



BEYOND THE CALL

CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VPD COMMUNITY



Our People of the Year





CHIEF CONSTABLE'S CITATION RECIPIENTS:
CONSTABLES KYLE HUNT, COLLEEN MCKITRICK,
AND SHAYNE VAN DER HIJDE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE JIM AND VICKI CHU COMMUNITY SAFETY LEADER AWARD 4

AWARD OF MERIT. 6

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S COMMENDATIONS 11

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S CITATIONS. 16

2019 CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR 24

2019 POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR. 26

COVER IMAGE AWARD RECIPIENTS: CONSTABLE SHAYNE VAN DER HIJDE, DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ALICE YEE,
SERGEANT TYRONE SIDEROFF, MARIA-LISE DHAMI, STAFF SERGEANT LISA BYRNE, CONSTABLE SHAI F MANJI,
CONSTABLE KAM LIDDAR, CONSTABLE PETER SWAN, AND ALEYA TROTT

THE JIM AND VICKI CHU *Community Safety Leader Award*

ALEYA TROTT has been the Executive Director of the West End – Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre since July 2010, and has become a tireless advocate for the safety of her community.

Recognizing that volunteers are integral to the success of a community policing centre, Aleya has focused on recruiting. In the past eight years, she has grown the number of volunteers at her community policing station from only 45 to 172 – an increase of nearly 300 per cent. These determined and highly motivated people run programs like bike and foot patrols, Speedwatch, distracted driving initiatives, and elder abuse workshops. Many of them go on to pursue work in policing and other first responder services.

Aleya performs a wide range of volunteer work in the diverse community she serves. For example, she participates in the West End Community Response Network for vulnerable adults, the West End Seniors Planning Table, and the Living in Community Steering Group advocating for sex workers. She is also involved with the Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre and the BC Crime Prevention Association. In addition, she serves as an after-hours crisis response worker for both the Vancouver Police and Coquitlam RCMP victim services units.

Non-profit volunteer organizations cannot exist without fundraising and Aleya is well aware of that. Through grants, sponsorships, donations, and fundraising events, Aleya, her staff, and volunteers raised over \$172,000 toward the operating budget of the West End – Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre in 2018. The funds raised are used for social programs, crime prevention, and outreach.

As a strong collaborator and community leader, Aleya has developed lasting relationships in the community. Those who know her describe her as a bright and passionate leader who is dedicated and devoted to the people she serves. She relentlessly promotes community policing through social events, local sports, and social media. She is highly respected by all who know her.

For her contribution in preventing crime and improving safety in the community, ensuring that everyone has a voice and is heard, and for helping make Vancouver a better place for us all, Aleya Trott is awarded the Jim and Vicki Chu Community Safety Leader Award.



ALEYA TROTT

Award of Merit

The Award of Merit is presented by the Vancouver Police Board to citizens who, on their own initiative and in the face of actual or anticipated danger, have made an attempt at saving a life or have assisted the police in preventing a crime, or in apprehending or attempting to apprehend an offender.

1. MR. ZORAN BRANKOVIC MR. NATHAN JONES

On the morning of April 20, 2018, two strangers came together to save the life of another stranger in need.

Zoran Brankovic and Nathan Jones were driving their cars across the Powell Street Railway Overpass and spotted a man standing on the outside of the railing, leaning precariously out over the tracks 30 feet below.

Zoran and Nathan had never met, but they immediately began to work as a team. Nathan called 9-1-1, as Zoran began speaking to the distraught man.

The pair managed to convince him to come back over the railing, and helped him to do so – despite the fact he was significantly larger. They positioned themselves between the man and the bridge railing, gently restraining him until police arrived. He was apprehended under the Mental Health Act and taken to hospital.

The man later told a police officer he was just waiting to get the courage to jump.

For saving the life of a distraught man intent on ending his life, in an unpredictable and potentially dangerous situation, Mr. Zoran Brankovic and Mr. Nathan Jones are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

TRIGGER WARNING: THIS STORY INCLUDES THE SUBJECT OF SUICIDE. IF YOU NEED HELP, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CRISIS CENTRE OR CALL 9-1-1.

2. MS. ELEONORA BENIAMINO MR. MALIK AL-MAAMIRY MR. MUHSIN AL-MAAMIRY MR. NICOLO MARI MR. BENJAMIN SMITH MR. CRAIG VANDERMEER

When Eleonora Beniamino and Nicolo Mari returned to their parked car in a downtown Vancouver parkade on the morning of September 21, 2018, little did they know a crime spree was about to unfold.

They found their sunroof smashed and a man removing a backpack from the trunk. Craig Vandermeer was driving by as the couple confronted the thief. He pulled over and got out to help. As he called 9-1-1, the thief bolted. When Craig ran after him, the man turned and released bear spray.

The thief jumped into Craig's vehicle and took off, exiting the parkade and hitting parked cars along the street. He struck a pedestrian, causing serious injuries, then abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot.

