



# The Grand View: COMMUNITY POLICING NEWS

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The Grandview-Woodland Community Policing Centre

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE BEING VERBALLY OR PHYSICALLY ATTACKED?

There has been a significant rise in random assaults and harassment against some visible minority members of our community during the past year.

Would you know how to react if you were a bystander when one of these verbal or physical assaults happens?

These suggestions from Hollaback! ([hollaback.org](http://hollaback.org)) are simple, effective and will make you a better bystander.

**DISTRACT:** Try to de-escalate the situation by approaching the person being harassed and drawing attention away from them.

**DELEGATE:** Ask for help from someone nearby on behalf of the person being harassed. Check with the target of the harassment before calling 911.

**DIRECT:** If it's safe to do so, speak up about the harassment and calmly make clear to the harasser that what they are doing is wrong.

**DELAY:** After the incident is over, stay and check in with the person who was harassed and ask what they need.

**DOCUMENT:** If it's safe to do so, document the act of harassment. Video on your phone may be of use to the victim. But ask them before sharing it anywhere.



### What All Dogs (and their owners) Need to Know

Vancouver dogs come in many shapes and sizes but they all depend on their humans to keep them healthy, well fed and out of trouble.

Some dog owners are not aware of the Vancouver bylaw requiring dogs to be licensed and on leash everywhere in the city except in designated off leash areas. In our area, there is a new off leash area in Pandora Park near Nanaimo and Hastings as well as the large dog area at the north end of Trout Lake.

A particular problem locally has been dogs running at large on school grounds. Animal Control officers have been asked by VSB staff to enforce the bylaw on school property. Unfortunately, not all dog owners clean up after their pets, creating a health hazard for children using the fields. Many kids are frightened when a dog runs at them, even if it's a friendly dog wanting to play

The fine for having your dog off leash on school grounds or on the streets is \$250, and if your dog does not have a valid license there is an additional fine plus the cost of purchasing a license. Licensed dogs can be quickly reunited with their owners if they are lost and license fees help fund animal services in Vancouver.

Dog licenses can be purchased by phoning 311 or online at [vancouver.ca/pets](http://vancouver.ca/pets)

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 Grandview-Woodland Community Policing Centre

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## Who's Under the Mask? A Friendly Face at Commercial & Broadway

Did you know that there's a Transit Neighbourhood Police Officer for East Vancouver and the North Shore? Constable Shiraaz Hanif may be a familiar face for local commuters around the Commercial-Broadway Skytrain Station.

*The Grand View* is pleased to help our readers put a name to the face of the officer who's held this position since 2020.

Prior to joining the Metro Vancouver Transit Police Service almost 5 years ago, Cst. Hanif trained as both a firefighter and a paramedic. He brings a varied skill set to his work in the Transit Police Community Engagement Team.

Cst. Hanif is a strong believer in community policing because a community focused approach allows him to build collaborative relationships with diverse groups in our area, including the GWPCPC. Recently our staff and volunteers joined him for a 'Cell Watch' project, reminding drivers passing through the Broadway and Commercial intersection that using a cell phone while driving puts pedestrians in this congested location at risk. As well, he has helped pick up littered masks in the neighbourhood with our *Great Grandview Community Mask Clean Up*.

In the near future, Cst. Hanif will be transitioning to a different catchment area and a new Transit Neighbourhood Police Officer will be stepping into his role. The GWPCPC's staff and volunteers have enjoyed working with Cst. Hanif on crime prevention and community outreach initiatives and we will miss seeing him in the Grandview-Woodland area regularly. However, we look forward to maintaining this connection with this Metro Vancouver Transit Police.

To report non-emergency transit-related issues, you can contact Metro Vancouver Transit Police:

Phone: 604-515-8300

Text: 87-77-77

App: You can download the SeeSay app on your phone

In an emergency, please call 911.

## Please Make That Call!

Early in March, on a small street in Grandview-Woodland, a minor 'crime spree' took place that was never reported to the police. Five sheds and garages were broken into in a small span of time, but the Vancouver Police Department never knew about it until one resident came into our community policing centre to tell us about it.

A week later, a senior was walking down Commercial Drive at 9:30 at night when he was assaulted by someone who tried to knock him to the ground. Because he was alert and didn't fall over and then another person came down the street, he wasn't injured or robbed. But he was traumatized and decided not to walk Commercial Drive after dusk again. The next day he asked a GWPCPC volunteer whether he should have called the police.

What is the connection between these personal and property crimes? None of them were initially reported to the VPD.

It is very likely many similar incidents in our community are never reported. Some residents don't bother because they think nothing will be done, some hesitate because they believe their reports will be dismissed or discouraged by E-Comm call takers.

As a result, the police have no record of these incidents, no stats and no way to know that they need to direct more attention and resources to our neighbourhood.

So please, call the VPD's non-emergency line (604-717-3321) or 911 in case of emergency whenever you have experienced a personal or property crime.

