



CHIEF CONSTABLE COMMENDATIONS CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

AWARDS



THE VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
Beyond the Call

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

1. – OWEN DAVIS AND KEVIN HARRISON

Many thieves operate in Vancouver with a real and perceived sense of security. They know from experience that few people report thefts and certainly very few people would ever bother to try to stop one. So when three thieves, a woman and two men, in the early evening of September 10, 2007, casually stole a bicycle from an eastside yard, they had every reason to think that no one would bother to intervene. They were wrong.

Two neighbours, Kevin Harrison and Owen Davis, witnessed the theft. Not only did they call 911, but they decided to jump into a car and give chase. Mr. Davis stopped the woman who was riding the bike, but while Mr. Harrison was on the phone to police the two other thieves moved on him, forcing him to let go. She ran, but he ran after her, catching and holding her a second time. She fought wildly, biting and scratching his arms. One of the men threatened Mr. Davis with a weapon, but he still refused to let go. Police arrived moments later.

The two male thieves ran, taking the bicycle with them. The woman was charged with theft and assault.

For their outstanding sense of bravery and a willingness to put themselves in harm's way to protect their neighbour's property, Owen Davis and Kevin Harrison are awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest award for civilian bravery, the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit.

2. – MR. VITO ANTONIO RUSSO

Most citizens would probably agree that if they saw a police officer who needed assistance, the right thing to do would be to step forward. But what if providing

that assistance placed you in danger of injury or worse? Would you hesitate? Mr. Vito Antonio Russo did not.

On the night of December 5, 2006, police were called to deal with two groups of violent males in the Granville Entertainment District. As the crowd turned ugly the officers called for backup, but all units were busy. The officers were on their own. They had several people in handcuffs when another violent male attacked them.

Mr. Russo, the head doorman at the Roxy Nightclub, stepped forward when he saw that one of the officers was about to be injured. He restrained the man and continued to perform crowd control at personal risk to his own safety.

For his outstanding sense of bravery and civic duty, Mr. Vito Antonio Russo is awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest award for civilian bravery, the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit.

3. – EUGENE AND CHARLOTTE LLEWELLYN

On June 27th, 2006, Eugene and Charlotte Llewellyn were driving downtown when they watched in horror as the driver in front of them smashed into a pedestrian and then took off, leaving him to die in the street. As others rushed to the aid of the dying man, the Llewellyns made a split-second decision. Not having a cell phone, they immediately decided that the right thing to do was to chase the driver.

Without thought of putting themselves in harm's way, they pursued the driver, intending to either stop him or get enough information to help the police arrest him. Making sure he put no one else at risk, Mr. Llewellyn drove close enough to the fleeing car that his wife was able to get a good look at the driver.

He then tried to box him in and suffered damage to his car in the failed attempt.

As the man escaped, the Llewellyn's stopped, found a phone and called 911, enabling police to arrest the man a short time later.

For their outstanding courage and sense of civic duty, Eugene and Charlotte Llewellyn are awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest recognition of civilian bravery, the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit.

4. – JASON HARRIS AND GARRET MORAN

It has often been said that all it takes for evil to flourish is for good men to do nothing. On April 10th, 2007, two good men made sure that crime would not pay.

On that day, Jason Harris and Garret Moran were just two friends riding on an eastside bus. They had no reason to even notice when a 14 year old youth and his fifteen year old sister boarded the bus. But when the two tried to exit, things changed quickly.

A third youth jumped up demanding the young man's wallet and threatening to kill him if he didn't hand it over. When he didn't get the money immediately, he pulled out a small crowbar and smashed the young man over his right eye. That was more than enough for Mr. Harris and Mr. Moran. Rushing past other passengers on the bus and with no regard for their own safety, they tackled the robber, took him to the floor and held him for police, who then charged the attacker with robbery with a weapon and breach of probation.

Because of their bravery and unselfish actions, Jason Harris and Garret Moran are awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest award for civilian bravery, the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit.

5. – MR. MICHAEL KESHANE

If you were driving home just after midnight and you saw a man lurching towards you, would you suspect he was drunk and keep on driving or would you stop to help? Shane Knox is alive today because Michael Keshane decided to stop.

What Mr. Keshane saw that night on September 27, 2007, was a man bleeding profusely from the neck. When he rushed to his aid, he had no way of knowing that Shane Knox had just been stabbed by an assailant a block away who might still be nearby.

Without any medical supplies Mr. Keshane took off his own shirt, wrapping it around the wound and keeping Mr. Knox calm while an ambulance was called. Hospital workers would later confirm that without Mr. Keshane's first aid, it is likely Mr. Knox would have lost his life.