Father and son, Malik and Muhsin Al-Maamiry were sitting in their van as the events unfolded. They leapt out and took off after the suspect. As they got closer, the man turned around and again released bear spray, completely incapacitating the two.

Ben Smith, who was working in construction in the area, rushed to the aid of the injured pedestrian. Seeing what had happened to the Al-Maamirys, he took up the chase. He crossed West Georgia Street through rush-hour traffic and tackled the suspect to the ground. A fight ensued, and even though Ben was also bear-sprayed, he managed to hold on to the resisting suspect until police arrived.

For coming to the aid of others, demonstrating courage in the selfless pursuit of a dangerous man, and ensuring the offender was brought to justice, Ms. Eleonora Beniamino, Mr. Malik Al-Maamiry, Mr. Muhsin Al-Maamiry, Mr. Nicolo Mari, Mr. Benjamin Smith, and Mr. Craig Vandermeer, are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

3. MR. JOE DE JESUS MR. IRFAN ELAHI

On November 10, 2016, a man entered the Canadian Tire Store on Bentall Street and caught the attention of Irfan Elahi, the store's loss prevention officer. The man was dressed in camouflage and immediately went to the hunting and firearm section of the store.

The manager of the section, Joe De Jesus, saw the man and quickly locked up a rifle he was working on. The man began smashing the glass cabinets. Joe confronted him and was pepper-sprayed, but still persisted in trying to stop the assailant from obtaining a rifle. Joe was then slashed with a heavy knife from the back of his neck, along his throat, and up to his chin.

People were screaming and yelling for help, as Irfan called 9-1-1 and rushed to Joe's side to render aid. When the suspect removed a rifle from the smashed cabinet, Irfan feared he was about to go on a shooting rampage. He left Joe in another co-worker's care and followed the man, giving real-time updates to the 9-1-1 operator.

As he was leaving the area, the suspect grabbed an elderly man and forced him out of the store, just as two police officers arrived. The constables fought to apprehend the assailant, who produced a knife and began stabbing one of them. As the officers struggled to break free, Irfan began kicking the suspect repeatedly, who then tried to stab him.

More officers arrived and were ultimately able to stop the attack. Both the staff member and the police officer received very serious life-threatening injuries but survived.

For rushing toward danger to assist a critically injured co-worker, and putting himself directly in harm's way to help police officers stop a violent man, Mr. Irfan Elahi is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

For resisting the efforts of a dangerous man clearly intent on obtaining a firearm, and despite suffering serious, life-altering injuries, Mr. Joe De Jesus is also awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

4. MR. JONAS DOW

As Crown Counsel, Mr. Jonas Dow is dedicated to finding justice for victims of crime. Outside of the courtroom, he has proven to be equally committed.

On November 6, 2017, as he headed up the stairs of the Main Street Skytrain station at the end of the day, Jonas noticed a commotion on the street below. He witnessed a man grab a bag from the shoulder of an elderly male victim and flee.

Jonas ran down the stairs to check on the elderly man, then quickly took off after the robber. He chased him across a busy street and through a parking lot, and tackled him on a grassy embankment. Another man stepped in to help Jonas hold on to the fighting suspect until police arrived.

For his quick action in apprehending the offender, with no thought to his own safety, Mr. Jonas Dow is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

Award of Merit

5. MR. KARL DEY

Of the many people who have received an Award of Merit over the years, never before has a recipient committed two deserving acts in such a short space of time.

On the morning of December 11, 2017, Karl Dey was working, delivering water to Gastown businesses. As he came out of the back room of a local business, he noticed a man run out of the store with a high-end purse. Karl gave chase, as he flagged down police officers in the area. He picked up the purse when the thief dropped it. The officers caught up to the man and arrested him.

As he wandered back to his truck a few moments later, Karl saw a woman come out of a business on Cordova Street, screaming for help. He ran toward her and learned that a man had sexually assaulted her and was still inside the store. When Karl entered the store, the man took off. Karl gave chase and tackled the assailant. With the help of another man, he held him until officers arrived.

For leaping into action, not once, but twice, and ensuring a prolific property crime offender and a violent sex offender were arrested by police, despite risk to his own safety, Mr. Karl Dey is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

6. MR. DERRICK MACNEIL MR. JEFF TAYLOR MR. KRISTIAN EVANS

Building manager Jeff Taylor and tradesman Kristian Evans were doing maintenance on an apartment building at 998 Thurlow Street on the morning of October 4, 2018, when they smelled smoke and decided to investigate. Their investigation led them to a suite on the fourth floor of the five-storey building, where they could see smoke coming from under the door.

Inside they could hear a dog barking, so they opened the door and rescued the dog. They knocked on the doors of all the suites on the floor and yelled at people to get out, as they headed downstairs and out of the building. The pair grabbed a fire extinguisher and were joined by Derrick MacNeil, a neighbour, who had also noticed the smoke and wanted to help.

When the three men re-entered the building, the fire had spread and the smoke was now overwhelming. They were forced to head back outside. They spotted two police cars at a nearby intersection, and flagged them down.

