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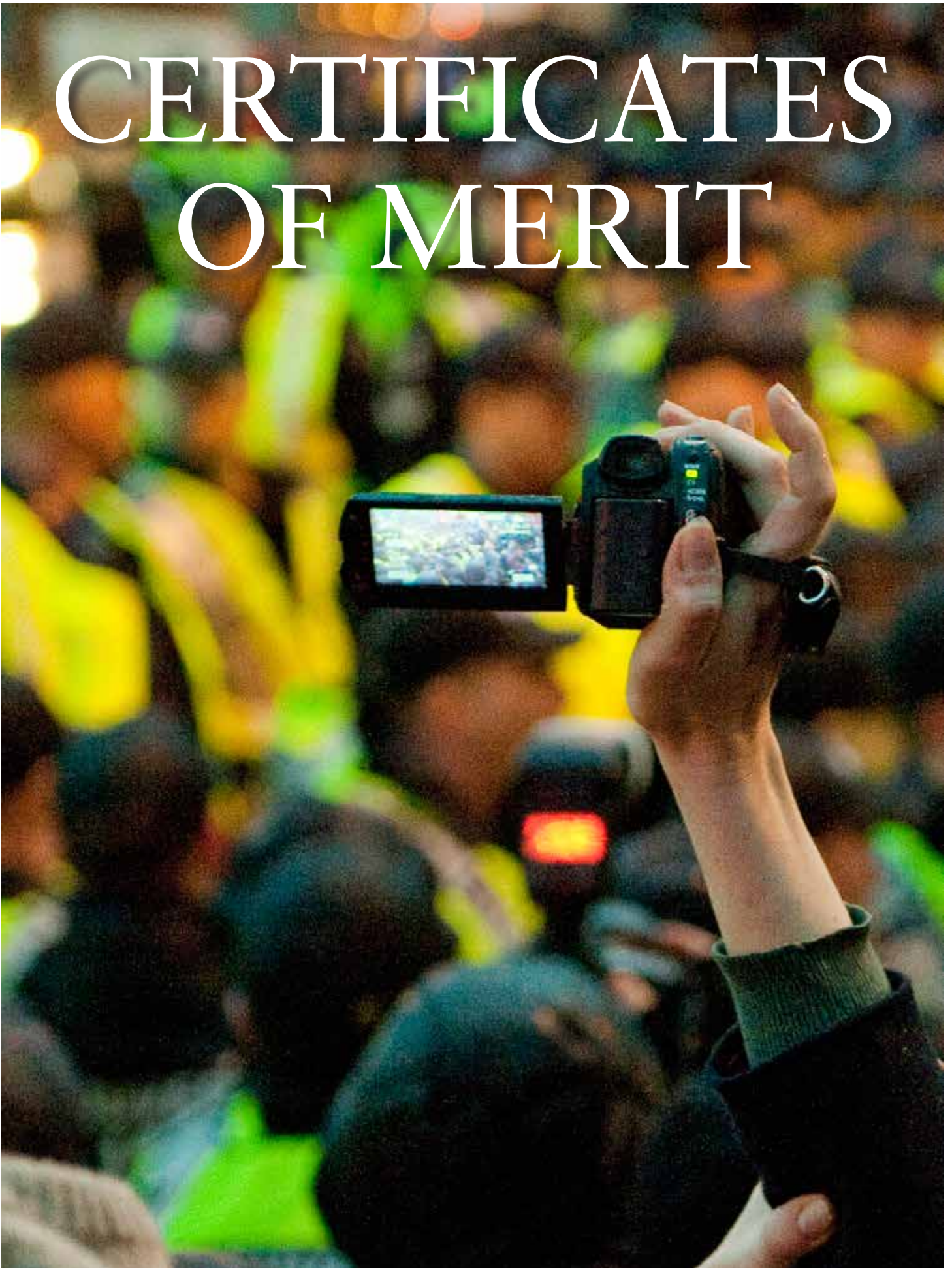
# 2013 AWARDS



**VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
*Beyond the Call*

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# CERTIFICATES OF MERIT



# CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

**MS. WENDY DUBOIS**  
**MR. DANIEL DUBOIS**  
**MR. DENNIS DEATLEY**  
**MR. MICHAEL BRISCOE**

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On the morning of June 9th, 2012, a career criminal broke into a False Creek home. He thought it would be routine crime with an easy haul. He was wrong.

When he encountered the resident, Wendy Dubois, in her bedroom, she started screaming for help at the top of her lungs. Her cries were so loud they woke her son Daniel who was sleeping in the house, alerted a neighbour, Dennis Deatley, and another man who happened to be working nearby, Michael Briscoe. They all came to her aid.

As the burglar ran, Wendy and her son gave chase, quickly joined by their neighbour. In an effort to escape, the thief sprayed them with pepper spray. The men staggered on in pursuit while Wendy left to call police. At that point, Mr. Briscoe joined in the chase.

The pursuit went up and down alleys and streets. To shake his pursuers the culprit pulled a knife. One of the men knocked it out of his hand. The chase eventually ended back where it began. The career criminal wound up on the ground where the men held him for police.

For their brave refusal to be victimized and their selfless efforts in catching a chronic criminal wanted in connection with other break-ins, Wendy Dubois, Daniel Dubois, Dennis Deatley and Michael Briscoe are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Certificate of Merit.

## **2011 STANLEY CUP RIOT**

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When the television cameras were pointed at the rioting mob following the final game of the 2011 Stanley Cup, it appeared that the civilian population had become crazed, attacking property and the police.

But among the mayhem there were civilians who stood up to the mob. Without regard for their own safety, they came to the aid of the police and sheltered those who were injured or under attack. Their heroics were not always caught on camera, but their actions deserve recognition from a grateful community.

Because of their bravery, their indelible sense of right and wrong, and their refusal to be swept up in a crowd gone mad, the rest of us can hold our heads a bit higher. They showed the world that when things look their worst, all is not lost. Their individual stories of compassion and courage are inspiration for anyone facing overwhelming odds.

