



CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

MR. BRIAN MCLEOD
MR. TREVOR NORTHRUP

Not every tale of bravery has a happy ending. Sometimes the best and the most heroic efforts fail to achieve their goal, but the actions remain heroic.

On May 9th, 2010, a man was seen near the finish line of the Sun Run taking off his shorts, running shoes and shirt and leaving them on a rock. He then entered the cold waters of False Creek where he floated for a minute and then was seen diving down. He never came back up.

While hundreds of people were nearby on the seawall, only two rushed forward. Off-duty Richmond firefighters Brian MacLeod and Trevor Northrup went into the water. Mr. Macleod tried to dive down to the bottom but was repelled by the cold and the depth. Mr. Northrup found a pole to probe the bottom but was unsuccessful. They continued to search until the icy waters made it impossible.

Divers from the Coast Guard would eventually find the man who was declared dead at hospital.

For their selfless efforts to save a life regardless of the danger to themselves, Brian MacLeod and Trevor Northrup are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for bravery, the Certificate of Merit.

MR. DUSTIN ABRAM
MR. CEDRIC GRASBY
MR. MICHAEL LEPAGE
MR. ADESANYA ADEGBITE

There are those that say that the Downtown Eastside is place full of addicts and criminals, but to one crime victim it is also a place full of Good Samaritans.

On February 3, 2010, a woman was walking along Cordova Street when a man violently grabbed her purse and ran. As she screamed for help several people came to her aid.

Dustin Abram heard the screams, saw the man running away and gave chase. He was able to knock him over, but the man got up and kept running. Mr. Abram didn't give up. He caught the man in an alley and held him for police.

Cedric Grasby was driving by when he heard the screams. He stopped his car, phoned police and joined the chase.

Michael Lepage also joined in, as did another witness, Adesanya Adegbite. Together they detained the man until police arrived. They then walked the alley and found the purse that had been thrown away.

For their unhesitating willingness to respond to a woman's cries for help, Dustin Abram, Cedric Grasby, Michael Lepage and Adesanya Adegbite are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Certificate of Merit.

MS. LORRAINE HEBERT
MR. MAREK GOLMOLKA

When someone standing nearby comes to your rescue it's always extraordinary, but when someone driving by stops their car and risks their safety to help you it seems exceptional.

Both those things happened on October 30, 2009, as a street crime was in progress on Carrall Street.

Lorraine Hebert was talking on her cell phone when she saw a woman chasing a man who had her purse. Ms. Hebert blocked his path and knocked the purse out of his hand. He then pushed her to the ground, picked up the purse and kept running with the victim still in pursuit.

Marek Golmolka was driving by when he saw a woman chasing after a man. He stopped his car and once he determined the woman was all right he took over the chase. Soon he spotted the robber who was now going through the victim's purse. He ran at the

thief and tackled him. By this time, Ms. Hebert had called police to the scene and they made the arrest.

Without any regard for their own safety, Marek Gomolka, who could have easily just kept on driving, and Lorraine Hebert, who could have easily sidestepped the robber, without hesitation placed themselves in harm's way to help another person. Mr. Gomolka and Ms. Hebert are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Certificate of Merit.

MR. DANIEL SHARMA
MS. QUISHA GIRARD-LAU
MR. HARVEY KIRKPATRICK
MR. MARC ALFONSO

If you had a heart attack and crashed your car, you could only hope that witnesses would rush to your aid. But it might be too much to hope that those witnesses would be trained first aid providers carrying life-saving equipment.

Unlikely as it sounds, that's exactly what happened on July 16, 2010, when a man crashed his car on Marine Drive, shearing off a utility pole and bringing down wires and debris.

Daniel Sharma saw the crash and, despite the obvious danger to himself, rushed over; although he had no first aid training, he was determined to do anything he could to help.

Quisha Girard heard the crash from her house, called 911 and rushed to the scene. As a certified lifeguard, she used her training and instructions from the 911 operator to decide to remove the man from his car.

Mr. Sharma and another witness who stopped to help, Harvey Kirkpatrick, got him out of the car. Mr. Kirkpatrick who is a fully trained Level 3 first aid attendant held the man in a stable position while Ms. Girard started CPR.

Then our victim really got lucky. Another passerby, Marc Alfonso, stopped to help. Not only was he also a fully trained Level 3 first aid attendant, but he was able to insert an airway, administer oxygen and shock the victim's heart with a defibrillator. All of this was done before ambulance and Fire and Rescue arrived in near record time.

For their remarkable convergence and quick action that saved the life of a man who has made a full recovery, Daniel Sharma, Quisha Girard-Lau, Harvey Kirkpatrick and Marc Alfonso are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilians, the Certificate of Merit.

