



# The Grand View: COMMUNITY POLICING NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1 - Summer 2019

The Grandview-Woodland Community Policing Centre

## WELCOME!

Welcome to the first edition of **The Grand View: Community Policing News**. In this and future newsletters we will cover some current issues and events on Commercial Drive, outline the projects and services the Grandview-Woodland Community Policing Centre offers to the community and introduce you to the GWPC staff and volunteers who deliver them.

The GWPC is a non-profit volunteer organization working in partnership with the Vancouver Police Department to make our vibrant neighbourhood a safer, more enjoyable place for everyone.

### MEET OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MIKE SAUER



For the first issue of **The Grand View**, we'd like to introduce you to the GWPC's Executive Director, Mike Sauer. As the leader of this non-profit community organization, Mike leads a team of 80 to 100 volunteers who work in partnership with The Vancouver Police Department to enhance the safety and quality of life in the Grandview-Woodland neighbourhood.

Mike moved to the Drive in 1999 and found a warm welcome here that he now extends to others. After 20 years in this pedestrian friendly area, Mike and his partner Mark are well known members of the community who can often be seen in conversation with locals on the sidewalks and in coffee shops. While interviewing people for the Commercial Drive Community Survey in 2017, Mike had the opportunity to speak to hundreds of residents about their opinions and perceptions of the local area.

At the community policing centre Mike has the same interest in welcoming and speaking with everyone who comes in the door, whether they have a serious problem requiring police attention, need a referral to city services, want to report a neighbourhood concern or just stop by for a chat or a treat for their canine companions.

Outside of the office Mike, a long time vegetarian, spends time doing yoga, travelling to Mexico and relaxing with Mark and their cat Haylee. Mike describes himself as “an open-minded, open door type of person” and he welcomes you to stop by the GWPCP any time to say hello.

Mike first came to the GWPCP as a volunteer and subsequently held the positions of Program Manager and Volunteer Coordinator before taking over the Executive Director position last Fall. His first activity at the CPC was with one of our community clean ups. Back then he was pleased to see people giving time and energy to make the area cleaner and safer for their neighbours. After 7 years he is a driving force in organizing our current clean ups and he welcomes anyone living or working in this area to join in and help out.

To sign up or get more information, call Mike at 604-717-2932 or email: [mike@gwcpc.ca](mailto:mike@gwcpc.ca)

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

The **FAQ** column in each edition of The Grand View will answer any questions you have for the GWPCP on neighbourhood safety, city bylaws, urban problems or whatever else readers ask us about.

Over our 24 years in the Commercial Drive community we have responded to hundreds of questions asked at our front desk. Feel free to come by in person or email your questions for FAQ to [mike@gwcpc.ca](mailto:mike@gwcpc.ca).

### **What can I do if a parked car blocks access to my driveway or garage?**

You can call the City’s Parking Enforcement at 311 to report the problem, stating the vehicle’s description, location, and license plate number. A bylaw officer will be dispatched to issue a ticket and call a tow truck which will take the vehicle to the City impound lot.

If the vehicle must be moved on an emergency basis, call the VPD’s non-emergency number to report: 604-717-3221.

### **My neighbour and I are locked in an ongoing dispute that we haven’t been able to resolve. This situation makes living here very uncomfortable. What can I do?**

You can contact Mediate BC, an organization that offers mediation in civil disputes, including community disputes. They will identify options to address the dispute and provide links to additional resources. They can also invite the parties to participate in an informal conversation.

## GWPC & UGM Team up on the Drive

The Union Gospel Mission and the GWPC have joined forces to clean up the Commercial Drive area. On the third Saturday of every month a group of former and current residents of the A&D recovery program at the Mission work with GWPC volunteers to clean up garbage and debris in the Grandview-Woodland area.

One of the 12 steps in the UGM program is giving back to the community, and what better way to do that than helping clean it up. Residents in the community have been really receptive to the community clean ups and often thank the volunteers. It is very rewarding for them to be able to help make an impact in the community and foster relationships with local residents.



This partnership with the UGM has made a huge impact in the neighbourhood, not only for those volunteering but for local residents as well. In 2016 the UGM won a City of Vancouver award for the amount of garbage they had collected.

If you would like to learn more about this initiative, phone or stop by the GWPC for more information or to sign up.

## Cell Phone Recycling Win/Win.

The GWPC works with Greentec to raise funds for our community programs by recycling old cell phones.

If you have a phone you're not using, no matter what age or condition, we would appreciate it. You will be helping the planet by responsibly recycling your device while helping support GWPC Community programs.

## Contributors to this issue

- Najaha Abdul-Rahaman
- ML Burke
- Eileen Mosca
- De Wet Neethling
- Yasmin Robson
- Nicolas Schwab
- Angelika Seebald

# Get to Know Grandview-Woodland's Neighbourhood Police Officer

Cst. Ben Falk, NPO at the GWPC



“I’ve been a constable with the Vancouver Police Department for 16 years.