**MR. DOUG LEIGHT**  
**MS. DANIELLE BUCKBERRY**  
**DR. LOURENS PEROLD**  
**MS. LISA SNIDER**  
**MS. JENNIFER MCDUFF**  
**MS. CATHERINE MASTINE**  
**MS. TINA STEWART**  
**MR. KAM DHAMI**  
**MS. ANNA CSEPREGI**  
**MS. CHRISTINE RICHARDSON**

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Doug Leight and Danielle Buckberry saw a police officer who was trying to help a stabbing and an assault victim. He needed backup and they rushed in to provide it. They helped the officer keep the rioters at bay while first aid was being administered to the victims.

A number of medical professionals from Peace Arch Hospital, including a doctor and nurses, also stepped in to help the officer and victims who were under siege from the mob. They not only administered medical treatment, but helped to fend off the rioters as well.

For their decisive and selfless actions in the face of danger, Doug Leight and Danielle Buckberry, Lourens Perold, Lisa Snider, Jennifer McDuff, Catherine Mastine, Tina Stewart, Kam Dhama, Anna Csepregi and Christine Richardson are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Certificate of Merit.

# CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

**MR. ROBERT MACKAY**  
**MR. CHRIS MCLELLAND**  
**MR. DEAN DESKIN**

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Robert Mackay challenged and attempted to stop an aggressive crowd of rioters as they damaged large windows in front of The Bay. He was swarmed, thrown to the ground and assaulted, by up to 15 assailants.

Chris McLelland saw the mob attack Mr. Mackay and, despite the risk to his own safety, rushed in to help, protecting him from further assaults.

Dean Seskin also witnessed the violent attack on Robert Mackay. He too shielded Mackay from the angry mob and was able to deliver the victim to safety and medical attention.

For their decisive and selfless actions in the face of danger, Robert Mackay, Chris McLelland and Dean Seskin are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Certificate of Merit.

**MR. BERT EASTERBROOK**  
**MR. ANDREW PERRY**

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Bert Easterbrook saw rioters trying to flip over a green truck. He stepped in to stop it, actually removing burning debris from inside the truck. He was swarmed by the mob.

Andrew Perry came to his aid and tried to stop more violence and destruction. He grabbed a piece of wood from a rioter who was using it to smash a police vehicle. Despite being badly outnumbered, Mr. Perry refused to leave the police car and removed a burning rag from the gas tank.

For their decisive and selfless actions in the face of danger, Bert Easterbrook and Andrew Perry are awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Certificate of Merit.

**MS. BRYNN GRIERSON**  
**MR. CAMERON BROWN**  
**MR. CHRIS IVANY**  
**MR. CHRIS LEVEILLE**  
**MR. DARRYL JONES**

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Brynn Grierson, an off-duty nurse, stepped forward during the riot to treat a seriously injured woman who had been hit on the head. The victim was covered in blood and barely conscious. Ms. Grierson treated her and then used her personal car to take the woman to St. Paul's Hospital, a move that may well have saved the woman's life.

Cameron Brown tried to extinguish debris burning in a trash can. The mob turned on him, assaulting him to the degree that he needed stitches, and extensively damaging his camera.

Chris Ivany stood on a piece of wood that rioters were using to smash the windows of the Telus store. He was assaulted by the crowd for his trouble and had to be rescued by police.

Chris Leveille and another unidentified man stood in front of Budget Rental to prevent a group of rioters from causing further damage. Mr. Leveille suffered a collapsed lung and other serious injuries as he was kicked and stomped in the head by the mob.

Darryl Jones saw that rioters had set ablaze two cardboard recycling containers right in the path of people who were trying to get out of the area. Mr. Jones, who lives nearby, gathered some other citizens, found some firefighting gear and extinguished the large fire, allowing the crowds a chance to get clear.

For their decisive and selfless actions in the face of danger, Brynn Grierson, Cameron Brown, Chris Ivany, Chris Leveille, and Darryl Jones are each awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Certificate of Merit.

# CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

**MR. HOOTIE JOHNSTON**  
**MS. KATHRYN BROWNLEE**  
**MR. MALCOLM CHRYSTAL**  
**MS. SHANNA SELINGER**  
**MS. VICTORIA PEARSON**

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Hootie Johnston saw the crowd using sections of metal fencing as weapons against the police. When he stepped in to pull the fences away, he was swarmed and assaulted by three rioters.

Kathryn Brownlee, all by herself, fended off rioters as they tried to damage and loot Holt Renfrew. She held her ground despite being threatened by the angry mob.

Malcolm Chrystal helped a member of the media who had been confronted by three men wearing masks. As one of the men charged a cameraman, Mr. Chrystal stepped in front to protect him and prevent the attack. He then became a victim of assault as he took the brunt of the attack.

Shanna Selinger prevented rioters from smashing windows of Jimmy's Liquor Store by bravely placing herself between the store and the mob.

Victoria Pearson was assaulted by a rioter while attempting to protect parked vehicles. She was struck in the back of the head by a table.

For their decisive and selfless actions in the face of danger, Hootie Johnston, Kathryn Brownlee, Malcolm Chrystal, Shanna Selinger, and Victoria Pearson are each awarded the Vancouver Police Board's highest award for civilian bravery, the Certificate of Merit.

