

# STRENGTH *in* COMMUNITY

*Outstanding  
Achievements of  
the Men & Women  
of the AbbyPD*



ABBOTSFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT  
AWARDS CELEBRATION 2019



## **A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF SERR**

I am incredibly proud of the sworn and civilian men and women of the Abbotsford Police Department who are truly dedicated to making Abbotsford the safest city in BC. Today we acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of not only our own people, but also of those members of our community who – sometimes at great personal risk – have helped a fellow citizen in need.

As Chief of the Abbotsford Police Department, I am fortunate that I get to hear about the amazing work of our staff every day, and I am glad that we have this opportunity to share some of these stories of courage, compassion and innovation with our families and friends. Abbotsford should find comfort in knowing that this is a community that will get involved and make a difference, and that its police department will always go above and beyond, serving with honour, integrity and courage. There truly is strength in community.

To each of you receiving a commendation or other recognition today, congratulations and thank you for your exceptional service.

With respect,  
Chief Serr

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CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

## *Mrs. Stacey MacLeod*

Abbotsford Police Department employees selected to receive the Civilian Employee of the Year award are those who, over the past year or throughout their career, have proven themselves to be a role model for the Department, demonstrating excellent leadership skills, a strong work ethic, and exemplary conduct. We very pleased to announce that Stacey MacLeod is AbbyPD's 2018 civilian employee of the year.

Stacey joined AbbyPD in 2006 as a Network Support Analyst in the Department's Information Technology Section. She is consistently recognized by senior management, her direct supervisor, colleagues in the IT Section and co-workers throughout the Department as a technically-adept problem solver, who leads with quiet confidence and a thoughtful, intelligent approach. She is known to be creative, and someone who sparks enthusiasm and positivity in her teammates. She continually looks for ways to grow both personally and professionally.

Stacey's work at AbbyPD does not end with her role as a Network Support Analyst. She is also an outstanding co-leader of both the Department's Critical Incident Stress Management Team, and the recently-created Peer Support Team. Without question, Stacey's reputation as a kind, caring friend and co-worker allows her to effectively connect with and support those in need. She is approachable and trustworthy, and her strong communication and interpersonal skills have given her credibility with her coworkers.

Outside of the Department, Stacey is known for her tireless community service, having volunteered countless hours for Big Brothers & Big Sisters, the District of Mission Emergency Support Services,

RCMP Victim Services, the Abbotsford Hospice Society, and the 2016 BC Summer Games – to name just a few. In her hometown of Mission, Stacey, along with her husband Mission Deputy Fire Chief Norm MacLeod, volunteers for numerous Mission Fire Rescue Service charity and community events.

Kind. Thoughtful. Caring. Intelligent. Hard-working. These are all words used over and over again to describe Stacey. Former AbbyPD Chief Constable Bob Rich once commented:

*"People lead from different places and in different styles. Your personal leadership style, your influence on others, your ability to connect, support and not judge others is truly exceptional and unique. I love hearing "Stacey" stories about the things you do behind the scenes. I don't ever hear from you, only from the lives you have affected."*

Stacey is extraordinary, and demonstrates this both at the Abbotsford Police Department and within the community. She is always asking what she can do to help, always looking for ways to help, and always willing to take on any task. She does all this, without any expectation of recognition or reward. We are truly fortunate that Stacey is a member of our AbbyPD family.

For her dedication to our Department, the compassion and kindness she extends to her colleagues, and the immeasurable hours of volunteer service she provides the community, Mrs. Stacey MacLeod is hereby named the Abbotsford Police Department's 2018 Civilian Employee of the Year.



## POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

# *Detective Ian Parks*

The Abbotsford Police Department Police Officer of the Year award is presented in honour of Sergeant Mike Drebit, who passed away suddenly on November 4, 2014. Sergeant Drebit was known for his reliability, his integrity, his generosity of spirit, his commitment to community, and his positive outlook on life. The Police Officer of the Year award is presented to the sworn officer who has demonstrated exemplary performance, going well above and beyond the scope of their regular duties.

This year, we are very proud to present the 2018 Sergeant Mike Drebit Police Officer of the Year Award to Detective Ian Parks.

