BEYOND THE CALL

CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VPD COMMUNITY
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Jim and Vicki Chu Community Safety Leader Award</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award of Merit</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Constable’s Commendations</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Constable’s Citations</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Police Officer of the Year</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Civilian of the Year</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE JIM AND VICKI CHU COMMUNITY SAFETY LEADER AWARD

THE JIM AND VICKI CHU Community Safety Leader Award recognizes a citizen who has made an outstanding contribution towards preventing crime and improving safety at the community and neighbourhood levels. Nominees and recipients have shown exemplary leadership in the community and demonstrated passion for making Vancouver a safe place to live.

There are many dedicated people working behind the scenes in our city, volunteering their time and efforts to help make Vancouver safer. Danny Gelmon is one of these people. For over 30 years he has been making contributions that are truly inspiring.

Mr. Gelmon began volunteering with the Vancouver Police Department in the 1980s, when he filmed the VPD Motorcycle Drill Team performing at the PNE. He went on to join Citizens’ Crime Watch, and since 1993, he has been involved in the recovery of 4,645 stolen vehicles.

As a volunteer with the VPD Auto Crime Enforcement Unit, he deployed over 1,600 bait cars and spent thousands of hours volunteering.

In 2010, Mr. Gelmon starting volunteering with the Granville Community Policing Centre, and five years later, he became part-time coordinator. Over the years, he has led, mentored, and inspired over 80 volunteers, and his positive and cheerful demeanor has contributed to remarkable improvements to the productivity of the community policing centre.

Danny also volunteers with ICBC, particularly with its VPD partner programs like Speed Watch, and auto crime patrols, helping to make our roads safer and to prevent auto crime.

As part of the City of Vancouver’s Keep Vancouver Spectacular Program, Danny volunteers seven days a week, for a minimum of two hours per day. On average, he collects over 3,000 cigarette butts and 29 bags of litter each week.

The people who work alongside Danny say they can always count on him to show up, give it his all, and bring a great attitude with a smile on his face. His love for policing and public safety have clearly been his life’s passion, and the Vancouver Police Department, and the citizens of Vancouver are all the better for it.

For his efforts and leadership, contributing to the safety and liveability of our city, Danny Gelmon is awarded the Jim and Vicki Chu Community Safety Leader Award.
DANNY GELMON
The Award of Merit is presented by the Vancouver Police Board to citizens, who on their own initiative and in the face of actual or anticipated danger, have made an attempt at saving a life or have assisted the police in preventing a crime or in apprehending or attempting to apprehend an offender.

1. MR. GARY SANDHU

It takes only a moment for an ordinary day to become extraordinary. One minute you’re putting change into a parking meter on a city street, and the next you’re recovering stolen jewelry valued at $300,000.

Seconds after parking his car in the 2400 block of Willow Street early on the afternoon of October 6, 2016, Gary Sandhu heard someone yelling, “Thief!” and “Stop!” He looked up to see a man running towards him at a high rate of speed and carrying a black bag, as another man gave chase.

Without hesitation, Gary stepped into the first man’s path, attempting to grab him as he passed by. He was unable to hold on to him, but his intervention caused the thief to drop the bag.

Gary handed the bag over to the owner, a jewelry salesman who had been getting into his car when the thief struck. Gary was also able to provide police with useful information about the thief’s getaway car.

For trying to prevent a thief’s getaway, despite not knowing if he was armed or violent, and for recovering high-value, stolen property, Gary Sandhu is awarded the Vancouver Police Board’s highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

2. MR. MAX RATHBURN AND MR. NICHOLAS SHAW

Thanks to the quick actions of two strangers, a man responsible for a violent assault was stopped in his tracks.

On a summer evening in August 2014, Nicholas Shaw was relaxing at home when he heard a commotion in the lane behind his house in the 1700 block of Commercial Drive. He stepped outside and saw a man standing over an elderly woman he had just knocked to the ground.

