

CHIEF CONSTABLE COMMENDATIONS CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

AWARDS



THE VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT Beyond the Call

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

1. – MR. ALEXANDER KLEIDER

If you could save a woman's life by jumping into the dark chilly waters of False Creek, would you? If you knew there was a good chance that it was too late to save her life, would you dive in anyway? Most of us probably would not, but most of us are not Alexander Kleider.

On the night of January 30, 2006, Mr. Kleider was standing underneath the north side of the Burrard Street bridge when a woman jumped from the bridge deck, plunging into the water far below. Mr. Kleider immediately peeled off some of his heavy winter clothing and dove into the cold dark water. He fought the strong currents as he swam to the centre of the inlet and fought them once again to bring the woman back to shore.

Exhausted and shivering he never gave up his efforts to save the woman's life. He performed CPR, but the woman's injuries from the fall proved fatal.

Mr. Kleider placed his own life at risk and against formidable odds fought with all his strength to save the life of a stranger. The Vancouver Police Department proudly awards its highest honour for civilian bravery, the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit, to Mr. Alexander Kleider.

2. - MR. ALY KHAN ALLADINA

On February 8, 2006, a forty-two year old man was prowling a neighbourhood in Vancouver's west side. He was a prolific thief. Since 1991 he had been convicted of break and enter 25 times. Even now, as he cased the homes for his next victim, he was on federal parole. He had a simple method that had worked for him many times. After ringing the bell, if no one answered, he would break in and rob the house. But this time he chose the wrong house.

Aly Khan Alladina was home asleep when the doorbell rang. It woke him at first, but he ignored it and tried to go back to sleep. What he couldn't ignore was the subsequent noise coming from inside the house. He confronted the thief who ran out the back door. Ignoring his own safety, Mr. Alladina gave chase. He captured him on the street, fought him to the ground and held on until police arrived shortly after.

Mr. Alladina's quick and courageous action most likely saved many of his neighbours from becoming similar victims and put a career criminal back in prison. Mr. Aly Khan Alladina is awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest award for bravery, the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit.

3. – MR. DARREN POMEROY, MR. ARTHUR BURCHELL, MR. WILLIAM HUNT

On the morning of September 15, 2006, a thirty year old man successfully robbed a person by grabbing his wallet at a bank machine. The robber ran away, pursued neither by his victim nor the police. It looked as though he might get cleanly away, but then he made a mistake: he approached some construction workers.

When he asked Darren Pomeroy for a cigarette, fellow construction worker Arthur Burchell identified the man as someone he had seen breaking into a car earlier that day. The man ran, but the construction workers were in hot pursuit. Police responding to the original robbery call saw the chase and joined in.

For a while, the robber evaded capture by hiding in some bushes, but once again he had not counted on the sense of civic duty possessed by the construction workers. High in the sky, crane operator William Hunt saw the man hiding and shouted to his coworkers, who captured him and held him for police. When police arrested the man, they found the credit card belonging to the robbery victim.

For their quick and brave actions that led to the arrest of a violent robber, Darren Pomeroy, Arthur Burchell and William Hunt are awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest award for civilian bravery, the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit.

4. – MS. MELISSA CANNELL

Imagine you are walking down the street and suddenly your chest is gripped in such crushing pain that you fall to the sidewalk, convulsing and fighting for breath. With every second counting, how quickly could you rely on someone coming to your aid? Would passers-by stop to help? Could you rely on a passing city transit bus to stop and have the driver rush to your aid?

You could if the bus was being driven by Melissa Cannell. On October 13, 2006, Ms. Cannell was on her route when she noticed a person fall to the sidewalk and convulse on the ground. She ran to her and used her first aid training to start CPR until ambulance and fire attendants arrived.

Emergency personnel later told her that if it was not for her quick action, the woman would have died and their efforts could not have saved her.

For her outstanding sense of civic duty and her decisive actions that saved the life of a woman in the critical stages of cardiac arrest, Melissa Cannell is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit.

5. – MR. ANDREAS JOANNOU

Most of us go through life playing it safe. But occasionally things can get so bad that you throw aside concerns for personal safety, convinced that enough is enough. For Andreas Joannou, that realization came at 7 p.m. on the night of January 18, 2006.

