





TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE JIM AND VICKI CHU COMMUNITY SAFETY LEADER AWARD	
VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD AWARDS OF MERIT	
CHIEF CONSTABLE'S COMMENDATIONS	
CHIEF CONSTABLE'S CITATIONS	
2020 CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR	
2020 POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR	

Community Safet

MR. GORDON JONES

MRS. KATHLEEN JONES

For more than 20 years, Gordon and Kathleen Jones volunteered their time to help keep Vancouver's roads safe. Together, they logged more than 20,000 hours of volunteer service.

Gordon was sworn in as a reserve constable with the Vancouver Police Department in 1969. Over the next 19 years, he served with passion and dedication to the community.

At the age of 60, Gordon retired, and turned his attention to the Vancouver Speed Watch program – a traffic safety initiative aimed at getting drivers to slow down at high-risk and high-crash locations.

As a Speed Watch volunteer, Gordon monitored speeds throughout the city, including areas like school and playground zones, and used portable radar equipment and electronic signboards to make drivers aware of their speed. The efforts of volunteers like Gordon, result in information and statistics that help the VPD and ICBC direct traffic resources effectively. In the mid-90s, Gordon asked his wife, Kathleen, to join him on a weekend to set up the equipment. She was an elementary school teacher at the time, and was reluctant at first. She agreed to join him one time, but quickly became a dedicated and eager volunteer, just like her husband.

This dynamic duo became a fixture on Vancouver roads and worked nearly every Saturday and Sunday.

Leading in to the summer of 2019, with Gordon now in his 90s and Kathleen's health failing, the couple made the difficult decision to retire and pass the torch on to the next generation of volunteers.

Sadly, Kathleen passed away in August 2019.

Gordon and Kathleen exemplified community spirit through their dedication to volunteerism and public safety. The Vancouver Police Department is proud to award Mr. Gordon Jones, and, posthumously, Mrs. Kathleen Jones, the 2020 Jim and Vicki Chu Community Safety Leader Award.

Leader Award

vancouver police board Auards 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. MRS. CHANTAL BOURKE MR. ZORAN VUKELIC

It was late morning on December 23, 2018, when a young family parked their car in the unit block of W. Pender Street, on their way to watch a movie at a local theatre. When they got out of the car, the mother, Chantal Bourke, noticed a man trying to pry open the door of a convenience store with a large metal bar.

She confronted the man, and asked what he was doing, as her husband, Zoran Vukelic, called 9-1-1. The man immediately became aggressive and moved toward her. Zoran stepped in and advised the suspect to walk away, while Chantal took their children nearby to safety.

The man was yelling loudly, waving the metal bar at Zoran, who remained calm and undeterred, while updating the 9-1-1 call-taker. When the suspect finally walked away, Zoran provided updates on his direction of travel and his description. The man was arrested a short distance away.

For seeing a crime in-progress and refusing to look the other way, despite the personal safety risk, Mrs. Chantal Bourke and Mr. Zoran Vukelic are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for bravery, the Award of Merit.

2. MR. DANIEL MISKOWICZ

On September 5, 2019, Daniel Miskowicz was riding his bike over the Lions Gate Bridge, when he noticed a woman talking on the crisis line telephone. She appeared distressed and he believed she was likely to harm herself.

He stopped to speak with the young woman, building a rapport, and eventually convinced her to begin walking with him off of the bridge to safety.

At one point, she suddenly began to climb over the bridge railing. Daniel quickly grabbed her and held on until the officers arrived.

For his compassion and bravery in helping a distraught young woman, Mr. Daniel Miskowicz is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for bravery, the Award of Merit.

3. MR. DAVID MASON

On August 11, 2019, at 8:30 in the evening, a young man attempted to perform a stunt on his BMX bike from an elevated three-storey platform at the Vancouver Convention Centre. As he performed the stunt, he clipped his bike on a glass pane, which caused him to fall forward, hit his head on the concrete, and fall into the water.

David Mason saw what happened, and watched as the man's brother raced to help. He was unable to get him out of the water. David dropped his belongings, climbed over a railing, and jumped to the pier below.

