



# Abbotsford Police Department

2838 Justice Way, Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 3P5 Phone (604)859-5225 Fax (604)859-2527

**Bob Rich**  
Chief Constable

**Richard J. Lucy**  
Deputy Chief Constable

*"Protecting with Pride"*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### APD NEWS RELEASE:

APD FILE #

RELEASE # 1

DATE OF RELEASE: July 2, 2009

### Incident: **Crime Rates Declining Significantly in Abbotsford**

**Abbotsford – July 2, 2009.**

Just past the half way point of the year, crime statistics in most categories for the City of Abbotsford are in significant decline. The statistics comparing the first 6 months of 2009 to the same period in 2008 demonstrate a very encouraging trend. Property crimes in particular have seen incredible drops in terms of both percentage and total numbers of incidents.

The Abbotsford Police Department recognizes that these declines in crime rates could not have been accomplished without successful community partnerships and programs. Some of these initiatives include Block Watch, Business Watch, Bar Watch and Crime Free Multi-Housing.

Abbotsford has 10920 Block Watch homes and that number has grown by 700 since the start of 2009.

The Business Watch program began in earnest with just a handful of businesses involved in January 2009. By the time of the official program launch On April 29 there were 80 participating businesses and now there are 257 stores involved with Business Watch.

Crime Free Multi-Housing has followed a similar trajectory with 17 rental properties participating in January and 46 being part of the program currently.

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

The Abbotsford Police Department has developed some strategies and initiatives that have also had a positive impact on the numbers. Weekly Property Crime Strategy meetings take place with representatives of all branches of the department participating with the focused objective of ensuring crime reduction through targeted enforcement and the diligent monitoring of problem areas and prolific offenders. The Abbotsford Police Department's Crime Analysts are responsible for disseminating timely information about crime patterns, trends, geographic "hot spots" and persons of interest. Specialized operational policing sections of the department such as the Crime Reduction Unit, Strike Force, Beats and Bikes Unit, Community Policing Unit combined with the Patrol Division have taken the lead enforcement role with the implementation of these strategies. The department has also fully embraced Comp Stat as the mechanism for both statistically collecting crime related information and for creating accountability for the department to appropriately address policing challenges.

It has been a year since Chief Bob Rich defined the mission of the Abbotsford Police "to make Abbotsford the safest city in British Columbia". The declining property crime trend is definitely a significant step in that direction.

A 53% decrease in residential break and enters and 1171 fewer total property crimes lead the year to date comparisons of 2008 and 2009, although all numbers in the chart below are significant and of consequence to our community.

<b>CRIME TYPE</b>	<b>YTD 2009</b>	<b>YTD 2008</b>	<b>+/- Chg</b>	<b>% Chg</b>
<b>B&amp;E - Business</b>	171	326	-155	-48%
<b>B&amp;E - Residential</b>	161	342	-181	-53%
<b>B&amp;E - Other</b>	86	122	-36	-30%
<b>B&amp;E - Total</b>	418	790	-372	-47%
<b>Theft of Auto</b>	436	619	-183	-30%
<b>Theft from Auto</b>	659	1012	-353	-35%
<b>All Property Crime</b>	3176	4347	-1171	-26.9%

<b>Cst. Ian MacDonald: ..... Phone 604) 864-4721</b> <b>Abbotsford Police Public Information Officer .....Cell: (604) 835-6070</b> <b>2838 Justice Way, Abbotsford, BC V2T 3P5 ..... Fax: (604) 859-2527</b> <b>E-mail: imacdonald@abbypd.ca</b>
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