Mr. Joannou is the owner and manager of a downtown Pharmasave store. For two weeks in January, a punk with a knife had been robbing cafes in the neighbourhood. He robbed Mr. Joannou's store twice in three days. The robber always used a knife and he only robbed women. He got away with it six times before he decided to hit the Pharmasave store one more time.

But this time was different; Mr. Joannou was ready and waiting for him. When the female cashier signalled she was being robbed, Mr. Joannou came running out of his office and the robber took off. The manager ran after him, single-handedly tackled him to the ground, dodging the knife that was swung at him, and held on until police arrived minutes later.

Mr. Joannou put his personal safety in jeopardy in order to capture a violent career criminal who was on a crime spree. For his heroic actions, Mr. Andreas Joannou is awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest award for civilian bravery, the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit.

6. – MR. JAY HAMMILL, MS. HELEN MURPHY, MR. JAMES VAN EMMERIK, MR. TIMOTHY BEDARD

The robber who entered English Bay Jewellers on Denman Street one afternoon in March 2006 thought he had it made. He had convinced the lone female owner to let him try on a ring and a watch and now, as he bolted, he thought she was all that stood between him and a clean getaway. He was wrong.

When a passer-by, Jay Hammill, heard the woman scream, he tried to stop the man and was punched in the face for his efforts. Unfazed, he gave chase. A second person, Helen Murphy, tried to help by blocking the thief's path. He knocked her to the ground, injuring her in the process. Then the thief threw the watch and kept running. Two other witnesses, James Van Emmerik and Timothy Bedard, joined the chase.

Mr. Bedard didn't hesitate, dropping the man with a flying tackle. The three men pinned him down and held him for police. Mr. Hammill removed the ring from the crook's hand and personally returned it to the store's owner.

For exceptional courage and an outstanding sense of civic duty, Jay Hammill, Helen Murphy, James Van Emmerik and Timothy Bedard are all awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest award for civilian bravery, the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit.

7. – MR. MINAZ KURJI

For many of us, the most frightening fear is the fear of the unknown. It is a fear that Minaz Kurji had to conquer on June 23, 2004 at 1:30 in the morning, when he plunged into the inky darkness and chilling waters of False Creek to save a woman's life.

Mr. Kurji was walking with his friend, off-duty Constable Ivis Lee, when they heard a splash and learned from a witness that a woman had just jumped off the bridge. They could hear moaning coming from the water, but couldn't see a thing in the blackness.

Neither man was a strong swimmer, but both of them entered the water and the unknown. They didn't know whether they could find the victim or whether they could survive if she struggled with them. They were alone and literally over their heads without help of passing boaters or emergency services. Mr. Kurji turned back, returning moments later with a dinghy he found nearby. Constable Lee, struggling in the current, also was about to turn back when he saw a shadowy figure emerge from the water near the base of a pillar. They stayed with the distraught woman attempting to keep her warm until a Coast Guard boat summoned by the original witness arrived.

For outstanding courage and an exceptional sense of civic duty, Minaz Kurji is awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest award for civilian bravery, the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit.

8. – MR. ROBERT ROBINSON

Sometimes you witness something so abhorrent that you just can't let it stand. At least that's what Robert Robinson thought on October 6, 2005, when what he saw bothered him so much he stopped his car in the middle of traffic and jumped out.

An 87 year old woman had been knocked to the ground by a man who was trying to steal her purse. She desperately struggled to hang on, while a second elderly woman hit the thief with her umbrella. When Mr. Robinson joined the fray, the thief ran. Mr. Robinson chased him into a nearby store where they struggled, but the thief broke free and bolted. Mr. Robinson didn't give up. For ten minutes he chased the thug back and forth through traffic, ignoring his own safety in the pursuit.

When he eventually lost sight of the thief, he continued to search until officers with a police dog found the man hiding in some bushes.

Mr. Robinson's selfless act of courage helped police arrest a man wanted on two national warrants and suspected of being responsible for a string of purse snatchings. For his exceptional sense of civic duty, Robert Robinson is awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest award for civilian bravery, the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit.