The drop distance caused David to fracture both of his ankles when he landed. Despite this, he persevered, crawling toward the man's brother. The two of them were able to pull the young man from the water, and David immediately began CPR until emergency responders arrived. Sadly, the young man did not survive.

David was taken to hospital, where he had surgery for his injuries.

For his quick action, doing everything possible to help two strangers in desperate need despite serious injury, Mr. David Mason is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

4. MR. JEFFREY CARRIE

On the afternoon of August 21, 2019, two Vancouver Police officers were called to the 1200 block of Pacific Street for a report of a man yelling and causing a disturbance.

They located the man, and when they tried to arrest him, he became violent. He was kicking, punching, biting, and scratching, and at one point, tried to grab one officer's gun.

Area resident Jeffrey Carrie was watering plants on his balcony when he heard the commotion. He peered into the area behind his building and saw the struggle between the officers and the violent man.

Believing that the officers were in serious trouble, Jeffrey grabbed a metal bar and ran to help. Despite the level of violence, he did not hesitate to intervene. With the bar raised above his head, Jeffrey yelled at the man to stop. It worked, and the attacker fled. He was arrested a short distance away by additional officers racing to the scene.

For running toward danger, and stopping a violent assault on two police officers, Mr. Jeffrey Carrie is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for bravery, the Award of Merit.

5. MR. JOHNATHON VARLEY

It was late in the afternoon on April 29, 2019, and Johnathon Varley was relaxing in Andy Livingstone Park with a friend. He saw a man come up behind a homeless person and begin brutally stabbing him several times in the torso and neck.

The assailant fled and Johnathon raced to the victim to help. He was bleeding profusely from the neck, so Johnathon applied pressure to the wound while his friend called 9-1-1.

He had no way of knowing that this was the second random knife attack by the same suspect in the last 15 minutes. The attacker was later arrested and charged.

For his courageous action in rendering first aid to a stabbing victim, despite the risk of the attacker returning, Mr. Johnathon Varley is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for bravery, the Award of Merit.

6. MR. ERNIE ADAMS MR. LARRY FRAZER

On July 24, 2019, the Vancouver Police Department received a report of a robbery at a sporting goods store in the 800 block of Granville Street. The caller stated a man had walked into the middle of the store and undressed, then put on clothing from the store's displays. When he tried to leave, the manager confronted him. The man pulled out a knife, then quickly left the store and fled on a bicycle.

A VPD motorcycle officer saw the suspect fleeing and stopped him at Expo Boulevard and Smithe Street. As the constable tried to arrest him, the suspect violently resisted and struck the officer several times while trying to bite his hand.

vancouver police board Auards of Merit

Larry Frazer, a visitor from Joelton, Tennessee, and his friend, Ernie Adams, a retired Cleveland Police officer, were in the area and heard the police siren. They watched as the officer began to struggle making the arrest, and rushed to the officer's aid, unaware of the suspect's violent history with police. The two men helped hold down the suspect until additional officers arrived.

For helping to prevent further injury to a Vancouver Police officer, without thought for their own personal safety, Mr. Ernie Adams and Mr. Larry Frazer are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

7. MR. NEIL WINSLOW

On November 10, 2016, Neil Winslow was on the third day of his new job at the Canadian Tire on Bentall Street, when a man entered the store armed with a knife.

Neil was working on the fourth floor when he heard the commotion and breaking glass near the gun counter. He looked down the aisle and saw his co-worker run towards him bleeding from the neck.

While trying to prevent the armed man from accessing firearms in a locked cabinet, his colleague was stabbed in the neck.

Neil began first aid by applying compression to the wound as he called 9-1-1. At the same time, he directed customers to seek refuge in a safe area.

People were screaming and yelling for help, but Neil stayed with his injured co-worker. The incident would lead to a hostage-taking and the death of the attacker. In addition to the Canadian Tire employee, a Vancouver Police officer received very serious life-threatening injuries. Both survived.

For rushing toward danger to assist a critically injured co-worker, without thought for his own personal safety, Mr. Neil Winslow is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

8. MS. OLIVIA MA

Olivia Ma and her boyfriend were walking their dog in Andy Livingstone Park on the evening of July 29, 2019, when they heard screaming. They noticed two men nearby, who appeared to be playing around and chasing each other. They were horrified when the two men stopped and one of them began repeatedly stabbing the other.