Max Rathburn was driving into the lane with his family when he came upon the crime scene. He saw the unconscious woman on the ground, heard Nicholas call out, and saw the attacker flee. He quickly jumped out of his car and joined Nicholas in pursuit of the assailant.

The two men caught up to the offender and held on to him until VPD officers arrived. The 79-year-old victim suffered considerable facial injuries, including the loss of two teeth.

For preventing further injury to a vulnerable senior, chasing and capturing a violent offender, and holding him until police arrived, Max Rathburn and Nicholas Shaw are awarded the Vancouver Police Board’s highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.
3. MS. EMILIE STEVENS

In our hectic lives, sometimes it can be easy to miss another person’s suffering. When Emilie Stevens was crossing the Granville Street Bridge at the end of her busy day in June 2017, she was drawn to a woman in distress.

Emilie stopped to speak with the woman, and very quickly determined the woman was intending to jump off the bridge. She tried to persuade her to leave the bridge, and when she could not, Emilie called 9-1-1.

The woman got up on the bridge railing, and Emilie grabbed ahold of her, struggling to keep her from going over. When two police officers arrived, the woman was halfway over the railing. Despite being seven months pregnant, Emilie was still holding on to her with all her strength.

The officers were able to pull the woman back to safety, and she was taken to the hospital.

For trusting her instincts and taking the time and effort to save a woman intent on hurting herself, and for putting herself at risk, Emilie Stevens is awarded the Vancouver Police Board’s highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.

4. MS. SUSAN CHAMBERS AND MS. CHARLOTTE TARDITS

We may never know what compels someone to jump into action in a crisis while others around them stand by, but a Vancouver woman is alive today thanks to the quick actions of two strangers.

It was May 7, 2017, a warm spring evening at English Bay, when Susan Chambers and Charlotte Tardits noticed a distraught woman enter the water and swim out about 50 metres. They could see she was in distress and her mental health appeared to be deteriorating. The beach was crowded and people began to call 9-1-1.

Susan and Charlotte didn’t hesitate to go into the water after the woman, but helping her back to English Bay Beach was a difficult task – she did not want to be rescued and struggled all the way back to shore. Even while waiting on the beach for police to arrive, the struggle continued, but her rescuers were determined to prevent her from re-entering the water.

When police officers arrived, Charlotte acted as a translator for the rescued woman who did not speak English. An ambulance took her to hospital to receive the help she needed.

For putting their safety at risk to rescue a stranger in need, Susan Chambers and Charlotte Tardits are awarded the Vancouver Police Board’s highest award for civilian bravery, the Award of Merit.
1. CONSTABLES ANN FONTAINE, ALBERT LU, AND GREG PARKES

On April 14, 2015, Vancouver Police were called to the 400 block of Gore Street, for a report of a man randomly stabbing pedestrians. Constables Ann Fontaine, Albert Lu, and Greg Parkes were the first to arrive.

They found an agitated man, armed with a knife, in an area with heavy pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Three people had been stabbed.

Constable Lu used non-lethal beanbag rounds, but they had no effect. Constables Parkes and Fontaine tried to draw the man away from the crowds.

When the attacker grabbed an innocent bystander and began to stab her repeatedly, Constable Parkes fired his weapon.

Constable Fontaine provided first aid to the woman until an ambulance arrived. She suffered life-threatening wounds, but eventually recovered from her physical injuries.

For putting themselves directly in harm’s way and preventing further injury or death to innocent citizens, Constables Ann Fontaine, Albert Lu, and Greg Parkes, are awarded the Chief Constable’s Commendation.

2. CONSTABLE CINDA MICHAEL

One of the most serious incidents a police officer can face is dealing with someone in a heightened emotional state.

Constable Cinda Michael has dedicated herself to one of the most effective methods for dealing with these high-risk situations: crisis negotiations. In her 17 years with the VPD’s Crisis Negotiation Team, she has attended more than 300 critical incidents, and has gained a reputation as one of Canada’s most accomplished crisis negotiators. She is sought by police agencies from around the world for advice on techniques and to teach the art of negotiation.