9. – MR. TOM HOLLETT

When Vancouver city lifeguard Tom Hollett started his shift on June 5, 2006, he had no way of knowing that his commitment to public safety would be stretched and tested in a way he could never imagine.

The threat this day would come not from the water, but from a deranged man walking around Third Beach in Stanley Park. The man was exposing himself in front of children and adults, making racist threats and yelling that he was going to sexually assault a child.

When Mr. Hollett intervened, the man punched him in the face and threw sand in his eyes. He then grabbed Mr. Hollett's glasses and broke them. As horrified children and parents watched, the lifeguard never wavered. He endured more punches in his efforts to keep the children safe from this violent sex offender. It would take three armed police officers to eventually subdue the man at gunpoint.

Mr. Hollett's quick actions and courage went far beyond the obligations of his job. He put himself in harm's way to keep children safe from attack. Mr. Tom Hollett is awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest citation for civilian bravery, the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit.

CHIEF CONSTABLE UNIT CITATIONS

1. – SHOTS FIRED

Imagine the terror of hearing bullets being fired randomly in your neighbourhood. Then imagine the courage it would take to run towards the sound of the gun being fired instead of away from it. That's the type of courage Sergeant Barry Kross and his team of Constables, Evan Williams, Tim Henschel and Mark Steinkampf, showed on May 15th, 2004. About 3 o'clock in the morning, residents of a west side neighbourhood were awakened by the crack of high-powered rifle shots. Sergeant Kross and his team were among the first to respond. They found a bullet hole in a piece of machinery parked on the road and then they heard a shot. As they moved towards the sound, 30 seconds later they heard another shot. The sounds were moving and so was the shooter. The officers were convinced they were facing an active and random gunman.

As they moved closer to the shots, they spotted a man crossing a pedestrian overpass who appeared to be concealing something long down the side of his body. The team moved from cover to confront him. Constable Steinkampf yelled, "He's got a gun." After a brief struggle, the man was taken into custody. His high-powered rifle still had a live round in the chamber. Four bullets had been spent. He was eventually found guilty of three different weapons charges.

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

2. – HUMAN TRAFFICKING

There are some crimes that are so daunting to solve, so international in scope and so complicated by multiple agencies and jurisdictions that charges are seldom laid. On May 12, 2004, the Vancouver Police Vice Unit became aware of such a crime being committed in our city. They knew it would be one of the most challenging cases they would ever face, but they pursued it anyway and despite all the incredible hurdles they encountered, they never wavered.

The case involved two young women who had been duped into coming from China to Canada, where they were held captive and forced into prostitution. Their story was a sad and tragic one, but through the efforts of the team they were happily returned home and reunited with their families.

The investigation, the management of witnesses and victims, and the court preparation were staggering tasks that involved travel to China and relentlessly long hours over two years. But the team's efforts paid off. The accused in the case was charged with 21 counts including: assault, assault with a weapon, threatening, procuring, human smuggling and, more notably, the first charge of human trafficking in Canada.

For their exceptional performance of duty that went well beyond the call, the Vancouver Police Vice Unit, including Sergeant Matt Kelly, Detective Constables David Willis, Michelle Holm, Brian Sanders, Nancy Yingling, Russ Mitchell and Constables Terry Yung, Christine Cho; and from the RCMP, Constable Steve Glionna and Corporal Norman Massie are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

3. – EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Out of all the weapons a police officer may have to face, none is more deadly or poses a greater threat than a sawed-off shotgun. At close range, it can make a blind man a killer. At long range, the shot pattern widens out wounding everyone in its spreading path. In the early evening hours of July 12, 2005, members of the Vancouver Police Emergency Response Team faced a deranged man, armed with a sawed-off shotgun.

The man was standing on the Lion's Gate Bridge, alternately waving the shotgun and then holding it to his own head. It was clear that he was either intent on killing himself or having police do it for him. ERT members quickly moved onto the bridge, putting

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them well inside the range of the shotgun. Risking their lives, they moved nearer to stop pedestrians, who, unaware of the danger, were walking directly into the scene.