The Vancouver Police Department is proud to present its highest award, the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit to Mr. Michael Keshane.

6. – MARGRET FONT AND IAN GILCHRIST

Bravery takes many forms. Sometimes it's the willingness to rush into a burning building and sometimes it's just being plain unwilling to let someone else die.

In the early morning hours of September 1, 2007, two volunteers from the Saferide program were driving along the Granville Street Bridge when they saw a distraught woman darting among traffic. The volunteers, Margret Font and Ian Gilchrist, pulled over to assist her and alert police.

Without warning, the woman ran towards the bridge railing and climbed over. Sixty meters below there was a concrete parking lot. Font and Gilchrist, with no regard for their safety, ran to the edge just as

the woman let go and pushed herself off. But the volunteers were fast enough to grab hold of her arms and pull her to safety where they held her for police.

The Vancouver Police Department is proud to give its highest award for civilian bravery, the Vancouver Police Board's Certificate of Merit, to Margret Font and Ian Gilchrist.

CHIEF CONSTABLE UNIT CITATIONS

1. – TRAINING UNIT

There are those who say that a police officer is only as good as the training he or she receives. If that's true, then the men and women of the Vancouver Police Department are second to none. They enjoy the benefit of an education and training unit that is staffed by personnel who routinely go beyond the call in providing an exceptional level of training to our members.

Last year was particularly taxing for the unit. In addition to their normal workload, the unit had to develop new training programs for the VPD Traffic Authority and the new influx of full- and part-time jail guards. The unit also developed new courses for the Investigation Division. All of this was accomplished during a year that also saw an increase in new recruits.

For their extraordinary efforts and long hours often served on their own time, Sergeants Steve Brady and Mark Wooldridge, Constables Tracey Prentice, Julie Birtch, Valerie Nagel, Kim Smith, Jennifer Keyes and Ms. Sherri Bunt and Ms. Kerri Glover are awarded the Chief Constables Unit Citation.

2. – VPD MOTORCYCLE DRILL TEAM

When heads of state such as her Majesty the Queen or the U.S. President come to Vancouver, they are escorted throughout the Lower Mainland by the Vancouver Police Motorcycle Drill Team.

For more than 52 years these dedicated VPD traffic officers have been the first choice of the RCMP for escorting visiting heads of state and dignitaries. Their skill and expertise have made this unit the envy of police departments all over North America. Members of the team must volunteer to forgo summer holidays in order to participate in numerous community events that only occur during that time of the year.

Each year they are featured in parades and events throughout the city, B.C. and even the United States. This team has been selected to represent Western Canada at Harley Davidson's 100-year anniversary in Milwaukee this year. Only four teams in North America have been granted this distinguished honour.

But they are more than just a group of skilled motorcycle riders. For 22 years they have been raising funds for Kops for Kids, which buys presents for needy children. They raise about \$15,000 a year for the kids. The team also supports numerous other charities which benefit a variety of organizations.

For their dedication, professionalism and unwavering service as proud ambassadors of the VPD and the City of Vancouver, Sergeant-in-Charge Martin Turner, riding Corporal Cory Porret and Constables Mike Birkas, Eric Doyon, Chris Egge, Darren Foster, Brad Lawrence, Jana McGuinness, Roger Rai, Steve Shaw, Sherman Soo, Mike Stewart, Phil Wiebe, Carlo Cividino and Jeff Peterson, are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

3. – RUNNING WITH SCISSORS

When a violent man uses the public as a shield, police must make immediate decisions that may haunt them for years.

On September 6, 2007, police recruit Bryan Spencer and his field trainer, Constable Darren Telenko, stopped a man they suspected of breaking into cars. The man became violent, coming at them with a pair of scissors and then running for the cover of the nearby Skytrain. The officers pursued with guns drawn.

The man boarded the Skytrain, ignoring repeated commands to drop the scissors. Police cleared the train of frightened passengers. The man then bolted and police gave chase. Two other officers joined the fray and tackled the man to the ground. The incident came to a peaceful end without anyone getting hurt.

For outstanding performance of duty, Constables Bryan Spencer, Darren Telenko, Sam Cheung and Stan Dy are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

4. – ATTACKER ATTEMPTS SUICIDE-BY-COP

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

In this case, a man who had ingested rock cocaine decided to make his last stand in the men's room of a downtown store. He ripped the porcelain from the walls as he brandished lengths of pipe and hurled sharp pieces at police. All the while he screamed at police to shoot him. Attempts to subdue him with non-lethal force, including the beanbag gun and the Taser, failed. Now naked, since he believed he was on fire, he continued to throw razor sharp missiles of porcelain at the officers, cutting one in the forehead and another in the leg.

