

# THE COASTAL WATCHER

The Newsletter for Crime-Conscious Communities

No. 31

April/May/June 2006

Compiled by Cpl A. E. Clarke and N. E. Treen

## COASTAL WATCH SALUTES VOLUNTEERS!

### RCMP Seize Drugs from Fishing Vessel MV BAKUR



At approximately 0230 on May 22, a tuna fishing vessel listing heavily and riding low in the water pulled along side a dock in Ucluelet. Awaiting the mooring were members of the RCMP Greater Vancouver Drug Section, who subsequently searched the vessel, found a large quantity of marihuana, and took five individuals into custody.

The MV BAKUR, an offshore tuna boat, had traveled down the east coast to the Panama Canal, then up the west coast to Canada. With the assistance of various agencies, the RCMP tracked the vessel to its final destination, Ucluelet BC. The vessel was then towed, under heavy guard, to CFB Esquimalt where the search continued. Five men are facing drug smuggling charges in connection with this 1632 kg haul of marihuana.

Suspicious vessels are always of interest to RCMP Coastal Watch. In this circumstance, several indicators were evident which could have aroused suspicions:

- Traveling at night, when no other fishing vessels were moving
- Listing heavily to one side
- Riding low in the water
- Not fishing with other boats
- In poor condition



**REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS MARINE-RELATED ACTIVITY.**

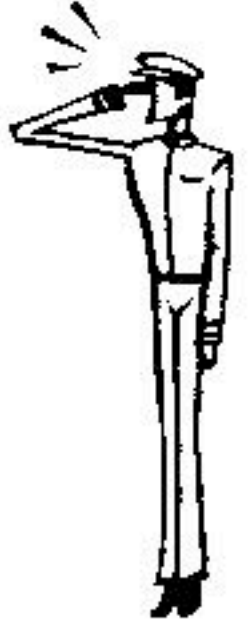


**CALL THE 24 HR TOLL-FREE COASTAL WATCH REPORTING LINE.**

**1-888-855-6655**

### Coastal Watch Salutes Volunteers!

Although volunteer week has officially come and gone, we at Coastal Watch would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has, and continues to, lend his or her support to the program. The success of this program rests with the hardworking and diligent volunteers and members of the community, and would not function as it does with out everyone's support.



*"A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm." – Henrik Ibsen*

### And Now a Word from our "E" Division CO...

The following excerpt is from an open letter to volunteers by Deputy Commissioner - Pacific Region & Commanding Officer, "E" Division (British Columbia), Beverley A. Busson.



"District & Detachment Commanders, Members & Employees, & "E" Division RCMP Volunteers:

National Volunteer Week, April 23rd to 29th, 2006 is a special time set aside each year to pay tribute to the millions of Canadians across the country who volunteer their time and give of themselves to better the lives of others. Here in "E" Division, the RCMP is privileged to enjoy the assistance of over 48,000 volunteers. These individuals assist our members and detachment personnel in a multitude of roles, giving freely of their time, talent and knowledge, helping to build better, stronger and safer communities.

To our Volunteers, you define the very essence of civic participation and community spirit through the service you provide to the RCMP. Your involvement in the delivery of policing services, and your commitment to assisting the RCMP to further our strategic goal of Safe Homes, Safe Communities is a tribute to you all. I am very proud of the positive contribution that the RCMP, Volunteers and the communities we serve, have been able to make. I thank you all for everything you do!

While I have spoken about our community citizens as dedicated volunteers, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to express my appreciation to our own members and staff for their role as volunteers. I know that collectively you give thousands of hours each year to your communities in a multitude of voluntary roles. Whether this is through your role as police officers or support staff, or by serving in community organizations or as youth leaders, it is these contributions that demonstrate your commitment and dedication, and for these efforts, I thank you!

Sincerely,

Beverley A. Busson, C.O.M.  
Deputy Commissioner - Pacific Region & Commanding Officer, "E" Division"