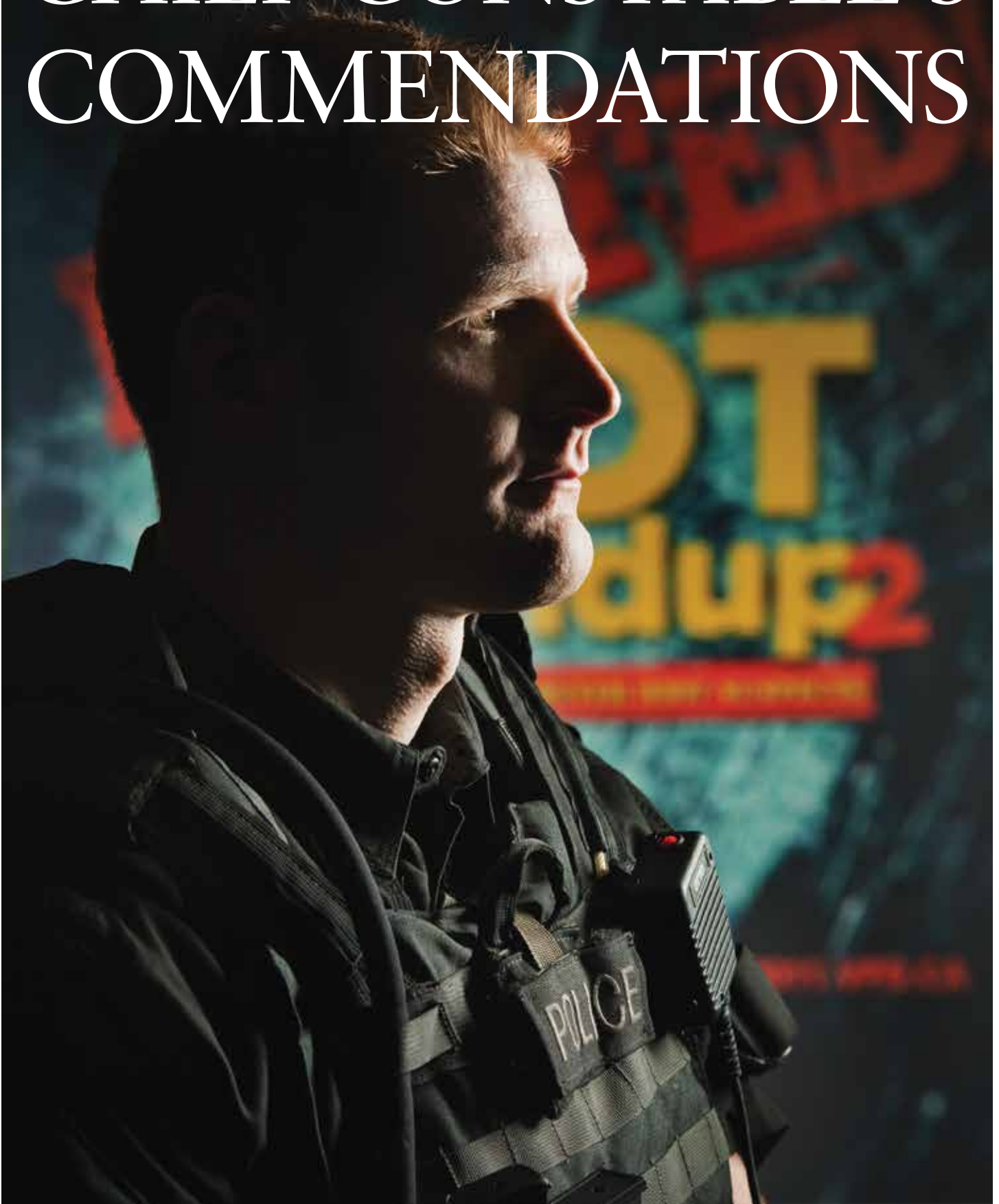
In the early evening hours of April 12, 2011, Constables Shawn Dupuis and Curtis Todd were on an assignment when a neighbour frantically approached them saying a nearby house was on fire. Without hesitation, the officers ran to a house where they could see thick smoke billowing from the roof top.

Fearing that there were people inside, they rushed in. Constable Todd took the main floor where he found a mother and child oblivious to what was going on. He also found two other children and an adult. He got all of them out of the house safely then went back in to help his partner.

He located Constable Dupuis on the second floor engulfed in smoke so thick that any visibility was impossible. In the suffocating haze, he could hear his partner trying to get the upstairs tenant to leave. The tenant had grabbed a kitchen sink water sprayer was trying to fight the flames. Sprinklers were going full blast and water was flowing everywhere as the officers forced the man to leave. They then cleared the house room by room before they finally got out.

For their selfless efforts and brave actions that saved numerous people from serious injury or worse while putting their own lives at risk, Constables Shawn Dupuis and Curtis Todd are awarded the Vancouver Police Department's highest award for bravery, the Award of Valour.

# CHIEF CONSTABLE'S COMMENDATIONS



# CHIEF CONSTABLE'S COMMENDATION

## **CONSTABLE MIKE LAURIN**

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The Stanley Cup Riot in 2011 will be remembered for its violence and lunacy, but among the many stories of carnage, there were also stories of heroism.

The story of Constable Mike Laurin is one of them.

Constable Laurin was already home when the riot broke out. He and many other VPD members heard what was happening and rushed back to help.

He soon found himself facing hundreds of rioters who were smashing their way into a sports store on Dunsmuir Street. As his team members removed rioters from the store, Constable Laurin stood outside facing the crowd alone. He didn't see the brick that was thrown that opened up a gash in his head.

Bleeding profusely, he stood his ground defending the backs of his squad mates. He continued to fight the mob until the riot was quelled.

Later, he received 14 stitches and was diagnosed with a severe concussion that would ultimately take three months of treatment, therapy and testing for him to recover. No other officer suffered a greater injury that night than he did.

For his bravery and exceptional devotion to duty, Constable Mike Laurin is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

## **CONSTABLE ERIK KERASIoTIS**

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When RCMP Tactical Troop members took to the streets of Vancouver to help quell the Stanley Cup Riot in 2011, they encountered a problem that had nothing to do with the thousands of angry rioters they faced. The Tactical Troop was not receiving vital radio broadcasts to the overall strategy and had become splintered from the VPD Command Team. The radios they were carrying could not receive instructions from the VPD Command Centre.

The solution to one troop's problem would come in the unlikely form of a VPD officer who had also been isolated from his unit and command structure.

Constable Erik Kerasiotis found himself the last man out of a safety area that had been overrun by rioters. He escaped by jumping on the rear bumper of an exiting police vehicle. A short distance away he fell off. Shaken and isolated, he joined the RCMP Tactical Troop where he was able to provide a vital communication link through his radio between the Departmental Operations Centre and to the RCMP Commander.

In the chaos that followed, he was struck by a large rock on the side of his head and neck. Despite the pain and disorientation, he continued to provide information, both to the Command Centre and to the RCMP squad.

He stayed on his feet as long as he could that night until blackouts forced him to go to hospital where he was diagnosed with a concussion.

For his dogged determination, bravery and commitment in providing critical communication liaison, Constable Erik Kerasiotis is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

## **SERGEANT MALCOLM EVANSON CONSTABLE TYRONE SIDEROFF CONSTABLE KEVIN STEPHENS**

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Anyone in policing knows that there is no such thing as a routine arrest, but when hundreds of spectators are within striking distance of a crazed man with a sword, the stakes get higher.

