

## **FIGHTING BACK**

JVC is escalating its fight against crimes in the jewellery industry and encourages all jewellers to get involved.

**By John Lamont, Director of Crime Prevention, JVC**

JVC's Crime Prevention Program has accomplished a great deal over the last 12 years. We are proud of what has become an essential part of protecting jewellery and watch businesses. From the beginning, we engaged law enforcement to assist us in this fight against crime. As John Lamont reports, we have some very good news regarding how law enforcement views our efforts. We welcome their voices and encouragement for our program and we welcome the newest member of JVC's Advisory Board, Detective Doug Bedford.

- Phyllis Richard, Executive Director, JVC

An anonymous writer once wrote: "Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but by how we react to what happens; not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events, and outcomes. It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results."

These are words that those in the jewellery industry should take to heart. Let a spark from a positive attitude cause you to become part of the fight against criminals that target the jewellery business. You don't have to sit back and take it or feel that this fight is one that can never be won. Jewellers Vigilance Canada (JVC) is taking on that fight and encourages all jewellers to become involved.

## **DOUG BEDFORD ON BOARD**

To further fight this battle, the York Regional Police and JVC's Board of Directors have appointed Detective Doug Bedford to the JVC Board as a Loss Prevention advisor.

Detective Bedford has been with York Regional Police for 15 years and currently supervises an investigative team in the Organized Crime section, drugs and vice unit. He is a member of the alumni of the York Regional Police Hold Up Squad, where he was the lead investigator on two projects involving South American theft groups targeting the jewellery industry. He has assisted investigators across Canada with these types of investigations.

Detective Bedford has lectured on these organized criminal gangs at the Canadian Police College, as well as the Eastern and Western Robbery conferences, for JVC, COCPA (Central Ontario Crime Prevention Association) and at the RCMP headquarters in Ottawa. Prior to policing, Doug worked as the head of security for A & A Jewellery Manufacturers in Toronto.

Detective Bedford's insight regarding what police need to help in the fight against crime has already proved useful. He suggested that police need a central location where all criminal activity against the jewellery industry can be accessed. JVC moved forward with that idea and developed a jewellery crime database. The database is restricted to police as it may contain sensitive information that could compromise an investigation if made public. When an investigating officer seeks the public and industry's help, the police-only database can be changed into a JVC alert.

## **NEW POLICE DATABASE**

When the database was up and running, JVC sought input from police agencies across Canada. Following are some of the written comments from police:

**Detective Constable Caroline Wigglesworth, Vancouver Police:** "I have received some feedback from a number of investigators and sergeants with respect to the JVC website Crime Listings section as follows: photos and details of the event should be included as often, and in as much detail, as possible. The current search parameters work well. The feedback was given by more than one investigator; the consensus seemed to be that this would be a very helpful site for investigators."

**Staff Sergeant Bruce Walker, Calgary Police:** "I found the site to be useful and efficient as it brings all the case files across the country together in one database involving the jewellery. This is very beneficial as we see crime trends, suspect MOs and descriptions accessible in real-time fashion. While email alerts are good for communication, the site allows investigators and analysts to check the database for potential suspects for ongoing investigations."

**Crime Analyst Bonnie Sliwinski, Peel Regional Police:** "I think this is an excellent idea. It opens up the lines of communication between law enforcement and the

JVC, as well as among police services. I have forwarded this information to the Crime Analysts at our Divisions as well."

**Crime Analyst Carol Brown, Winnipeg Police Service:** "I like the layout and the filters. Due to our volume of crime, anything that groups similar crimes together with images that can be scanned through quickly is helpful. Unfortunately, unless there is a trend or pattern to jewellery thefts, thefts do not hit the radar in Crime Analysis but with this website I can scan it quickly to see if it fits in with any of our other crime or refer to previous incidents quickly. Can you add the street to the title? Anything that helps me filter data at a glance is helpful and I can see if it fits in a pattern. I know the police were working on a project with Manitoba Liquor Commission regarding better security cameras in some of their establishments to provide us with better images. Better quality pictures and better positioning would improve our ability to identify suspects...In summary, yes I would bookmark the website and use it."

## **JOIN THE FIGHT**

JVC is pleased with this feedback and is working to improve this site. It has been suggested that in 60 percent of crime where the police have received a picture of the subject responsible, that subject is identified. Better pictures need not be expensive to obtain if camera equipment is positioned properly. Members of the jewellery industry can get direction from the Jewelers Mutual website, from JVC and even from their local police.

Join this fight. As well as reporting incidents to the police, you can advise JVC. Let's change our attitudes.

To quote U.S. President Barak Obama: "Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." [CJ](#)