

2004 BCCPA Citizens Patrol Network Innovation Award Nominations



(left to right) 2004 recipients of the Certificates of Merit for nominations received 2004 BC Citizens' Patrol Innovation Award;

Richard Stagg, Abbotsford, George Kjenner – Campbell River, Ralph Thompson (accepting for) – Cumberland Safe Communities Committee, Christine Stanley – Coquitlam, / Port Coquitlam, Bill Wilson – Central Okanagan, Carol-Ann Rolls – North Cowichan / Duncan, Richard Songhurst, Surrey Central City

Abbotsford Citizens Patrol

HIGHLIGHTS:

Kelly Pater, the Coordinator Community Police Programs with the Abbotsford Police Department submitted a nomination for the Abbotsford Citizens Patrol. This patrol has been operating in Abbotsford, formerly Matsqui for 20 years. The group has dedicated countless hours to patrol, community events, Lock Out Auto Crime, Stolen Auto Recovery and most recently the BAIT car program.

The group is also well known throughout the community for their well marked vehicles, bikes and uniforms. They are recognized for their hard work patrolling the streets, conducting business, park and residential checks.

The group is well respected by the Police Officers for their diligence and dedication. Parking lot audits and checks occur at shopping malls, the university, the hospital, & large employee parking lots

Statistical and program highlights:

- **Community events:** 24 hour Relay for Cancer, Abbotsford Air Show, Abbotsford Symphony Orchestra, annual POLICE Challenge Charity Run, and many more annual and / or neighbourhood activities are supported by the work of the Abbotsford Patrol.
- **2003 -**
 - 54,216 kilometers logged on patrols, and over 9000 hours
 - LOCK OUT AUTO crime - 3869 vehicles checked
 - Stolen Auto Recovery program - 294,832 vehicles checked
 - 126 Stolen Autos Recovered
 - 36 stolen plates recovered - (as well as stolen property recovered)
 - 30 special events attended as on-site security, traffic duties and parades
 - 229 day patrols, 12 bike patrols

- 4- 5 teams on patrol every Friday ad Saturday night
- Day patrols conducted on any of the 7 days per week with an average 3- 4 days per week schedule rotation.

Campbell River Citizens on Patrol

This highly industrious and professional group of dedicated volunteers continues to broaden their mandate by requesting new duties and assignments for their local Police Detachment. A base of 100 volunteers contributes in excess of 15,000 hours of community service annually. Their noted unselfishness and commitment toward crime reduction has resulted in sustained financial support from local service clubs. These donations have allowed the group to purchase necessary equipment. It is noted that this group has a Board of Directors consisting of community leaders with diverse backgrounds, well thought out policy and procedures and a highly functional safety first training program.

The numerous activities the group is involved with include;

- Night vehicle patrols, provision of specialty teams in support of the RCMP, special event traffic duties, child find, stolen auto recovery, counterattack, speed watch, lock it or lose it, home security visitations for B&E victims in partnership with the Victims Assistance program, grow busters, block watch, conducting training seminars, creating and producing in house training videos, creating and producing service club in house video presentations.

The Campbell River Citizens On Patrol have also been recognized with:

- An appreciation award from the Campbell River OIC RCMP and Detachment members
- ICBC recognition for involvement in Stolen Auto Recovery program
- Certificate of Appreciation - Cancer Tour de Rock
- Partnership Award - Canadian Cancer Foundation

The Campbell River Nomination was very generously supported by Inspector Larry Stright (OIC) and also included detailed letters of support from the City's Mayor - Mr. Lynn D Nash, Caroline Robinson - ICBC Regional Coordinator Loss Prevention, Judith McFarlane - Program Manager - Campbell River RCMP Victim Service, and Constable Cottingham Traffic Services

Central Okanagan Citizen's Patrol Group

The City of Kelowna Crime Prevention Coordinator, submitted a detailed nomination for the Central Okanagan Citizen's Patrol Group. Among many of the duties of Citizens patrol teams, this group's most noteworthy 'extra' contribution is the on-going development of the *Citizens Patrol Training Symposium* held annually in May for the past 9 years. The group begins their hard work every Fall developing the curriculum, fundraising, securing sponsors, and developing the promotional materials for the training event.