In the face of this high pitched attack, police continued to show restraint, calling for a Spanish-speaking officer and a police negotiator. They eventually managed to talk the man down and safely arrest him without anyone being injured.

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

5. – APARTMENT RESIDENTS TERRORIZED BY CRAZED MAN ON A RAMPAGE

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

Late in the evening, residents were startled by a man who was screaming in the hallway and trying to kick his way into their apartments. Many frantic calls were made to 9-1-1 and when police arrived they learned the man had broken hallway windows and was possibly armed with jagged glass. But that wasn't the worst of it. As they tried to approach him, he grabbed the fire hose and blasted them full force to keep them back. They used the Taser and the beanbag gun. Five times the bean bag gun was fired. Five times it had no affect.

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

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

6. – MAN HOLDS A GUN TO HIS HEAD IN TWO-HOUR STANDOFF

When a man points a gun at his own head and his existence hangs on the edge of a creeping trigger pull, every move police make becomes a life or death decision.

On March 9, 2007, a distraught woman clutching her baby called police to tell them her estranged husband, who was coked up and despondent, had barricaded himself in her apartment and was threatening suicide. The man was armed with a gun and a butcher knife.

Police quickly surrounded and locked down the building. When initial negotiations failed they forced the barricaded door open, giving them a view of a man with a gun pressed to his temple. He dared them to kill him. Any attempt to rush the man would risk his death. Police held back and continued to negotiate for the next two hours, assuring the man that no harm would come to him. He eventually gave up, surrendering his weapons.

For their display of outstanding judgement, courage and professionalism, Acting Sergeant Randy Bell and Constables Warren Tutkaluke, Marco Veronesi, Ken Rensby and Jennifer Giese are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

7. – BULLETS FLY AS HOSTAGE PLEADS FOR RESCUE

It had all the markings of a tragedy.

Just past midnight on May 6, 2007, a woman called 911. It soon became apparent she was being held hostage by her boyfriend. She was in deadly peril. Her boyfriend, a violent gangster, had been high on cocaine for five days. The situation had become even more terrifying when he started shooting a gun in the apartment.

To rescue her, police would have to break into a heavily locked and reinforced apartment door and face a drug-crazed gangster who was armed and shooting randomly. But that wasn't all. The apartment was on the 23rd floor of a beachside high-rise and they could only find key fob access to the 8th floor. They would have to climb 15 floors carrying all their equipment.

While they contained the building and scaled the stairs, an apartment resident reported shots fired on the 23rd floor. As they increased their pace on the stairs they had no way of knowing how heavily armed the shooter might be. When they arrived at the door they could hear the woman trying to escape, but unable to because of the extra key entry locks on both sides of the door. They also heard shots from within the apartment. Fearing that the woman was about to be killed and ignoring the very real danger of a gun aimed at the door, ERT members tried to smash it down.

But it wasn't easy. The door had been reinforced. The longer it took to break in, the more warning the shooter had and the greater danger they faced. Despite the deadly threat of gunfire, they broke through the door and rescued the woman. They found the shooter barricaded in the bathroom. The officers eventually talked him out safely, later finding his firearm and more bullet holes.

ERT members and responding police units overcame extremely hazardous conditions and life threatening circumstances to make a remarkable rescue and arrest without anyone being hurt. For conspicuous bravery, ERT members Sergeant Trevor Herrmann, and Constables James Flewelling, Francis Aquino, Shawn Hardman, Jason High and Brent Derksen, receive the Vancouver Police Department's highest award, the Award of Valour.

And for outstanding performance of duty, Inspector Tony Zanatta, Sergeant Mark Sykes, and Constables Justin Leung and Keith Jordison are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S COMMENDATIONS

1. – CONSTABLES ERIC DAVIS AND JENNIFER ANTONEL

Not all police work involves rescues from muddy waters or burning buildings. Good old-fashioned police work involves diligence and sustained effort that results in arrests and writing reports. Constables Eric Davis and Jennifer Antonel do that better than most.

On average, in a year, a patrol officer averages about 20 new charges and writes about 109 general occurrence reports. In 2006, these partners were involved in 106 new charges and wrote 350 reports. It is likely when the 2007 results are tallied they will be even higher.