Tension levels nearly reached the breaking point when the man fired his weapon over the guardrail and then passed the barrel in front of the officers' location. Despite the growing danger, ERT members maintained their composure and managed to get a cell phone to the man, who eventually agreed to surrender. The officers involved, despite the risk to their own safety, protected the civilians on the bridge and saved the life of the man who seemed bent on destruction.

For valour, compassion and dedication to duty, Acting Sergeant Tim Henschel, Constables James Flewelling, Don Chapman, Andrew Chan, Kalvin Penner, Ray Wong, Doug Jensen and Dennis Wong are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

4. – BURNING CAR

With the movies convincing us that burning cars usually explode, it would take extra courage for most of us to run towards a burning car instead of away from it. On October 21, 2006, three Vancouver police officers faced a car that was jammed against the wall of an underground parking lot. Its wheels were spinning at full throttle, flames were shooting from the wheel wells and smoke covered the vehicle all the way to the ceiling. They decided to run towards it.

The smoke was so thick that they initially couldn't tell if anyone was inside. They used their extinguisher to douse the flames and then saw an elderly man slumped at the wheel. They broke the side window, cut off his seatbelt and dragged him to safety. They performed CPR for several minutes until fire and ambulance personnel relieved them and took the man to the hospital. All three officers received treatment for smoke inhalation.

For their quick and brave actions that saved an elderly man from dying in a car fire, Acting Sergeant Eric Jordan and Constables Ryan Campbell and Jennifer McInnis are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

5. – HOME INVASION

There are few crimes that strike more fear into the hearts of Vancouver residents than violent home invasions. So when the call came in on the night of October 7, 2006, that a homeowner had seen two men in his backyard casing his home, all available units, including two dog squad officers, rushed to the scene.

While the police were surrounding the house, the two men smashed in the kitchen door and went after the family that had locked themselves in the bedroom. They tried to kick in the master bedroom door even as the owner's wife and daughter were screaming in fear. When they encountered a second set of locked doors they ran. Police were waiting but the men ignored commands to stop. Three officers struggled with one suspect, while other officers chased the second man over a fence and through a neighbour's yard, arresting him after a brief struggle. The pair had a list of expensive executive homes that they intended to invade.

For their brave and decisive actions in confronting two violent and unpredictable suspects, Constables Michael Clark, Jocelyn Deziel, Greg Clark, Ben Falk, Chris Lee-Nishi, Andrew Prebushewski, Amber Coldwell and Dominique Fortier are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

6. – THE ANTI-FENCING UNIT

Each year residents of Vancouver lose millions of dollars in property to burglars who then sell the stolen goods for quick cash. Recovering that stolen property and arresting the thieves is a challenge faced every day by the VPD's Anti-Fencing Unit, a challenge they meet in often extraordinary ways.

In October 2005, a member of the unit noticed a number of suspicious pawnshop transactions reported on a web-based program designed to monitor these stores and investigate crimes. An investigation began that lasted six months, involving the burglary of more than 20 commercial businesses. Investigators were originally daunted because the thieves routinely changed serial numbers on the stolen goods.

Armed with only property descriptions, investigators worked backwards to identify owners. In one case, the trail led to a major bank in which ten branches had been victimized, losing about a dozen computers in each burglary. The only lead was the recovery of the property.

The successful investigation ended a four-month crime spree, involving more than \$200,000 worth of goods and damage. The thief was convicted and received a three year sentence.

For outstanding dedication to duty, Acting Sergeant Ann Fawcett, Detective Constables Paul Ellis, Val Woollacott, Dean Wells, Tony Sartori, Don Tymchyshyn, Wendy Sinclair, Troy Stasiuk, Linda MacWhirter, Jim Karabelas, Ms. Jacqueline Thomas and Ms. Kamal Khaira are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

7. – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

It is not uncommon for a police officer to be recognized for freeing a civilian from all types of oppression. So it then seems entirely appropriate that three civilian members of the VPD be recognized for freeing their fellow members from the oppression and drudgery of manually filling out forms.

Systems Analyst Oxana Riumina, Computer Programmer Asa Stabler, and HR Business Analyst Gail August have earned the undying gratitude of

anyone faced with the daunting paperwork generated by transfers and hires within the department. They designed a computer program that streamlines the process, gets rid of most of the paper, and saves a significant number of work hours. They consulted, designed and completed a highly workable and highly efficient system.