On the evening of February 22, 2012, a man went on a drug-induced rampage in the Downtown Eastside damaging cars and property. Concealing a three-foot sword in his clothing, he was out of control, challenging pedestrians to fight.

When Constables Tyrone Sideroff and Kevin Stephens approached him on the busy downtown street, he

## CHIEF CONSTABLE'S COMMENDATION

brandished a spiked wristband along with the sword. The officers, with guns drawn, stopped the man from leaving the area until more officers arrived.

Sergeant Malcolm Evanson also challenged the man at gunpoint, while calling less lethal unit to the scene. The man put down his weapons, but then started to advance aggressively. Sergeant Evanson used physical force to take the man into custody.

The hundreds of bystanders immediately broke into applause, but when later canvassed by police they all said they witnessed nothing.

For their immediate and restrained actions in protecting the lives and safety of everyone involved, including hundreds of onlookers, Sergeant Malcolm Evanson, and Constables Tyrone Sideroff and Kevin Stephens are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

### CONSTABLE BRANT ARNOLD-SMITH

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Each year impaired drivers contribute to the death toll on our highways while a dedicated group of law enforcement officers try to stop them. Among that group, one officer has distinguished himself for doing more than his share.

In the last two years, a large percentage of the drivers in this province who received a fail or warn reading were stopped by Constable Brant Arnold-Smith. Constable Arnold-Smith's two-year total exceeded more than 500 drivers who were taken off the roads of the Lower Mainland.

The drivers he removed from the road posed the greatest risk to themselves and the public. His dedication and efforts to save lives have been a major factor in the 40 per cent reduction in alcohol-related fatalities in the Lower Mainland in the last five years.

For his outstanding contribution to public safety, Constable Brant Arnold-Smith is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

### CONSTABLE AMY HARRIS CONSTABLE REBECCA BROWN

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When police officers are faced with the decision to fire or fight, and lives are hanging in the balance, it's unlikely that everyone will walk away unscathed.

In the evening hours of April 21, 2012, Constables Rebecca Brown and Amy Harris saw a man standing in the middle of the street, covered in blood and waving his arms as though he needed help. When they stopped to offer assistance, he ran to the car. Just as he neared, Constable Harris saw he had a shard of glass in his hand but before she could roll up the window, he was on her, slashing and cutting at her face and neck.

Fearing for her partner's life, Constable Brown hit the gas, but the crazed man hung on to the doorframe. As soon as he fell off, the officers got out and confronted him at gunpoint. The man ignored their commands to get down on the ground and came towards them. Not wanting to kill him, they moved behind the car to place a buffer between them. He eventually lied down, but on his back, contrary to their demands. They holstered their weapons, pulled out their batons and approached him. He jumped up and attacked them, screaming that he wanted to kill them and all cops.

Now the fight was on. Constable Harris delivered baton strikes that seemed to have no effect. Constable Brown tried to place him in a neck restraint when suddenly the man grabbed at her gun freeing the top strap. She pushed down on his hand while she yelled to her partner, "He's going for my gun." Constable Harris struck back with all she had. But the man grabbed Constable Brown's hair, ripping out handfuls. Both officers were now covered in blood, their own and the suspect's. But they never gave up. They kept fighting until they eventually pinned the man to the ground as other units arrived.

Both officers were injured in the melee, with cuts, bruises, and one wound that required stitches to close. The man, who was high on drugs, had just previously broken into a nearby house.



# CHIEF CONSTABLE'S COMMENDATION

For their incredible restraint in placing their own lives at risk when deadly force was clearly justified, Constables Amy Harris and Rebecca Brown are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

## **SERGEANT WALTER ARGENT**

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It is safe to say that Sergeant Walter Argent has dedicated the majority of his life to keeping the citizens of his community safe and secure.

For 33 years he has served with distinction at the VPD. Before that he was a member of the RCMP.

During his time with the Vancouver Police, he has worked in Patrol, Traffic, the Jail and with the Neighbourhood Policing Team. He's received many awards for his dedication and service.

He is a well-known and trusted member who reduces street disorder in the downtown community surrounding the Granville Entertainment District. His sensitive leadership in the management of the Occupy Vancouver protest was recognized by both city leaders and protestors.

His actions have made Vancouver a better place to live, work and visit. In his commitment to always searching for a community-focused approach to problem solving, he has won the respect and appreciation of everyone he helps.

For an outstanding policing career that serves as a model and inspiration for all young officers, Sergeant Walter Argent is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

## **DEPARTMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR JAMES PEARSON**

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Members of the Vancouver Police Department have participated in hundreds of events and ceremonies over the last eight years, and standing front and centre at almost every one of them has been Departmental Sergeant Major James Pearson.

The Sergeant Major took on the largely voluntary and ceremonial role in 2004 when it was first created. Since that time, he has been a driving force in organizing and leading events such as the massive Swearing-In ceremony and Change of Command between Chief Constables Jamie Graham and Jim Chu, royal visits, medal parades and police funerals.

Sergeant Major Pearson has also played a major role in local and provincial police memorial ceremonies, and successfully raised \$80,000 for a special memorial at the VPD's Gravely Street facility. In addition, he serves as the Department's military liaison, providing assistance to various branches of the Canadian Armed Forces.

For his outstanding performance in this ongoing and crucial position, Departmental Sergeant Major James Pearson is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

## **CONSTABLE DON DUNCAN**

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Each year, scores of Vancouver police officers take part in the Cops for Cancer Tour do Coast nine-day bike ride that raises millions for kids with cancer.

For the past seven years, one man has been at the head of that ride, out of the spotlight cast on the riders, an unsung hero dedicating hundreds of personal hours to the success of the ride. The riders affectionately call him the Road Boss. He is Constable Don Duncan.

Constable Duncan volunteers in the planning, organization and promotion of the event. Then he leads the escort crew that provides safe travel for the participants as they pedal 850 kilometres throughout the Lower Mainland.

Constable Duncan rides his police motorcycle at the front of the procession ensuring that the entourage stays on schedule. As the logistics chair of the committee, he has served as a role model and an inspiration for others.

