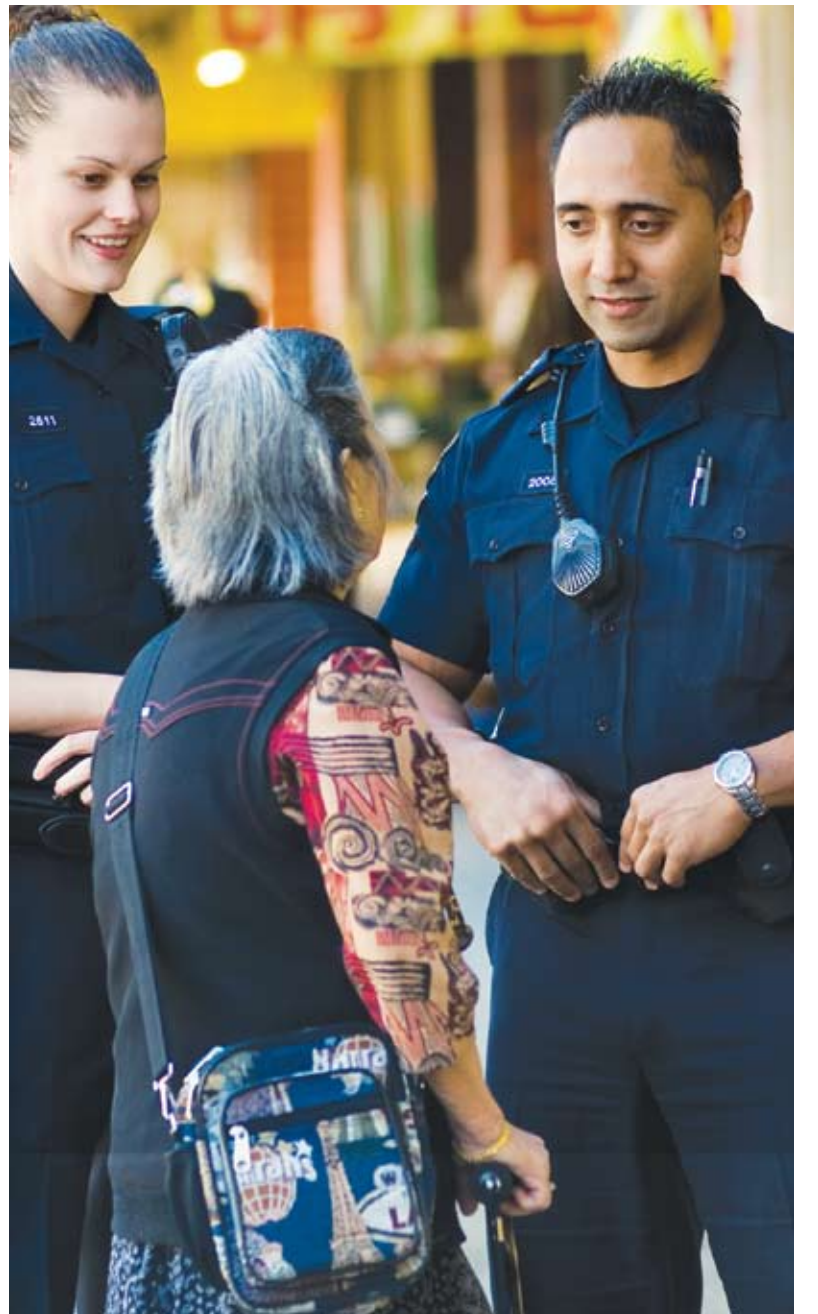


the police are the public and the public are the police

1830 - SIR ROBERT PEEL

AS CHIEF CONSTABLE OF THE VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT, it is my pleasure to report to the residents of Vancouver the efforts being made by the members of the Vancouver Police Department to make our city a safer place for everyone. Our goal is nothing short of making Vancouver the safest major city in Canada by providing levels of service that routinely go Beyond the Call.

