

Hastings North Community Policing Bulletin

Brought to you by your Hastings North Community Policing Centre

Fall/Winter 2004

New neighbourhood officer makes rounds

BY RACHEL GARRICK

Our new Neighbourhood Police Officer (NPO) already loves being here. Mike Linde joins the Hastings North Community Policing Centre (HNCPC) after 14 years of patrol service with the Vancouver Police Department. After being offered the position left behind by Tony Sartori, who was forced to retire from active duty earlier this year, Linde decided to take the plunge into community policing because of its proactive stance.

"This was a good position where I could tackle bigger issues," said Linde, who explained that being on patrol is sometimes like running from one fire to another without ever really putting out the blaze. "Here I can put the effort into something and eliminate the problem at its root cause."

Linde has been interested in police work long before he joined the force – his father served in the VPD for 33 and a half years. "He worked patrol right up until retirement," said Linde. A family man himself, being married with two children (a boy and girl), Linde also enjoys the more flexible hours and community connections that come with being an NPO. He recently dropped in at Hastings Elementary School and met some of the local kids there. "I've dropped in to the elementary school, and said 'hi' to the principal, introduced myself and got to talk to some of the kids there, too, which is something you don't



Photo: Rachel Garrick

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Mike Linde, our new NPO, gets acquainted with Marcel at Pandora Park's community health fair during the last month of summer.

get to do when you're on patrol because you're just far too swamped with other issues," said Linde. "It's nice to get that positive encounter when they're young and enthusiastic about the police," he said, wryly observing that people don't always like police officers as much once they start to drive.

As our new NPO, Linde plans to work on things such as personal safety talks with senior citizens and assisting block watch teams, residents and business owners with their security issues. "In this position I have a better opportunity to address these

proactive programs," said Linde.

"I like the fact that I'm actually getting to know the community," said Linde. Although he has only been with us a month, he has already gotten to know a number of people in the community as well as many CPC volunteers. "It's a positive experience," said Linde. "Good for the soul." HNCPC co-ordinator Clair MacGougan feels good about having Linde on board, too. "Mike's a perfect fit for community policing," said MacGougan, "We're very excited to have him with us."

Community Partners Group set to study soliciting

BY JOAN FLETCHER

The Vancouver Agreement, a joint agreement between the federal, provincial and municipal governments to fund the revitalization of Vancouver's downtown eastside, has approved funds for community organizations to begin research into the problem of street prostitution in our neighbourhoods. This summer, a coalition of community organizations known as the Community Partners

Group, which includes community policing centres and business improvement associations such as Hastings North, Collingwood and Strathcona, had funds approved to begin researching solutions to Vancouver's prostitution problem. The Community Partners Group was formed after residents from Hastings Sunrise, the Hastings North CPC and the Hastings North BIA invited community organizations from other neighbourhoods that had experienced problems with street prostitution

to discuss a sustainable, humane solution. Since the discriminatory vagrancy law was repealed from the Criminal Code in 1972, communities across the country, ours among them, have struggled with the issue of street prostitution. The vagrancy law, which stated that a woman had to be able to account for her presence on the street or risk prosecution as a 'common' prostitute, had little merit. However, the lack of any alternate system for

story continues page 3...

Volunteer Focus: Tim Bartel



Photo: Brenda Penton

POWER PATROLLER

Tim Bartel has been helping seniors to organize their own community safety patrols.

BY BRENDA PENTON

Two years ago, Tim Bartel noticed our CPC office when he was working in the neighbourhood at a group home for adults with developmental disabilities. He had considered a career in policing and became a volunteer to see what community policing was all about. Although the idea of working

as a police officer is no longer in his plans, Tim is still very actively involved in several volunteer programs at the HNCPC.

Tim is a founding member of the Bike Patrol, a group, which together with the Foot Patrol, has around 40 active volunteers. These patrols are in the community at 4 different times every week. His time with the Bike Patrol has led Tim to be one of the trainers of new patrol volunteers. In addition, Tim also repairs and maintains all of the bike patrol's bicycles.