# CHIEF CONSTABLE'S COMMENDATION

For his unselfish commitment, leadership and dedication to a cause that has helped thousands of children with cancer, Constable Don Duncan is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

## CONSTABLE KYLE MARYNICK CONSTABLE JOHN STEWART CONSTABLE JAMES HOOPER

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The incident on October 11, 2011, started with a phone call from a citizen who reported a man with a machete walking towards Commercial Drive. How the incident was going to end depended on the actions of the person with the weapon.

It turns out that person was a woman, and when she was confronted by Constables Kyle Marynick and John Stewart, she brandished the machete and pointed it at them. As the woman came toward them, she ignored commands to drop the machete. Constable Stewart started firing beanbag rounds from a shotgun, but the woman kept coming. When he ran out of rounds, Constable Marynick fired his Taser. That also failed to stop her.

Constable Stewart reloaded and once again ran out of rounds, as Constable Marynick used his last Taser cartridge. A third officer on the scene, Constable James Hooper, had better luck with his beanbag shotgun. He dropped the woman to the ground and was able to shoot a bean bag at her hand causing her to release the weapon.

For their restraint and courage in the face of danger to themselves and the public, Constables Kyle Marynick, John Stewart and James Hooper are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

## CONSTABLE SAM PRIMERANO

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Commonly, a Chief Constable's Commendation is given to a member for a distinctive act of bravery or professionalism. But there are times when an officer's career consists of such an extraordinary body of work that it deserves to be recognized.

Such is the VPD career of Constable Sam Primerano.

During his 11 years with the Department, Constable Primerano has distinguished himself with his tireless work ethic and leadership abilities in mentoring and coaching junior patrol officers. As a member of the Dog Squad, his crime-fighting efforts and successes are remarkable. He made an extraordinary 90 arrests in just three years with his partner, Police Service Dog Lupo.

His strong communication skills and investigative abilities allow him to take a small seed of information and develop it into crime-fighting strategy, utilizing numerous specialized sections of the Department.

He is known for his relentless pursuit of criminals and at the same time his compassion for others. When he realized that the canine members of his squad had no first aid kits that would help them if they suffered a medical emergency while travelling, he sought funding and achieved it to provide every dog handler in the Department with a first aid kit for their dog.

We live in a safer community in part because of Constable Primerano's daily exploits in locating and arresting criminals.

For providing the public with a level of service that truly goes "Beyond the Call," Constable Sam Primerano is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

# CHIEF CONSTABLE'S COMMENDATION

## **DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ROSS CLARKE**

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When describing the achievements of one of the most successful homicide detectives in the Vancouver Police Department, there is one sentence that sums it up: His persistence is legendary.

Detective Constable Ross Clarke has been with the VPD for 22 years. During that time, he has participated in more than 25 homicide investigations and six highly publicized investigations of in-custody and police involved deaths. There have been killers in Vancouver who have been convinced that they got away with murder, and often did for years, until Detective Clarke was assigned to the case.

The killer of 18 year old Poonam Randhawa thought he had got away with it when he shot his former girlfriend in 1998. Detective Clarke had other thoughts. He spent years tracking the man, and last year, working with US police agencies, had him arrested, bringing justice to a grieving family.

In 2004, the killer of Reginald Hayes thought he had got away with murder. Detective Clarke thought otherwise. He found new evidence in the cold case that led to the conviction of a man in 2012 who had stabbed Hayes more than 130 times.

Detective Clarke's thoughtful and sensitive approach, coupled with his unrelenting determination, has won him respect and admiration among his colleagues and peers.

It has also won him the Chief Constable's Commendation for his outstanding body of work.

## **SERGEANT JAMES FLEWELLING CONSTABLE JORDAN LENNOX**

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When a person is determined to take their own life, sometimes extraordinary measures are called for to prevent them from carrying out their threat, measures that in turn threaten the lives of the rescuers.

On November 14, 2011, a woman called 9-1-1 saying she was going to kill herself by jumping out the window of her 29th storey apartment. When police arrived they found a woman sitting on her open window sill dangling her legs into space.

Negotiations went on for three hours, but she became increasingly distracted and distraught. Police knew they had one chance to save her, but it involved a high risk drop over the side of the building. Sergeant James Flewelling and Constable Jordan Lennox secured their ropes and went over the side in the dark of night. Working their way down in the cold and the rain, they knew if anything went wrong someone could die.

Precision timing was crucial as Sergeant Flewelling kicked off the side of the building, swung out into space then directly into the woman, pushing her safely back into her apartment.

For their conspicuous actions in the face of extreme hazards to save the life of a woman needing help, Sergeant James Flewelling and Constable Jordan Lennox are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

## **DETECTIVE CONSTABLE DAWN RICHARDS**

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Occasionally, a member emerges from amongst the ranks of the Vancouver Police Department who shows such outstanding acuity in a particular field that they are recognized by their colleagues in law enforcement as an unrivalled expert.

Detective Constable Dawn Richards is such an expert. Her field: gangs and gangsters.

Since joining the VPD in 1998, Detective Constable Richards has developed so much credibility for her expertise in gang investigations, that for many gangsters in the Lower Mainland she has become the face of gang enforcement.

# CHIEF CONSTABLE'S COMMENDATION

In 2009, she led a team of 50 investigators in Project Torrent. The gang targets in this investigation routinely boasted of killing several people. Her team's efforts resulted in a 100 per cent conviction rate in four cases of conspiracy to commit murder, 79 weapons offenses, 12 cases of extortion and dozens of assaults and other charges.

Detective Constable Richards has been personally instrumental in putting the VPD at the forefront of gang enforcement and is largely responsible for some of the most significant victories against the plague of gangs in our city.

For her outstanding body of work in the field of gang investigations, Detective Constable Dawn Richards is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

## **CONSTABLE ERIC DAVIS**

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Performing bravely in the line of duty is a given; doing the same while you're off duty is exceptional.

On August 29, 2011, Constable Eric Davis had just finished his shift and was on his way home when he stopped at a drug store in Surrey just before 6 p.m. As he came out, he saw two masked men go in behind him yelling "Get on the ground." While the robbers were inside, Constable Davis, who was unarmed, went to his car and called 9-1-1. Inside the store the robbers, waving machetes and a replica handgun, were demanding cash and drugs while terrified customers were down on the floor.