Constable Michael has been instrumental in developing the VPD’s Crisis Negotiator Program, and has taught and developed courses at the Canadian Police College. She has been invited to attend the FBI National Negotiator course in Quantico, Virginia, and the UK National Negotiator course in England, and has spoken at conferences across North America.

Constable Michael has also helped develop and teach workshops to psychologists and psychiatrists who provide consultative advice to law enforcement – some as far away as Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates.

For educating hundreds of officers, negotiators, and medical practitioners in life-saving techniques, and making a difference in how police agencies around the world manage difficult and volatile situations, Constable Cinda Michael is awarded the Chief Constable’s Commendation.

3. SERGEANT MICHELLE TORVIK

Many police officers will tell you that the most difficult cases they investigate are those involving harm to children.

When Sergeant Michelle Torvik was working as a constable in the Sex Crimes Unit, she was assigned a historical case of child abuse. The investigation was particularly challenging, as the victims were dealing with blocked and faded memories of crimes that had taken place more than a decade earlier.

Sergeant Torvik rigorously pursued the case, which resulted in a guilty plea from the offender. Her commitment and dedication to finding justice for these...
young victims was exceptional, as she was receiving ongoing and aggressive treatment for an advanced and life-threatening cancer at the time.

For completing a sensitive and disturbing investigation diligently and successfully, despite facing a debilitating health crisis, Sergeant Michelle Torvik is awarded the Chief Constable’s Commendation.

4. DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ALEXANDER CHARLES

People become police officers for many different reasons, but a common factor seems to be the desire to make a difference in the world or even to a single person.

When Detective Constable Alexander Charles joined the Gang Crime Unit in March of 2014, he launched an anti-gang initiative aimed at helping at-risk youth. He strongly believed that sport, combined with mentoring, could deter vulnerable youth away from a life of crime.

Detective Constable Charles used his contacts and experience as a former UBC Thunderbird and BC Lions football player to form Gang Tackle. The goal was to show students the consequences of poor choices, and to build bridges with kids who rarely talked to police or participated in school activities.

Gang Tackle, with support from the Vancouver Police Foundation, brought together professional athletes, UBC Thunderbird alumni, and police officers to play flag football with teens selected by VPD School Liaison officers. Following the games, the athletes gave strategic talks, and former gang members discussed the myths and realities of gang life.

More than 200 kids have taken part since Gang Tackle began, and many have made positive changes to their lives. One participant went from a life of crime and drugs to successfully obtaining a university scholarship.

For devoting countless hours, on and off duty, to his community, and making a difference in the lives of at-risk youth, Detective Constable Alexander Charles is awarded the Chief Constable’s Commendation.

5. INSPECTOR COLLEEN YEE AND DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ALICE YEE

The primary responsibility of police officers is to protect the citizens they serve, and two of the VPD’s finest have taken that responsibility to a new level.

The Women’s Personal Safety Team began in 2012 following the Women’s Safety Fair, where five police officers gave an interactive presentation aimed at empowering women by teaching them techniques to increase their personal safety.

Requests for more demonstrations started coming in, and Inspector Colleen Yee and Detective Constable Alice Yee stepped up to coordinate a newly created VPD Women’s Personal Safety Team. They obtained funding from the Vancouver Police Foundation for much-needed safety equipment and demonstration tools, and established a qualification process for potential team members.

The team grew to include 30 officers in 2016 – all who volunteer their time with no financial compensation. Since that first demonstration in 2012, team members have presented over 60 workshops to approximately 2,000 women.