The attacker walked away, and Olivia, a veterinary technician, approached the victim. She used her bare hands to apply a makeshift tourniquet, fashioned from cloth, to the most severe wound. Her boyfriend called 9-1-1.

When police responded, she helped one of the officers apply direct pressure to a chest wound until paramedics arrived shortly after. Police later learned that an artery in the victim's arm had been severed and that the actions at the scene, by Olivia and the officers, had saved the victim's life.

For her bravely coming to the aid of a criticallyinjured stranger, Ms. Olivia Ma is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for bravery, the Award of Merit.

9. MR. CHRISTOPH DEEG MR. STEVEN JONES

Human instinct has been responsible for saving many lives. This instinct led Steven Jones to save the life of a despondent teenager.

Steven was cycling across the Lions Gate Bridge one morning in November of 2018, when he passed an adolescent standing on the walkway. He thought they looked sombre, but he continued his ride into Vancouver. Unable to shake the feeling of uneasiness he had, he turned around and rode back to the bridge.

When he arrived, he found the adolescent on the outside of the bridge railing, a backpack sitting nearby with what looked like a note on top of it. The teen looked down at the water as Steven moved forward and tried to convince them to climb back to safety.

Christoph Deeg, another alert cyclist, stood nearby, waiting to see if he could help.

Vancouver Police Constable Trevor LeTourneau arrived and approached the teenager, whose flexing knees appeared to indicate a readiness to jump. The constable reached out and grabbed the youth's arm. As they struggled, Christoph and Steven immediately came forward to help. They held on to the adolescent until more officers arrived.

For relying on instinct and coming to the aid of a distraught young person, Mr. Christoph Deeg and Mr. Steven Jones are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

10. MR. JOEL GILBERTSON MR. MATTHIAS JAKOB MR. TERRY SEIDEN

When Terry Seiden saw a man and a woman involved in a struggle in the 2200 block of York Avenue on the morning of November 14, 2018, he took notice. When the man held up a screwdriver, aiming it at the woman, he took action.

The woman advised him she was an off-duty police officer, and together, they managed to get the suspect to the ground.

Matthias Jakob was riding by on his bicycle, and stopped to help hold the man down. Another passerby, Joel Gilbertson, saw the struggle and pulled over his car, and raced to help. As he saw the suspect reaching for the screwdriver, now on the ground, Joel grabbed it.

Uniformed officers arrived after other witnesses called 9-1-1, and arrested the suspect.

The off-duty officer had been sleeping after a nightshift when she was awakened by an intruder. She chased him out of her apartment and down the block, despite being in bare feet. She suffered various injuries, including a broken foot.

For rushing to the assistance of an off-duty police officer, preventing further injury and ensuring a violent offender was arrested, Mr. Joel Gilbertson, Mr. Matthias Jakob, and Mr. Terry Seiden are all awarded the Police Board's Highest Award for bravery, the Award of Merit.

Commendations

CONSTABLES FIONA MINTY AND KAL PETKOV

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1. CONSTABLE FIONA MINTY CONSTABLE KAL PETKOV

It was 9:30 p.m. on November 9, 2017, when a woman called 9-1-1 asking for help. She was having trouble speaking to the call-taker, who could hear screaming in the background.

Constables Fiona Minty and Kal Petkov were dispatched to the address of the caller. They arrived to find the door to the suite open and screaming coming from inside. A woman was lying on a bed, holding a bloody cloth to her face. A toddler was in a nearby crib.

The woman was unable to speak, and was having trouble breathing. The constables pulled the cloth away from her face and saw that she had been shot in the jaw. Constable Minty immediately began first aid and cleared the woman's airway so she could breathe.

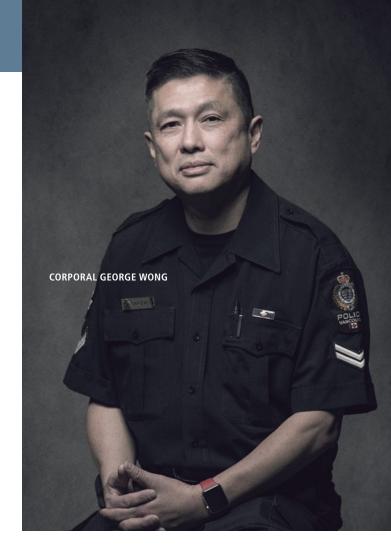
The shooter was the woman's estranged boyfriend, and the constables had no idea if he was still in the house or somewhere nearby. They decided it was unsafe to move the victim, so Constable Minty continued to perform first aid, as Constable Petkov provided security in case the gunman returned. Moments later, back-up officers and an ambulance arrived.