When the pair ran out and down an alley, Constable Davis took after them in his car. With disregard for his personal safety Constable Davis continue his pursuit, got between the pair, knocked one down temporarily, but they split up, one jumping over a fence. Constable Davis raced around the block, spotting the man he had knocked down. Unarmed, he left his car and captured the 26 year old man, who was later charged with robbery.

When police arrived they found a large knife, money, another machete, bear spray and a replica handgun. A second man, 17 years old, was captured later.

For his single-handed capture of an armed robber in the face of great personal risk in his off duty personal time, Constable Eric Davis is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

## **CONSTABLE KAL DOSANJH**

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When a lone officer confronts a man with a knife it's routine to call for cover, but when that knife is being held to the throat of a victim, every second counts.

On October 11, 2011, Constable Kal Dosanjh was on patrol when he saw a disturbing incident across the street. A man was forcing another man up against a wall holding a four-inch knife with the point pressed into his neck in an apparent robbery attempt.

Constable Dosanjh, without hesitation, ran across the street, drew his gun and demanded the man drop the knife immediately. The robber let go of his victim, stepped back with his hands in the air, but would not let go of the knife. He then put the knife in his pocket, but refused to lie down on the ground with his hands behind his back.

Constable Dosanjh, fearing that the man might run placing others at risk, used physical force to take the man into custody.

For his quick and decisive actions that ended safely for everyone involved, Constable Kal Dosanjh is awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

# CHIEF CONSTABLE'S COMMENDATION

## **CONSTABLE KEITH MACDONALD CONSTABLE ANDRE HAAKSMA**

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Watching someone desperately trying to kill himself and doing nothing is not an option for a police officer.

On December 9, 2011, Constables Keith MacDonald and Andre Haaksma were responding to an assault call at a downtown hotel when they encountered a suspect in a fifth floor room. Through a partially open door they talked to a highly agitated man who was holding two full pill bottles.

When they told him he would have to come with them, he downed the contents of both bottles and tried to slam the door. As they pushed against the door, suddenly the resistance stopped. They entered just in time to see the man going out the window.

Each officer grabbed a foot as the man dangled out the window. He struggled violently, trying to kick loose and kill himself. Even after the officers pulled him back in the room, the struggle continued for more than a minute until they could take him safely into custody and call an ambulance.

For their unrelenting efforts to save the life of a man bent on personal destruction, Constables Keith MacDonald and Andre Haaksma are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

## **CONSTABLE ROD DEIGHTON CONSTABLE MARK BOUCHEY**

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Traffic Constables Rod Deighton and Mark Bouchey were working the dayshift on March 22, 2012, involved in a pedestrian safety program on Commercial Drive, when things took a deadly turn.

They learned that around 3:15 p.m., a man had called 9-1-1 from a nearby payphone saying that he was going to hurl himself off the Skytrain bridge.

Without warning, they saw a man emerge from a crowd and run towards the bridge railing. As he began to climb over, the constables ran towards him.

They were able to grab hold of him just as he was halfway over. They used all their strength and body weight to pull him back to safety.

For their immediate and decisive action, putting their own safety at risk to save the life of another, Constables Rod Deighton and Mark Bouchey are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

## **SERGEANT JEFF HARRIS CONSTABLE COLLEEN MCKITRICK**

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Just before sunrise on the chilly morning of October 2, 2011, a distraught woman had decided to end her life by jumping off the mid-span of the Knight Street Bridge. Sergeant Jeff Harris and Constable Colleen McKitrick's job was to stop her.

It wasn't going to be easy. The woman weighed almost 300 pounds and had a long history of suicide attempts.

Constable McKitrick, a trained negotiator, tried to calmly engage the woman in conversation. But the woman seemed determined to jump over the railing. As Sergeant Harris approached, she decided to leap before he could get close to her.

Constable McKitrick grabbed hold of her clothing, shouting for assistance. For the next minute, the two officers hung onto the woman in a violent struggle as she dangled over the Fraser River. Even as the woman struggled, screaming that it was her time to go, she tried to grab one of the officer's firearms. At any moment the lives of all three people on the bridge that morning hung in the balance.

The officers never gave up and eventually managed to pull the woman to safety.

For their immediate actions that put their own lives at risk to save another, Sergeant Jeff Harris and Constable Colleen McKitrick are awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation.

# CHIEF CONSTABLE UNIT CITATIONS



# CHIEF CONSTABLE UNIT CITATIONS

**SERGEANT WALLY ARGENT  
CONSTABLE JENNIFER LUCCOCK  
CONSTABLE TIM HAUSER  
CONSTABLE BLAKE CHERSINOFF  
CONSTABLE RITA KHTARIA**

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In our free democracy, the right to gather and protest peacefully is one the Vancouver Police is resolved to respect, guard and facilitate. When the Occupy movement came to Vancouver and camped for more than a month outside the art gallery, it would test that resolve in many ways.

Police officers assigned to keep the peace at the protest site were under extreme pressure and scrutiny. They knew at any minute their actions or failure to act could contribute to an incident that would reverberate around the world. They were determined that Vancouver would see this protest through peacefully, as the VPD does with hundreds of other protests every year.

Every day held more challenges as the officers responded to a sudden death, drug overdoses, demonstrations, Mental Health Act apprehensions, missing person reports and arrests of violent persons. They were often met with open aggression by those who were trying to incite the crowd.

Under this great stress they continued to demonstrate incredible patience, commitment and resourcefulness. Even as the order was given to dismantle the encampment, it was their continuing efforts that saw the protest end peacefully.

In recognition of their professionalism and measured restraint, that avoided violent clashes similar to the ones in other cities, the following members are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation: Sergeant Wally Argent and Constables Jennifer Luccock, Tim Hauser, Blake Chersinoff and Rita Khtaria.

**ACTING SERGEANT STUART BLACK  
CONSTABLE IAN MAYNE  
CONSTABLE MARK LOBEL  
CONSTABLE TREVOR KINE  
CONSTABLE BLAIN CHRISTIAN  
CONSTABLE MATHEW MCKINNON**

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It's said that in policing there is no such thing as a routine call.

