

# Bait car bigwig here in May

By NEIL HORNER

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To many people in B.C., he's Mr. Cop, the face they see on television more than just about any other when police comment is called for.

His name is Tim Shields and he's the officer most often seen in connection with the Lower Mainland's successful bait car campaign.

Shields will be in Oceanside on May 6 and 7 as the local division of Citizens On Patrol (COPs) program host the annual provincial training symposium at Tigh-Na-Mara.

Organizers Corporal Garry Cox and District 69 COPs organizer Scott Henry are hoping Shields will be a big draw for the event.

"I was looking for 150 people, but now I'll be happy with 75 to 100," Henry says. "Most of the people are from the mainland. I was a little concerned initially about attendance, but I was recently rewarded by having Tim Shields come on board. He's Mr. Cop, the RCMP media liaison for the bait car program."

This will be the first time the event has been hosted in Oceanside, and a big draw — such as Mr. Cop — is needed to get COPs members to come across the water to Vancouver Island.

"Every year Citizens on Patrol across B.C. have a training symposium which is normally done in Kelowna," Cox says. "This year Kelowna decided to do it every second year, so we thought it would be a nice idea for people to come to the Island, so we took it on this year."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**TIM SHIELDS TALKS to reporters during a scrum. He'll be talking to members of B.C.'s many Citizens On Patrol groups in May.**

Cox says the symposium teaches different patrolling techniques as well as the latest information on scams, frauds and identity theft. They also learn about stolen auto recovery, and that's where Shields comes in.

"He will hopefully speak to us about emergency scene safety, because patrollers come across traffic accidents, some of which can be fairly major,"

Cox says. "We will also teach participants about the latest drug trends."

If the District 69 group can draw enough participants, Cox says he's hopeful the area can host it again in rotation with Kelowna, or, if not, some other community could possibly pick it up.

For more information contact Cox at 248-6111.