The group has taken the training seminar one step further in 2004 (an event that has been called the best ever held yet, not only in Kelowna but in BC!) by working in partnership with

ICBC to deliver a new aspect of the Citizens Patrol's training - "How to implement a speeding and crash reduction program in your community and make it work".

The Central Okanagan Citizens Patrol consists of 6 dedicated teams in the Kelowna and Central Okanagan Regional District with teams from Westbank, Rutland, Lake Country, Glenmore, Peachland, and Mission-east Kelowna. Not only are all areas represented on the planning committee of their annual symposium, but further partnerships include the RCMP, City of Kelowna, Central Okanagan Regional District, BCCPA, BC Citizens Patrol Network, ICBC, and the Kelowna Community Policing Association.

Coquitlam / Port Coquitlam Citizens' Crime Watch

The nomination in support of the Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam Citizens' Crime Watch included letters of support from Sgt Hewer NCO OIC Coquitlam Traffic Services, and the Mayor of Port Coquitlam, Mr. Scott Young.

Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam Citizens Crime Watch is a progressive and innovative group of volunteers that have been in existence for 22 years. They are an invaluable resource to their RCMP detachment. Below is a review of some of the many different activities that this group has accomplished.

Special Events

Whenever there is an event such as a parade, fund raising run or community social gathering, Crime Watch is asked by the RCMP to take charge of the traffic redirection requirements and/or security at the event. The group has made a strong impact on the Poco Canada Day festivities. One member is onsite at Castle Park from 10:00 am -12:00 midnight to assist with lost children, found wallets, etc. From 6:00 pm to midnight, several CCWP members patrol the park watching for open liquor and other potential trouble and convey their findings to their own base operator who sits inside the RCMP Mobile Command Unit (who then can relay directly to the RCMP). This is an effective method of keeping the park activities safe and under control while allowing families to enjoy the event without worry. CCWP is also involved in the planning meetings for this event allowing for a team work approach and increased understanding of event details.

Emergency Call-Out List

For some time now, the CCWP has had a list of patrol members who are available to come out on short notice to assist the RCMP if needed. This past year, the value of this list was put to the true test. On Wednesday March 17, 2004, a fire broke out in Eagle Ridge School. At 08:45, CCWP was called to invoke the Emergency Call-Out List. By 09:30, there were 13 members on site ready to assist with traffic and perimeter security. Over 70 man-hours were logged that day. This exercise was highly touted by the senior RCMP officers on duty that day as being "remarkable".

Youth Gatherings & Vandalism

As in any community, youth gatherings and vandalism can be a problem, but Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam CCWP has taken effective measures to address the issue. The liaison officer alerts the patrol to where a problem site is. The citizen members then patrol the area in a highly visible Community Policing van. The van is equipped with high-powered spotlights that works effectively at dispersing the youths. Repeated patrols have been effective in reducing these gatherings the noted trouble spots.

CCWP has created a niche for themselves in the community. They have quietly worked diligently over the years, sharing their knowledge with other groups and assisting eagerly to address numerous and varied community issues. The group continues to upgrade their skills, knowledge and equipment. Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam Crime Watch has received such respect from their detachment that the thirty recent Auxiliary graduates were mandated to do a ride-along with Crime Watch in order to learn some skills.

The 2003 stats for the Coquitlam/ Port Coquitlam group demonstrates the groups success and annual achievements:

- Total Man hours = 4,796 (15 members out of 59 did 100+ hours last year)
- Total plates run = 10,517
- Total Stolen Recovered = 33
- Total Suspects Apprehended = 1

Since inception **current** members have logged over 42,000 man hours (this does not include members that have been with the program over the last 22 years but are no longer active).

North Cowichan / Duncan Citizens' Patrol group

The nomination in support of the North Cowichan Duncan Citizens on Patrol included support letters from Duncan Mayor, Michael Coleman as well a detailed review of the group's activities submitted by Inspector Robinson - the Officer in Charge at the North Cowichan / Duncan RCMP detachment.

Aside from the support in writing from these two professionals, 4 media newspaper articles were also included in the nomination package - outlining the positive impact the work of the Citizens Patrol group has had on the community.