In the early morning hours of August 21st, 2011, Constables Ian Mayne, Trevor Kine, Mark Lobel, Mathew McKinnon, Blain Christian and Acting Sergeant Stuart Black, were entering a downtown hotel thinking that they were about to make a routine arrest of a man wanted on a warrant. They had no idea that they would soon be putting their lives on the line to save that same man.

The man they were looking for had been seen entering a suite on the eighth floor. As they approached, they received disturbing information that he may have stabbed a woman and could be holding her hostage inside. Fearing for her life, they tried to break into the room. That proved to be a formidable task since it was a steel door in a steel frame.

After 30 to 40 strikes with a battering ram, they broke through to find a woman sitting on a bed but no man. As they looked around they noticed a hand on the window. Their man had tried to avoid capture by going out the window and dangling from the sill. If he slipped, he would surely fall to his death.

All five officers immediately joined in the rescue, grabbing the man and each other as they leaned perilously out the window. The man struggled, making it frightfully clear that at any minute the window frame might collapse under their combined weight, sending them all to the pavement below. After several terrifying minutes, the man was pulled back into the room.

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He would later tell police that he had planned to pull himself back in after they left but he had lost the strength to do it. He thanked the officers repeatedly for saving his life.

For their outstanding bravery and dedication, and for risking their lives to save that of another, Acting Sergeant Stuart Black, and Constables Ian Mayne, Mark Lobel, Trevor Kine, Blain Christian and Mathew McKinnon are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

**MS. JANEANE ARDIEL**  
**SERGEANT MARK ANDREWS**  
**SERGEANT BILL RATTRAY**  
**SERGEANT JOE CHU**  
**SERGEANT KEVIN BERNARDIN**  
**CONSTABLE ERIC JORDAN**  
**CONSTABLE TONY BLOUIN**  
**CONSTABLE COLLEEN MCKITRICK**  
**CONSTABLE GRAHAM MACDONALD**  
**CONSTABLE DARREN BAYNE**  
**CONSTABLE RICHARD KENT**  
**CONSTABLE LENE JENSEN**  
**CONSTABLE JOHN KIM**  
**CONSTABLE LAWRENCE CARLSON**  
**DR. RANDY MACKOFF**

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It is hard to imagine the desperation and despair that would cause a person to call 9-1-1, tell the operator that he had a number of firearms that he was going to use to kill himself, but wanted the police to come afterwards so the weapons didn't fall into the wrong hands.

The operator who took that call near midnight on October 31, 2011, was Janeane Ardiel. Despite the fact that she was at the end of a very long shift, she would stay on the line with this man for an incredible six hours. She listened calmly, trying to distract him from suicide and building rapport. She worked effectively under pressure, following strategies given to her by police negotiators who had joined her.

On the other end of the phone the man was despondent, confirming over and over again his plan to kill himself and telling negotiators there was nothing they could do to stop him.

As fatigue set in for the 9-1-1 operator, Constable Colleen McKitrick took over in the early morning hours. She would continue trying to calm the man for hours until she was relieved by another member of the negotiating team, Constable Lawrence Carlson. It would be 19 hours before the man, exhausted and drained, would surrender peacefully.

For their outstanding dedication and professionalism that saved the life of a distraught man, E-Comm Operator Janeane Ardiel and the following members of the VPD crisis negotiating team are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation: Sergeants Mark Andrews, Bill Rattray, Joe Chu and Kevin Bernardin and Constables Eric Jordan, Tony Blouin, Colleen McKitrick, Graham MacDonald, Darren Bayne, Richard Kent, Lene Jensen, John Kim and Lawrence Carlson; and Dr. Randy Mackoff.

**CONSTABLE DAVE STEVERDING**  
**CONSTABLE JANICE BENCZE**  
**CONSTABLE CHRISTIANE PREVOST**  
**CONSTABLE LORNA BERNDSEN**  
**MS. JEN MACHEK, CROWN PROSECUTOR**

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Life for many in the Downtown Eastside can often be harsh and cruel, but what bystanders witnessed on January 3, 2010, on the sidewalk in the 400 block of East Hastings seemed especially brutal. In broad daylight, a known drug dealer was viciously beating a 52 year old woman, breaking her nose, cheek and eye bones. When he was done, he threatened those standing nearby, telling them to keep their mouths shut.

Constables Dave Steverding and Janice Bencze were first on the scene. They quickly broadcasted a suspect description and began to gather evidence and witness statements. Taking ownership of the investigation, they would provide ongoing support for the victim.

Meanwhile, Constables Christiane Prevost and Lorna Berndsen were on the hunt for the suspect. Seven blocks away, in amongst Gastown pedestrian traffic, the man had changed clothes and was trying to blend into pedestrian traffic. They saw through his ruse and



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arrested him. Blood on his shoes matched blood from the victim.

Faced with the overwhelming evidence against him, the man pleaded guilty and received a three-year prison sentence.

Crown prosecutor Jen Machek worked with the victim in her personal time to help her overcome her fear of testifying. Though the victim would never have her day in court due to her untimely death, Ms. Machek proceeded, undeterred in her pursuit of justice.

For their outstanding skill and judgement that led to a capture and conviction in this brutal assault, Constables Dave Steverding, Janice Bencze, Christiane Prevost and Lorna Berndsen, and Crown Prosecutor Jen Machek, are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

**SERGEANT CHRIS FIELDING**  
**DETECTIVE ROB FAORO**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE KEVIN MCLAREN**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE LOUISE NEIL**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE RAY BEISICK**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE MARK BRAGAGNOLO**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE STEVE MCCARTNEY**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE TODD SINGBEIL**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE BOB REID**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE RODGER SHEPARD**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ROB TATARYN**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE TONY RYCHKUN**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE BRUCE WAHL**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE DARYL HETHERINGTON**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE RICHARD CHALKE**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE LINDA MALCOLM**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE DON OWENS**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE KEN NIXON**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE MARK FORSHAW**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE LISA JAMES**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE LISA WU**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE GLYNIS GRIFFITHS**  
**CONSTABLE DENISE KASK**  
**CONSTABLE MIKE STEWART**  
**CONSTABLE DAVE COLONVAL**  
**MR. MARK LANGHAM**  
**RCMP CORPORAL SEAN MCGOWAN**  
**RCMP CONSTABLE CRAIG MCKENZIE**  
**VANCOUVER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**  
**CAPTAIN TERRY ZWENG**  
**VANCOUVER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**  
**ACTING CAPTAIN CHRIS THOMSON**  
**VANCOUVER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**  
**FIREFIGHTER JEFF BURNS**  
**VANCOUVER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**  
**FIREFIGHTER STEVE LALEUNE**

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On May 15th, 2006, five people died and one person was left with burns to 55 per cent of his body following a devastating house fire. That fire would turn out to be the largest case of mass murder in Vancouver's history, leading to a six-month undercover investigation to capture the killer.