The woman was taken to hospital for treatment and her assailant was later arrested at his home.

For providing life-saving first aid and offering protection to a critically injured woman, despite the risk of her armed attacker returning, Constables Fiona Minty and Kal Petkov are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

2. CORPORAL GEORGE WONG

Corporal George Wong has made the apprehension of impaired drivers his primary goal, since being seconded to the Lower Mainland Integrated Road Safety Unit in 2013.



From the fall of 2013 to the end of 2018, Corporal Wong singlehandedly took 389 drivers with a blood alcohol limit over 0.08 off the road. The drivers were issued 90-day immediate roadside prohibitions and immediate 30-day vehicle impounds.

During the same time period, he also apprehended an additional 360 impaired drivers who were issued three-day immediate roadside prohibitions and 12- to 24-hour suspensions.

Because of Corporal Wong's dogged determination, 749 impaired drivers were taken off the road. They also faced penalties of lengthy driving prohibitions, ignition interlocks, and mandatory enrollment in impaired driving awareness courses.

Corporal Wong leads by example and mentors other officers. He inspires his colleagues to join him in his tireless efforts to detect and apprehend impaired drivers.

For his outstanding contribution to public safety, and ensuring our roadways are safe and free from impaired drivers, Corporal George Wong is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

CONSTABLES RYAN SCHELLINCK AND CONSTABLE JASON BARHAM

3. CONSTABLE JASON BARHAM CONSTABLE RYAN SCHELLINCK

Constables Jason Barham and Ryan Schellinck arrived in Andy Livingstone Park on the afternoon of April 29, 2019, following the report of a stabbing.

They found a 54-year-old man bleeding profusely from a life-threatening stab wound to the neck, and a passerby, Johnathon Varley, applying pressure to his wound. The victim had simply been sitting on a bench in the park when a random attacker stabbed him.

The two officers took over what was life-saving medical treatment. Paramedics were delayed until additional officers could ensure it was safe for them to come into the park.

The man was rushed to hospital for emergency surgery. Surgeons credited Johnathon and the constables with saving the victim's life.

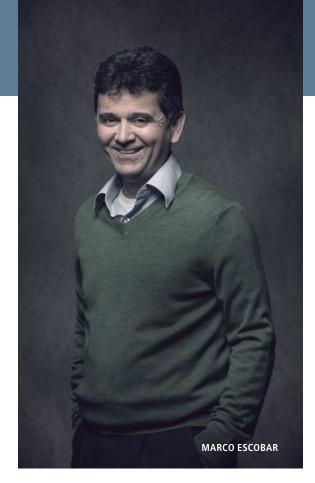
Investigating officers interviewed witnesses, and found surveillance video of the suspect discarding the knife. As the victim did not see his attacker, the forensic evidence collected established his identity. He was later charged and linked to another stabbing in the area that had taken place 13 minutes earlier.

For their quick response in administering first aid, and helping save the life of the victim of a random and vicious attack, Constables Jason Barham and Ryan Schellinck are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

4. MR. MARCO ESCOBAR

There are many people studiously working away in the background at the Vancouver Police Department. They help improve safety in our community and beyond. One of these people is Marco Escobar, who has worked for the VPD for 13 years as a crime analyst and supervisor.

Marco is a resource for technical or analytical questions. He generously shares the breadth of his knowledge and experience with others. He excels



in his role thanks to his outstanding work ethic, approachability, and attention to detail.

Marco has helped make the VPD a leader in the collection and analysis of data. Data helps drive decisions about resources and strategies for fighting crime, with the direct result of increasing public and officer safety.

Marco has initiated improvements to increase the speed and efficiency of crime analysis. The improvements have resulted in saved work, time, and money.

