

Hastings Sunrise



Spring - Summer 2009

COMMUNITY POLICING BULLETIN

A COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER A COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER

the Sunrise Patrol Team

► Chester Grant

On foot with the Sunrise Patrol Team one sunny spring afternoon:

Patroller Tommy Luong pauses outside a Hastings strip doorway where a street person is holed up in the alcove. With his back to the scene, he pulls out his notebook and makes notes while appearing to study the building across the street. No confrontation, no invasion of privacy.

A few blocks later, walking through the Light Industrial Area just east of Commercial, a slim woman in blue jeans and short jacket catches up to Jason Wong and walks alongside. A street prostitute, she tells him she's always glad to see the patrol. She feels safer when they're around. No judgment, no disrespect.

Jason and Tommy slow down in the 2000 block East Hastings, scanning the bushes bordering a strip mall. "This is the biggest area for finding needles," says Jason. "A lot of people use the pay phone here for drug deals." They carry sharps containers and

Adds Jason: "Then when we have to talk with them, there's no tension. Everything's on a friendly basis."

The Sunrise Patrol came into being last year when BIAs across Vancouver were being encouraged see **Sunrise Patrol, P.3**



Photos by Chester Grant



Tommy Luong and Jason Wong on bike and foot patrols, along Penticton and Hastings Streets.

Jasper Tam (centre) and Jason Wong deliver safety information to Miko Shimizu, clerk at Fresh Bean Coffee Shop.



gloves, so they can safely remove any needles they find.

Patrollers act quickly to remove used needles from public places. But in most other situations they choose interaction over action, observation over confrontation.

For example, rather than trying to move street people along, the Sunrise patrollers focus on being eyes, ears and helping hands.

It's an attitude that's at the core of the Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre, which oversees the new Sunrise Patrol Team under contract to the Hastings North Business Improvement Association.

Tommy says of street people: "We don't hassle them, we don't ask questions other than 'How are you?'"

Police Ask Public to Sniff Out Olympic Terrorists

► Gerry Deagle

With the Winter Olympics fast approaching, Vancouver Police Department is appealing to the public for help in nabbing terrorist suspects before they carry out any potential attacks.

Volunteers from Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre are being given special training to familiarize them with these new threats

Det. Cst. Tod Catchpole is the coordinator for Operation SECURUS, VPD's terrorist awareness program. Although there are no clear indications that there are any plans in the works, Catchpole believes that a proactive approach is simply a way of staying one step ahead of any threats. He says that although it's possible that terrorists may already be scouting for materials to make bombs or other harmful devices, "the bottom line is that

we want the public to be informed and educated about the potential threats to our safety." Catchpole and his partner Shay Boyko have identified almost 350 Vancouver businesses where potential terrorists could acquire equipment and supplies, ranging from beauty supply firms that stock peroxide to bulk fuel carriers, outdoor equipment supply and even truck rental companies. Operation SECURUS is asking that its program partners watch for indicators of suspicious transactions and activities relevant to their business environment and report their concerns to SECURUS.

A total of 168 people died in Oklahoma City after Timothy McVeigh rented a 5-ton truck, packed it with fertilizer and diesel fuel and detonated it in front of a federal building.

see **Police ask public, P.2**

Old Friends always Welcome...

► Ron Coldham

Photo: supplied by HSCPC



Welcome again past and present NPO Cst. Randy Inouye with Joe Wood and Cst. Holly Christie.

When asked to name his favourite TV cop while growing up, Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre's newest Neighbourhood Police Officer (NPO), Cst. Randy Inouye, delivered an answer that was both surprising and reassuring: Barney Miller.

The 18 year VPD veteran's answer was surprising in that we so often assume officers will attribute their small screen vocational inspiration to some bigger-than-life super cop such as the trigger-happy Sgt. Rick Hunter, the quirky but big-brained Lieutenant Columbo, or even the tanned and toupeed T.J. Hooker.

Subsequently, Cst. Inouye's answer might be considered reassuring inasmuch that Hal Linden's portrayal of the NYPD's Captain Miller also gave us a wise, level-headed officer who tackled every problem with as much a sense of humour as a sense of community.

One could surely surmise that it was this same sense of community that likely inspired Cst. Inouye to pursue NPO duties in the first place. "The NPO has the opportunity to take the time to meet and build a rapport with the different members of the community, to proactively assist with addressing their concerns and issues," explains Cst. Inouye.