For proactively building collaborative relationships with diverse members of the community, and providing women with the skills and confidence they need to feel safer, Inspector Colleen Yee and Detective Constable Alice Yee are awarded the Chief Constable’s Commendation.
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE ALEXANDER CHARLES
CONSTABLES GARETT MACDONALD AND EMMA HYDE
6. CONSTABLES EMMA HYDE AND GARETT MACDONALD

Police officers are exposed to a lot of disturbing things throughout their careers, and many of them carry the scars. It’s the wounds you cannot see that are often the most serious, and awareness of the need for mental health resources for first responders has been growing.

Constables Emma Hyde and Garett MacDonald are two of the VPD’s champions for employee mental health. As the coordinators of the VPD Peer Support Unit, which began in November 2015, they are dedicated to ensuring the mental well-being of all Vancouver Police members.

The duo teach courses on recognizing signs for concern, not only in oneself, but in others, and they offer tools, resources, and support. In 2016, they managed the VPD’s Critical Incident Stress Management Team’s involvement in 31 incidents, in which officers receive support from their specially trained peers following critical incidents.

Their reach has extended beyond the VPD, to police recruits at the Justice Institute of B.C. and other first responder agencies. They have offered support to more than 2,000 people – 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For having a profound impact on the mental wellness of VPD staff and their families, breaking down the stigma of mental illness, and helping all wounds heal, Constables Emma Hyde and Garett MacDonald are awarded the Chief Constable’s Commendation.

7. DR. RANDY MACKOFF

For almost 20 years, Dr. Randy Mackoff has been taking care of the mental well-being of the men and women of the VPD. His deep cultural insight into the policing world, combined with genuine care, has had a positive effect on the lives of many. He is steadfastly available to all staff during times of personal or professional crisis.

Dr. Mackoff is an integral part of the Critical Incident Stress Management process and the VPD Peer Support Unit. He trains police officers to help their fellow officers in times of need. Every year he interviews all members working in units designated as ‘high stress’ to ensure they are coping well.

Dr. Mackoff has guided the response and best practices for officers dealing with critical incidents. He played an integral role in developing the VPD’s Crisis Negotiation Team, and trains all the negotiators who are called on daily in serious incidents. He has assisted at hundreds of critical incidents, day or night, and often attends a scene in person when needed.

For playing a vital role in supporting the mental health and welfare of members of the VPD, and training police officers to use the safest, most effective methods in critical incidents, Dr. Randy Mackoff is awarded the Chief Constable’s Commendation.
CHIEF CONSTABLE’S CITATION

CRIME ANALYST CYNTHIA BROWNE, DETECTIVE CONSTABLES GEORGE SPECHT, SEAN WARD, AND RYAN JEFFREY
1. SERGEANT RICK TAYLOR, DETECTIVE CONSTABLES RYAN JEFFREY, FRANCISCO MIGUEL, JASON RUZYCKI, GEORGE SPECHT, SEAN WARD, CONSTABLE RYAN STAFFORD, AND CRIME ANALYST CYNTHIA BROWNE

In September 2016, the VPD Identity Theft Unit launched an investigation into a group of criminals believed responsible for residential break-ins and identity fraud in excess of $100,000. Their crimes involved the theft of mail, identity documents, and credit card data.

Thirty people were identified as suspects in defrauding major banks and credit card companies, retail companies, local casinos, and cab companies. The crimes were committed across the region, and investigators worked closely with the RCMP, Calgary Police, Edmonton Police, Canada Border Services Agency, the Canadian Banker’s Association, and Crown Counsel.

Eighteen people were arrested, including two in Alberta, and the Unit recommended 225 charges against them. They all pleaded guilty.

For disrupting and dismantling the criminal operations of an organized crime group, bringing justice to victims, and saving future victims significant losses, the following members of the Vancouver Police Identity Theft Unit are awarded the Chief Constable’s Citation: Sergeant Rick Taylor, Detective Constables Ryan Jeffrey, Francisco Miguel, Jason Ruzycki, George Specht, Sean Ward, Constable Ryan Stafford, and Crime Analyst Cynthia Browne.