For their major contribution delivered with rigor, devotion and unparalleled professionalism, Oxana Riumina, Asa Stabler and Gail August are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

8. – THE RECRUITING UNIT

A common Human Resources cliché is that an organization is only as good as its members. In the case of the Vancouver Police Department, the quality of our members is only as good as our Recruiting Unit. If you've met any of our members, then you know that unit is exceptional.

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

The feat becomes more impressive when you learn the team is faced with the highest recruitment standards in the country and must compete with other departments and organizations to find Vancouver's finest. Despite the daunting circumstances, the unit attracted a group of successful candidates in which almost half had university degrees, a quarter were women, and a quarter were of diverse ethnic backgrounds reflecting the make-up of our community.

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

9. – PROPERTY CRIME TEAM

Vancouver residents often tell us their number one crime concern is property crime, thefts from their homes and cars. In 2004, a special unit was created to conduct full time surveillance in order to reduce property crime in District 4. With limited resources, funding and training this team has achieved extraordinary results.

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

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

CHIEF CONSTABLE COMMENDATIONS

1. – DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ROBERT GOUGH

There are times when the arrest of just one man can dramatically reduce the crime rate and increase the public's safety. When Detective Constable Robert Gough took over the investigation of a serial robber terrorizing female clerks he knew this might be one of those times. But catching the man wasn't going to be easy.

Beginning in November 2005, a man started robbing lone Asian female clerks by entering the store, pretending to be a customer and then pulling a knife. Detective Constable Gough came to the conclusion that one suspect was responsible for twenty of these robberies. He took on the monumental task of analyzing every detail, plotting them geographically and compiling lists of every similarity.

When the suspect committed a robbery that was caught on tape, Detective Constable Gough was relentless in distributing the images to every police and media station across the province. It led to the suspect's capture in August 2006. He was charged with 43 violent criminal offences.

For good old-fashioned police work combined with modern technology that put an end to this man's reign of terror, Detective Constable Robert Gough is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

2. - CONSTABLES CARLA YOUNG, EUGENE LUM, ERIK KERASIOTIS

Among all types of police work, few assignments carry more inherent danger than going undercover into a hostile environment for a prolonged period. It is normally so perilous that only the most highly trained undercover operators are ever chosen. Undercover Constables Carla Young, Eugene Lum and Erik Kerasiotis had neither the high level of training nor the experience required for this assignment, but then no one would expect they would. This type of project had never been attempted before in the history of the Vancouver Police Department.

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

Despite the ever-present dangers and obstacles, the operators exceeded far beyond expectations. They gathered evidence of desk clerks who sold drugs and fenced stolen property. Even the owners got into the act, fraudulently cashing welfare cheques. The work of these three officers resulted in 28 charges against 16 people, provincial welfare reforms and business licence reviews.

For their exceptional bravery and professionalism and willingness to put themselves in harm's way to protect the less fortunate, Constables Carla Young, Eugene Lum and Erik Kerasiotis are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

3. – CONSTABLES JENNIFER OBUCK, GRAHAM EDMUNDS

There is no greater classic test of courage than the willingness to run into a burning building placing your own life at risk in order to save others. On July 2, 2005, Constables Jennifer Obuck and Graham Edmunds faced that test and met the challenge.

They were responding to a mischief call at the Fraser Arms Hotel when they found that the suspect had started a fire and ran. Realizing that other residents might not be aware of the fire and could be trapped, they raced into the building to spread the alarm. Ignoring the increasingly heavy smoke that was filling the corridor they pounded on room doors and in some cases found still-unaware people and escorted them to safety.

They also broke into the room where the fire had been set just in case someone might be unconscious inside. Because of their quick actions no one was injured and the fire was confined to one room.

For courage and bravery in the performance of the duty in the face of personal peril, Constables Jennifer Obuck and Graham Edmunds are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

4. – CONSTABLE MICHAEL ROWE

There are times when a police officer encounters a person who is so desperate, so intent on dying, that any attempt to save their life becomes a struggle. On April 21st, 2006, off-duty Constable Michael Rowe found himself in that type of life and death struggle.

