

Business Safety is Teamwork



Team members Stanley Mah and Calvin Leung share business safety tips with Rosie at Le Pho Restaurant.

each merchant in our area at least three or four times a month.”

Today, businesses are mostly worried about illegal dumping, used needles left beside their premises, thefts and counterfeit currency, says Tommy. Some

issues can be resolved right away. For example, the CPC staff are trained to safely pick up and dispose of used needles. More complex problems are passed on to the City of Vancouver or the VPD Neighbourhood Police Officer, Cst. Graham Edmunds.

The CPC also shares safety tips, so businesses can prevent crimes.

Tommy recalls it took the CPC three to four years to establish trust with local businesses. “Now when they see our uniforms they get the sense of assurance and reliability,” Tommy notes. “We do not treat any business differently; if we get a complaint from a bank, we will treat it the same as a complaint from a corner grocery store.”

Any company opening its office or store in the area automatically becomes a member of the HNBIA that allocates funding for the program. “We provide businesses with assistance and guidance,” explains Patricia Barnes, HNBIA executive director. “We know it is hard to get businesses to report to the VPD. They are busy, they do not want to hang on line getting through to the police, they do not have time to text their complaints. The Sunrise Safety Team does it for them.

“Now businesses know that there are eyes on the streets for them and that there are people who care about safety

in the neighbourhood,” she adds. Local companies surveyed by the BIA want the program to expand, so patrols will work six days a week starting April 1.

■ Olga Shaporenko

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Team Helps Fireman

One Sunrise Safety patrol shift in 2017 took a surprising turn.

Calvin Leung and Stanley Mah were on their regular patrol along East Hastings Street when they heard sirens and saw a fire truck turning onto Lakewood Drive. They rushed to offer their assistance.

Firefighters were running towards a burning house. One was dragging a hose towards a hydrant. He saw the guys dressed in bright green jackets with community policing logos and told them to grab the hose and help. “It was a real team effort,” Stanley says. “Other community members who happened to be there joined us and we all helped with the hose.”

While Stanley was helping open the hydrant, Calvin diverted traffic to create access for an ambulance and other emergency vehicles. “We felt great to be able to help those professionals,” Calvin notes. Firefighters later thanked the guys for their assistance.

■ Olga Shaporenko

Vancouver’s violent crime rate has been steadily declining over the last decade, dropping 23 per cent from 2011 to 2016. Businesses seem to notice this trend as well: last year, the Vancouver Police Department boasted that nine out of ten companies were satisfied with the police work.

But if a small store is broken into or a family restaurant is paid with counterfeit bills, the owners are not likely to be interested in these positive statistics; they will be looking for help. For the last eight years, the Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre and the Hastings North Business Improvement Association (HNBIA) have worked together to make the area safe for merchants as well as their customers.

Five days a week, the Sunrise Safety Team goes door to door checking on businesses along East Hastings from Renfrew Street to Clark Drive, then turning to Powell Street and Semlin Drive.

“We cover around 600 businesses,” says Tommy Luong, Sunrise Safety Team supervisor. “It is impossible to come to each business during a single four-hour shift, but we are committed to visiting

Donors Dine for Road Safety

Community generosity – and a very tasty meal -- made the Hastings Sunrise CPC's latest fund-raising event a resounding success.

Almost 60 people turned out Nov. 7 for "Dine for Safety", a night of fine dining, live and silent auctions, and fun at Tamam Palestinian restaurant, located immediately in front of the HSCPC office on East Hastings at Penticton Street.

The proceeds of \$4,240 will all go toward the HSCPC's new Road Safety program. (Although it receives core funding from the city and other bodies, the centre must raise significant funds every year through fundraising efforts, to be able to fully carry out its mandate.)

"It was a great evening," said Clair MacGougan, HSCPC executive director. "Everybody seemed to have fun, Tamam's food was terrific as usual, and the funds we raised will be a huge help in meeting our budget for the year.

"There are many people and organizations I'd like to thank," he said, "starting with our volunteers and board

members who put this on. We hope to do it again next year – just bigger and better."

He offered special thanks to donors of items for the auction, ranging from nights in posh hotels to Helijet rides to theatre and sports events.

Corporate donors were:

Fairmont Hotel, Sutton Place Hotel, Helijet, Vancouver Trolley Company, Vancouver Symphony, Starbucks, Capilano Suspension Bridge, Britannia Mine Museum, Vancouver Whitecaps, BC Lions, Vancouver Canadians, Vancouver Canucks, Vancouver Stealth, Purdy's, Arts Club Theatre, Presentation House Theatre, Everything Wine, Mr Lube and the Hastings North Business Improvement Association.

Individual donors were:

Noted artist Mike Radford, Beverly Ilaine, Dean Shinkoda, Anna duBois, Brenda Penton, Clair MacGougan and Vancouver East MLA and cabinet minister Shane Simpson. ■

Winter Warmup Gets a Boost

Volunteers and staff at the Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre were delighted to add some extra warmth to the Hastings Elementary School Winter Warmup event in December.

They collected about \$3,000 worth of donated items and gift cards for needy families in the neighbourhood.

Nine gift baskets were given out as door prizes at the event, in the school gym packed with students and their families. The gift cards were distributed privately by the school to deserving families, enabling and empowering them to purchase their own items. A large box of winter clothing was also collected and given out.

"These are families that are living pay cheque to pay cheque and often have to make difficult decisions as to what they will spend their last dollar on," says HSCPC volunteer Selina Byer, who organized the annual Holiday Giving Project, along with volunteer Erica Monk.

"Thank you to everyone in the community who contributed." ■

Shredding Day: May 5

Don't become a victim of identity theft --

Save your credit card receipts, bills, statements or any other paper that contains personal information until Saturday, May 5.

That's when the Hastings Sunrise CPC and partners hold their 9th annual Document Shredding and Electronics Recycling Day in the Sunrise Square parking lot, 2500-block Franklin Street, from 10 a.m to 2 p.m.

Best Shredding will shred your documents on the spot, while the HSCPC accepts your donations of funds toward local crime prevention programs. Small electronics, including computers, will be accepted for recycling.

Generous contributors to the annual event are Best Shredding, the Hastings North Business Improvement Association and VanCity Savings Credit Union.

Questions? Call us at 604-717-3584. ■



Working together for a safe community

The Hastings Sunrise Community



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