With this award, the department hopes to send a clear message to all members that relentless follow-up and arresting those who commit crimes in our city will always be worthy of recognition and celebration. Constables Eric Davis and Jennifer Antonel are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation

2. - CONSTABLE JOHN BERCIC

When the Vancouver Police Department adopted Beyond the Call as its promise of service to the community, it recognized the extraordinary efforts that many officers had been making for years. One of those officers, who routinely goes Beyond the Call, is Constable John Bercic of the Traffic Enforcement Unit.

His co-workers would tell you that the extra work he takes on as Acting Sergeant, report writer, leading ticket writer and computer problem solver,

would exceed most expectations for the job. But his accomplishments go far beyond the call. He designed and implemented a bicycle helmet safety program for school children that became a model of success. He followed that with a bicycle helmet enforcement program that increased the number of riders wearing helmets.

He also designed and implemented a campaign to reduce the number of noisy motorcycles in the city. His techniques for producing evidence that would convict offenders have been distributed throughout the VPD and have become departmental standards.

For representing the values of Beyond the Call, in both principles and action, Constable John Bercic is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

3. – CONSTABLE DAVE PEARCEY

Anyone who has ever watched the TV program CSI might understandably have the impression that it is a simple matter to identify a criminal. Cops know better. And among cops, no one knows better than Constable Dave Pearcey.

For 20 years, Constable Pearcey has served in the VPD's Forensic Identification Squad. Long before it became the glamour job of network actors, Constable Pearcey spent countless hours labouring over the shreds and wisps of evidence that criminals leave behind. It is painstaking work that can often lead to a blind alley. Most investigators consider themselves lucky if they can make 30 or 40 criminal identifications a year. During Constable Pearcey's tenure, he made a staggering 2,000 criminal identifications. It is a record that will likely stand for quite a while.

For the past three years, he has been passing on his expertise as the section trainer for the newest members of his unit and for crime scene officers.

For his outstanding commitment and performance of duty, Constable Dave Pearcey is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

4. – CONSTABLES HEIDI SCHOENBERGER AND BRIAN MONTAGUE

Sometimes providing leadership is all about providing a good example. When District One created a Crime Suppression Team four years ago, they needed two outstanding officers to develop a first class surveillance and undercover team. The best examples they could find were Constables Heidi Schoenberger and Brian Montague.

As senior constables, they were called upon on a daily basis to assume the job of "road boss" and supervise the surveillance or undercover operation in often dangerous and challenging situations. Their abilities to multi-task at high speed during such operations were exceptional, as was their commitment to team-building and skill development.

For efforts that led to the creation of one of the most successful teams dealing with chronic property crime offenders and active drug traffickers, Constables Heidi Schoenberger and Brian Montague are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

5. – CONSTABLES STEVEN POWELL AND BYRON TAGUIAM

There are those who would argue that there is no greater scourge on our city than that of the drug trade. Drugs are responsible for many categories of crime and are often behind the property crime of residential break-ins and thefts from autos.

Constables Steven Powell and his partner, Constable Byron Taguam, have been instrumental in combating the drug scene. Besides their normal patrol duties, they have developed an outstanding record for

cracking a number of high profile drug cases. Their abilities have produced many warrants, arrests and the recovery of thousands of dollars worth of illegal drugs.

For their investigative skills and dedication to duty, coupled with a willingness to always go beyond the call, Constables Steven Powell and Byron Taguam are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

6. – ACTING SERGEANT REYNOLD SEE AND CONSTABLES COLLEEN MCKITRICK AND ANA WOOD

Police officers know that they can never let their guard down because any situation can go from peaceful to violent in a heart beat.

On August 5, 2007, three officers investigating a domestic disturbance complaint had separated a man and woman in their home after finding broken glass and fresh blood. Constable Ana Wood was speaking to the man on her own. The discussion was calm and the man was peaceful. There was never a hint of violence or aggression.

Suddenly, without warning, the man pulled a large knife from his waistband. Constable Wood ordered him to drop it. He ignored her and brandished the knife aggressively. Acting Sergeant Reynold See and Constable Colleen McKitrick heard the command and ran to her aid. Despite the close quarters and immediate danger, the three officers maintained their composure and wrestled the knife away safely without injury to anyone involved.

For displaying immense courage under perilous circumstances, Acting Sergeant Reynold See and Constables Colleen McKitrick and Ana Wood are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

AWARD OF VALOUR

1. – SERGEANT TREVOR HERRMANN, AND CONSTABLES JAMES FLEWELLING, FRANCIS AQUINO, SHAWN HARDMAN, JASON HIGH AND BRENT DERKSEN

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