He was walking near a construction site when a fireball explosion grabbed his attention. He saw a man emerge from a hole with flames all over his body. As Constable Rowe vaulted the fence to run to his rescue, he had no way of knowing that, just seconds before that man, in an act of suicidal desperation, had soaked himself in gasoline and lit it.

Constable Rowe was able to douse the flames with

some standing water, but by now the man, who had lost most of skin and facial features, was mad with fury. He fought the officer's attempts to hold him for the ambulance. Constable Rowe tried vainly to hang on even though he was covered in spit and fluids. He followed the man until other units arrived to take him to hospital, where he succumbed from burns to 97 per cent of his body.

Constable Rowe did not allow himself to be treated until after he had directed firefighters to the origin of the fire to make sure there were no more victims. For his humanity and exceptional sense of duty, Constable Michael Rowe is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

5. – CONSTABLE KEVIN BARKER

As a police officer, when given an assignment that involves responsibility for a certain area, you can either maintain it as it was before or you can go Beyond the Call. Constable Kevin Barker has been adding exceptional value to the VPD's Taxi Unit for years.

When, in the course of his duties, he learned that federal legislation had been changed allowing the towing industry to cut corners on safety practices, he could have stayed silent. After all, no one would expect the Constable in charge of the Vancouver Police Taxi Unit to second-guess the lawmakers in Ottawa. But that's what he did. His impressive knowledge of the industry allowed him to intervene and make recommendations that would make the towing of vehicles on flatbed trucks safer for all Canadians.

Constable Barker also spoke up when the city was reviewing its bylaws concerning taxi licenses. Representing the Department and the Chief Constable, Constable Barker made an eloquent and convincing case to change the bylaws in a way that would bring added safety to the citizens of Vancouver. For performance of duty that went Beyond the Call, Constable Kevin Barker is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

6. – CONSTABLE FRED ULLRICH

It has been said that it takes a village to keep a village safe. No one knows that better than Constable Fred Ullrich.

When Constable Ullrich was assigned to the Citizen Crime Watch program, he inherited a good initiative that had been devastated and demoralized by the department's massive retirements. But he turned defeat into victory by rallying the group's enthusiasm, increasing the number of volunteers and patrols, and obtaining new equipment. The program had a banner year in 2005, making 37 arrests from volunteers' observations and recovering 247 stolen cars.

Constable Ullrich takes extraordinary steps to recognize and reward the efforts of his volunteer team. He has personally mentored 12 volunteers through the hiring process to become VPD recruits. Through his efforts the Citizen Crime Watch program has become one of the best and most highly regarded volunteer police programs in North America.

For his enthusiasm, excellence at work and outstanding service to the community, Constable Fred Ullrich is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

7. – CONSTABLES BRIAN BAIRD, BARRY MILEWSKI AND MR. GINO MISSANA

Seldom is the phrase, "he who hesitates is lost" more true than it is in police work. On the night of May 17, 2006, Constables Brian Baird and Barry Milewski had just seconds to decide whether to shoot a man who was in a murderous rage armed with a machete or try to take the weapon away from him. Shooting meant taking a life and endangering the safety of the nearby crowd. Wrestling with the man meant putting their own lives at risk and saving his.

Without a moment's hesitation they took the man to the ground in a life or death struggle. The nightclub doorman, Gino Missana, with no regard for his own safety, immediately joined the fray. His assistance would be crucial in preventing any injuries or fatalities that night.

The man they were fighting had been violent with the club's doormen earlier that night and had threatened to come back and kill them. He returned from his car brandishing a 16-inch machete that he concealed later in his shirt. The man had a record of gang activity and was high on cocaine and alcohol. His muscular build and drug-frenzied rage led to a lengthy struggle that took all the strength of the two officers and Mr. Missana to control.

Their quick and selfless actions prevented the grave consequences that seemed otherwise inevitable. For their outstanding courage, Constables Brian Baird and Barry Milewski are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation, and Mr. Gino Missana is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Certificate of Merit.

8. SERGEANT DERRAL DANIELS, CONSTABLE FRED OLDENDORF

Every police officer knows that even though they receive limited training in this area, car chases can be a regular part of the job. They also know that every time they enter into a pursuit, they are putting themselves and the public in harm's way. Many chases end in crashes, injuries or even death.

