

THE SUCCESS OF NETWORKING

Recently, the Calgary and Victoria Police Services have developed a networking program call retailcop. It can be found on the Internet at www.retailcop.ca . They have indicated since they started this program clearance rates for crime have gone through the roof. The Police and Private Retailers are sharing information. Sound familiar? JVC has been doing this for several years and has also had some great successes.

Just a few examples:

Toronto Police arrested a drug dealer and found a box of gold findings in 10,14 and 18kt. They did not know where this merchandise came from. They contacted JVC and an alert bulletin was put out to the JVC network. Within a few days the rightful owner of the merchandise contacted the police. Added charges were laid against the accused and eventually the merchandise was returned to its owner.

After a long investigation York Regional Police arrested a group of jewellery thieves. When they executed search warrants a large quantity of unique merchandise was found. The accused subjects refused to tell the police where the product came from. The police contacted JVC and provided pictures of the merchandise. A JVC alert was sent out and almost immediately the product was identified as coming from a jeweller in another part of Ontario who had his business broken into and this product stolen. More charges were laid and eventually the product was returned to the owner.

After the theft of an expensive Tanzanite ring, Toronto Police contacted JVC and provided surveillance pictures of the subjects responsible for the theft. The pictures came from the victim security cameras. The police requested JVC distribute these pictures through its network. Literally within hours of the alert going out the police were contacted by a JVC member who indicated these subjects had been in their store. Store staff was aware of these men because they had just received the alert and watched them very closely. When the subjects were unable to steal any merchandise they left and store staff obtained the license number of their car. It was turned over to police who now were able to identify the subjects and after they were arrested police discovered they were members of organized crime with connections internationally.

An older male and young female were travelling throughout Ontario involved in switching diamond solitaire earrings. Surveillance pictures of the subjects were obtained by JVC and an alert bulletin was sent out. Within a short period of time the two arrived in a retail jewellery store in a small community in Southern Ontario. The staff having seen the bulletin knew what they were up to and watched them closely. As a result the store did not suffer a loss.

A male subject went into a jewellery store in Toronto where he was successful in switching a large solitaire diamond for a cubic zirconia. A picture of the subject was obtained and sent out over the JVC network. When the subject entered a retail jewellery

store in Windsor the staff were aware and while he was looking at a diamond they called local police. When the police arrived the subject swallowed the solitaire. He was arrested and after a few days the police were able to return the diamond to its rightful owner.

JVC suggests that every day you are open for business an opportunity thief will enter your store. Wouldn't it be nice if you knew in advance what this person was up too?

A recent article written in the Windsor Star quoted Cpl Kelly Ross of the RCMP National Diamond Program and former member of JVC Board of Directors that North America is the largest consumer of diamond jewellery in the world. " We have 5% of the worlds population and we consume half of all the diamond jewellery produced on an annual basis. The number of places to purchase it and to sell it is probably better than any place in the world."

This would make us a large target for jewellery crime and one of the most successful ways to protect yourself is to be part of a network like JVC. Knowledge gives you power.