MS. SHELLEY NEAL
MR. ANDREW BALAKSHIN

Imagine yourself driving across the Lions Gate Bridge and you see a woman sitting on the handrail mid-span. What would you do?

If you're Shelley Neal, you stop your car in the middle of the bridge, jump out and run to the woman to stop her from throwing herself off. When the woman ignored Ms. Neal's pleas to come down, Ms. Neal grabbed her leg.

Another passerby, Andrew Balakshin, had spotted the woman and ran to assist. He grabbed the woman around the waist and together the two citizens pulled the woman to safety.

For their courage and outstanding sense of civic duty in risking their own safety to save a life, Shelley Neal and Andrew Balakshin are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for bravery, the Certificate of Merit.

MR. LYNDON DANIELS

There are some incidents that are so shocking they reveal the worst of mankind. But sometimes those same incidents reveal the best in us.

Lyndon Daniels had always thought that acting against crime might have dire consequences, but what he saw in the early morning hours of June 19, 2009, was so awful that he put concerns for his personal safety aside and rushed to help.

Two men were attacking a seven-month pregnant woman. They had beaten her into unconsciousness and were sexually assaulting her when Daniels attempted to stop them. He shouted in protest, was

threatened and backed off, but found someone else who could call 911.

The two men stopped, leaving the woman bleeding on the pavement, but had plans to return to sexually assault the woman more. However, due to Daniels actions, police were able to chase down and arrest the two men while they were in the process of coming back for a second attack.

For his quick action that saved a woman from a second violent attack that might have caused her and her baby their lives, Mr. Lyndon Daniels is awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Certificate of Merit.

CHIEF CONSTABLE UNIT CITATIONS

SERGEANT CHRIS FIELDING DETECTIVE CONSTABLE MARK BRAGAGNOLO DETECTIVE CONSTABLE GLYNIS GRIFFITHS DETECTIVE CONSTABLE TODD SINGBEIL

There are few things more satisfying to a police investigator than solving a heinous crime and getting the bad guy off the street. Solving it quickly and watching your suspect plead guilty to first degree murder with a sentence of 25 years without parole is icing on the cake.

On January 30th, 2006, Tracey Guthrie, a TB patient, walked away from Vancouver General Hospital. She was found naked a few hours later on the grounds of City Hall. She had been brutally assaulted and bludgeoned to death.

Sergeant Chris Fielding and Detective Constable Mark Bragagnolo led a team that worked 20-hour days and weekends canvassing nearby shelters. The canvas generated the name of a man who had left the area around the time of murder. They then took the unusual step of placing a giant billboard with Tracey's photo asking for information. Doggedly pursuing their leads they found their suspect. His DNA was a match to the crime scene.

For their dedication in solving this murder in such a timely fashion, Sergeant Chris Fielding and Detective Constables Mark Bragagnolo, Glynis Griffiths and Todd Singbeil are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

**INSPECTOR BRAD DESMARAIS
SERGEANT BILL RATTRAY
ACTING SERGEANT ANDREW CHAN
CONSTABLE JORDAN LENNOX
CONSTABLE MIKE WAGAR
CONSTABLE JEFF NEUMAN**

When police are dealing with a deranged suspect who is armed and intent on harming himself and others the situation can quickly turn from an assault call to a rescue.

That's the situation the members of the Emergency Response Team were facing when they went to call involving a man in an apartment suite who had threatened people with a knife then threatened to turn the knife on himself. After his victims fled he barricaded himself in the suite.

As ERT members negotiated with him they noticed a small flame inside the suite and could hear an alarm. The man was torching his own apartment posing a deadly threat to himself and everyone else in the building. ERT broke in the door but the man ran deeper into the apartment. The smoke became more intense as he lit more objects. Fearing for everyone's safety the ERT members stormed through the smoke and the fire capturing the man and getting him out of the building.

For their courage and quick action the following members are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation: Inspector Brad Desmarais, Sergeant Bill Rattray, Acting Sergeant Andrew Chan and Constables Jordan Lennox, Mike Wagar and Jeff Neuman.

**CONSTABLE JAMES FLEWELLING
CONSTABLE SHELDON MCLEAN
CONSTABLE RANDY BAKKER
CONSTABLE CESAR YOUNG
CONSTABLE RICHARD KENT
CONSTABLE DARREN BAYNE**

While thousands of cheering Olympic fans clogged Vancouver's streets, little did they know that a life or death drama was unfolding high above their heads.

Late on the evening of February 19, 2010, a 33 year old man, oblivious to the celebration below, climbed a ten-storey crane and began to drop notes of apology and suicide. VPD's Emergency Response Team rushed to the scene in an effort to save the man.