Detective Parks joined AbbyPD in May 2000, and has served in Patrol, the Crime Reduction Unit, the Beat and Bikes Team, and most recently as a Detective in the Major Crime Unit. His work ethic and his commitment to his duties as a police officer are without question – he consistently and diligently performs his assigned duties with integrity, honesty, skill and professionalism. He continually goes above and beyond what is required of him, taking on extra responsibilities. It is these additional activities – both within and outside of the Department – that set Detective Parks apart from his peers.

In 2009, Detective Parks was appointed as the Abbotsford Police Department's Ceremonial Unit Commander. In this role he is a very public member of AbbyPD – representing our Department with pride and honour at ceremonies throughout the year. He is recognized as a strong coach and leader, mentoring both new and experienced members of the unit. He has also served on the Critical Incident Stress Management Team since 2012, supporting and assisting colleagues who have experienced

trauma. In 2017, Detective Parks was called upon to assist in the planning of Constable John Davidson's funeral, where he worked tirelessly to coordinate the Ceremonial Unit and numerous additional officers for the service, while at the same time providing CISM care and support to those affected by Constable Davidson's death.

Detective Parks is also known as the Department's social coordinator, spending countless hours planning and organizing AbbyPD sporting events, social gatherings and wellness activities – always encouraging participation by all staff. He is an enthusiastic supporter of team building events, recognizing the positive impact they have on our Department.

Outside of AbbyPD, Detective Parks is devoted to his family and his love of sports. He volunteers an enormous amount of time for the Chilliwack Giants Minor Football Association, coaching young athletes, mentoring referees and serving on the Association's Executive Committee. He is also an instructor at the University of the Fraser Valley, teaching undergraduate students in the area of criminology, where he consistently garners praise for his approachable manner and engaging lectures.

Detective Parks is a true ambassador for the Abbotsford Police Department. He is a skilled and professional police officer, a supportive, caring co-worker, a university instructor and an accomplished volunteer coach and athlete. For his outstanding dedication to the Abbotsford Police Department and his commitment to community, Detective Ian Parks is hereby recognized as the 2018 Sergeant Mike Drebit Police Officer of the Year.





**DETECTIVE ALEX WOOD**

On June 8, 2018, Detective Alex Wood was off-duty and travelling with his family near Manning Park when they happened upon a motor vehicle incident involving a motorcycle. Witnesses to the incident indicated that it had occurred mere seconds before, and that a motorcyclist had been thrown off his bike, over a concrete barrier, and down the steep embankment. There were no emergency services on scene.

Without hesitation, Detective Wood took the first aid kit from his personal vehicle and slid his way over 250 feet down the cliff-face to the canyon floor. There he located the injured rider, pinned against a tree. Using his skills as a trained tactical medic, Detective Wood determined that the semi-conscious man had facial bruising and other injuries consistent with a concussion or other head trauma. Detective Wood administered a thorough body scan, searching for additional injuries. He monitored the victim's pulse and provided comfort for over 90 minutes until the arrival of emergency services. Detective Wood then liaised with police, ambulance and Princeton Search and Rescue, relaying the victim's location, condition and other information to assist with the man's extraction and transport to hospital for treatment.

For his quick thinking and willingness to put himself in harm's way to provide medical attention and comfort to an injured motorist, Detective Alex Wood is hereby awarded this Chief Constable's Commendation.

**CONSTABLE LEISA SHEA**

The Abbotsford Police Department has long been committed to road safety in our city. Constable Leisa Shea of our Traffic Section is one of the Department's greatest supporters of this goal, consistently demonstrating her passion for all things related to traffic safety.

In 2018, the area of impaired driving investigations changed significantly with the introduction of the *Cannabis Control Licencing Act* and mandatory alcohol screening. Constable Shea spent an incredible amount of time researching the new legislation and creating a



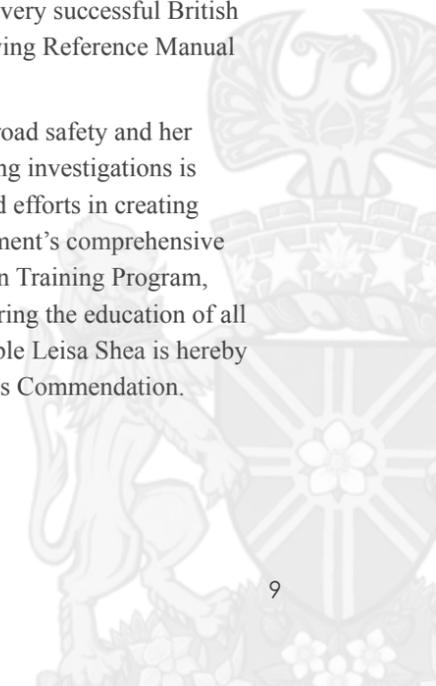
comprehensive training program, including authoring a detailed manual and step-by-step guide, for presentation to all AbbyPD operational units. She was determined that all our personnel be made aware of changes to legislation and had access to the best resources possible to support accuracy and efficiency in impaired driving investigations.