Tim commits 3 hours of his time every week to the CPC and this commitment has recently been expanded to include community outreach, another important goal of our CPC. Tim has also been assisting Beulah Gardens' Residents Association to start their own community patrols, working with CPC staff and our NPO. Beulah Gardens is a group of several seniors apartment buildings east of Rupert and south of 1st. Their Resident's Council approached the CPC last spring to find out how we could assist them in starting their own patrols. Through sev-

eral initiatives, Tim has developed a relationship between the CPC and residents and a successful partnership has been achieved.

"He's a really reliable volunteer," said HNCPC co-ordinator, Clair MacGougan, who appreciates Tim's commitment to the CPC. "If he says he's going to do something, he'll do it."

"We are very fortunate to have him."

Up and Coming ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

* ANNUAL RAFFLE

Buy your ticket for our annual raffle, draw date December 11. Prizes this year include a trip to the Fairmont Chateau Whistler, dinner at the award winning Cannery restaurant, and a \$500 VanCity term deposit. Tickets are \$3 each and are available at the CPC, Rio Friendly Meats and the Laughing Bean.

* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM will be held at St. James Cottage Hospice on November 24, 2004, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Deputy Police Chief Bob Rich will be our guest speaker.

* GRAFFITI PAINTOUTS AND COMMUNITY CLEANUPS

Join your neighbours at the CPC between 10 am and noon Nov. 6th, Nov. 20th and Dec. 4th for a community litter cleanup event. Also, come help out at our next graffiti paint out Nov. 27th from 10 am to 2 pm.

* YOU BETTER WATCH OUT

Bring your kids out to greet Santa, who will be visiting the Hastings strip between Renfrew and Commercial on Sat., Dec. 11 from 11 am to 3 pm.

Safety Tips on the Street

Walk with confidence and purpose. Be alert to your surroundings.

Plan your route. Avoid isolated or empty areas.

If you feel threatened, go to the nearest group of people. Call the police.

Don't overburden yourself with heavy or awkward packages.

Don't display cash in public. Carry your keys separately from your money and identification.

Carry a cellular phone. Make sure that the battery is charged.

Don't discuss your personal affairs, schedules, apartment location etc. in public places.

8 Ways To Help Us

1. **Join up:** become a member.
2. **Stay on top** of what's being done to ensure Hastings Sunrise is a safe community.
3. **Talk** to others about crime prevention.
4. **Support** our fundraising events or offer a donation.
5. **Tell us** what safety and crime prevention topics you would like covered in the newsletter.
6. **Volunteer** and participate in community policing programs and projects.
7. **Report all crime**, including suspicious activity, to the police department and the CPC.
8. **Keep your neighbourhood clean:** pick up litter, report large items of garbage found on public property to the city, report graffiti to the CPC.

President's Farewell Message



Photo: Nancy Bell

HNCPC's growth continues as centre responds to over 500 local safety complaints in 2004

BY FAYE WHITE

The Hastings North CPC is completing another successful year of operations which will culminate at our Annual General Meeting on November 24, 2004. We want to invite everyone in the community to attend the meeting. This is your CPC and we need your input to ensure we are moving in the right direction.

This has been our most successful year of operation to date. With the continual growth of our volunteer base, now 80 strong and their contributions which will exceed 7000 hours this year! We continue to enjoy a

strong reputation within the community and our funding sources. I credit this to the firm commitment of the board, staff and volunteers to building strong working relationships within the community and with our partners.

All of our programs have achieved or exceeded the goals we set for this year. The Provincial Gaming Funds we received for the first time this year have enabled us to strengthen and expand our Outreach and Community Clean up Programs. One of our most successful outreach events was the annual Street Hockey and Safety Fair which we co-sponsored with the Hastings North BIA. Approximately 500 people attended supported by 83 CPC and community volunteers and loads of fun was had by young and old alike. Over the year our Community Clean-up program volunteers have painted 140 graffiti sites and collected 247 bags of garbage, which goes along way towards keeping Hastings Sunrise beautiful. The Speed Watch Program is well established and is making a difference. Our Business Safety Program continues to develop and has provided some very practical support to our local businesses such as counterfeit money alerts. The bike, foot and pooch patrols have also been busy as demonstrated by the fact that they have checked over 19,000 cars resulting in 218 abandoned or stolen vehicles being reported. Last but not least our offices have received over 500 complaints this year which we have forwarded to our Neighbourhood Police Officers for follow-up.