Marco's colleagues describe him as incredibly humble, a consummate team player who goes out of his way to be inclusive, and an invaluable asset to the VPD.

For his unwavering professionalism and quiet leadership, Mr. Marco Escobar is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.



5. RCMP CONSTABLE JORDAN DAVIDSON

When a Vancouver Police officer was assaulted as he tried to arrest a violent robbery suspect, he was fortunate an off-duty RCMP officer was close by.

On July 24, 2019, Vancouver Police received a report of a robbery at the Adidas store in the 800 block of Granville Street. The caller said a man had walked into the middle of the store and undressed, then put on clothing from the store's displays. When he tried to leave, the manager confronted him. The man pulled out a knife, then quickly left the store and fled on a bicycle.

A VPD motorcycle officer saw the suspect fleeing and stopped him at Expo Boulevard and Smithe Street. As the constable tried to arrest him, the suspect violently resisted. He struck the officer several times and tried to bite his hand.

RCMP Constable Jordan Davidson saw the struggle and although he was off-duty, he did not hesitate to jump in. He helped to restrain the suspect and stop the assault of the VPD officer until additional officers arrived.

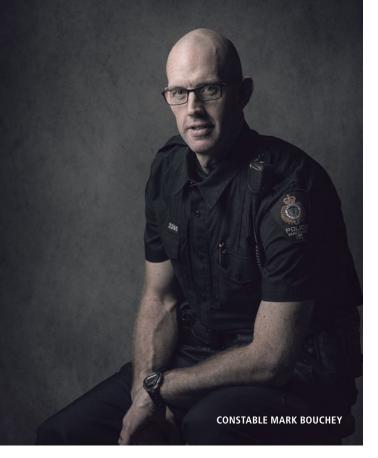
For coming to the aid of a fellow officer in need, assisting in the arrest of a violent suspect, and preventing further injury to an officer, RCMP Constable Jordan Davidson is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

6. CONSTABLE MARK BOUCHEY

Constable Mark Bouchey has been a Vancouver Police officer for 16 years, and what he has accomplished during those years is extraordinary.

As a member of the Traffic Section, Constable Bouchey is responsible for many road safety initiatives. In fact, he has received the Alexa's Team award four times for recommending at least 12 criminal charges against impaired drivers in one year.

He has been a key leader in expanding the Standard Field Sobriety Test program at the VPD to identify drug and alcohol impaired drivers. He has helped train over 100 officers. As a Drug Recognition Expert, Constable Bouchey played a significant role in the expansion of the program in B.C.



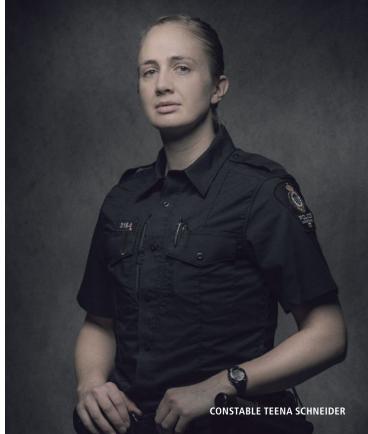
His commitment to the community is impressive – he's a long-time supporter of Cops for Cancer. As a cyclist, he raised thousands of dollars to send kids to Camp Goodtimes, and to fund pediatric cancer research.

Constable Bouchey went on to ride a motorcycle as part of the team escorting the Cops for Cancer riders. He eventually became the 'road boss,' and is responsible for the safety of all the riders, support vehicles, and the escort team.

Constable Bouchey has also volunteered with the Police Athletic League and the Student Challenge. He played volleyball and basketball in the World Police & Fire Games. He has been a dedicated member of the Vancouver Police Ceremonial Unit since 2009 and he has taken part in more than 100 events, including being part of the rifle party and the Ceremonial Unit choir.

Every 56 days, Constable Bouchey donates blood to Canadian Blood Services. He has donated 100 times to-date.

For his commitment to road safety and for being an exceptional police officer and volunteer, Constable Mark Bouchey is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.



7. CONSTABLE TEENA SCHNEIDER

Constable Teena Schneider was asleep at home following a nightshift on the morning of November 14, 2018, when she was suddenly awakened by an intruder in her bedroom. She leapt out of bed, and chased the man outside and down the street in her bare feet.