2. DETECTIVE CONSTABLES DOUG FELL, ALEN IVEZIC, AND KIRK MILES

Throughout their careers, police officers encounter criminals who prey on the most vulnerable in our society – people at an economic disadvantage, with addiction issues, or living with mental illness.

As part of the VPD’s Anti-Fencing Unit, Detective Constables Doug Fell, Alen Ivezic, and Kirk Miles regularly investigated “predatory” fences dealing stolen property – a term they developed to define the exploitation of the vulnerable people these well-insulated fences compelled to steal.

Over four years, the officers developed and implemented innovative and effective crime prevention programs and through proactive investigations into the fencing operations, they worked to hold these fences accountable for their crimes. They worked alongside Crown Counsel, the City of Vancouver business licencing office, and retailers and their loss prevention officers.

Their sustained efforts resulted in an unprecedented number of successful investigations. Criminal charges were laid, business licences were revoked, and property was seized. The consequences for the predators were not just through the courts: more than $5.8 million in assets were referred for civil forfeiture.

For demonstrating exceptional skill, judgement, and dedication, ensuring vulnerable people received protection and bringing criminals to justice, Detective Constables Doug Fell, Alen Ivezic, and Kirk Miles are awarded the Chief Constable’s Citation.
It was a Monday morning in mid-July 2016, when a group of officers came together to stop a man intent on jumping off the Lions Gate Bridge.

When the first officers arrived at the bridge, they found the man outside of the railing, facing outwards, and holding on with his hands behind him. They tried to coax him to safety, as negotiators rushed to the scene. Heavy traffic on the bridge, including pedestrians and cyclists, and strong wind, made it challenging to communicate.

While the negotiators worked with the distraught man, other officers devised a rescue plan that would ensure everyone’s safety.

As the man let go of the railing and moved his feet closer to the edge, the team was ready. They quickly moved forward to grab onto him, each officer assigned a different part of his body to hold on to. A chaotic scene ensued, as the members fought to hold on and the determined man fought to let go. One of the officers went over the railing using his safety equipment, and together they were all able to secure the man to the bridge and pull him to safety.
For coming to the rescue of a distraught man intent on ending his life, and risking their own personal safety in a dangerous situation, the following members are awarded the Chief Constable’s Citation: Sergeants Jim Kenney and Eric Lott, Constables Steve Addison, Jennifer Antonel, Scott Brown, Kyle Chapman, Peter Da Silva, Jason Howell, Eric Jordan, Jay Lawrence, Matthew Oliver, Courtney Park, Bryan Spencer, and David Steverding.
4. SERGEANT PETER SADLER, CONSTABLES MARK BAIRD, LORNA BERNDSEN, SHERMAN CHOW, JORDAN GINTHER, SPENCER GREEN, BETHANY JERVIS, THOMAS LINT, BRYAN MCINNES, CONRAD NEMETH, ANDREW PENNER, BYRON TAGUIAM, JANINE TANINO, JASON TREMBLAY, AND BRYAN WATSON

Using surveillance, undercover officers, informants, and other investigative techniques, the officers successfully completed 13 complex projects in 14 months.

Forty-two search warrants of businesses, homes, and storage lockers revealed prohibited and restricted weapons, large amounts of cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, and crystal methamphetamine, over $235,000 in cash, and much more. The investigation also resulted in civil forfeiture proceedings for property worth more than $3 million.

It is all the more remarkable that these projects were carried out in addition to the officers’ regular day-to-day patrol duties.

Dedication is a common trait for the police officers in our city, and when a group of them come together with a common goal, they can accomplish extraordinary things.