We have been well supported in our efforts over the year by three different Neighbourhood Police Officers, Toni Sartori, Randy Inouye and most recently Mike Linde. Each of these constables have been dedicated to our community and doing their utmost to work with the community and the Vancouver

Police Department to address our crime and safety issues.

The HNCPC is optimistic that we may have an increase in our funding in the next year as a result of the recent Provincial announcement that traffic fine revenues will be returned to BC municipalities to support community policing. Stay tuned for further information on this.

I will be completing my term on the HNCPC board as of the AGM. I have been proud to be involved with the CPC and want to thank all of you for your contributions and support. Community Policing is an essential part of what is needed to keep our community safe and healthy. I want to encourage all of you to get involved in the CPC to keep it a vital part of the community. You can make a difference!

Over the year we have painted 140 graffiti sites and collected 247 bags of garbage...

Funding granted to Group after long wait

story from page 1...

dealing with street prostitution in Canada has created an unfortunate pattern whereby certain areas become known as places to encounter prostitutes, residents mobilize to drive away the clients away, and then the phenomenon subsides in that area only to emerge in another. After making a circuit of neighbourhoods until resistance in each one became prohibitive, the sex trade eventually returns to the locations where vigilance has been relaxed. The Community Partners Group is seeking a city-wide focus that will not pit neighbourhoods against each other.

Now that funding for research has been approved, the next steps will be to widen the membership of the steering committee and to hire an individual or firm to undertake the research. The research will likely be modeled on Don MacPherson's inquiries regarding the drug trade. MacPherson contributed to the development of the four pillars approach currently being implemented in the Downtown Eastside. Stay tuned for more information during the upcoming community consultation process.

Fundraising team winds up for raffle

BY KEN BUHAY

Our fund raising committee members have come up with some novel ideas that should help us reach some of our financial goals this year. A big thanks goes out to everyone who is supporting and working on these projects.

All total, our spring flowerbulb sale, community yard sale and volunteer bowling event raised a combined \$2600. Proceeds from these events will go directly towards funding and operating new and ongoing community safety programs.

Our annual raffle is now underway and thanks to the valiant efforts of our fund raising committee, this year's selection of prizes is truly outstanding, and the odds of winning better than any provincial lottery. Who knows? You could be: off on a glorious, luxurious two day escape at the **Fairmont Chateau Whistler**, with two days of skiing and dinner at the superb Rimrock Café; sitting on a \$500 **VanCity** term deposit nest egg; enjoying a relaxing two



Photo: Clair MacGougan

DRIVING A HARD BARGAIN

The fundraising team and friends preside over our debut yard sale: (From left) Pauline, Cindy, Brenda, Joan, Lily, Elaine and Rita. Thanks to all who donated items or volunteered their time for this event.

day break at the **Holiday Inn Express** or a fabulous dinner at **The Cannery**. You could also be sporting a lovely Tiffany Silver Bracelet or munching on the delights of the **Moka and More Tapas Café** and Catering, located just behind our Hastings office, or perhaps staying home with a set of books from the **Gourmet Warehouse**. A big thanks to all of our generous donors. The raffle

draw date is December 11, and if you purchase a ticket, one or some of these fabulous prizes could be yours just in time for Christmas. Tickets are \$3 each and are available at our office, **Rio Friendly Meats** and **The Laughing Bean** and at our info table at VanCity and TD Bank on Saturdays over the next month. We thank you in advance for your support.

Tuesday is Seniors Day at the BIA/HNCPC office

BY KEN BUHAY

Every Tuesday the BIA/HNCPC office is home to the Seniors Drop In Centre sponsored by Kiwassa Neighbourhood House. This project's staff have been specially trained to assist seniors and other members of the community with information and referral services. Come by between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm and introduce yourself to Mary, who is

well informed on issues of interest to seniors in our community. Senior safety advice and information is always available from the CPC.

Don't forget to enquire about Kiwassa Senior's Adopt a Teddy program. This program, with the assistance with the Rotary Club, delivers hand-made teddys to underprivileged and specially challenged children around the world.

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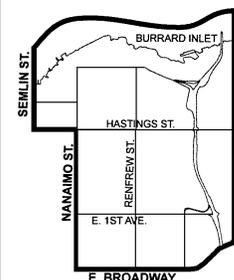
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