During this time, Constable Shea's work wasn't limited to training staff – she also became a Standard Field Sobriety Test instructor, received her Drug Recognition Expert certification, and qualified as a member of Alexa's Team, with 19 impaired investigations.

Constable Shea was an integral part of the group responsible for the introduction of the Immediate Roadside Prohibition program in 2009, and has also been a part of the provincial Impaired Driving Advisory Committee (formerly the Breath Test Advisory Committee) since its inception in 2011. The IDAC reports

to the BC Association of Chiefs of Police on issues of road safety such as the implementation of new legislation, training and standards, and other impaired-related topics. In 2014, she led the creation of, and did the bulk of the work on, a very successful British Columbia-wide Impaired Driving Reference Manual that was published in 2015.

Constable Shea's passion for road safety and her enthusiasm for impaired driving investigations is unparalleled. For her sustained efforts in creating the Abbotsford Police Department's comprehensive Impaired Driving Investigation Training Program, and her commitment to furthering the education of all personnel in this area, Constable Leisa Shea is hereby awarded this Chief Constable's Commendation.





DAVID GRONMYR



ADAM MARCHINKOW



AMY PORTH



CORY JOHANSEN

**CONSTABLE NOLAN MOORE  
CONSTABLE DAVID GRONMYR**

On April 4, 2018, Constable David Gronmyr responded to a report of an incident of domestic violence. He was advised by radio that the suspect had left the scene, and was provided the suspect vehicle's description and licence plate number.

While en route, Constable Gronmyr located the vehicle, which fled when the suspect spotted police. Additional information was then broadcast that it was believed the suspect had dragged his victim into the car prior to leaving the scene. Fearing for the safety the victim, Constable Gronmyr initiated a pursuit of the vehicle.

It was at this time that Constable Nolan Moore joined the pursuit, assuming the primary pursuit vehicle position. Constable Moore reported that the suspect was driving erratically, and at high rates of speed. The pursuit continued through Abbotsford until a police vehicle

made contact with the suspect's vehicle, disabling it. No injuries were sustained by the victim, the police or the suspect as result of the low-speed collision. The suspect was taken into custody without further incident, and the victim received medical attention for injuries sustained during the assault.

At the time of the arrest, it was determined that the accused had an extensive history of domestic assault charges involving the victim, and that he was breaching court conditions that he not be in with contact her.

Had Constables Gronmyr and Moore not made the decision to pursue the suspect, the outcome for the victim may have been significantly different. For their quick thinking and decisive actions, Constable David Gronmyr and Constable Nolan Moore are hereby awarded this Inspector's Commendation.

**CONSTABLE CORY JOHANSEN  
CONSTABLE AMY PORTH  
CONSTABLE ADAM MARCHINKOW**

Late in the evening of November 1, 2018, a male called 911 and indicated that he intended to commit suicide in the crawl space of his home. Constable Cory Johansen (in his capacity as Acting Sergeant) and Constable Amy Porth responded to the call Code 3, and found the residence dark and quiet. Knocks to the front door went unanswered. Joined at this time by Constable Adam Marchinkow, the three police officers entered the lower level of the home through an unlocked sliding door.

Once inside the home, the police officers met the caller's wife, who was unaware that her husband had made the call to 911 or that he was in the crawl space. She directed the officers to a locked door, and Constable Johansen, with assistance from Constable Marchinkow, breached the door to gain entry.

In a room adjacent to the main crawl space area, Constable Porth located the man, clearly in distress. He was leaning at a 45 degree angle, with a rope tied around his neck and his hands secured behind his back. Constables Porth and Marchinkow rushed toward the man, supporting him to relieve the pressure from his neck while Constable Johansen cut him free from the rope.

The distraught man initially struggled with the three officers, but they were able to subdue him for transport to hospital for treatment. During follow up contact, the man indicated that he was remorseful for the suicide attempt, and that he felt he now had the will to live.