We know that we don't stand alone. Everyone who believes in a polite society stands with us. This year, I would like to expand the scope of our annual report to recognize the outstanding contributions of our volunteers and partners. *continued on page 2*



the police are the public & the public are the police

COMMUNITY HELPS VPD REDUCE CRIME RATE

continued from page 1

At the VPD, we believe strongly in the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police. We are not separate from our community, but interlaced in a way that is driven

Community Policing Centres has never been wider.

Our combined efforts have reaped the dividends of both preventing and reducing crime. Last year, we saw a six per cent

major concern for us registering only a small drop from last year. We did have a spike in gang shootings and murders early in 2009. Our efforts to combat this wave of gang violence has taxed



Vancouver Police Chief Constable Jim Chu.

“We continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with our community, our Police Board and city council in working towards our goal of making Vancouver Canada’s safest major city.”

by the common goal of public safety for our mutual welfare. It is a philosophy strongly endorsed by the Vancouver Police Board and its chair, Mayor Gregor Robertson.

In this year’s annual report you will find articles about our citizens who work with us to prevent crime and disorder. The efforts of hundreds of these volunteers are truly impressive. Across the city Block Watch teams look out for their neighbours, Citizens’ Crime Watch volunteers work with us each week locating scores of stolen cars, and the reach of our

drop in the overall crime rate compared to the year before. You have told us that the number one crime concern you have in your neighbourhood is property crime. In 2008, we saw an almost eight per cent reduction in this category with close to a 12 per cent drop in break and enters. Car thefts were down an impressive 25 per cent.

While these reductions are a positive sign, we are still a long way from our goal of making Vancouver Canada’s safest major city.

Violent crime continues to be a

our resources to their limits and beyond, but the arrests we have made have removed many of our most dangerous and violent criminals from our streets. I can promise you that more arrests of gang members are coming.

I am also troubled by another factor that threatens the safety of our streets. Traffic infractions were up four per cent and motor vehicle collisions increased 10.4 per cent. When you consider that we had 2,836 collisions in 2007 and that ballooned to 3,158 last year, it is surprising that the

actual number of people killed on our city streets dropped from 24 to 20. These statistics serve as a reminder to us all to drive carefully and with caution.

Crime and safety statistics are only one measure of our efforts to reach our goal. The number of crimes prevented is impossible to record, but the measures taken are simple to report.

In 2008, the VPD continued to produce reports and research designed to be a catalyst for positive social change. We released reports on issues surrounding mental illness

(Lost in Transition), chronic offenders (30 Strikes and You’re Out) and the continuing issue of criminals fleeing prosecution by coming to Vancouver (Con Air). You can find these reports and stories about these issues on our website at vpd.ca.

In 2009, we continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with our community, our Police Board and city council in working towards our goal of making Vancouver Canada’s safest major city. Thank you for all efforts in helping us approach that mark. □

BARWATCH & RESTAURANT WATCH BORN OUT OF FRUSTRATION

Police and owners say enough is enough

THE GRANVILLE ENTERTAINMENT District is a much different place than it was just a couple of years ago.

Then, violence, bar fights and gangsters were the norm. Today, because the bar owners and the VPD decided to form an alliance they called BarWatch, the Entertainment District has transformed into a much safer place.

The program relies heavily on the managers and staff of the bars and a system by which known criminals are identified and banned from the clubs. Since the program began, hundreds of trouble-makers have been shown the door.

“The most telling evidence I have is when a Hells Angel said to me, ‘Where am I supposed to eat now, at McDonald’s?’” said Sergeant Curtis Robinson who runs the program for the VPD. “I told him, ‘For now.’”

According to the club owners and the police, most criminals don’t even bother anymore.

“If we do hear that a criminal or an associate of criminals is in one of the bars, all we have to do is show ourselves and they know it’s time to leave,” said Sergeant Robinson.