Vancouver Police Constables Peter Colenutt, Sumeet Lail, and Mark Dureau immediately entered the building, with the three citizens behind them. They began knocking on doors on each floor, crawling on their hands and knees until the thick black smoke reached the point of zero visibility. As they worked their way out of the building, still knocking on doors, they located and rescued another dog.

All six men suffered from smoke inhalation, but recovered. Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services extinguished the fire and Animal Control reunited the pets with their owners. There were no human or animal casualties.

For displaying courage and valour in an extremely hazardous situation, with a substantial risk of death or serious injury, Mr. Kristian Evans, Mr. Derrick MacNeil, and Mr. Jeff Taylor are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

7. MS. MEGAN DEACON MS. SHARMIN LYON MS. LI CHUN TSAO

It was late in the afternoon on March 20, 2018, when a security guard was assaulted in Chinatown. A man hit him multiple times from behind, causing him to fall forward and hit his head on the ground, rendering him unconscious.

Constable Stephanie Wightman was driving by when citizens flagged her down in the 200 block of Keefer Street. She radioed her dispatcher and asked for an ambulance, before getting out of her squad car and questioning bystanders.

When people began pointing at the man responsible for the assault, she approached him and tried to make an arrest. He appeared calm, but then sucker-punched her in the jaw. He then repeatedly hit and scratched her.

The constable was unable to reach her radio to ask for cover officers, but some of the bystanders called 9-1-1 and reported that an officer was being attacked and needed help.

Megan Deacon, Sharmin Lyon, and Li Chun Tsao were not content to stand by and watch as the officer tried to hold on to her assailant. They jumped into the fray and helped Constable Wightman get the man to the ground and in handcuffs.

For coming to the aid of a police officer in need, without concern for their own safety, Ms. Megan Deacon, Ms. Sharmin Lyon, and Ms. Li Chun Tsao, are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

8. MR. MITCHELL TULK

It was mid-afternoon on May 4, 2018, when Constable Andrew De Sousa noticed a man jaywalking and behaving erratically in the middle of a busy downtown intersection.

When approached by Constable De Sousa, the man was uncooperative and appeared very nervous. As the constable tried to arrest him for obstruction, he took off.

Mitchell Tulk, a construction worker in the area, observed the pursuit and heard the lone officer yelling at the man to stop. Without a second thought, he dropped his tools and ran after the suspect, catching up to him, and giving the officer critical moments to arrive.

The man was violent and actively resisting arrest, but Mitchell helped Constable De Sousa get him into custody. They would later learn the man had multiple outstanding warrants for his arrest.

For risking his personal safety and ensuring a violent man was taken into police custody, Mr. Mitchell Turk is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

Award of Merit

9. MR. RANDAL HELTEN MR. YUTAH HELTEN

In the early morning hours of July 29, 2018, Randal Helten and his son Yutah, were awakened by screams and the ring of their doorbell. When they opened the front door, they found their next-door neighbour bleeding from the neck and the arm. He told them that his roommate had inexplicably and savagely stabbed him while he slept.

The father and son tried to get the young man to sit down, as Randal nervously watched the suspect walk out from between the two homes in an agitated state. Seventeen-year-old Yutah, a certified lifeguard, began administering first aid, as they waited for police and the ambulance to arrive.

The pair would later learn that the roommate went on to stab a dog a short distance away. After a violent struggle with police officers, it was discovered the man had also stabbed himself in the chest. VPD Emergency Response Team medics were able to give first aid to the suspect until he could be taken to hospital. The dog was taken to a nearby vet and received life-saving treatment.

For opening their door to a neighbour in need, giving life-saving first aid, despite putting themselves in grave danger, Mr. Randal Helten and Mr. Yutah Helten are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

10. MR. MATTHEW CARVALHO MR. JAEWOO LEE

It was just after noon on August 17, 2018, when a man armed with a knife entered a downtown Starbucks and began making demands of staff. Jaewoo Lee, the evening shift manager, was quick to step in. He attempted to calm the man down, but he only became more agitated.

When a customer called 9-1-1, the man grabbed their phone, telling the dispatcher on the other end that he had taken the whole store hostage. Jaewoo began to usher customers and staff to safety, while trying to de-escalate the situation.

Matthew Carvalho was sitting outside when he heard the incident unfolding. He ran to the front door and saw staff and customers trapped inside. He opened the door, and the suspect rushed toward him with the knife extended. Matthew closed the door to prevent being stabbed, and the man locked the door. Matthew then forced the door open and tackled the suspect to the ground.

Jaewoo and Matthew worked together to disarm the man and hold him until police arrived. They both sustained injuries in the process.

For their courageous and selfless actions in putting the safety of others before their own, and ensuring a violent man armed with a knife was apprehended, Mr. Matthew Carvalho and Mr. Jaewoo Lee are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S *commendations*



CONSTABLE BILL TAYLOR



CONSTABLE ALEXANDER FRECH

1. CONSTABLE ALEXANDER FRECH CONSTABLE IAN MCNULTY

When Constables Alexander Frech and Ian McNulty arrived mid-span of the Lions Gate Bridge on the evening of April 20, 2018, they found a distraught young man sitting on the railing, with his feet dangling over the edge.