When Constables Johansen, Porth and Marchinkow responded to this call, they immediately understood the gravity of the situation and the need for immediate action. For their quick thinking and rapid response, Constable Cory Johansen, Constable Amy Porth and Constable Adam Marchinkow are hereby awarded this Inspector's Commendation.



CONSTABLE MIKE WILLFORD

In the early hours of April 8, 2018, members of both the Abbotsford Police Department and the Mission RCMP responded to a report of a male threatening suicide on the Abbotsford/Mission bridge. There, officers found a distraught man, standing outside of the bridge railing, leaning over the Fraser River below.



An RCMP officer was attempting to communicate with the man when Constable Mike Willford of the Abbotsford Police Department arrived on scene. Due to the man's position on the bridge, and the dark, wet conditions, it was not possible to pull the man to safety. Persuading him to surrender to police was deemed the only safe option.

As a trained crisis negotiator, Constable Willford assisted the RCMP officer in continuing to develop a rapport with the man. He initially assumed the role of secondary negotiator, coaching the RCMP officer – who had no formal negotiator training. As the incident unfolded, and the man continued to threaten to jump, the more experienced Constable Willford took over as primary negotiator, and was able to eventually convince the distressed man to climb back over the bridge railing to safety.

Had it not been for Constable Willford's experience, training and willingness to step in and coach the less experienced officer, the outcome may have been vastly different. In recognition of his skill and collaborative participation in bringing this life-saving negotiation to a successful conclusion, Constable Mike Willford is hereby awarded this Inspector's Commendation.



CONSTABLE RENAE WILLIAMS

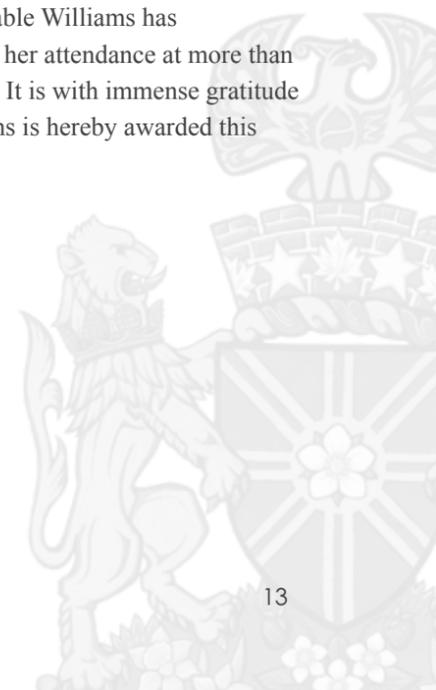
Members of the Ceremonial Unit are ambassadors of the Abbotsford Police Department, providing Colour Party and Honour Guard duties at funeral services and formal events. This unit is one of the many ways the Abbotsford Police Department engages with the public.

Every year, the dedicated members of this unit attend numerous events, including the Canada Day parade, Remembrance Day ceremonies, Canadian citizenship ceremonies, the International Airshow, the annual Constabulary Dinner, school events and sporting tournaments. In addition to local appearances, the unit participates in memorial events throughout the Pacific Northwest and across the country.

In order to ensure a uniform and professional presentation during their appearances, the unit is required to attend numerous practices throughout the year. Participation

in the unit and event attendance is voluntary, and demonstrates the commitment Constable Renae Williams has to her community, and her pride in our Department.

Since joining the unit, Constable Williams has distinguished herself through her attendance at more than 100 Ceremonial Unit events. It is with immense gratitude that Constable Renae Williams is hereby awarded this Inspector's Commendation.





## INSPECTOR'S COMMENDATIONS

### CONSTABLE ROBERT HRYHORCZUK

In 2017, Constable Rob Hryhorczuk was tasked with preparing a business case for an Abbotsford Police Foundation-funded Remotely Piloted Aircraft System – more commonly referred to as an “RPAS” or “drone”. This task was no small feat – the proposal required an incredible amount of research, consultation with other agencies and administrative paperwork.



Once the program was approved, Constable Hryhorczuk became responsible for all aspects of AbbyPD’s RPAS – including preparation of the application to Transport Canada, assessing training options, ensuring compliance with all regulations, and conducting exhaustive research leading to the selection of the drone itself. He became AbbyPD’s RPAS subject matter expert and first RPAS pilot, then became certified to train additional pilots for the program.