He freely admits that the program couldn’t exist without the members of the Entertainment District community being fully supportive and involved.

“They clearly deserve half the credit,” he says. “In all my years in law enforcement, I have never seen a program work as well as BarWatch.”

“In an ideal world, we’d like every bar in the City of Vancouver to belong to BarWatch,” says John Teti, bar owner and Chair of Barwatch.

When restaurant owners saw just how successful the program was, they joined the VPD in organizing Restaurant Watch.

“We have about 96 restaurants involved,” said Constable Eric Lott, in charge of the program. “They have ejected more than 500 known underworld figures.”

“In February, we had one restaurant report the presence of high level drug dealers. We were



able to make the arrest in which firearms were recovered.”

Restaurant Watch and BarWatch are just two more examples of the police and the community working together to make Vancouver a safer city. □

COMMUNITY POLICING CENTRES

Helping to make Vancouver safer

COMMUNITY POLICING is not just a philosophy for the VPD, it is a primary tactic being used to make Vancouver Canada’s safest major city.

The VPD directly consults the community through its Neighbourhood Policing and its North and South Crime Prevention Teams, as well as through programs such as BarWatch, Restaurant Watch, Block Watch, Realty Watch, Business Liaison, Citizens’ Crime Watch, Citizens’ Police Academy, Community Policing Centres, Crime Prevention Officers, Vancouver Crime Prevention Society, CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), School Liaison Officers, Operation Co-operation, Project Griffin and the Victim Services Unit.

They are all examples of police officers and civilian staff and volunteers working together, with none more important than the partnership between the VPD and the autonomous Community Policing Centres (CPCs). It is an arrangement that is unique in North America.

There are currently ten CPCs located in Vancouver, eight of which are non-profit organizations operated by autonomous boards of directors, with two operated by the VPD (the second being the newly opened Kitsilano CPC). Eight provide programs and services to their surrounding communities, while two offer culturally focused programs to all Vancouver residents in their demographic group. The first CPC opened in 1992 in Chinatown.

CPC activities are supported and supplemented by the VPD’s Community Policing Services Unit and each CPC is assigned a Neighbourhood Policing Officer. The CPCs are primarily funded by city council, which grants each centre about \$100,000 a year.

“CPCs exist to help communities help themselves in preventing and combating crime while being the eyes and ears of the police,” says Chris Taalu, the longest serving CPC Co-ordinator in the city.

Various CPC activities, such as outreach programs, educate or inform the public on how to keep themselves and their communities safe and free of crime. Other activities are geared towards helping victims of crime, suicidal or mentally challenged persons, the homeless, and children.

The CPCs also directly assist the VPD’s crime-fighting efforts. Crime information gathered through citizen patrols is passed to the VPD to help identify hotspots and problem premises. CPC volunteers are also available to be mobilized at a moment’s notice to assist the VPD in implementing specific operational and investigative initiatives.

CPCs are in the highest tradition of the principle of “police are the public and the public are the police.” □



Constable Kevin Bernardin leads a team of dedicated volunteers who checked 356,281 license plates on their patrols in 2008 and recovered 97 stolen cars. From left Craig Jacks, Chris Davies, Margaret Vrabel, Constable Kevin Bernardin, David Cameron, Jeff Christopher and Sandy Branch.

CITIZENS’ CRIME WATCH WHY WE VOLUNTEER

With each day I have been out volunteering for the CCW, I am having a better grasp of policing standards in Canada and feel more associated with this kind of work. My role might be too little in the entire effort, but eventually it gives me a feeling of fulfillment and accomplishment for something positive that I am doing for our society.

SUKHBIR DHALIWAL

At the end of the day, on that quieter than expected drive home, that’s when it really sinks in: I took part in preventing an accident, keeping someone from continuing to do more harm to others, or helped change the course of some event for the better. It isn’t easy to justify on a cost / benefit analysis. It’s the definition of altruism for sure. My friends and family and neighbours are safer. That’s the ultimate goal. That’s what it’s all about for me.

