

VPD Marine Unit: the Beat With a View



VPD constables Tammy Hammell and Jamie Gibson, flanked by HSCPC volunteers Selina Byer and Chester Grant



Cst. Hammell wheels the R.G. McBeath into freighter-dotted English Bay

For Vancouver Police constable Jamie Gibson and a very few fellow officers, patrolling the beat means:

- Mountain and ocean views
- Fresh air
- No traffic jams
- And – the downside – no immediate backup if they run into trouble.

They are members of the VPD's Marine Unit, a tiny squad with the huge mandate of patrolling nearly 100 miles of Vancouver waterfront, including the north boundary of Hastings Sunrise. As volunteers with the Hastings Sunrise Community Policing

Centre, aspiring policewoman Selina Byer and I had the opportunity to ride along with the Marine Unit one sunny day last summer.

We got a glimpse of community policing in a setting where more aggressive forms of enforcement would be impractical. The unit deals with situations in three stages, said Cst. Gibson.

First, **presence**. That means showing up wherever an unsafe situation might arise, asking questions, taking an interest.

Then, **education**. Too many people take to the water without adequate knowledge, equipment or training. Marine unit members are on constant lookout for people endangering themselves or others. They also conduct safe boating seminars, focussing on Marine Watch, property identification and crime prevention.

The last resort, **enforcement**, happens only when there is no alternative but to act. On land, police can quickly call in

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Working together for a safe community

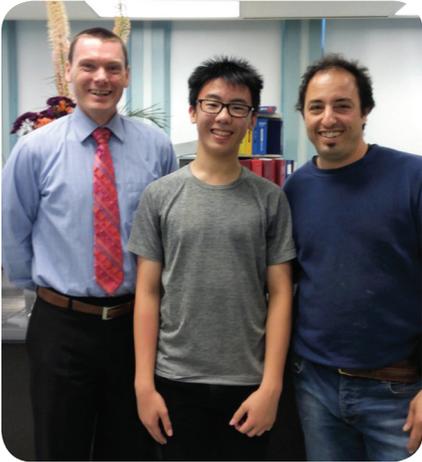
The Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre works in partnership with the Vancouver Police Department



Other Partners:



Follow the Money: Lost Cash Returned to Owner



Templeton Principal Aaron Davis,
Johnny Yang and John Mouzakis
(l. to r.)

A lot of good things happened after shoemaker John Mouzakis lost a wad of cash at Nanaimo and Hastings en route to his nearby bank.

First, the bills were spotted swirling in the breeze kicked up from a passing bus by Templeton student Johnny Yang and two friends as they headed to one of the street's sushi restaurants for lunch.

Then, the young teens checked nearby banks to see if anyone had just withdrawn the amount -- \$300.

After striking out there, the trio turned the cash in to the Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre, whose volunteers and staff love reuniting lost items with their owners.

It was a significant loss for Mr. Mouzakis, who has dual citizenships and has been shuttling between his job at Dayton Boots and his family home in Greece every seven months.

Hi Clair,

My name is John Mouzakis and I'd like to thank you for the wonderful work you do.

Today I felt lucky not only because I found eventually my money but also because I ascertained that there still are good people and especially good kids. The same thing I always try to teach my own children to do like Johnny Yang did. Keep doing the good work; keep helping people.

*Best
John Mouzakis*

"I left work that day with my pay cheque and \$300 in my back pocket," he said. "I went to deposit it – and the money wasn't there."

He retraced his steps, searched everywhere, with no luck ... or so he thought!

But the story of honest Johnny and his pals made page one of the Hastings Sunrise CPC's Spring-Summer

"Bulletin", widely circulated in the area. The dollar amount was kept out of the story, to avoid false claims.

"I was at work one day and someone said he read about some money being turned in to the CPC," said Mr. Mouzakis. "I think, okay, maybe it's mine!"

"So I went in and the guy here asked how much I lost. I said \$300." He was directed to the VPD property office, which holds all found items turned in to the CPC.

"I still can't believe it. I'm a very lucky guy. If it happened in Greece, I'd never find the money!"

Mr. Mouzakis then tracked down Johnny Yang to his classes at Templeton Secondary School, praised him to Principal Aaron Davis, and gave Johnny \$50 as an unsolicited reward.

