



The News Beat

n. an area regularly covered by a reporter, a police officer, or a sentry.

November 2008

Grandview-Woodland
Community Policing
Centre

In partnership with
the Vancouver Police
Department

About Us:

The GWPC serves the
area between Hastings
and Broadway, Clark
and Nanaimo

1977 Commercial Drive
Phone: 604 717-2932
Fax: 604 717-2923
britcpc@shaw.ca
www.gwcpc.ca

Mon-Thurs: 12-8
Friday: 12-6
Saturday 10-4

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Cops, Kids & Commercial Drive 2008

by ML Burke



Kids lovin' the free hot dogs and freebies

On September 14th, the Grandview-Woodland Community Policing Centre (GWPC) produced its popular back-to-school safety event known as *Cops, Kids & Commercial Drive*. For the past 4 years this event has drawn 350-500 kids and their parents to Grandview Park.

The GWPC partners with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) to introduce elementary aged school children to the various police squads, paramedics, and also the fire department. Free lunches were given out to 350 children 12 and under, thanks to the generosity of our local Super Valu. The Vancouver Courier also helped in promoting the event city-wide.

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Cops & Kids

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Fun and games were offered to children and parents to get important information on all aspects of back-to-school safety including:

- Calling for Help: 911 operators gave instruction to children who practiced phoning 911.
- Child Find: ID Books were made up and given to parents with children's fingerprints, photos, personal description and contact information.
- Bike Safety: A 'Bike Rodeo' allowed children to practice safe riding and learn the rules of the road.
- Fitness: A mini Police fitness course let the kids test their fitness and boost their activity levels.
- Vancouver Police Officers and Police Dogs: were in attendance at the event, interacting with the children and reinforcing their role in keeping everyone safe. This event is a unique opportunity for children to look into police vehicles and talk to the men and women who keep our community safe.



Some of VPD's finest with some of GWPC's finest.

Protect Your Bike

by Eileen Mosca

At the GWPC we get many reports of stolen bikes, and these are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the bike theft epidemic in Vancouver. So it's great when we have a success story to tell! Last week a local resident came in to make a report: he had agreed to give a panhandler outside the liquor store a loonie to watch his bike while he went into the store. When he came out both his bike and the panhandler had disappeared. He reported first to 911, and then to the GWPC. Four members of the Commercial Drive beat team were in the CPC at the time of the report and took the description of the bike so they could keep an eye out for it. We were delighted when the resident came in a few days later to say that his bike had been recovered ...and that he now had a good bike lock!

One effective way to protect your bike is to engrave your BC Drivers license number on the frame. This unique identifier will help you get your bike back if it is recovered after being stolen. Police can access your identity and contact information through the DL number and your bike will be returned rather than sent to the annual auction of unclaimed and unidentifiable property.

The GWPC has an engraver that community members can borrow at no charge. You can use it to engrave bikes, cell phones, computers, electronic equipment and other valuables. At the recent Citywide Community Policing Day Open House, the GWPC held an engraving clinic and put identifiers on bikes, laptops and cell phones. We welcome the public to come in and have our volunteers

engrave their property or borrow an engraver to take home to engrave non-portable property.

GWPC Wins Citywide Competition

by Eileen Mosca

Last Spring Chief Jim Chu introduced the ConAir program: to send offenders who had committed crimes elsewhere in Canada, back to the provinces they had come from to face justice. The VPD had to raise funds to do this because the jurisdictions where the offenders were arrested issued "Non-returnable warrants", meaning they were wanted, but their return tickets would not be paid for.

Due, in part to our climate, many offenders escaped to Vancouver. The criminal code does not allow for these offenders to appear in BC courts for offenses committed elsewhere, unless they are federal offences.

Chief Chu's ultimate goal is to change the system so that the federal government will provide funds for offenders anywhere in Canada to be returned to the province where they have been charged. To support this initiative, Vancouver's Community Policing Centres began a petition drive to demonstrate to the Minister of Justice how much public support exists. A competition was held among the 8 CPCs and a prize was offered to the centre collecting the most signatures on the Non-Returnable Warrant petitions. The enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers from the GWPC won this contest with over 1,600 signatures collected. Chief Jim Chu came to award the prizes to participating volunteers.

Community Notes

Beat Teams Make a Big Difference on the Drive

by Eileen Mosca

When the Commercial Drive Community Survey was released last April, it was clear to the Vancouver Police Department that residents were extremely concerned about crime, safety and street disorder in the southern end of the Drive area, centering at Broadway and Commercial.

Their response was to deploy 2 person teams of officers who walked the beat on the Drive from 3rd to 12th Avenues, a total coverage of 21 hours a day. The VPD agreed to have these officers assigned to the Drive from June 1 to Labour Day. These officers became familiar with the area around the Drive. They got to know many residents and business owners, and were extremely effective in dealing with problems in the area; from street disorder

to locating and closing down a residence that was the 'supply depot' for street drug dealers in the area.

Neighborhood support and appreciation for the Commercial Drive police beat teams was so vocal and strong, and the benefits for the area were so clear, that VPD management decided to extend the project to the end of October (generally the street disorder problems in our area are reduced when the weather turns cold and wet). Having a walking police presence has made the Drive a safer place this summer.

On behalf of the community, we thank the Beat teams for doing a terrific job and hope that the VPD will repeat this successful strategy next summer.