## MEET OUR NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, NATASHA



Natasha has been the GWPC's Volunteer Coordinator for 6 months. Natasha is originally from Calgary and moved here in 2015 to attend Simon Fraser University to get her bachelor's in criminology and minor in psychology. She originally started out as a volunteer 3 years ago, when she was looking into volunteer opportunities in the criminal justice field and community policing. She decided on the GWPC because of the liveliness and diversity of the Commercial Drive area and how welcoming and inviting volunteers and residents were

As a volunteer Natasha has participated in many of the different initiatives the GWPC has to offer such as the front counter in the GWPC office, helping with MVTP dog training, Project 529 registrations during Bike-to-Work week, and the VPD Cybercrime Symposium. Natasha enjoyed volunteering at the GWPC so much, she eventually applied

for the Volunteer Coordinator position after completing her degree. She was a great candidate for the position because she started off as a volunteer and understands volunteer needs.

As you can imagine, there is never a typical day at the CPC so as Volunteer Coordinator Natasha has to be prepared for anything. Some of her day-to-day responsibilities include: onboarding, training, supervising and providing guidance to the volunteers; and liaising with our partners to update them on our community presence and to connect the volunteers to opportunities.

She occasionally covers the front counter which includes providing information and referrals, giving out supplies and interacting with community members. Her favourite parts of her new position are that each day is unpredictable and she gets to work with a great group of staff and volunteers. She also admires the teamwork and unity between the GWPC staff/volunteers, partnering agencies, and community members working towards a common goal – improving community safety!

In the short 6 months Natasha has been Volunteer Coordinator she's been a great asset and we can't wait to see what else is in store for her.

## CELL PHONE FUNDRAISER

Hello! yes you! Are you looking for a way to help your community? Well now is your chance! Do you have any old cell phones with their chargers laying around collecting dust? If you do, you can drop by the Grandview-Woodland Community Policing Centre (GWPC) and recycle them.

These old cell phones will generate funds that the CPC will reinvest back into the neighbourhood, so by doing this you are helping the environment and the community!

When packaged together your old cell phone and its charger are worth more so the impact is much greater! However, if you can only find your phone and not your charger that's okay, we will still gratefully accept your phone.

What are you waiting for? We look forward to seeing and meeting you at the GWPC, 1977 Commercial Drive (12 - 8 Monday-Thursday, 12-4 Friday, 10-4 Saturday).

### THE GWPC THANKS OUR SPONSORS:

Canadian Legion, Grandview Branch • City of Vancouver • Greentec • ICBC • Kaban Security • Province of BC, Gaming Branch • RBC, 1<sup>st</sup> & Commercial • South Vancouver Lions Club • UPS, Commercial Drive • Vancity, Branch 12 VPD

# Blue Eagle Cadets Come to Britannia



Cst. Kirk Rattray is the Indigenous Liaison Officer for the Metro Vancouver Police Department. Prior to getting this role, Cst. Rattray was the Neighbourhood Police officer for East Vancouver and the North Shore. He also served with the Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service and the Winnipeg Police. As the Indigenous Liaison Officer Cst. Rattray helps build partnerships within metro Vancouver and focuses on restorative justice approaches for Indigenous individuals who come into contact with the justice system

In partnership with the Vancouver Police Department's Diversity, Inclusion and Indigenous Relations department and Vancouver's Aboriginal Policing Community Center Cst. Rattray runs the Blue Eagle Community Cadet Program. The blue eagle logo includes an eagle, which is considered a spiritual messenger in the Indigenous community and also a symbol of vision, honour and respect. Its blue colour represents the traditional blue uniforms worn by the police who in some Indigenous cultures are seen as peacekeepers.

The program is geared towards Indigenous youth between the ages of 12 and 15. There is a strong emphasis on Indigenous culture, practices, leadership skills and experiences. The program focuses on providing resources, guidance and teachings so that the youth can become leaders and mentors in their community.

The program provides a space for the youth and allows them to talk about anything that is going on in their lives. It also provides a great learning environment for the youth where they can focus on leadership, discipline and self-development. Another key aspect of the program is building a relationship between them and the police to help change the potentially negative perception they have of the police. The youth will participate in different activities including hiking, bowling, and camping. Canoeing and drum making will also be a key part in the program to help connect the youth with their Indigenous culture. The program is not only open to Indigenous youth, but to all youth who are interested in Indigenous culture and practices.

The program is free and runs every Thursday at Britannia Community Centre, from 5-7. If you or anyone you know might be interested and would like some more information, please visit [www.transitpolice.ca/BlueEagle](http://www.transitpolice.ca/BlueEagle)

## From CPC Volunteer to Bylaw Officer

A bylaw officer's work, in Dmitrii Zhukovets' opinion, is just as much about public education as writing violation tickets. In his work for the City of Burnaby, Dmitrii draws on the experiences and training he acquired while volunteering at the Grandview-Woodland Community Policing Centre.

While making a volunteer contribution to our community, he took full advantage of every opportunity the CPC gave him to expand his skill set, participating in foot patrols, community clean ups, speed watch, front desk information services and other activities.

Different volunteer activities required observation and report writing, customer service, communication with local residents and business owners, public education, training in defusing hostile situations and dealing with a wide range of individuals requesting assistance with various difficult situations.

This range of experiences and the commitment demonstrated by his volunteer work helped him obtain employment as a bylaw officer for the City of Burnaby. But, Dmitrii says, just as important were the human connections he made while at the GWPC. Working with people who shared his commitment to community work and interest in a law enforcement career expanded his social network and his knowledge of a wide range of employment opportunities.

When he looks back at his volunteer experience at the GWPC Dmitrii reflects on what an important part it played in his current career path. When we at the GWPC look back at the many contributions to our community he made as a volunteer, we are grateful and proud of his current success.