"I said: Don't lose the money – I'd have to find it and turn it in to the community policing centre!"

Back in Greece, Mr. Mouzakis planned to tell everyone about his financial adventure and the part played by the HSCPC.

"We don't have organizations like that – but we should. I'll take this back with me and speak to people: maybe they hear me!"

■ Chester Grant

Safe Place for LGBTQ

"The world is sometimes a scary place for members of our LGTBQ community. They experience bullying, harassment, and sometimes become victims of crime, targeted for simply being who they are." - vpdsafeplace.com

A rainbow coloured shield, similar to a police badge, has become the image of a new initiative by the Vancouver Police Department.

The aim of the VPD Safe Place program is to allow businesses, organizations and schools to display a rainbow coloured shield, in attempts to increase safety for members of the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer) community by providing a safe haven.

Here they can wait, feel welcomed and out of harm's way until police arrive, when they are a victim of crime or have any concern for their personal safety.

Constable Dale Quiring, a member of the Hate Crime Unit and a LGBTQ Liaison Officer, explained that "the LGBTQ still faces moderate to high levels of crimes from assaults and harassments to threatening behaviour from some individuals in our city."

Safe Place is an initiative created in 2015 by Jim Ritter, a LGBTQ Liaison Officer with the Seattle Police Department. Since then, Safe Place has been widely accepted across the USA.

In July, the VPD and more specifically, Cst. Quiring, brought the program to Vancouver.

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VPD Marine Unit (from page 1)



HSCPC volunteer Selina Byer scans the waters off West Vancouver, with Cst. Hammell at the helm.

The McBeath was our “squad car” when Selina and I joined Cst. Gibson and Cst. Tammy Hammell for a day on water patrol. It was uneventful – they chose not to seek out situations that might escalate into enforcement,

so their civilian passengers would not become part of the action.

Instead they punctuated their patrol of English Bay by pulling in unmarked or poorly marked crab traps, part of their wide-ranging mandate to help out other marine agencies, in this case Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

As we headed out from the unit’s base beside the Main Street overpass, Cst. Hammell swung past Canada Place where the cruise ship Disney Wonder was preparing to embark on its weekly cruise to Alaska.

They sometimes do marine recoveries here, said Cst. Hammell – “picking up basketballs that bounce off the cruise ship decks into the water!”

Other recoveries can be much less whimsical. A previous appointment for our ride-along had been cancelled when the crew had to respond to a person threatening to jump from a bridge, an all-too-common event in Vancouver.

Boat theft is also a major problem. Boats are not subject to the same stringent ownership identification rules as automobiles, so stolen boats can be hard to spot.

So Cst. Gibson has founded Stolen Boats Canada, a website where stolen boats, engines and trailers can be listed for access by authorities and the public. Encouragingly, it also contains a list of boats recovered after being stolen or just missing.

He has spent several years focusing on marine related crime and its connection to organized theft rings and has been involved in the successful recovery of over 150 vessels since 2002.

Besides its involvement in boat theft, organized crime likes to use the waters off Vancouver as its meeting place.

Criminals with high-powered speedboats like to “raft up”, said Cst. Gibson, roping two or more of their boats together at sea where their conversations are less likely to come under surveillance than on land.

Although it actively responds to crime, the Marine Unit seeks to foster an atmosphere of cooperation and community among the many agencies with jurisdiction over our harbour and the many people who use its waters, marinas and shorelines – community policing at its best!

- Chester Grant

reinforcements or backup when there is a need. On the water, it’s a different story.

The unit operates two boats, a rigid-hull inflatable and the 30-foot aluminum patrol boat R. G. McBeath, named for a Vancouver police officer killed in the line of duty in 1922 while attempting to arrest an impaired driver.

Safe Place (from page 2)



Since the program has launched, “other police agencies, such as the Calgary Police Service, Newfoundland Constabulary and Toronto Police Service are all interested in adopting Safe Place,” said Cst. Quiring.

While still a fairly new initiative, “the general public loves the program,” he said. More than 200 businesses have signed up for Safe Place, including 89 Starbucks cafes, TD Canada Trust and all Vancouver public schools.