She caught up to him in the 2200 block of York Avenue and they began to struggle. The suspect pulled out the officer's hair and brandished a screwdriver, while threatening to stab her.

Citizens nearby rushed to the constable's aid. One man helped her get the suspect to the ground and a second man helped hold him down. A third man ran from his car and grabbed the screwdriver from the ground, which was within the suspect's grasp.

Other witnesses called 9-1-1 and uniformed officers quickly arrived. The man, who had an extensive violent criminal history, was arrested and taken to jail.

Constable Schneider sustained several injuries, including a broken foot.

For tenaciously pursuing a criminal, and proving that a police officer is always on duty, Vancouver Police Constable Teena Schneider is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S

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DETECTIVE PAUL WOODCOCK, MS. RAJ MANGAT, SERGEANT RYAN SMITH AND SPECIAL CONSTABLE HOLLIE RIORDAN

1. PROJECTION RE-EXAMINATION SERGEANT RYAN SMITH DETECTIVE SHARON HUNTER DETECTIVE PAUL WOODCOCK CONSTABLE DAVID WATERFIELD SPECIAL CONSTABLE KYLE HEARFIELD SPECIAL CONSTABLE HOLLIE RIORDAN MS. RAJ MANGAT

In 2012, Detective Paul Woodcock was assigned to review a missing person case after new information came to light. Gurpreet Gill was reported missing to the Vancouver Police Department in 2006 by her family in India. Despite lengthy investigations by both the VPD and Saanich Police, the case remained unsolved.

A review of the information revealed that Gurpreet had been the victim of a homicide, and investigators believed her husband, Jaswant Gill, was responsible.

The investigative team used innovative strategies and new techniques. They uncovered evidence that Gill may have committed a second murder in Burnaby in 1994, when Thomas Akerman was shot several times in a supposed drug deal gone wrong.

The investigation was challenging due to the time that had elapsed – witnesses were difficult to locate and were reluctant to speak. The team successfully cultivated and managed more than 80 witnesses until the trial concluded.

The investigation featured the largest undercover operation ever conducted by VPD. Gill was arrested in February 2013, and in May 2017, he was found guilty in both cases and sentenced to life in prison.

For their determination and commitment to finding justice for two murder victims and their families, the following Vancouver Police members are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation: Sergeant Ryan Smith, Detectives Sharon Hunter and Paul Woodcock, Constable David Waterfield, Special Constable Kyle Hearfield, Special Constable Hollie Riordan, and Ms. Raj Mangat. .

2. SERGEANT EILEEN VOLPATTI CONSTABLE CHRISTINE CHO CONSTABLE KARL DAGENAIS CONSTABLE GRAHAM EDMUNDS CONSTABLE BEN TETTAMANTI CONSTABLE GRAEME WELLS

Early on a cold December morning in 2018, a group of Vancouver Police officers were faced with a series of difficult decisions. A mentally ill man had slashed two random people downtown with a knife, and threatened another, just as rush hour was bringing pedestrian and vehicle traffic flooding into the area.

Constable Ben Tettamanti located the man, still holding the knife, in the 500 block of W. Hastings Street. He drew his weapon and ordered him to drop the knife. The man did not comply.

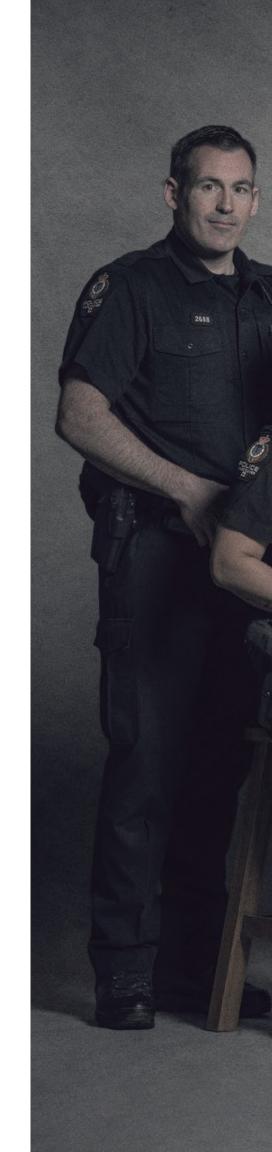
Constable Graham Edmunds arrived with a less-lethal flexible baton shotgun. When his commands were also ignored, he fired multiple less-lethal rounds, which had no effect.