The officers approached and attempted to speak to the man, but he ignored them, intent on ending his life. When he suddenly pushed off from the railing, and began to free-fall toward the water below, Constables Frech and McNulty reached out, over the railing, to grab hold of him. Hanging on to his shoulder, upper chest, and neck, they were able to hoist the man back over the railing to safety, literally saving his life by an arm's length.

For their strength and determination in preventing a man from ending his own life, despite the extreme risk of being pulled off the bridge to their deaths, Constable Alexander Frech and Constable Ian McNulty are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

TRIGGER WARNING: THIS STORY INCLUDES THE SUBJECT OF SUICIDE. IF YOU NEED HELP, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CRISIS CENTRE OR CALL 9-1-1.

2. CONSTABLE BILL TAYLOR

For almost ten years, Vancouver Police Constable Bill Taylor has been dedicated to a memorial project to recognize and honour the Department's fallen officers. While researching the location of their burial sites, he discovered that their headstones made no mention that they died in the line of duty. Chief Constable Malcolm MacLennan, who was killed in 1917 as he attempted to arrest a barricaded gunman, did not even have a headstone.

Constable Taylor sought and received funding from the Vancouver Police Foundation for plaques recognizing the officers' ultimate sacrifices, and also for a headstone for Chief Constable MacLennan. He designed the plaques, worked with cemeteries to have them installed, and organized graveside memorial services once each installation was complete. While many of the officers were buried locally, Constable Taylor also travelled to Inkerman, Ontario, and Carievale, Saskatchewan, to ensure each fallen officer was recognized.

Constable Taylor worked with the VPD Ceremonial Unit, VPD Executive, Vancouver Police Museum, and the surviving family members of the fallen officers. He created a lasting impression on past and serving VPD officers by fostering a greater sense of pride and a better appreciation of departmental history.

For paying tribute to the VPD's fallen officers, honouring them and their families in a poignant and dignified manner, and demonstrating that they shall truly never be forgotten, Constable Bill Taylor is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

3. CONSTABLE RYAN DIGUANGCO CONSTABLE JENNIFER TALKKARI CONSTABLE RYAN YOUNG

A police officer is never off-duty. This was demonstrated by three Vancouver officers in the early morning hours of May 6, 2018, as they were making their way home after a long shift.

Constables Ryan Diguangco, Jennifer Talkkari, and Ryan Young were driving east on Highway 1 when a speeding and erratically driven vehicle passed them. They witnessed the vehicle strike a barrier, launch airborne, land on its roof, and catch fire.



CONSTABLES COURTNEY EMERSLUND AND BYRON CAPERS

The officers pulled over and all three raced to the vehicle, as flames erupted from the car's engine. While Constable Diguangco used the flashlight on his phone to guide them, Constables Talkkari and Young pried open the car door and removed the unconscious driver. They checked to see if there were other occupants and all three then moved the driver to safety. They provided first aid until paramedics arrived.

The driver was later charged with impaired driving.

For rescuing an injured man, without hesitation or concern for their own safety, Constables Ryan Diguangco, Jennifer Talkkari, and Ryan Young are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

4. CONSTABLE BYRON CAPERS CONSTABLE COURTNEY EMERSLUND

December 23, 2018, was a cold, dark, and rainy winter evening. Just before 6:00 p.m., witnesses

noticed a distraught woman arguing with someone on the north side of the Vancouver Convention Centre. She removed her jacket, climbed over the railing, and jumped approximately 60 feet into the frigid waters of Coal Harbour.

When Vancouver Police Constables Byron Capers and Courtney Emerslund arrived, they could see the woman struggling to keep her head above water. She was calling out for help, as she went under the water.

The constables rushed to the end of a long, concrete breakwater to get close to the victim. They quickly removed their boots and all of their police gear. Additional officers, who had just arrived, lowered flotation devices to them. Without hesitation, the two officers jumped into the frigid ocean, swam out to the unconscious woman, and pulled her back to the breakwater. They performed CPR but to no avail.

Other officers helped move the woman to the Vancouver Police marine boat, where she was treated with an AED. Her heart restarted and she was taken to hospital.

For an act of bravery in an extremely hazardous situation, and taking a substantial personal risk to save a life, Constables Byron Capers and Courtney Emerslund are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

TRIGGER WARNING: THIS STORY INCLUDES THE SUBJECT OF SUICIDE. IF YOU NEED HELP, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CRISIS CENTRE OR CALL 9-1-1.



CONSTABLES JENNIFER TALKKARI AND RYAN DIGUANGCO



CONSTABLE RYAN HOOPER

5. CONSTABLE RYAN HOOPER

In January 2017, Constable Ryan Hooper, as part of the District 4 Neighbourhood Policing Team, began noticing an increase in residential break-ins where thieves forced or pried open the front doors of homes. Using in-house analytics, he was able to confirm that 38 per cent of all break-and-enters to homes in Vancouver involved this type of entry.