To join the program, a pledge form is to be signed by a business, organization or school pledging to supporting all victims of anti LGBTQ crimes and incidents. To learn more about Safe Place or if your business or organization would like to partake in this program visit www.vpdsafeplace.com.

- James Gonzalo Jr.

How You Can Help Your CPC

Too busy to volunteer with the HSCPC?

You can still contribute by donating funds to help the Centre meet its mandate of fostering a safe, clean and livable Hastings Sunrise community.

Every tax-deductible dollar helps fill the gap between the basic funding from the city and other grants, and the actual cost of providing all the services offered by your Hastings Sunrise CPC.

One easy way is to visit our website at <http://hastingsunriseipc.com/donation/> and sign up for one-time or monthly donations. Tax receipts are given for any total donation of \$20 or more.

Or visit our office at 2620 East Hastings St. Our volunteers and staff are happy to help.

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Be a Book Buddy

Book Buddy volunteers are needed at Tillicum School to read with Kindergarten to Grade Two students.

If you would enjoy reading individually with 3 kids, once a week, we'd love to have you join our program. You pick either a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning from about 9:00 - 10:30.

It's a non-structured half-hour of reading with each child in a positive, encouraging environment. It's fun and supports children in learning to love reading.

For more information on how you can be a Book Buddy, please email: gregsmith@hotmail.com



Book Buddy Eric Harms shares his love of reading

Hastings Wins Canadian Title!



Photo by Luciano Stella

Congratulations to the Hastings Little League Major All-Stars for winning the 2016 tournament held at Hastings Community Park, and for ably representing Canada at the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Player registration for the 2017 season opens in early December.

This Issue

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對於 LGBTQ成員安全的地方

“世界對於LGBTQ社區成員可能是一個恐怖的地方。他們遭到欺凌，騷擾，甚至成為犯罪的受害人，而這只是因為他們的性取向。” - vpdsafeplace.com

一枚彩虹色的盾形徽章，就像一枚警章，代表溫哥華警察局最新推出對LGBTQ的援助行動。

此行動名為“安全地帶”，其目的是讓各個商家，組織，和學校展出一枚彩虹色的徽章，以標記此地是為LGBTQ人士(女同性戀、男同性戀、雙性戀、變性人和怪人)提供的避難處。

如果他們的人身安全受到威脅，他們可以在此處等候警察的到來。

仇恨犯罪部的一員，作為LGBTQ聯絡官的Dale Quiring 警官解釋說：“在溫哥華市，LGBTQ社區依然受到很多威脅，襲擊，恐嚇，以及騷擾。

安全地帶是在2015年由一位西雅圖LGBTQ聯絡官Jim Ritter 警官始創。從此，安全地帶擴散至整個美國。

在七月，溫市警察局，在 Quiring 警官的帶領下，把安全地帶帶到溫哥華。

行動在溫哥華問世之後，Quiring 警官說“其他的警察局，例如卡爾加里，紐芬蘭，和多倫多的警察局都有意設立他們自己的安全地帶。”

安全地帶在溫哥華剛剛推出不久，但已收到廣大的歡迎。目前已有超過200家商戶加入到行動之中，包括89家星巴克咖啡店，TD銀行，以及在溫哥華所有的公立學校。

如果您想了解更多，您可登錄www.vpdsafeplace.com。如果您想加入安全地帶行動，您需要簽署一份以給予LGBTQ人士協助的保證書。

■ James Gonzalo Jr.

您如何能幫助您的CPC

沒有時間來HSCPC做義工嗎？

您依然可以捐款的方式為我們的中心提供幫助。您的捐款為我們補充經費的不足，使我們能夠提供更多的服務使Hastings Sunrise 成為一個更乾淨，安全，以及適合居住的社區。

您可以訪問 <http://hastingsunriseipc.com/donation/> 為我們捐款。捐款額度高與\$20時我們可以提供免稅收據。

您也可以訪問我們的辦公室，位於2620 East Hastings St。我們的工作人員和義工會很高興幫助您。

Translated by George Li,
Edited by Elisha Yao,
Chinese CPC

Working together for a safe community

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其他社区合作伙伴