DOMINIC SABATINO

The rewards of being involved with Vancouver CCW are many. For me, though, the greatest reward was when we found a pick-up truck that had been stolen 18 days earlier. A Golden retriever was in a crate in the back of the vehicle when it was stolen. To everyone’s amazement, the dog was still alive, but barely. Witnessing the reunion of the dog with his happy owners at the Vancouver Animal Emergency Clinic where the dog made a remarkable recovery is something I will never forget.

GILLIAN WILLIS

What makes this volunteer program special is that you can learn a lot, have fun, meet a lot of people and, most importantly, make a positive difference to the community that we live in.

JACK KNEALE & CYNTHIA WONG

On my first patrol with CCW, my partner and I found three stolen parked cars, which I was told was not that common, but I was hooked! The next high was finding a “mobile stolen” and that experience has kept me coming back for 11 years! It was a discovery into a new world of those who serve and protect, acting as additional “eyes & ears” for our police force. One obtains a new appreciation of our members of the Vancouver Police Department.

MARGARET VRABEL

I feel my time is valuable to me, so I wanted to make sure my volunteer time is well spent and meets a community need.

ALLAN REICH

I still get a kick when a “rolling stolen,” an uninsured driver, an individual with a warrant, or an unlicensed driver doesn’t know where, when, or how they got found out.

CRAIG JACKS

We in CCW are basically people who see the rule of law as vital to the well running of our city. We are given vigilance training to better enable us to spot suspicious activity and, in our cars, we roam the entire city – not just our small local neighborhoods. VPD, unlike police in other jurisdictions, shows its appreciation by assigning an experienced member to our group. When we spot trouble, using a VPD radio kit we get an immediate police response.

GERRY DEAGLE

I fondly look back at my time as a CCW volunteer and encourage all members of the community who are interested in being proactive against crime and standing up for their community to apply today. Citizens’ Crime Watch is for you. It’s about being part of the team, it’s about taking a stand.

VPD CONSTABLE COREY MARSDEN

TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO VPD.CA

ABORIGINAL YOUTH AND POLICE WORKING TOGETHER

WHEN YOU HEAR of police encountering Aboriginal youth, the words trust and relationship building do not automatically spring to mind.

Traditionally, both sides have reason to be sceptical. It was only in 1990 that Canada’s last residential school closed, ending an era that was rife with abuse and atrocities. The scars left on the Aboriginal community are still highly visible as demonstrated by the community’s over-representation in our prison system, where about 50 per cent of all female prisoners and 20 per of males are Aboriginal.

For Constable Rick Lavallee, the Vancouver Police Department’s Aboriginal Liaison Officer, the challenges are daunting, but he comes to the job uniquely qualified and highly dedicated.

Constable Lavallee, who is Metis, decided late in life that he wanted to make a difference within his community by joining the police. At 40, he was one of the oldest candidates to go through the RCMP’s training depot. A year-and-a-half later, he became one of the oldest new members of

the VPD. If you ever meet him, you would guess that he was also one of the fittest.

His police work quickly gravitated towards working with the Aboriginal community, especially the youth.

“It’s all about trust and relationship building,” he says. “There is a need for more positive role models, with many youth being raised in a series of foster homes. They need someone who they can respect and get advice from.”

For the past one-and-a-half years, Constable Lavallee has been serving in that role. Working closely with a number of community groups and Aboriginal leaders, he has been building trust one youth at a time.

One of the programs he is involved in is “Pulling Together,” where police and Aboriginal youth paddle traditional canoes in a journey designed to bring them closer together.

“I was sitting next to one young man who started out sullen and quiet. He had a history of drug dealing and drug use and was very anti-police. He wanted nothing to do with cops. But eventually we

wound up parting as friends and now we meet regularly for chats as he is putting his life back together.”