Concern for public safety was growing. Two transit buses full of passengers were parked nearby, and Sergeant Eileen Volpatti ensured their doors were locked. As the man ran toward the bus, Constable Christine Cho used her taser, but also to no effect.

Suddenly, two pedestrians came on to the sidewalk in his direct path. Constables Tettamanti and Karl Dagenais prepared to use lethal force, if needed, but the man brushed by the pedestrians and kept running.

As he ran, he looked back at the officers running after him. Constable Graeme Wells caught up to him and hit him with his baton on the hand he was holding the knife in. This caused him to drop the weapon. He was taken to the ground and arrested.

For their courageous actions in stopping a dangerous man with a knife, with quick thinking and a measured use of force, Sergeant Eileen Volpatti, and Constables Christine Cho, Karl Dagenais, Graham Edmunds, Ben Tettamanti, and Graeme Wells, are awarded the Chief Constable's Citation.



CONSTABLES KARL DAGENAIS, CHRISTINE CHO, SERGEANT EILEEN VOLPATTI, CONSTABLES GRAHAM EDMUNDS, GRAEME WELLS, AND BEN TETTAMANTI -

MS. HEATHER WILSON

2020civilian of the year

Heather Wilson joined the VPD in 1997 and worked in the Planning, Research, and Audit Section, the Financial Crime Unit, and on the Integrated Riot Investigative Team, before joining Homicide in 2012 as an investigational assistant.

Her technical skills quickly set her apart, as she began to look at ways to improve the process of preparing documents for court and delivering them to Crown.

Heather developed a software plugin to automate repetitive and timeconsuming tasks, saving tens of thousands of hours of manual entry that benefitted both the VPD and Crown counsel.

She has been an integral part of multiple large-scale projects, and has managed as many as 500,000 electronic files. She works diligently behind-the-scenes and is always willing to go the extra mile to ensure deadlines are met. Heather leads by example and shares her knowledge and expertise of various software programs and disclosure practices with her co-workers, and with outside agencies.

Heather is a consummate professional and thanks to her dedication, creativity and expertise, she has made significant contributions to successful investigations. She inspires people around her through her positive attitude and willingness to take on new challenges.

For her dedication to improving the disclosure process and ensuring criminals are convicted of the crimes they commit, Ms. Heather Wilson is the Vancouver Police 2020 Civilian of the Year.

2020 POLICE OFFICER of the year

Nearly 25 years ago, Sergeant Sandra Glendinning began her career in policing by patrolling the streets of two of the busiest areas of the city. Here, she laid the foundation for her extraordinary career as a police officer.

Sandra moved to the VPD Canine Unit in 2005, where, with her Police Service Dog Hondo, she apprehended many dangerous suspects and was a court-recognized expert in police dog tracking and canine behaviour. Following that, Sandra gained valuable experience investigating complex files as a detective in the Robbery, Assault and Arson Unit.

In 2013, Sandra joined Public Affairs as the VPD's first full-time social media officer. She was an integral part of modernizing the way the VPD connected with the public through what was a relatively new tool for public engagement.

Sandra started a blog, called Behind the Blue Line, and wrote about her experiences as member of the VPD. She later created a Twitter handle with the same name and now has more than 12,000 followers on Twitter from around the world. Even now, as a busy road sergeant with multiple demands, Sandra continues to engage and inform her followers with her insight and experience.

Sandra was a member of the Vancouver Police Critical Incident Stress Management Team for 14 years, and used her training, experience, and ability to listen to provide support for her fellow officers who experienced traumatic events. She continues to be a mental health advocate for first responders.

Sandra was promoted to sergeant in 2015, and now leads a team of officers on patrol. She is an extremely well-respected leader, and those who know her describe her as steadfast, reliable, and kind. Her compassion, competence, dedication, and humility inspires confidence.

For her dedicated service, pursuit of excellence, and unwavering professionalism, Sergeant Sandra Glendinning is the Vancouver Police Department 2020 Police Officer of the Year.







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