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The fire broke out in the early morning hours at the residence of Adela Etibako. Her four children and a family friend were also in the house. All would perish except for her son Bolingo, who, badly burned, jumped out a first-storey window.

Fire investigators determined that an accelerant was used to start the fire and they discovered a blowtorch in the debris that did not belong to the house. That discovery sparked a gruelling year-long investigation dubbed Project Resolute, involving more than 30 members of the VPD, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services and the RCMP, who all worked under intensive public and media scrutiny.

The investigators quickly learned of a suspect who harboured a grudge against one of the Etibako family. The team had a motive and circumstantial evidence, but they needed more. For six months, they conducted an undercover operation that culminated in the suspect confessing to an undercover operator that he had committed the crime.

The murderer is currently serving six concurrent life terms.

For their unrelenting dedication and commitment to solve this crime, the following members of Project Resolute are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation: Sergeant Chris Fielding; Detective Rob Faoro; Detective Constables Kevin McLaren, Louise Neil, Ray Beisick, Mark Bragagnolo, Steve McCartney, Todd Singbeil, Bob Reid, Rodger Shepard, Rob Tataryn, Tony Rychkun, Bruce Wahl, Daryl Hetherington, Richard Chalke, Linda Malcolm, Don Owens, Ken Nixon, Mark Forshaw, Lisa James, Lisa Wu and Glynis Griffiths; Constables Denise Kask, Mike Stewart and Dave Colonval; Mr. Mark Langham; RCMP Corporal Sean McGowan and RCMP Constable Craig McKenzie; and from Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, Captain Terry Zweng, Acting Captain Chris Thomson, Firefighters Jeff Burns, and Steve Laleune.

**INSPECTOR RICK MCKENNA**  
**ACTING SERGEANT BLAIN CHRISTIAN**  
**ACTING SERGEANT SHAWN HARDMAN**  
**CONSTABLE SANDY AVELAR**  
**CONSTABLE EMILY FLORKOW**  
**CONSTABLE RICHARD KENT**  
**CONSTABLE TREVOR KINE**  
**CONSTABLE JUSTIN LEUNG**  
**CONSTABLE IAN MAYNE**  
**CONSTABLE MATHEW MCKINNON**  
**CONSTABLE SHELDON MCLEAN**  
**CONSTABLE SUSAN SHARP**  
**CONSTABLE BEN WONG-MOON**

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The call first came in around 7 p.m. that a man was being held hostage and beaten by his captors. He was secretly texting his location to his girlfriend, who was relaying the information to police.

Within minutes, police were converging on a downtown high-rise tower. They learned the hostage was on the 34th floor, but also learned that his captors were planning to quickly move him out in a bag. As one police team headed to the 34th floor, other officers located the hostage's car parked on the street.

The next nine minutes became truly intense as two suspects burst from the building, jumped into the hostage's car and took off with police in pursuit. At the same time, other officers were locking down the 34th floor where they found the injured hostage in one of the units.

Things then threatened to spiral out of control as the kidnappers dodged police vehicles and drove into oncoming traffic in a desperate move to get away. Additional units closed in and the suspects were eventually caught as they dumped the car and tried to escape on foot.

Meanwhile, police were discovering more suspects in the high-rise tower. In less than an hour from the time of the original call, a kidnap victim was freed and five of his tormentors were under arrest.

## CHIEF CONSTABLE UNIT CITATION

For their outstanding actions in a dynamic and life-threatening situation, the following members are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation: Inspector Rick McKenna, Acting Sergeants Blain Christian and Shawn Hardman, and Constables Sandy Avelar, Emily Florkow, Richard Kent, Trevor Kine, Justin Leung, Ian Mayne, Mathew McKinnon, Sheldon McLean, Susan Sharp and Ben Wong-Moon.

**SERGEANT HAL HAMILTON**  
**DETECTIVE CONSTABLE LES WRAY**  
**CONSTABLE MALCOLM NEWLANDS**  
**CONSTABLE TEIJO SALLINEN**

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In the real world of policing, collecting forensic evidence is a lot tougher than it looks on television. There are times when a crime is so heinous and bloody that building the forensic case becomes a monumental challenge.

The crime that was committed on October 25, 2008, was one of those times.

The killer entered an East Vancouver apartment, brutally stabbed his girlfriend to death and then sought out her sleeping roommate. He slashed his throat, doused him with gasoline and set him on fire. The roommate was able to extinguish the flames in the shower, but would die three months later in the hospital.

Members of Vancouver's Forensic Identification Unit worked on the scene for days. They combed every inch of the stairwell from the ground to the fifth floor. They processed bloody footprints and a bloody palm print that turned out to be the killer's print in the victim's blood. There was so much forensic evidence that it took a full day just to remove it from the apartment.

The team would spend countless hours analysing and processing exhibits, and then spent days helping Crown Prosecutors understand the process, which allowed them to present this evidence in court for the jury to understand the evidence.

Detective Constable Les Wray from the Technological Crime Unit spent considerable time searching and documenting instant messaging and emails found in the accused's computer. This evidence was crucial in the Crown's case to prove motive and Detective Constable Les Wray spent a considerable amount of time preparing this evidence in a format that was presentable to the jury.

In the end, all their work and dedication led to the conviction of a killer who received two life sentences for his crimes.

For their unrelenting persistence and professionalism, Sergeant Hal Hamilton, Detective Constable Les Wray, and Constables Malcolm Newlands and Teijo Sallinen are awarded the Chief Constable's Unit Citation.