Constable Lavallee believes that part of the answer lies in encouraging the youth to learn about and surround themselves in their culture. One program involved the carving of a dugout canoe with fallen logs from Stanley Park.

“We had as many as 50 youth working on that. You could see the look in their eyes of pride and happiness when more than 200 people turned out for the official launching and over 500 for the feast at the Aboriginal Friendship Centre.”

But funds for this type of project and others are often hard to raise. Organizers are hoping to carve another canoe, but need about \$60,000 to fund the project.

Constable Lavallee knows that it will take a long time to fully rebuild the trust between the Aboriginal community and the police, but he is helping work towards that goal.

“I joined the job to work in this role. I would be pleased to be doing this type of work for the rest of my police career,” says Constable Lavallee. □

FINANCIAL RESULTS

(FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31)

	2007 (\$1,000)	2008 (\$1,000)	% CHANGE
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STAFFING			
Salaries & Benefits	\$140,871	\$149,461	
Uniforms & Related Equipment	\$2,900	\$2,982	
Training	\$1,199	\$1,589	
TOTAL STAFFING	\$144,970	\$154,032	6%

OPERATING COSTS			
Building & Facilities	\$4,143	\$6,100	
Fleet	\$6,529	\$7,729	
Criminal Investigations	\$1,869	\$2,321	
Legal & Consulting	\$833	\$1,153	
Equipment	\$4,382	\$2,500	
Administrative & Overhead Costs	\$7,081	\$8,025	
Reserve Adjustments	\$437	\$2,350	
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	\$25,274	\$30,178	19%

REVENUES	(\$1,722)	(\$2,358)	
NET EXPENDITURE	\$168,522	\$181,852	8%

CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES

	2007	2008 ¹	2007 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	2008 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	% CHANGE
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VIOLENT CRIME					
Culpable Homicide	19	18	0.0	0.0	-6.1%
Attempted Murder	18	22	0.0	0.0	21.2%
Sexual Offences	502	473	0.8	0.8	-6.6%
Assaults	5,534	5,588	9.1	9.1	0.1%
Abduction	10	7	0.0	0.0	-30.6%
Robbery	1,542	1,541	2.5	2.5	-0.9%

PROPERTY CRIME					
Break & Enter	7,660	6,830	12.6	11.1	-11.6%
Theft of Vehicle	3,934	2,971	6.4	4.8	-25.1%
Theft (Over/Under \$5K)	23,801	22,531	39.0	36.6	-6.2%
Have Stolen Goods	1,353	1,134	2.2	1.8	-16.9%
Fraud	2,374	2,000	3.9	3.2	-16.5%
Arson	239	266	0.4	0.4	10.3%
Mischief (Over/Under \$5K)	5,058	5,595	8.3	9.1	9.7%

OTHER CRIME					
Prostitution	198	162	0.3	0.3	-18.9%
Gaming and Betting ²	3	7	0.0	0.0	-
Offensive Weapons	1,453	1,228	2.4	2.0	-16.2%
Other Criminal Code	9,836	9,530	16.1	15.5	-3.9%

DRUGS					
Heroin	590	489	1.0	0.8	-17.8%
Cocaine	2,237	1,984	3.7	3.2	-12.1%
Cannabis	1,655	1,407	2.7	2.3	-15.7%
Other Drugs	182	203	0.3	0.3	10.6%

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT					
Dangerous Operation of MV	32	42	0.1	0.1	30.1%
Impaired Operation of MV	2,000	2,072	3.3	3.4	2.7%
Fail/Refuse Breath/ Blood Sample	117	151	0.2	0.2	27.9%
Fail to Stop/Remain at Scene	143	172	0.2	0.3	19.2%
Driving while Prohibited	104	76	0.2	0.1	-27.6%

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS					
MV – Fatal	25	19	0.0	0.0	-24.7%
MV – Non Fatal	1,235	1,181	2.0	1.9	-5.2%
Property Damage	1,577	1,957	2.6	3.2	23.0%

TOTAL INCIDENTS	73,431	69,656	120.3	113.2	-6.0%
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CALLS FOR SERVICE					
Total	259,209	249,044	424.8	404.6	-4.8%
Dispatched	195,831	189,431	321.0	307.8	-4.1%
% Dispatched	75.5%	76.1%			0.7%
Population ³	610,156	615,473			0.9%

¹ 2007 & 2008 data run on 2009/06/29

² Rate change not presented for counts less than or equal to five

³ Source: BC Stats as of 2009/06/29

These statistics are produced using the "all offence scoring method."