Sergeant Derral Daniels and Constable Fred Oldendorf don't believe it has to be that way. They have dedicated themselves to exhaustive research in finding effective and safe alternatives to police pursuits. They have designed and implemented a patrol officer training program that teaches them

to end or avoid chases with lower-risk boxing and pinning techniques. Their recommended use of widely-installed push bars and advanced driver training are aimed at saving lives and property.

For their impressive report and insightful recommendations that will have a major impact on patrol policing and the VPD, Sergeant Derral Daniels and Constable Fred Oldendorf are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

9. – CONSTABLE JANA MCGUINNESS

During their careers, police officers witness more than their share of tragedies. Among the most tragic are the deaths of innocent people that could have been avoided. When two senior citizens died in separate motor vehicle collisions early last year, Constable Jana McGuinness took it upon herself to help keep seniors safe.

She called senior care homes that were near the fatal collisions and asked if she could visit to talk about pedestrian safety. Her presentations were so gratefully received that demand for them began to grow. To reach even more seniors, Constable McGuinness enlisted the aid of various partners within the department and with outside donors. Her efforts resulted in a poster, brochures and highly reflective arm bands, all designed to keep pedestrian seniors safe.

So far, Constable McGuinness has delivered her safety messages to more than a thousand seniors. The program has spread to seniors' homes all over the city.

For her excellent initiatives designed to save lives and prevent needless tragedies, Constable Jana McGuinness is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

10. – CONSTABLE JEFF SCHWENNEKER

In early August of 2005, Vancouver was experiencing an unusual heat wave, but no place in the city was hotter than the two major entrances to the Port. Without the immediate and thoughtful actions of Constable Jeff Schwenneker, that heat could have quickly risen to explosive and violent levels.

A protracted truckers' dispute was severely disrupting the flow of goods in and out of the Port. Tensions quickly mounted as businesses faced with shortages applied political and media pressure that reached national proportions. Those tensions, in many cases, also became racial as virtually all of the picketers, numbering as many as 70 at each entrance, were Indo-Canadian and largely unorganized.

Constable Schwenneker took immediate ownership of the situation, creating an operational plan that lowered the temperature considerably. His actions mirrored those of an incident commander overseeing a police response to a major incident. But in this case, less was more, as he rejected suggestions of a major police response and instead took charge with just one other officer.

This innovative low-key approach allowed these two officers to develop personal rapport with the picketers, leading to a successful conclusion without anyone being injured or property destroyed.

For outstanding leadership and dedication to duty, Constable Jeff Schwenneker is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

11. – MR. GLEN RICHMOND

Police departments around the world share a common and vexing problem: false alarms. Each year officers and civilians are put at risk in the rush to answer them and thousands of hours are wasted in the effort to respond to them. In 1992, one out of every five calls for police service was for a false alarm.

But in Vancouver all that is changing, thanks in no small part to the efforts of Glen Richmond, the VPD's manager of the False Alarm Reduction Program. False alarms in our city have now been reduced to two out of every 100 calls.

Mr. Richmond personally developed amendments to city bylaws that last year alone reduced the number of false alarms by 61 per cent. The major change requires monitoring companies to make greater efforts to contact permit holders to determine if the alarm is false.

Mr. Richmond's efforts are being credited by other communities and police departments as a "model program" and a best practice. For his major contributions in preserving police resources so that they can be used for greater public safety, Glen Richmond is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

12. – SERGEANT STEVE GIBSON, CONSTABLE TOD CATCHPOLE

When an officer falls in the line of duty, it is a tragedy that sends a ripple out to the farthest edges of the police community. But some would say that the greater tragedy is when the ripple disappears and its original cause is forgotten. Sergeant Steve Gibson and Constable Tod Catchpole have made it their lives' work to ensure that we never forget.