Team members trained in high-angle rescue began the perilous climb in the dark and the cold. For three hours they tried to communicate with a man who was weeping, leaning over the boom while barely holding on with one hand, and all the while indicating he was going to jump. The members inched closer in the dim light, always calm and reassuring. Finally, the man let out a guttural cry, turned to the members and surrendered.

For saving the life of a man under extremely dangerous and stressful conditions, Constables James Flewelling, Sheldon McLean, Randy Bakker, Cesar Young, Richard Kent and Darren Bayne are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

CONSTABLE BRUCE RHODE
CONSTABLE STEVE HANUSE
CONSTABLE WADE RODRIGUE
CONSTABLE CHRISTIAN GALBRAITH
CONSTABLE SHAWN BOLLIVAR
CONSTABLE BRENT DERKSEN
CONSTABLE JEFF NEUMAN
CONSTABLE JACQUELINE WILSON
CONSTABLE TAJINDER SANGHA

When a resident of a home in southwest Vancouver saw a car with four men in it, he thought they were casing the neighbourhood so he called police. As it turned out, these men had something far worse in mind than a simple break and enter.

As Constables Kevin Torvik and Ian Barraclough were arriving at the scene, the four men had put on balaclavas and entered a home. The constables watched the house and saw a man leaving with a large suitcase. They quickly took him into custody. Then they saw two more men in hoods leaving the house.

Constables Barraclough and Christine Cho gave chase. Just before they brought down one of the men, they saw him throw away a gun. Meanwhile, a fourth man was running from the house but it was his bad luck to run straight into Constable Torvik.

Police found two victims in the garage, an elderly mother in the trunk of a car and her daughter, both bounded and gagged with duct tape. A third victim was in the house. The man who got away didn't get far. He was flushed out of hiding by a dog unit.

And for their involvement in safely containing the scene, the following constables are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation: Bruce Rhode, Steve Hanuse, Wade Rodrigue, Christian Galbraith, Shawn Bollivar, Jeff Neuman, Jacqueline Wilson, Tajinder Sangha as well as Acting Sergeant Brent Derksen.

CHIEF CONSTABLE COMMENDATIONS

SERGEANT BILL RATTRAY
CONSTABLE KEVIN TORVIK
CONSTABLE IAN BARRACLOUGH
CONSTABLE CHRISTINE CHO

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For foiling a potentially deadly kidnapping Constables Kevin Torvik, Ian Barraclough and Christine Cho are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation, and also to Sergeant Bill Rattray for his commanding role.

**ACTING SERGEANT MIKE DRUMMOND
CONSTABLE KEITH HOWSON-JONES
CONSTABLE IAN SCOTT**

One of the most challenging calls facing police is that of a disturbed person, armed and intent on doing damage to themselves and others.

On July 28, 2010, Acting Sergeant Mike Drummond and Constables Keith Howson-Jones and Ian Scott took such a call. When they arrived, they found a man stabbing himself with an ice pick and screaming at police to shoot him.

Acting Sergeant Drummond moved within a few feet of the man, shot him with pepper spray, ran up the stairs and pulled him to the ground. He then kicked the ice pick from his hand. Covered with blood from self-inflicted injuries, the man wrestled with police exposing the officers to health risks. The man was taken to hospital and successfully treated.

For showing restraint, professionalism and courage by saving the life of an armed suicidal man and preventing him from harming others, Acting Sergeant Mike Drummond and Constables Keith Howson-Jones and Ian Scott are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

CONSTABLE DAVE MARCHAND

Going beyond the call to save a life is something that every member of the VPD is prepared and ready to do. But there will be days when circumstances will test the limits of your compassion and fortitude.

For Constable Dave Marchand, one of those days came on September 30, 2010, when he and two other officers were trying to save the life of a suicidal woman who had overdosed on pills. Her heart had stopped and she wasn't breathing. While Constables Zachary Fedora and Taylor Robinson performed CPR, Constable Marchand gave the woman mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Just as the ambulance arrived, the woman vomited directly into Constable Marchand's mouth. Without any hesitation or consideration for his own well being, he spit it out and continued breathing for her. With the help of a defibrillator ambulance attendants were able to restart her heart and take her to hospital.

Constables Fedora and Robinson received Deputy Chief Commendations, and for his selfless dedication, persistence and compassion, Constable Dave Marchand is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

CONSTABLE HEIDI SCHOENBERGER

In 2001, in the aftermath of some critical incidents, the media was asking, "Why are the police shooting the mentally ill?" Constable Heidi Schoenberger took it upon herself to find a way where lives could be saved and the mentally ill could be kept from harm.

