



2009

THE AWARDS PAGE



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
Beyond the Call

2009 POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Vancouver Board of Trade -

Constable Lisa Byrne

As the daughter of retired RCMP Staff Sergeant Al Byrne, Detective Constable Lisa Byrne grew up moving from town to town in Alberta as her father received each new posting. She graduated from high school in 1991 and attended the University of Alberta, where she obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Genetics and a minor in Physics.

After graduation from University in 1996, Lisa worked in the securities industry for a small Vancouver based firm. In 1999, she joined the Canadian Ski Patrol System and was the recipient of the Rookie of the Year Award for that season. She continued to volunteer as a ski patroller until 2002, serving at Seymour Mountain, Hemlock Valley and Sun Peaks Resort.

On August 29th, 2000, Lisa was sworn in as a member of the Vancouver Police Department, becoming a second-generation police officer following her father and two uncles into the policing profession.

Lisa was first posted to District Two, patrolling the northeast part of the city. In 2002, Lisa and her partner Constable Pat Gormley received an Inspector's Commendation for the investigation into a murder that occurred in East Vancouver. The two officers were credited with identifying and arresting the suspect.



Since becoming a field trainer in 2003, Lisa has trained over 15 new recruits. She obtained Level I covert operator status and has participated in over 100 undercover drug and vice operations.

In 2005, Lisa transferred to the newly formed District Two Rapid Action Team. This new team was tasked with targeting the District's most prolific drug and property offenders using surveillance and undercover tactics. The team received a Deputy Chief's Unit Citation for Project Haven in 2005, which was a three-month undercover operation targeting illegal activity associated to rooming houses.

The team also received recognition for a two-week drug project called Turrets, in which 60 charges were laid against 52 street-level drug dealers.

In 2006, Lisa transferred to the Gang Crime Unit. She was the lead investigator in many high-profile prosecutions of United Nations and Independent Soldier gang members. As a result, Lisa is often contacted by Crown Counsel to supply affidavits supporting the detention of gang members during bail and sentencing hearings.

Lisa was loaned to the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of British Columbia in 2007 to assist with the preparation of Warrants and Part VI applications for Project E-Paragon.

Lisa's most recent assignment was file coordinator for Project Rebellion, acting as the direct link between Project Rebellion and the Special Prosecutions Unit of the Provincial Crown Counsel. The project culminated in the arrests of an entire crime family, the Sanghera Group that operated in South Vancouver. This crime group was responsible for many of the drive-by shootings that were occurring in the city in 2008. At this time, all members of the Sanghera Group are in jail awaiting trial and the number of drive-by shootings in the city has been significantly reduced in their absence.

Pending the completion of her work on Project Rebellion, Lisa is eagerly awaiting her transfer to the Vancouver Police Department Homicide Section.

When not at work Lisa can be found either on the North Shore trail network with her dog, in Whistler at the bike park or ski hill, or in Calgary visiting her family, particularly her one-year-old nephew.

2009 UPPER RED RIVER VALLEY CRISIS NEGOTIATION COMPETITION

3RD Place

Constables Cinda Lambert, Kal Patel, Matt Black and Lawrence Carlson

In June of 2009, four members of the Vancouver Police Crisis Negotiation Team attended the Upper Red River Valley Crisis Negotiation Seminar and Competition, held at the University of Manitoba and hosted by the Winnipeg Police Service.

It was the first time the team entered a competition and they took home 3rd place out of a total of 12 teams from Canada and the United States.

2009 PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP AWARD - SILVER IPAC / DELOITTE

Vancouver Police Department

The IPAC/Deloitte Leadership Award designation is a recognized symbol of excellence. The entire Vancouver Police Department was recognized for demonstrating outstanding leadership by taking bold steps to improve Canada through advancements in public policy and management.

The Department received a Silver in the Municipal category for its efforts in reclaiming the Granville Street Entertainment District from the disorder and violent that was prevalent in 2007.

[See the story here.](#)



2009 EDITOR'S AWARD IDENTIFICATION CANADA

Constables Mark Christensen and Rod Deighton

For only the second time in 32 years, The Canadian Identification Society has given out an Editor's Award and the award has gone to two constables from the Vancouver Police Department.

The article that Constables Mark Christensen and Rod Deighton co-wrote was entitled Use of Ninhydrin at a Crime Scene and it was published in Identification Canada, Volume 32, No.1, in March 2009.

The publication is the trade journal of The Canadian Identification Society, with an international readership comprised mainly of forensic identification specialists, laboratory analysts and crime investigators from Canada, the U.S., the UK and Europe.



2009 ORDER OF ST. JOHN
ST. JOHN AMBULANCE
Inspector Bob Usui

The Order of St. John is part of the Canadian Honours System and is a Royal Order of Chivalry, with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as its Sovereign Head.

In 2009, Inspector Bob Usui was appointed to the Order of St. John for his six years spent volunteering with St. John Ambulance. He continues to give his time to the organization.

2009 ALEXA'S TEAM

BCAA TRAFFIC SAFETY FOUNDATION

Constable John Bercic

The BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation honoured 26 Lower Mainland police officers for their exceptional efforts in getting impaired drivers off the road. The officers, including VPD Constable John Bercic, will become part of Alexa's Team, in remembrance of Alexa Middelaer, who lost her life at age four after being run down by a suspected impaired driver.