



Abbotsford Police Department

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Bob Rich
Chief Constable

"Protecting with Pride"

NEWS RELEASE

APD NEWS RELEASE:

APD FILE #

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Incident: Abbotsford Police Seek to Identify Heroic Citizens

Abbotsford – June 27, 2011.

On June 15, 2011 Abbotsford Police officers were deployed in downtown Vancouver before and during the Stanley Cup riots. One veteran APD officer who was part of the Lower Mainland Tactical Troop encountered people at their best and their worst that evening. The Abbotsford Police Department is looking to locate and thank 7 remarkable individuals who put themselves in harm's way in support of our officer and to lend assistance to injured persons in extremely volatile crowds.

Abbotsford Police Constable Steve Kern was part of a 4 person team of police officers stationed at the intersection of Granville and Robson streets. The team was outfitted in traffic vests and was still in "meet and greet" mode when things began to deteriorate. The medic in the group was summoned away and 3 officers were left to control the busy corridor. People approached the officers and informed them that there was an unconscious man on Robson Street surrounded by a large crowd of people. The 3 officers ventured into the mob and located a man who was being attended to by off-duty nurses and a doctor. The doctor and nurses were struggling to help the victim as numbers of people bumped and jostled them in an attempt to take photographs of and with the unconscious man on the ground. Just as the group began making progress in keeping people clear of the injured man and initiating basic medical care it was reported that there was another victim further ahead. That person had suffered serious stab wounds and was bleeding badly. Constable Kern remained with the civilian medical personnel as the last members of his team moved forward to locate the stabbing victim.

Some members of the crowd became increasingly aggressive and began making anti-police comments. When tear gas was deployed a few people started directing their anger at Constable Kern despite the fact he was without a mask and suffering from the same effects they were. At this crucial moment when violence against the police officer seemed inevitable, 3 persons stepped out and formed a wall in front of Constable Kern, the doctor, the nurses and the unconscious man. The trio was comprised of a husband and wife and a large, muscular man. The 3 physically and verbally made it clear to the aggressors that they would not be allowing

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anyone in the rescue team to be attacked or interfered with. The husband and wife ultimately were dispatched to bring more officers to the location. That left just the one man to hold the crowd at bay while the group prepared the injured man for extraction. He did exactly that until additional police officers located by the couple made their way to the group. As a result of the collective actions of these 7 heroic citizens, none of the members of the rescue group were injured and the unconscious man was eventually taken to hospital.

This is just one story from an evening of so many. This is an important story for the Abbotsford Police Department nonetheless. One of our members who found himself in a vulnerable and dangerous position was given assistance voluntarily by people who chose to take a stand and do the right thing despite the obvious risks involved.

We want to identify these heroes. We want to thank the nurses, the doctor, the husband and wife and the man who told the crowd that “the path to the cop went through him”. If you are one of these incredible people please give us the opportunity to express our appreciation for helping one injured man and making sure “one of ours” didn’t become another casualty.

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