On the lawn of the provincial legislature in Victoria there is a fairly new monument. It stands as a salute to fallen police and it also stands as testament to the extraordinary efforts of these two officers, who helped raise more than a quarter million dollars to build it. They volunteered countless hours of their own time to painstakingly examine 116 cold case files, researching the history of officers who were killed. They discovered seven names that had been forgotten. Those names have been added to the honour role. Sergeant Gibson and Constable Catchpole's compassion also extends across the border. Immediately after the attack on the World Trade Centre, both officers started to raise funds for the families of the 23 NYPD members who died. The fund they created eventually topped \$225,000. In the history of the VPD, this was an unprecedented humanitarian project.

For their tireless efforts and dedication to the memories of the men and women who have given their lives in the line of duty, Sergeant Steve Gibson and Constable Tod Catchpole are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

13. – CONSTABLES MIKE LYNCH, JAMIE GIBSON

When firefighters approach a burning boat on the water, they normally use foam cannons from a safe distance because they know every burning vessel is an explosion waiting to happen. Gas and fumes accumulating in the bilge are always just a spark away from an inferno. When Constables Mike Lynch and Jamie Gibson approached a burning boat on June 11, 2006, they didn't have a cannon, so they used a fire extinguisher and an axe in their efforts to save the lives of everyone onboard.

The call came just after midnight. A 114-foot charter vessel was on fire off Stanley Park. There were seven passengers and crew on board. Constables Lynch and Gibson rushed to the scene in their small police boat. The passengers were about to jump into the dark and icy water. Constable Lynch took as many passengers as he could, while Constable Gibson leaped on to the burning craft and started fighting the fire. By the time Constable Lynch returned from dropping the passengers at the nearby Seabus, which had also responded to the emergency, Constable Gibson had drained his extinguisher and was being forced back. Constable Lynch got everyone else off the boat, including his partner.

But that wasn't the end. The burning boat was starting to drift dangerously close to the Chevron fuel barge. Despite the imminent and growing danger of an explosion, the constables, who had by now taken all passengers and crew to safety, returned to the burning craft. Due to the size limitations of the police zodiac, they called for a larger vessel to tow the firedamaged vessel, to keep it away from the barge. Soon after, the fire boat arrived to extinguish the blaze.

Constables Mike Lynch and Jamie Gibson prevented a marine disaster that could have destroyed a large vessel and taken the lives of everyone on board. Their courage and willingness to put their lives at great risk in order to save others is in the finest tradition of the Vancouver Police Department. They are both awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation. Chief Constable's Commendation / Chief Constable's Award of Valour

14. – CONSTABLES DARREN ONG, ALVIN PRASAD, ERIC JORDAN

At about 6 a.m. on August 25, 2006, Constables Darren Ong, Alvin Prasad and Eric Jordan faced a life or death dilemma. In front of them was a twenty storey apartment building on fire with black smoke billowing. Behind them, off in the distance, they could hear the wail of responding fire engines. Ahead, was a building that probably contained many people who were still in bed. Behind, firefighters would soon be arriving, but would take precious minutes before they could set up to fight the fire. The three constables could choose to safely wait or put themselves in harm's way.

They chose to rush the building to save as many lives as they could in those first few critical minutes. Constables Ong and Prasad charged in the west stairwell. Constable Jordan took the east entrance. They ran down every floor yelling "fire" and banging on doors. At every level the smoke got thicker and more deadly. The 8th floor was especially bad. The door was so hot from the flames that the heat could be felt many feet away. Despite the increasing danger, the three pushed through the smoke to higher floors getting people out. When their superior ordered them out of the building, Constable Ong and Prasad got out safely. But it was too late for Constable Jordan to escape. He had stopped on the 12th floor to help an elderly person and now the stairwell was impassable. Other residents were returning from the stairwell, choking and blinded by the smoke. Constable Jordan had to face the frightening fact that they were all trapped.

He led them to the elderly man's apartment and asked them all to wait on the balcony while he placed water soaked towels under the door. He then did everything he could to keep the residents from panicking while they waited 25 minutes for rescue. Constable Jordan was taken to hospital where he was treated and released for smoke inhalation.

The choice the three constables made that morning to risk their own lives meant that many residents got out of the building safely who may otherwise have succumbed to the smoke or fallen down the stairs in a panic to escape. Constables Alvin Prasad and Darren Ong are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation, and Constable Eric Jordan is awarded the department's highest award for bravery, the Chief Constable's Award of Valour.