Note: Small baseline offence numbers make large percentage changes. Please refer to <http://vancouver.ca/police/Planning/info.htm> for data disclaimers and limitations.



**MAYOR
GREGOR ROBERTSON**

I AM VERY PLEASED that the theme of this year's Vancouver Police Department's annual report is community. It is sometimes easy to forget that when it comes to safeguarding our city, we are all in this together.

The vision of the Vancouver Police Department is to make Vancouver the safest major city in Canada. They can't do it alone nor will they have to. The residents of our city have always stepped up to play their part. As Sir Robert Peel said in 1830, while the police may be the only members of the public paid to give full-time attention to our safety, these are still duties which are incumbent upon every citizen in the interests of the community welfare.

The Vancouver Police Board and the City gladly embrace the principles of community policing. Since 1992, our city council has supported Community Policing Centres across the city. This year, a new centre opened bringing the total to ten. City Council provides \$100,000 in funding to each of these centres. But then it is up to the volunteers, civic-minded citizens who know they can make a difference.

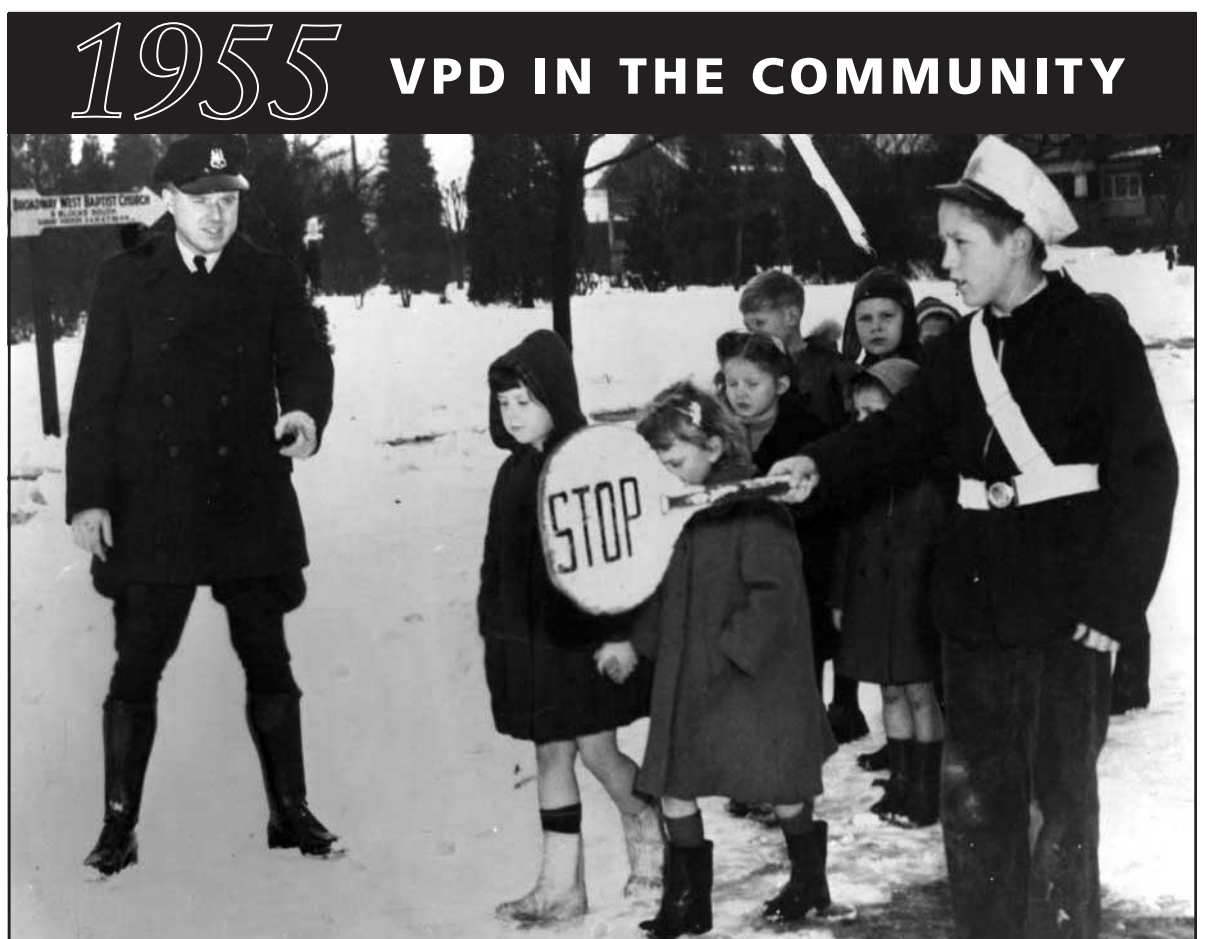
Last September, the City declared its first official Community Policing Day in recognition of all the work of hundreds of those volunteers. They have never hesitated to roll up their sleeves and get involved in crime prevention and public safety programs ranging from citizen patrols to wiping out graffiti. The volunteers work closely with their Neighbourhood Police Officers, one of whom is assigned to each centre. This working relationship builds trust and confidence in our police department.