Over my career in patrol I’ve split my time almost equally Between Districts 2 and 4. During those years I had the Opportunity to work patrol in various capacities including plain clothes, Public Safety Unit, Beach Patrol and Bike Patrol.

I enjoyed my time working in plain clothes where I had the opportunity to surveil property crime offenders and address drug related issues that were problematic for different

neighbourhoods.

Foot patrol has always been one of my favourite aspects of policing. I learned very early in my career from a senior constable that the only way to know and understand a neighbourhood is to be out of your police car to take in the sights and sounds of the neighbourhood. For me, foot patrol affords me the opportunity to engage the residents of the community.

Regardless of the time of day, I find that being out on foot makes me more accessible whether it is for a citizen to report a concern or to just simply say hello. Foot patrol allows me to be more accessible and personable with the neighbourhood I work in and become a small part of the fabric of the community.

One small element of the neighbourhood that makes the biggest impact on me is an art display on a wall near Britannia Elementary School. Artwork created by neighbourhood residents over 20 years earlier

that represents individual experiences and feelings for family, friendships and community. I enjoy walking by the art piece knowing that each small, colourful clay square represents the personal memories and experiences of past and current residents of the area around Commercial Drive. As with other neighbourhoods in Vancouver, it is also encouraging for me to see a new generation of residents who have adopted the same positive attitude about their neighbourhood, also adding to the fabric of the community.

The main task for the VPD Neighbourhood Police Officers has always been supporting the Community Policing Centres in a combined effort to engage the community in crime prevention strategies, solving crimes and, very importantly, to become an integral part of the neighbourhood. An NPO's role is to assist in building community relationships, understanding the concerns of a community and building trust within a community.

Over my career I have become very familiar with the Grandview-Woodland neighbourhood. I have always found myself drawn to the

area because of the strong sense of community that has been built by generations of long-term residents. My main goal as I go forward in my position as the NPO for the GWCCPC is to continue to build on the solid foundation established by those NPOs in the position before me. I am mindful of the various challenges neighbourhoods face and I am encouraged by the enthusiasm, time and dedication Mike, Tiffani, the board members and volunteers invest in the GWCCPC to make the Grandview-Woodland neighbourhood a safer place to live and work.

I invite local residents and business owners to reach out to me through the GWCCPC with questions regarding community safety and crime prevention. However, I would encourage anyone looking to report a crime to use the Vancouver Police Non-emergency line: 604-717-3221, or for an in-progress crime, call 911 to report the incident immediately.

My personal interests: wood working, coaching, playing various sports and cooking, to name a few.”

# THE GWPC CAN HELP INSURE THAT YOUR CHILD CAR SEAT HAS BEEN INSTALLED CORRECTLY

*Did you know that 75% of child car seats are incorrectly installed?*

Volunteers at the GWPC have been trained to help you sort through the plethora of information available on child car seats and explain Transport Canada's current legal standards. We can also advise you on whether your child car seat has been properly installed.

Transport Canada provides the legal safety regulations on child car seats. Please see their website for the most current information:

<https://www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/road/child-car-seatsafety.html>

The Vancouver Police Department, the British Columbia Automobile Association (BCAA) and the GWPC provide car seat safety clinics throughout the city to help parents, grandparents, guardians and friends who transport babies and children in their vehicles. Please visit the BCAA website for more information and videos on child car seats:

<https://www.bcaa.com/community/child-car-seat-safety>

Safety is foremost on any parent's mind, especially when it comes to car seats. What are the safety regulations regarding car seats? Should I buy a used one? Why do they have expiry dates? Is the maple leaf symbol required on all car seats made in Canada? Why register a car seat with the manufacturer?

Phone the GWPC (604-717-2932) to set up an appointment so we can advise you on whether your child car seat has been properly installed and answer any questions you may have, such as those listed above. This service, which usually takes approximately one hour, is provided free, but a suggested donation of \$25 in support of this community program is appreciated.

## ***THANKS to SUPER VALU!***

A special thanks to our longstanding sponsor, SuperValu at First and Commercial. SuperValu's voucher program has provided much needed support to many GWPC initiatives, such as 'Cops, Kids and Commercial Drive', a special annual event in Grandview Park, plus community clean-up and graffiti paint-out programs. This is one local business that goes the extra mile to support our community!

## *Many Thanks to Our Wonderful GWCCPC Sponsors:*

- Canadian Legion, Grandview Branch
- City of Vancouver
- Greentec
- ICBC
- Kaban Security
- Province of BC, Gaming Branch
- RBC, First & Commercial
- South Vancouver Lions Club
- UPS, Commercial Drive
- Vancity, Branch 12
- Vancouver Courier
- VPD



Grandview-Woodland Community Policing Centre presents:

**A Fun Back-to-School Safety Event For Families**

**Save the Date!**

Cops, Kids & Commercial Drive,  
In Grandview Park

**Sunday, September 8th, Noon to 3 PM**



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