



Abbotsford Police Department

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"Protecting with Pride"

NEWS RELEASE

APD NEWS RELEASE:

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Incident: Abbotsford Police partner with businesses to create the Business Watch Program

Abbotsford – April 23, 2009.

On **Wednesday, April 29** the Abbotsford Police department and participating businesses will officially launch the Business Watch Program at 7 Oaks Shopping Centre. The core components of Business Watch are to provide training to staff regarding personal safety, reporting criminal and suspicious activity, proactive crime prevention and information sharing. To date there are 82 businesses participating in the program.

7 Oaks Shopping Centre began participating in January of this year and has seen a 19% reduction in calls for service by police and a 48% reduction in shoplifting occurrences as a result. Participating downtown Abbotsford businesses have seen an 18% reduction in calls for police service.

The Abbotsford Police Department will have two police vehicles parked in the centre atrium of the 7 Oaks Shopping Centre, located at 32900 South Fraser Way, from 9:30 am to 9:00 pm next Wednesday. An information booth will be staffed by police, community policing staff and business representatives. The general public, business owners, managers and staff are invited to stop by and learn more about the program or send an email to crimeprevention@abbypd.ca or telephone 604-864-4814.

"Business Watch is Crime Prevention and Crime Prevention is Everyone's Business."

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*Our Mission:
To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.*