MEDIA review articles included:

April 2004 - theft from vehicle, watching of suspect until arrival of police and resultant arrest

April 2004 - discovering break-in at liquor store, watching of suspect until police arrive and arrest



March 2004 - observation of domestic dispute in progress, report and watch until police arrive and make arrest

January 2004 - identified stolen vehicle from Saanich during routine license check in local parking lot

The North Cowichan / Duncan Patrol also has a very successful fundraising campaign and have raised funds to support vehicle fuel, jackets and flashlights. The media coverage has increased the group's profile and has resulted in more awareness and leverage for donations. Training for the group is on-going and meetings are held bi-monthly. The group is noted for their enthusiasm, ideas sharing, research and development of new strategies.

Princeton Citizens on Patrol

The Princeton Citizens on Patrol has the support of their local detachment and letters of support indicating this support were submitted with their nomination. The Detachment Commander as well as the Constable assigned to the volunteer program wrote letters outlining the programs accomplishments. Below is an overview of the groups more outstanding contributions:

Amber Alert - prior to the Citizen's group taking on this project, an operational plan was not yet in place for the Amber Alert program in Princeton. Now, should a child go missing in the Princeton area, because of the work of the volunteers, a plan is in place.

Speed Watch - along with the regular speed watch duties this group also writes letters to the owners of the speeding vehicles outlining the time, date, place of the occurrence.

Traffic Control - special event or emergency traffic support including attending and setting up where required and flagging until personnel arrive. Their immediate attendance at the scene has been noted to reduce risks to police and other motorists. The groups' work has also been of assistance in the clean up of debris.

INVESTIGATION assistance - With the aid of the Princeton Citizens Patrol group, the Police have been able to identify individuals responsible for various offenses ranging from mischief and vandalism to assaults, impaired driving, and liquor offenses in the community. The patrol's assistance and observations in support of the identifications has reduced police investigation man hours and time spent on follow up.

Theft and Crime Prevention - regular patrols in parking lots and areas of previous concern has greatly reduced the number of thefts and mischief activities.

Mountain Bike Patrols - 2 members of the Citizens' Patrol have recently been trained and are out on patrol now on a regular basis.

Special Events - RCMP members had been previously assigned to the Terry Fox Run and the Trade Show events yet they were beginning to find these extra tasks to be a growing time commitment. Eager Citizen Patrol members have since volunteered to take

these events over for the member and have consequently unburdened the officers of these extra duties allowing for the member's time to be spent on more police related matters.

HALLOWEEN - The Halloween evenings in Princeton were becoming real problems for Police and the community due to the associated mischief, pranks and the increasing amount of trouble activities. Now, with the work and diligence of the Citizens Patrol group, the problems have been greatly reduced.

Crime Scene Integrity - In one recent case, members of the Citizens Patrol were able to set up to contain a crime scene while RCMP members were able to then work on obtaining a SEARCH WARRANT. This assistance freed up RCMP to do the actual work of investigation and reports rather than watching the scene.

Surrey's Central City Community Volunteer Patrol

The Surrey Central City Community Volunteer Patrol was introduced in May of 1996 with the goal to combat auto crime in the Central City area of Surrey. Since it's inception, the Volunteer Patrol has prevented an estimated 2000 auto thefts from the Central City Shopping Centre property.

In 1999, a bike patrol was implemented to assist in the reduction of auto crime. The Bike Patrol members receive CAN BIKE 2 training - 20 hours of intense course work and skill training designed to equip riders with the skills and knowledge to handle themselves safely in traffic.

Volunteers always work in teams of two and never intervene with an incident - they always OBSERVE and REPORT only. While the unit's primary mandate is specific to auto crime the patrols also report on any crime or suspicious, nuisance activity that they encounter. All volunteers are highly visible and trained on the use of their radio.

Having experienced such success in their auto crime reduction activities, the Volunteer Patrol has furthered their efforts by initiating a partnership with RCMP, ICBC, and the Central City Shopping Centre and now support the District One Volunteer Bike Patrol unit - this unit is housed in the Community Patrol office and the bikes are stored at the shopping centre.

This partnership demonstrates a true community based crime prevention initiative and has served to increase community well-being through the reduction of crime.

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