Fully operational since 2018, AbbyPD’s RPAS has assisted with numerous files, including barricaded persons, serious motor vehicle collisions, the service of high-risk warrants, homicide investigations and missing persons. The impressive investigational results of this tool cannot be overstated.

For his diligence in sourcing the best RPAS for AbbyPD’s needs, and his hard work and commitment to developing and maintaining this technically-advanced program, Constable Robert Hryhorczuk is hereby awarded this Inspector’s Commendation.



## DIRECTOR'S COMMENDATIONS



### INSPECTOR CASEY VINET DETECTIVE CORRIE HAINES DETECTIVE ROY MCBETH CONSTABLE JOHN WILCOX MS. KELLY PATER

The purpose of the Abbotsford Police Department’s Critical Incident Stress Management Team is to educate and prepare employees to deal with the potential hazards of being exposed to very stressful events, and to provide support, assistance and follow-up services to individuals who have been involved in critical incidents. The team was formed over 20 years ago, and since its inception, more than 20 sworn and civilian staff members have served on the team.

Participation on the team is voluntary, and members are frequently called to provide support outside of their standard working hours. Depending on the recipients’ needs, support can be provided in a group setting or in a

private session. Contact with those needing care often extends long past the critical incident. The program is greatly appreciated by those employees who have received support, and the dedication of the team members is reflected in the success of the program.

The team members we are honouring today have each served for more than 10 years on the CISM Team. These individuals have spent countless hours delivering formal defusing sessions, informal on-going “check-ins”, training and further developing the CISM program to deliver the best possible experience to those receiving support.

For their long-term commitment to the Critical Incident Stress Management Team, and their unwavering support of their colleagues who have experienced trauma, Inspector Casey Vinet, Detective Corrie Haines, Detective Roy McBeth, Constable John Wilcox and Ms. Kelly Pater are hereby awarded this Director’s Commendation.



## DIRECTOR'S COMMENDATIONS

### MS. SHEILA DOYLE

Ms. Sheila Doyle joined the Abbotsford Police Department in 2006, and has worked in a variety of civilian positions before settling into her current role as the Criminal Investigation Branch Administrative Assistant. Ms. Doyle's contribution to the Department, however, extends much farther than her CIB administrative duties.



For several years, Ms. Doyle has been the Department's de facto in-house photographer, capturing over 140 individual ceremonies, social gatherings and sporting events – and then sorting, editing and publishing the photos on the intranet for everyone at the Department to enjoy. She has spent an incredible amount of her own time creating a photo and news article archive for each sworn and civilian AbbyPD employee, providing the Department with a wonderful chronicle of its history.

Ms. Doyle has also volunteered countless hours to assist with the planning and implementation of AbbyPD celebrations, social events, retirement events and fundraisers, and has been a long-time community supporter of the Abbotsford Airshow. Her creative flair is always noticeable at Christmas when she volunteers her own time to decorate the lobbies of two of our buildings, often using AbbyPD-themed ornaments and decorations she has hand-made.

Ms. Doyle is retiring from the Abbotsford Police Department this year, but she is leaving us with a rich photo archive, and wonderful memories of the events she has helped plan and execute. In recognition of her dedication and significant contribution to our Department, Ms. Sheila Doyle is hereby awarded this Director's Commendation.

## POLICE BOARD COMMENDATIONS

### MS. KRISTA HARRIS MS. CATHERINE VAN-MARTIN

Upon leaving their home early in the evening on December 26, 2018, off-duty firefighters Krista Harris and Catherine Van-Martin noticed a car resting against a guardrail on Old Clayburn Road, just west of Highway 11. When they returned approximately one hour later, they noticed the same vehicle, in the same location, and it appeared that the car was steaming. The two continued home, but quickly returned with a flashlight and hammer to investigate the suspicious-looking vehicle.

Upon arrival, Ms. Harris and Ms. Van-Martin found that the vehicle was running and overheating. Looking in the windows, they saw that the driver was slumped in the driver's seat, and that two young children, aged approximately two and four, were in the back seat. All occupants appeared to be unconscious.

Ms. Harris and Ms. Van-Martin believed that the victims were suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning, and needed to be extricated from the vehicle immediately. As the doors to the vehicle were locked, Ms. Van-Martin smashed a window to gain access, and turned off the ignition. Together, they pulled the adult and two children from the vehicle, and continued rescue efforts until relieved by Emergency Health Services and the Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service. The victims were in critical condition and rushed to hospital for treatment.