Having worked as an NPO over the past four years in neighbouring districts, Cst. Inouye knows very well the effectiveness his role can have. "As an NPO I am not restricted to always responding to the calls for service on the dispatch call board. I have more opportunity to work on addressing the actual cause of the problems, which eliminates the symptoms of the consistent need for police service in an area."

And it would appear Cst. Inouye is primed to bring his experience and sense of community to help make the HSCPC even better.

"The Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre is an essential bridge between the police and the community. The success of the HSCPC," continues Cst. Inouye, "is the direct result of the passion, energy and commitment of the staff and the volunteers to make the community safe. Its success is also reflected by the impressive abilities of the volunteers to engage and empower the residents and merchants in the area to take ownership in the community."

Well said, Cst. Inouye. (And all without the advantage of scriptwriters.)

Sure, Barney Miller would have made a fine NPO. But when it comes to Cst. Inouye, there's no Hollywood magic needed. We've got the real thing.

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to sign up with the private security firm that operates the Ambassadors program for the Downtown BIA.

Merchants on the Hastings strip balked at having outside security guards patrol their area. Instead, they turned to the Hastings Sunrise CPC, which has been operating foot and bike patrols by trained volunteers for many years.

Three experienced volunteer patrollers – Jason, Tommy and Jasper Tam – were hired on a part-time basis to work with coordinator Karine Lavoie.

While the volunteers try to cover all of Hastings Sunrise, the Sunrise Patrol Team concentrates on the business strip and the Light Industrial Area. It also interacts more with people, following up on complaints and encouraging businesses to report all crimes and disorderly situations.

"So many people don't report things like broken windows," says Jason. "If they do, it becomes a statistic. It shows up on VPD crime maps. If a district shows more hot spots, it gets more police attention."

They visit businesses to educate them on crime prevention and detection. They look for suspicious or abandoned vehicles, illegal dumping, graffiti, problem premises and homeless people needing help.

"We're really happy with the program," says Patricia Barnes, the BIA's executive director. "The businesses like it that the guys are out there being eyes and ears. It really helps that they can speak to them in Cantonese and Mandarin too. We like the way it's going – we'd love to do more."

The BIA is paying for the patrol from its reserves, after the new city council pulled the funding that had been offered by its predecessor.

Like many CPC volunteers, some Sunrise Patrollers aspire to policing careers. As we spoke, Jason was awaiting a call from the RCMP. Tommy had applied to be a jail guard. Jasper, a UBC engineering student, had been a CPC volunteer for six years before signing on to the Sunrise Patrol as an alternate.

Their favourite moment so far? Helping a woman find her runaway child, says Jason.

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Mental Health Relocation Update

You can find updates about the new Northeast Community Mental Health Office at 2750 East Hastings Street. You can view the updates online at:

http://www.vch.ca/nemhs/docs/may2009update_NECMH.pdf

Note: Shoppers Drug Mart will be moving in on the ground floor at this location.

Become a HSCPC member for \$10. at 2620 E. Hastings St. Thank you for your membership!

Volunteer Profile: Gerry Deagle

► Chester Grant

Photo: Chester Grant



(l-r)
Kashif Chaudhry
Christian Richter
Gerry Deagle
William Dai
Gabiella Moro

Gerry and group preparing to start out on a patrol of the Hastings Street business area.

They say volunteering makes you happier and healthier. If so, Gerry Deagle should expect a robust and light-hearted retirement.

It should be a safer one, too, for both Gerry and the community: his passion for participation since he joined the Hastings Sunrise CPC four years ago has extended to many areas of public safety.

A former journalist at the CBC and The Vancouver Sun, he volunteers at the CPC for 30 to 40 hours a month.

He was key in upgrading the street-front office. He authored and contributed to volunteer manuals. He has participated in Speed Watch and Citizens' Patrols, and is now a patrol shift leader.

"He's an idea guy," says Program Leader Dave Ao. "He's played a big, big role in the CPC."

"He's the ideal patroller," says Administrator Karine Lavoie. "He's so outgoing and approachable. And he recruits lots of volunteers too."

Gerry doesn't like to talk about his contributions – but others are not so reluctant. "It's amazing that he has had such an impact on so many organizations," says Karine. He's a Block Watch captain, a Citizens' Crime Watch volunteer, he is involved in the VPD's Bait Car program and he drives cancer patients to appointments one day a week.

And he's an accomplished trumpeter who got his start with the Kitsilano Boys Band in the early 50s. Catch him at local clubs, or at Theatre Under the Stars at Malkin Bowl this summer. It's the only time you'll find Gerry tooting his own horn

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