He began to research a solution – something that could help prevent would-be intruders from entering homes this way. He looked at building codes and spoke with City of Vancouver building inspectors and home builders in the community.

He developed a prototype of a device to help solve the problem and tested it rigorously. The fix was a simple and cost-effective piece of hardware, meant to be used in conjunction with other existing door security hardware, such as metal plates and quality screws and strike plates.

After he developed the device, Constable Hooper helped spread awareness about the problem and the solution. He assisted with a video to alert residents to the increased risk of break-ins through front doors and to the usefulness of the new solution.

The City of Vancouver has now modified its building code to ensure that the less-than-ten-dollar piece of hardware is used in new construction and renovations that require an inspection. The bylaw came into effect in January 2018.

For tackling a problem with creativity and ingenuity and developing a product that will increase safety for Vancouver's citizens, Constable Ryan Hooper is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

6. INSPECTOR JOANNE MCCORMICK

Vancouver Police officers take pride in their history and the officers who came before them. For Inspector Joanne McCormick, that meant taking on a 10-year project collecting information on all 5,155 officers who have served with the Department in our 132-year history.

In addition to her regular duties, her quest found her searching through past personnel records,



CONSTABLES JEANNIE KWAN, VIET HOANG, AND CLAYTON RICHARDSON

documents, news articles, publications, and photos. Her search involved not just the VPD, but also the City of Vancouver Archives, the Vancouver Public Library, and the Vancouver Police Museum. There was no one central repository for information such as hiring dates, retirement dates, birth dates, and places of birth.

The historical record she created also includes numerous civilian staff, and information on VPD officers who served in the World Wars. The amount of time she devoted to this project is a testament to her leadership, dependability, and selflessness.

For creating the single most comprehensive staffing record of the VPD – a historical legacy that we can all be proud of – Inspector Joanne McCormick is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

7. CONSTABLE VIET HOANG CONSTABLE JEANNIE KWAN CONSTABLE CLAYTON RICHARDSON

In the early evening of January 29, 2017, three Vancouver Police constables responded to a report of a distraught man throwing a table out of his front window. When they arrived, they entered the house and went upstairs to investigate. Unbeknownst to them, the man was waiting in a dark room to ambush them.

Constable Viet Hoang was the first through the door when the man immediately, and without warning, leapt toward him and plunged a knife into the centre of his chest. Thanks to the constable's protective vest, he survived what could have been a fatal blow to his heart.

Constable Hoang reached for his gun, but it was impossible to use it in such close quarters and in the dark. He grabbed the man's knife-wielding arm to try to gain control. Constables Jeannie Kwan and Clayton Richardson joined the struggle, as the man thrashed around, waving the knife.

The officers subdued the man, and he was taken to hospital to receive the help he needed.

For their courageous response in a dynamic and life-threatening situation, Constables Viet Hoang, Jeannie Kwan, and Clayton Richardson are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S *Citations*



CONSTABLES JENNIFER JARVIS, ANDREA SHERRY, MS. LINH RIDDICK, DETECTIVE CONSTABLE JENNIFER WHITE, SERGEANT RAJ MANDER, DETECTIVE CONSTABLE TRACY STABLES, STAFF SERGEANT LISA BYRNE, AND DETECTIVE CONSTABLE DARREN BAYNE



CONSTABLE PETER SWAN, SERGEANT AL KUNISS, AND CONSTABLES VINCENT MARTIN AND KAM LIDDAR

- 1. PROJECT SPIKE**
STAFF SERGEANT LISA BYRNE
SERGEANT RAJ MANDER
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ASTRID BONTER
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ROBERT MITCHELSON
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ANDREA SHERRY
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE JENNIFER WHITE
CONSTABLE DARREN BAYNE
CONSTABLE JENNIFER JARVIS
CONSTABLE JOHN PYPER
CONSTABLE BRYAN SPENCER
CONSTABLE TRACY STABLES
CRIME ANALYST LINH RIDDICK

Criminal investigations can take time, but a group of Vancouver Police investigators did not let that affect their determination to put two dangerous predators in jail and find justice for their victims.

The men stood accused of drugging and raping multiple women. None of the victims had any memory of the crimes, so investigators used technological, biological, and other more complex techniques to piece together the events and build their case. In some of the cases, the women were not aware they had been victims.

For five years, the investigators viewed thousands of unsettling videos and photographs, painstakingly and thoroughly examined the minutest of details, took detailed statements, processed more than 500 exhibits, analyzed records and computer data,

and offered expert testimony in court. They did everything within their power to ensure the victims were supported through a long and difficult court case.

Despite multiple legal challenges and delays, the two men were eventually convicted of 18 out of 21 of the charges they faced, which involved four victims.