By displaying initiative and vision, she researched a course in the U.S. called Crisis Intervention Training. Convinced that this course provided officers with the skills to better handle disturbed persons, she worked with Mental Health Emergency Services to adapt the program to our needs.

Between 2002 and 2008, Constable Shoenberger led 14 CIT courses, many of them on her own time. By the spring of 2008, when the VPD released a report that revealed more than 30 per cent of all calls dealt with the mentally ill, more than a quarter of all members had been trained. That number is currently at three-quarters of the Department.

Because of her vision and dedication, the VPD was the first police department in Canada to adopt the CIT program and remains a leader in the field to this day. Constable Heidi Schoenberger is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

CONSTABLE MICHELLE TORVIK

It doesn't always take split-second action to save a life. There are times when only patience and perseverance will do the job. The incident facing Constable Michelle Torvik around midnight on September 27, 2009, was one of those times.

A distraught woman had walked out onto a narrow platform at Canada Place. She had a history of attempted suicide, was drunk and irrational and threatening to jump. Constable Michelle Torvik arrived with her partner, but the woman would only speak to another female.

Constable Torvik took over the negotiations alone, gaining the woman's trust and allowing her to come closer. For three hours on this cold and rainy evening Constable Torvik and the woman talked, aware that at any moment events could turn tragic. Finally she was able to gain the woman's confidence enough to move in, take her arm and guide her to safety.

Constable Torvik has since learned that the woman has taken steps to turn her life around and has returned to school. For saving a life through patience, perseverance and professionalism, Constable Michelle Torvik is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

MR. MARCO ESCOBAR

In today's high tech world, it takes much more than a gun and a badge to fight crime - it takes a computer. And among Vancouver's high tech crime-fighters, there is no one better with a computer than crime analyst Marco Escobar.

During the past three years, he has radically improved the Department's ability to develop intelligence-led policing.

Where he saw time-consuming data procedures, he invented new ones to streamline and automate each process. When he saw that new programs could not speak to old ones, he wrote new code so officers could better solve historical crimes.

He made dramatic improvements to the Compstat Program, VPD crime mapping, as well as shots fired, response time and neighbourhood crime threshold calculations.

For contributing a great deal of personal time to improve the crime-fighting effectiveness of the VPD and for making our communities safer, Marco Escobar is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

OLYMPIC PRESENTATION AND CHIEF CONSTABLE COMMENDATION

DEPUTY CHIEF (RETIRED) STEVE SWEENEY
SUPERINTENDENT (RETIRED) AL NIEDTNER
INSPECTOR JOANNE MCCORMICK
SERGEANT BRUNO GATTO

INSPECTOR DAVE NELMES

SERGEANT LEE PATTERSON

SERGEANT HOWARD CHOW
CONSTABLE JANA MCGUINNESS
CONSTABLE LINDSEY HOUGHTON

CONSTABLE RICH KITOS

CONSTABLE DOUGLAS JENSEN

The 2010 Olympic Winter Games represent the biggest challenge the Vancouver Police Department has ever or may ever face.

While the whole world was watching, the members of the VPD truly went Beyond the Call to ensure that hundreds of thousands of spectators and revellers would be able to celebrate safely. By their extraordinary efforts, professionalism and compassion, the members also ensured that the Department's reputation on the world stage was not only preserved but enhanced.

Every element of our response, including years of planning, hundreds of hours of training and unrelenting hours of service during the Games, contributed to their success. Officers who stoically stood their ground in the face of massive and violent protests will remain an iconic image of these Games that will last for generations.

When the history of the Vancouver Police Department is written, their gold medal performance at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games will be for many, their proudest memory.

For all of their outstanding efforts in making the 2010 Olympic Winter Games one of the most successful events in Canada's history, the following officers have been awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation:

- Deputy Chief Constable (retired) Steve Sweeney, Superintendent (retired) Al Niedtner, Inspector Joanne McCormick and Sergeant Bruno Gatto for your role in the development of the Operation Plan for the VPD's Olympic functions which lead to the outstanding policing of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.
- Inspector Dave Nelmes for your leadership of the Public Order Group which consists of scores of patrol, bicycle and mounted officers.
- Sergeant Lee Patterson for developing the search and canvas program which has had a substantial positive effect on operations of the VPD
- Sergeant Howard Chow, Constables Jana McGuinness and Lindsey Houghton for the outstanding job you performed in media relations during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.
- Constable Rich Kitos for your determination and dedication as the horse trainer for the Mounted Squad during the Olympics.
- Constable Douglas Jensen for your devotion and dedication as the riding instructor for the Mounted Squad during the Olympics.