Thankfully, all victims recovered and were eventually released from hospital. Had it not been for the timely intervention of Ms. Harris and Ms. Van-Martin, the victims would likely not have survived. For their quick thinking and undoubtedly life-saving actions, Ms. Krista Harris and Ms. Catherine Van-Martin are hereby awarded this Abbotsford Police Board Commendation.

### MR. ALAN FERGUSON

On June 16, 2018, Mr. Alan Ferguson was outside on his front lawn when he heard a woman's scream. He ran across his cul-de-sac towards the sound, where he found a woman being assaulted by her husband. The

woman had fled her home, pursued by her husband who was brandishing a large kitchen knife.

Observing this, Mr. Ferguson approached the pair and noticed that the male had hidden the knife in his pocket. The male attempted to leave the scene, but Mr. Ferguson immediately moved to take physical control of the suspect while the victim called police. During the ensuing struggle, the suspect was able to remove the knife from his pocket, and it fell to the ground. Mr. Ferguson was able to hold down the suspect and maintain control of the weapon until police arrived.

The suspect was arrested and charged with assault with a weapon and uttering threats.

Mr. Ferguson took immediate action when he heard his neighbour's screams. He put himself in harm's way to protect the woman from a violent attack with potentially deadly consequences. For his bravery and selfless actions, Mr. Alan Ferguson is hereby awarded this Abbotsford Police Board Commendation.

### MS. JARIN SKETT

The events of November 6, 2017, forever changed the Abbotsford Police Department and the lives of its people, its extended first responder family, and the entire Abbotsford community. On this day, our colleague and friend, Constable John Davidson, was shot and killed in the line of duty.

On that day, Ms. Jarin Skett was working at Hub Insurance when she heard two shots and saw Constable Davidson fall. Ms. Skett immediately called 911. After her 911 call, she ran outside to check on Constable Davidson because he was not moving, and she did not want him to be alone. Ms. Skett waited with Constable Davidson until police and an off duty firefighter arrived.

Ms. Skett did not think of her own safety as she ran out to provide comfort to Constable Davidson. For her bravery and compassion, Ms. Jarin Skett is hereby awarded this Police Board Commendation.

## POLICE EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL

The Police Exemplary Service Medal, awarded by the Governor General of Canada, recognizes police officers who have served in an exemplary manner, characterized by good conduct, industry and efficiency. Recipients have completed 20 years of full-time service with one or more recognized Canadian police forces. The Abbotsford Police Department is proud to announce that the following members of the Abbotsford Police Department have achieved the prestigious milestone.



### 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Staff Sergeant Dave Thomson (Retired)*  
*Sergeant Jeremy Lane*

*Sergeant Marvin Fefchak*  
*Constable John Koppes*

### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Staff Sergeant Monty McInnes*  
*Staff Sergeant Marcus Senft*  
*Sergeant John Forster*  
*Sergeant Jim Parker*  
*Sergeant Todd Wood*  
*Sergeant Chris Scott*  
*Constable Astrid Tomica*  
*Constable Mark Gartner (Retired)*  
*Constable Kim Jones*  
*Constable Justin Dubois*  
*Constable Charn Kingra*

*Detective Corrie Haines*  
*Constable Sheldon Moore*  
*Constable Michelle Zion*  
*Constable Lisa Faria*  
*Constable Ian MacDonald*  
*Constable Renae Stevenson*  
*Constable Shane Savinkoff*  
*Constable John Janela*  
*Constable John Davidson (Posthumously)*  
*Detective Ian Alldritt*  
*Constable Christa Rivard*

## CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

The Abbotsford Police Department wouldn't be what it is today without the very significant contribution of its civilian staff members, many of whom have committed many years to the Department. We are pleased to recognize the following individuals for their length of service, and we thank them for their dedication and commitment to AbbyPD.



### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Monique Olinoski*  
*Margaret Harder*  
*Diane Oleson*  
*Krystal Ferguson*

### 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Kelly Strong*  
*Jane Blair*  
*Molly Hodgins*

### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Tracy Van Asseldonk*  
*Jennifer Bernier*  
*Gwyne Oakley*  
*Jennifer Maarhuis*  
*Donna Boyes*  
*Treena Evans*

### 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Shannon Beatty*  
*Sam Ward*  
*Jenna Postma*  
*Amanda Mitchell*  
*Carmen Daignault*



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