For handling a lengthy, sensitive, and extremely disturbing case with professionalism, compassion, and unprecedented commitment, the following officers are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation: Staff Sergeant Lisa Byrne, Sergeant Raj Mander, Detective Constables Astrid Bonter, Robert Mitchelson, Andrea Sherry, and Jennifer White, Constables Darren Bayne, Jennifer Jarvis, John Pyper, Bryan Spencer, and Tracy Stables, and Crime Analyst Linh Riddick.

- 2. SERGEANT AL KUNISS**
CONSTABLE KAM LIDDAR
CONSTABLE VINCENT MARTIN
CONSTABLE ANDREW PENNER
CONSTABLE BRYAN SPENCER
CONSTABLE PETER SWAN

Early in the morning on July 29, 2018, several 9-1-1 calls reported that a man, covered in blood, had stabbed a dog. Sergeant Al Kuniss was the first to arrive at the intersection of West 4th Avenue and Yew Street, where he saw the



DETECTIVE CONSTABLES ALICE YEE, CRAIG REYNOLDS, RACHEL VAN DEN KERKHOF, ROSS CLARKE (RETIRED), AIDA RODRIGUEZ, CHAD MAH, EVE KOENNING, AND SERGEANT CHRISTIAN LOWE

shirtless man, armed with a knife. He did not know at the time that the man had earlier stabbed his roommate as he slept.

Sergeant Kuniss challenged the man at gunpoint, but his commands were ignored.

When Constable Vincent Martin arrived, Sergeant Kuniss and a man were locked in a violent struggle. Constable Martin deployed his beanbag shotgun, but it had no effect. He joined the sergeant in tackling the man, who was still violently resisting, to the ground.

Constables Kam Liddar and Peter Swan arrived, and jumped in to help. As the officers finally gained control, they were surprised to discover the man had a self-inflicted stab wound in the centre of his chest.

Constable Swan immediately applied pressure to the wound, and assisted the medics from the Emergency Response Team, Constables Andrew Penner and Bryan Spencer, with life-saving first aid. They later learned at the hospital that the wound had punctured the man’s heart and would have been fatal if he had not been treated at the scene.

A Community Safety Officer took the dog to a nearby vet for life-saving treatment.

For their courage and determination in stopping an armed and dangerous man, and for saving his life, the following officers are awarded the Chief Constable’s Citation: Sergeant Al Kuniss, and Constables Kam Liddar, Vincent Martin, Andrew Penner, Bryan Spencer, and Peter Swan.

3. PROJECT STUART COMMAND TEAM
SERGEANT CHRISTIAN LOWE
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ROSS CLARKE
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE EVE KOENNING
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE CHAD MAH
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE CRAIG REYNOLDS
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE AIDA RODRIGUEZ
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE RACHEL VAN DEN KERKHOF
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ALICE YEE

In March 2018, after a lengthy custody battle and months of planning, a mother abducted her nine-year-old son. Over the next 19 days, a group of officers worked diligently to find the boy and bring him back home.

The mother had researched ways to evade police and had taken elaborate steps to avoid capture, which made it a challenging case, even for experienced investigators.

Detectives took calls, day and night. They coordinated their efforts with partner agencies, both locally and internationally. They combed through evidence, examined the smallest details, obtained warrants, and worked with the emotionally distraught family.

They engaged the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as the case took the investigators to Phoenix, Arizona. The mother was arrested, later pleading guilty to her charges, and the boy was reunited with his father.

For their tenacious commitment to finding an abducted child and reuniting him with his family, the following members of the Project Stuart Command Team are awarded the Chief Constable’s Citation: Sergeant Christian Lowe, and Detective Constables Ross Clarke, Eve Koenning, Chad Mah, Craig Reynolds, Aida Rodriguez, Rachel Van Den Kerkhof, and Alice Yee.



CONSTABLES MARK MANN, ANDREA-MARIE DUNN, RYAN PERRY, LISA KOFOD, KAL BOWYER, SHAI F MANJI, SERGEANT AL GOSBEE, CONSTABLES KORY FOLKESTAD, ANDREW PANG, JULIE BIRTCH, DARREN TELENKO, SERGEANT JOHN GIBBONS, MS. NICOLE TOUGH, CONSTABLES CHRISTIAN OLVER, DIANNE HOWLAND, AND MS. ERIN MURRAY.

4. RECRUITING UNIT

SERGEANT JOHN GIBBONS
SERGEANT AL GOSBEE
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE KAL BOWYER
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE KORY FOLKESTAD
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE DIANNE HOWLAND
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE LISA KOFOD
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE MARK MANN
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE CHRISTIAN OLVER
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ANDREW PANG
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE TAJINDER PARMAR
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE DESIREE SPARROW
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE DARREN TELENKO
CONSTABLE JULIE BIRTCH
CONSTABLE ANDREA DUNN
CONSTABLE JOANNE HARDMAN
CONSTABLE SHAI F MANJI
CONSTABLE MICHELLE NEUFELD
CONSTABLE RYAN PERRY
MS. EMMA LAURO
MS. ERIN MURRAY
MS. NICOLE TOUGH

Finding and hiring the Vancouver Police Department's future police officers is a big job -- especially when you have among the highest recruitment standards in the country and are also competing with other police departments for the same quality candidates.