Have you considered a career with the Vancouver Police Department?

by Berthier Kyobela

In the history of the Department, the window of opportunity has never been greater than now. Detective Dave Montesano of the Recruiting Unit has been on the force for more than twenty years and he can't recall a time when the VPD was this receptive to new applications. It used to be that you would hand in your application and they'd tell you "thank you, don't call us, we'll call you". That has changed. For the last year, the Department has been on a crusade to hire some of Vancouver's Finest; up to 200 new police officers are needed to fill vacancies as a result of retirements, population increase and the 2010 Winter Olympics.

So, if you've considered a career in law enforcement, now is perhaps the best opportunity to have the VPD take a look at you. A career with the Vancouver Police Department will give you a daily sense of accomplishment, duty and your job will never be boring or repetitive. You would be joining one of the most respected and innovative law enforcement agencies in Canada with diverse departmental opportunities. It's often been said that no two working days are ever the same for a police officer.

Upon being hired, your salary will immediately begin at \$52,233 per year and within four years you will be making more than \$75,000. It is not uncommon for officers to

earn an additional \$15,000 above their salary in overtime hours. Is it a safe job? Look at it this way, what other job prepares you for the worst case scenario. There are obvious occupational hazards; however the training you receive at the Justice Institute is amongst the very best in Canada. Furthermore, the Department deploys a partnered team approach to working so you can enjoy the camaraderie and availability of back up.

So how do you get started? If you think you have what it takes or simply have questions, you are encouraged to contact a recruiter at recruiting@vpd.ca or call 604-717-2706. You may also check out the VPD Facebook page where hundreds of interested applicants are communicating with one another and are having their questions answered by Sergeant Howard Chow in the discussion forum. The recruiting process involves eight steps: attend an information session (view dates at vpd.ca); write intake exam; take the Police Officer Physical Abilities Test (POPAT); interviews; polygraph; assessment centre; background investigation; and finally a medical assessment. Competitive applicants have completed the process in 28 days.



President's Message



During the past year the GWPC has made significant positive changes, both for our organization and for the community.

Our dynamic new 'management team,' Coordinator Hazel Bissky, Volunteer Coordinator Faith Greer, and Office Administrator Cathy OConnor-Morris

along with Neighbourhood Police Officer Linda Grange have brought innovative ideas and energy to the GWPC. This has been evident in everything from our office décor and programs to the expansion of our volunteer base, which has doubled in size and grown to include many volunteers from our local area.

We have also enhanced community partnerships with the Commercial Drive BIA, Britannia Community Centre and SFU's Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies(ICURS). In addition to liaising with the BIA's Safety & Security Committee on homelessness and other issues, we joined forces to present 3 very popular movie nights in local parks this summer. This fall we are co-sponsoring All-Candidates Forums for the Federal and Municipal Elections with Britannia Community Centre. Britannia has also assisted us in presenting Cops, Kids and Commercial Drive and provides accommodation for our larger meetings.

Another of our innovative programs done in collaboration with Britannia is the Restart (restorative justice through art) organization which is targeted at youth in the area, particularly those involved in tagging and graffiti. This 4 day program involves educating youth about the negative impact of graffiti on the community and connecting them to artist mentors and Restart volunteers who demonstrate positive outlets for their creative talents. The participants will work with their mentors to produce a series of murals along the east side of the Britannia complex. This project will continue for the next year and engage youth from our local community in improving the neighbourhood.

Last April the Commercial Drive Community Survey was conducted by the GWPC and ICURS. Over 700 respondents gave their views on crime, safety and quality of life in the

area and the insights revealed by the survey have led us to convene productive strategy meetings with other agencies. The Solicitor General's Ministry and ICURS have taken the lead and the meetings have included the Vancouver Police, Vancouver Coastal Health, Skytrain/GVTAPS, the City of Vancouver, and the Commercial Drive BIA, all working with the GWPC to find sustainable solutions to local problems such as street disorder, discarded needles, aggressive panhandling and homelessness.

The results of our community survey have been so significant that the City of Vancouver has decided to replicate it in other areas, beginning with the Renfrew-Collingwood CPC. SFU's ICURS is funding the development of a handbook with detailed directions so communities throughout the province and across Canada can conduct similar surveys and engage responsible local agencies and governments in finding solutions to local problems.

On the home front, our bike and foot patrols have become familiar and welcome sights along the Drive, and they have recovered quite a few abandoned stolen autos during their patrol shifts. Because of effective new signage, more residents are coming into the GWPC to report problems or ask for assistance so our frontline staff and volunteers have been kept very busy.

When the VPD let us know that a rash of B&Es were occurring in one section of Grandview-Woodland, we developed a flyer to warn residents of the problem and advise them on what steps to take to prevent it. A month later the GWPC received a letter of appreciation from the VPD because after our volunteers delivered this flyer to every household in the affected area, the number of B&Es dropped to zero.

In the year to come we hope to build on these successes and work with our neighbours in the residential and business community to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in our area.

Eileen Mosca
GWPC President 2007-2008

Kaban Security Systems, 1657 Nanaimo



KABAN
Protective Services Inc.

Thanks to Kaban for their donation of our security system and monitoring!

Uprising Breads Bakery, 1697 Venables

Thanks to Uprising for all the yummy cookies they donate to our volunteers!"



The Grandview-Woodland Community Policing Centre is funded by:

The City of Vancouver

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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Recycle your old cell phones! Drop them off at our office!