2006 POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR
Vancouver Board of Trade
Constable Jeff Schwenneker

Constable Schwenneker joined the Vancouver Police Department in 1986, after two years with the Ports Canada Police. He spent several years in patrol before being transferred to Traffic in 1991.

In 1995, Jeff became involved in the Drug Recognition Expert program, newly introduced to Canada, which trained officers to recognize symptoms and detect drug impairment. The first charges and convictions for drug impaired drivers in Canada using the DRE protocol were completed by Jeff and his partner. He continues to instruct police officers from other agencies across the country.

Jeff became a Collision Analyst and investigated many serious and fatal collisions after he was transferred to the Collision Investigation Unit.

The combination of completing the Commercial Vehicle Collision Course in 1998, having a Class 1 driver’s licence and being certified as a Provincial Air Brake Instructor, coupled with Jeff’s personal knowledge of trucks, the industry and mentoring from now-retired officers, made him a perfect fit for the Commercial Vehicle Unit. He was coached to gain the respect of the truck drivers and offer a community policing style of traffic enforcement.

In the years that followed, Jeff gained the confidence of the trucking industry, often assisting drivers with non-traffic policing issues. This would prove instrumental in June 2005, when two strikes in the trucking industry took place, one involving Ports in Vancouver and the other involving all major container terminals in the Lower Mainland. Constable Schwenneker used his contacts and the relationships he had built, to help his fellow officers gain control of the serious situation that was developing. Reports of mischief, assaults and shootings were made in other jurisdictions, but the Port of Vancouver remained relatively calm.
2006 POLICE HONOURS AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE
Government of British Columbia
Sergeant Mike Porteous

As a long-serving member of the VPD Major Crime Section, Sergeant Mike Porteous has earned the respect and admiration of his peers, supervisors and Crown Counsel. He has a reputation of having numerous, successful investigations and was widely sought out as the “go to” person within a pool of highly skilled investigators.
2006 POLICE HONOURS AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Government of British Columbia
Inspector Tom McCluskie, Detective Constables Ron Beig, Benedikte Wilkinson and Mark Forshaw

In December 2003, officers arrested a man after an assault at Crab Beach. They had no idea they were about to uncover one of the most vile and violent series of sex crimes in the city’s history. The arrest of Donald Bakker led to an investigation that spread over eight months, and involved more than 50 investigators from the VPD and other agencies.

Videotapes were discovered that depicted awful acts of assault and degradation against 60 victims, some of whom were drug addicted sex trade workers in Vancouver and some of whom were child victims in Cambodia.

Miraculously, 44 victims were identified and the actual crime scenes investigated in Cambodia.

Donald Bakker was convicted and received a ten year jail sentence. His sentence, unusual for a first time offender reflected the seriousness of his crimes and the extraordinary work of a team of VPD officers that at one point swelled to 81 members.

Because of their exemplary performance, determination and dedication to duty, this team received the Chief Constable’s Unit Citation.