From January 1, 2016 to September 11, 2017, the Recruiting Unit was asked to hire 234 police officers and special municipal constables. The Unit worked hard and used innovative outreach initiatives to rise to the challenge. The candidates hired were diverse in their ethnicity and gender and reflected the community. They will serve the residents of Vancouver admirably for years to come.

For exceptional teamwork, commitment, and dedication, and answering the Department's call for the finest candidates that reflect the community we serve, the staff of the Vancouver Police Department Recruiting Unit are awarded a Chief Constable's Citation: Sergeants John Gibbons and Al Gosbee; Detective Constables Kaleen Bowyer, Kory Folkestad, Dianne Howland, Lisa Kofod, Mark Mann, Christian Olver, Andrew Pang, Tajinder Parmar, Desiree Sparrow, and Darren Telenko; Constables Julie Birtch, Andrea Dunn, Joanne Hardman, Shaif Manji, Michelle Neufeld, and Ryan Perry; and Assistants Ms. Emma Lauro, Ms. Erin Murray, and Ms. Nicole Tough.

5. **SERGEANT SHAWN BOLLIVAR** **DETECTIVE CONSTABLE BRIAN DUROSE** **CONSTABLE EMILY AITKEN** **CONSTABLE DARREN BAYNE** **CONSTABLE JOCELYN DEZIEL** **CONSTABLE CHRISTOPHER DONNELLY** **CONSTABLE JOHN FILIPPELLI** **CONSTABLE JASON HOWELL** **CONSTABLE KYLE HUNT** **CONSTABLE COLLEEN MCKITRICK** **CONSTABLE SHAYNE VAN DER HIJDE**

It was about 1:30 in the afternoon on April 26, 2018, when officers responded to a call about a distraught man on the Burrard Street Bridge. When officers arrived, they found that the man had climbed over the suicide prevention bars and was barely hanging on.

Officers, including trained negotiators, began speaking with the man, and stopped pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers from using the bridge.

After an hour, the man turned around and faced the water, and was holding on with only one hand. Officers quickly moved in and grabbed him through

the bars and placed a safety strap around his chest. Two specially-trained Emergency Response Team members climbed over the barrier. One officer positioned himself directly in front of the man to prevent him from jumping.

Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services personnel used the jaws-of-life to cut through the metal bars and pulled the man to safety. He was taken to the hospital for treatment.

For their determination and compassion in preventing a man from taking his life and ultimately ensuring he would get the help he needed, the

CONSTABLES JOCELYN DEZIEL, JOHN FILIPPELLI, DARREN BAYNE





SERGEANT SHAWN BOLLIVAR, CONSTABLES EMILY AITKEN, CHRISTOPHER DONNELLY, AND JASON HOWELL

following officers are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation: Sergeant Shawn Bollivar, Detective Constable Brian Durose, and Constables Emily Aitken, Darren Bayne, Jocelyn Deziel, Christopher Donnelly, John Filippelli, Jason Howell, Kyle Hunt, Colleen McKittrick, and Shayne Van Der Hijde.

TRIGGER WARNING: THIS STORY INCLUDES THE SUBJECT OF SUICIDE. IF YOU NEED HELP, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CRISIS CENTRE OR CALL 9-1-1.

6. OPERATIONAL REVIEW PROJECT TEAM

STAFF SERGEANT PHIL HEARD
SERGEANT TYRONE SIDEROFF
MANAGER SIMON DEMERS
MANAGER MELISSA LEE
PLANNING ADVISOR TIM SZKOPEK-SZKOPOWSKI
PLANNING ADVISOR NELSON TEIXEIRA
SENIOR BUDGET ANALYST KIMBERLY JANG
AUDIT ANALYST CYNTHIA LANGAN
PLANNING ANALYST STEVE CHRISTENSEN
PLANNING ANALYST CORREEN SMITAS
PLANNING ANALYST HELEN WONG

The Operational Review Project Team came together in June 2016 to do a comprehensive study of Vancouver Police Department operations to determine long-term staffing needs. The team included a mix of civilian and sworn staff, with diverse academic and policing backgrounds. Over the next 18 months, they worked closely with independent consultants, exploring best

practices in other police agencies and leading research in criminology.

The team conducted thorough, extensive research. Researchers went on "ride-alongs" with patrol officers to document their tasks. They sent out questionnaires and interviewed staff to examine existing resources, challenges, and performance improvements. They analyzed data and previous budgets, including mandatory overtime and sick leave.

Their 126-page report illustrated that service demands and expectations for the VPD continue to steadily rise. Since 2009, the population of

BELOW: STAFF SERGEANT PHIL HEARD, SIMON DEMERS, STEVEN CHRISTENSEN, KIMBERLY JANG, NELSON TEIXEIRA, SERGEANT TYRONE SIDEROFF, HELEN WONG, MELISSA LEE, TIMOTHY SZKOPEK-SZKOPOWSKI AND CYNTHIA LANGAN



Vancouver increased by 8.3 per cent, and calls for service were up 12.6 per cent. The team outlined the impact on public safety and on employee health and wellness, as well as the risk and liability to the Department.