Starting in June 2016, the members of District Two, Team Seven, patrolling Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, began to create projects targeting drug trafficking, problem premises, and chronic offenders.
For their hard work and initiative in fighting crime, and removing drugs and dangerous weapons from our streets, the following members of District Two, Team Seven are awarded the Chief Constable’s Citation: Sergeant Peter Sadler, Constables Mark Baird, Lorna Berndsen, Sherman Chow, Jordan Ginther, Spencer Green, Bethany Jervis, Thomas Lint, Bryan McInnes, Conrad Nemeth, Andrew Penner, Byron Taguiam, Janine Tanino, Jason Tremblay, and Bryan Watson.
SERGEANT PETER SADLER
ONE OF THE SIGNS of an exceptional police officer is their dedication to sharing a career’s worth of knowledge with those who serve under their command.

Sergeant Peter Sadler joined the Vancouver Police Department in April 1982. He worked in a variety of operational and investigative sections throughout the VPD, and was promoted to sergeant in 2009. After stints patrolling the downtown area of Vancouver and then in the Drug Unit, he moved on to lead a team of officers policing the Downtown Eastside in 2014.

In the following three years, Sergeant Sadler initiated or supervised 27 projects in the area, resulting in large seizures of drugs and firearms – all in addition to handling the day-to-day policing operations for the busiest district of the city.

His success was made possible by the committed officers he led. He mentored them in everything – from writing warrants to developing skills as lead investigators, to handling sources and writing operational plans. The coaching he provided helped several members of his team move on to other key investigative positions in the Department.

Sergeant Sadler has recently concentrated almost exclusively on fentanyl trafficking, and his co-workers will tell you there is no one sergeant in the VPD more driven to tackle this overwhelming crisis in Vancouver. He is a leader in dealing with mid- and street-level drug dealers, and several investigations have led to multiple firearm seizures. This work has had a considerable effect on decreasing violence in the Downtown Eastside, and helps with the civil forfeiture of residences, vehicles and valuable property.

After 35 years of service, Sergeant Peter Sadler still approaches his work with the eagerness of a new recruit. For his enthusiasm and dedication to police work, and his leadership and commitment to developing the skills of police officers under his command, Sergeant Peter Sadler is the 2017 Police Officer of the Year.
THERE ARE MANY DEDICATED CIVILIANS working behind the scenes in police departments who are having a tremendous impact on public safety. The Vancouver Police Department is very fortunate to have many, one of whom is the VPD’s 2017 Civilian of the Year.

Jimmy Nham, a 16-year member of the VPD, began in the Information Management Section, where he gained an extraordinary knowledge of the police database and the records management system. He was quickly promoted to a Training and Administrative Assistant, and began training sworn and civilian members on the databases.

When he came to Youth Services in February of 2013 as a crime analyst and program administrator for the Mental Health Unit, he created new data collection techniques. As a natural problem-solver, he became the go-to person for system design and data retrieval. His knowledge of information technology, computer programming languages and systems, psychology, statistical analysis, and police databases is immeasurable.

Jimmy developed an early warning system to allow the Mental Health Unit staff to proactively identify the people living with mental health issues who are most at-risk to cause harm to themselves or others, which is an important tool for the VPD’s Assertive Outreach and Assertive Community Treatment teams.

He created a template to capture the number of patrol calls with a mental health component—critical information when determining resources and responses for both police and community health partners, which led to the VPD receiving a North American award for Public Safety Innovation. This simple but powerful tool has been adopted by the RCMP and other BC police agencies.

The programs, systems, and initiatives that Jimmy has created are the envy of police and public sector agencies, as well as academia, from as far away as Australia, and he is frequently consulted by outside agencies for his technical expertise.

Jimmy is a life-long learner, and relentless in his pursuit of knowledge. He is well-respected by his co-workers, who say he is reserved, thoughtful, sincere, and humble—and if there is a way to automate a process, Jimmy will find it. Jimmy also finds time to volunteer with the VPD Cadet Program.

For accurately capturing and analyzing data, having a significant impact on mental health services in Vancouver, maintaining the VPD’s status as a leader in police response to people living with a mental illness, Jimmy Nham is the Vancouver Police Department’s 2017 Civilian of the Year.