The roots of community policing can be traced back hundreds of years and were partly based on the theory that people were much more likely to report crime to a familiar neighbourhood-based officer than they would be to a stranger.

On behalf of the Vancouver Police Board, I would like to congratulate all of our citizens who volunteer in Community Policing Centres, Citizens' Crime Watch, Block Watch, Speed Watch and a host of other crime prevention programs, for making Vancouver a better and safer place to live. We couldn't do it without you. □

VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD MEMBERS

- GREGOR ROBERTSON
- DALE PARKER (TERM ENDED JUNE 30, 2009)
- GLENN WONG
- TERRY LA LIBERTÉ
- PATTI MARFLEET
- SHERYL WILLIAMSON-HARMS
- JASON MCLEAN
- MARY COLLINS (TO BE OFFICIALLY APPOINTED IN SEPTEMBER 2009)



SINCE THE FORMATION of the School Safety Patrols in 1935, no serious injury or fatal accident has occurred at any patrolled Vancouver school crossing. Here, a Vancouver Police officer gives a word of advice to a new school safety patroller, circa 1955. To find out more visit the Vancouver Police Museum at 240 E. Cordova Street 604.665.3346. or online www.vancouverpolicemuseum.ca □

DID YOU KNOW? *Did you know?* DID YOU KNOW?

DONATIONS RECEIVED

THE VANCOUVER POLICE FOUNDATION is an independent society which meets semi-annually to consider proposals that promote programs of research and education relating to law enforcement, encourage public participation in law enforcement, emphasize the role of the police in the community, and encourage community awareness of the problems of crime and crime prevention. In the past five years, the Foundation has directed donations from the community of more than \$537,000 to these Vancouver Police projects. For more information on how you can become involved, go to www.vancouverpolicefoundation.org. □

DONATIONS GIVEN

CONTRIBUTING TO CHARITY is a deeply ingrained part of the VPD culture. In 2008, the members, sworn and civilian, raised more than \$350,000 for a variety of charities including the VPD's Community Fund, Ride for Dad, Cops for Cancer and the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics BC. □