The result was the approval of 120 sworn and 52 civilian positions to be added to the Vancouver Police Department over five years.

For their outstanding commitment, which will result in a significant and lasting impact on the VPD and the safety of Vancouver's citizens, the members of the Operational Review Project Team are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation: Staff Sergeant Phil Heard, Sergeant Tyrone Sideroff, Managers Simon Demers and Melissa Lee, Planning Advisors Tim Szkopek-Szkowpowski and Nelson Teixeira, Senior Budget Analyst Kimberly Jang, Audit Analyst Cynthia Langan, and Planning Analysts Steve Christensen, Correen Smitas, and Helen Wong.

7. ACTING SERGEANT SCOTT ROTHERHAM CONSTABLE JUSTIN FRASER CONSTABLE KYLE PERLSTROM CONSTABLE KEVIN RANDALL CONSTABLE CLAYTON RICHARDSON CONSTABLE BOB SANDHER

It was 3:30 in the morning on August 1, 2016, when the 9-1-1 call came in: a woman, hiding in a bedroom

closet, reporting a home invasion in-progress involving two masked assailants.

A second woman had been assaulted, and had a knife held to her throat. As the intruders tried to kick down the bedroom door, the caller's line was disconnected.

Acting Sergeant Scott Rotherham took control of the police response, instructing officers Justin Fraser, Kyle Perlstrom, Kevin Randall, Clayton Richardson, and Bob Sandher to covertly lockdown the apartment building. As the constables entered the building, they encountered one of the masked suspects leaving the apartment. They challenged him at gunpoint and he surrendered.

Officers entered the suite, arrested the second suspect, and rescued both hostages. Numerous weapons were found at the scene.

For quick-thinking and bravery in a fast-moving and violent situation, that resulted in the arrest of two dangerous criminals and the rescue of two victims, the following officers are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation: Acting Sergeant Scott Rotherham, and Constables Justin Fraser, Kyle Perlstrom, Kevin Randall, Clayton Richardson, and Bob Sandher.

BELOW: CONSTABLES KEVIN RANDALL, KYLE PERLSTROM, CLAYTON RICHARDSON, BOB SANDHER, AND JUSTIN FRASER



2019 CIVILIAN *of the year*

MARIA-LISE DHAMI

AS THE VANCOUVER POLICE

Department's telecommunications expert, Ms. Maria-Lise Dhami has an important role in ensuring the VPD keeps pace with ever-changing technology.

Maria-Lise began her career with the VPD 26 years ago. She has worked in Financial Crime, Burglary, Vice, Stolen Autos, Criminal Records, Document Services, Finance, Traffic, and Victim Services. Since 2009, she has been the telecommunications technician, responsible for the VPD's hardline phone system, and the software and technical components that come with it.

Heavily involved in the technology aspect of this complex work, Maria-Lise always remains cheerful and professional, and provides caring customer service. Her knack for trouble-shooting means she identifies issues and provides solutions long before they affect anyone using the system. She makes herself available seven days a week if needed, and enjoys providing support and training.

Last year alone, Ms. Dhami programmed and distributed over 400 new phones for faster connectivity, which required significant testing and reprogramming. She tackled this challenging project with her customary enthusiasm and expertise, ensuring the transition was minimally disruptive for VPD staff.

For her commitment and dedication to ensuring the VPD staff have the latest in phone technology, while offering expert and exceptional customer service, Ms. Maria-Lise Dhami is the Vancouver Police Department 2019 Civilian of the Year.



SERGEANT MIKE HEARD

2019 POLICE OFFICER *of the year*

SERGEANT MIKE HEARD is regarded as a tenacious investigator and an exceptional leader – both within the VPD and in the greater policing community. In his 20 years with the Vancouver Police Department, he has worked in Gang Crime, Robbery / Assault and Arson, Homicide, and Court and Detention Services. He has also been seconded to Federal Serious and Organized Crime and CFSEU-BC.

As an investigator, Sergeant Heard has taken on some of the most challenging cases and has worked alongside local, national, and international investigators. He received provincial accreditation as a team commander in 2016 – one of only 106 investigators in B.C., and only one of 14 in the VPD.

Since becoming a sergeant in the Homicide Unit, Mike's strong leadership and investigative expertise have resulted in a 100-per-cent solve rate – double the normal solve rate. In total, he has investigated more than 45 homicides as either a team commander, lead investigator or file coordinator.

Sergeant Heard's co-workers describe him as intelligent, ethical, compassionate, imaginative, and incredibly dedicated to his work. He routinely shares his experience and knowledge by training and developing other officers from the VPD and across Canada.

For a remarkable level of commitment and leadership, maintained throughout lengthy and complex investigations, and resulting in extraordinarily successful results, Sergeant Mike Heard is the Vancouver Police Department 2019 Police Officer of the Year.

