



# The GARDAs

VOLUME 4 | NUMBER 1

FALL 2009

## Contribute to Making Your World Secure.

During tough times, companies emerge stronger and more successful when their employees stand out and differentiate themselves.

## Be a Garda Ambassador

- Look and be sharp by maintaining a professional appearance at all times.
- Approach everything you do with a positive and professional attitude.
- Smile and create an approachable welcome for everyone you meet.



To Everyone I Meet, I am Garda.

WATCH FOR POSTERS COMING SOON TO AN OFFICE NEAR YOU!

## Making the World Secure in Afghanistan



There is perhaps no better example of the vital role that GardaWorld, Garda's global risk consulting group, plays in the world than one of its current assignments in Afghanistan where it is providing security for the recently conducted Afghan National elections and the current process by which the results are validated. With the future of the country resting on the outcome, GardaWorld's mission is essential to the success of the democratic process.

"GardaWorld is playing a key role in the national elections," notes Garda President and CEO Stephan Cretier. "Throughout the country, our people are working with the Canadian, UK, US and Afghan governments, providing security for a fair and open electoral process that will bring greater security and stability to the Afghan people."

Achieving that process marks a very real milestone in Afghan history. Since its creation in 1747 through the unification of Pashtun tribes in the region, the country has been afflicted by strife and outside interference, most recently by the Russian invasion in 1979 and by the Taliban takeover in 1994. Establishing autonomy is the first step toward long-term peace and prosperity.

GardaWorld's mission is to protect humanitarian organizations operating in post-conflict zones around the world. GardaWorld has operations in Iraq, Kurdistan, Pakistan, Colombia and is actively starting up engagements in North Africa (Algeria), in Gaza and the West Bank, and throughout South America. Our experts have been providing security and risk consulting services around the world since 1984 and have established a strong reputation for integrity and value with the clients we serve.

Now that the Canadian government has also made it its mission to play an active role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan through aid, infrastructure support and development programs, GardaWorld is playing a vital role in that effort as it participates in building the country and contributes to its stabilization.

"Today, perhaps more than at any time in history, we are living in a complex interconnected world and therefore the moral and social obligation to assist other nations when in need is more important than ever before," Mr. Cretier stresses. "The Canadian government recognizes that obligation and is committed to providing the Afghan people with the help they need to restore their society, focusing on reconstruction and development, contributing to the effort to rebuild schools, hospitals, civic institutions and the nation's economic infrastructure.

"As a Canadian company, we feel it is part of our mission to protect aid workers and assist government sponsored aid programs by ensuring their world is secure," Mr. Cretier explains.

GardaWorld has been active in Afghanistan since 2004. The company's main office is in Kabul and has experience operating throughout the country in all 34 provinces. Its team provides essential security services protecting projects in education, economic development, local government and infrastructure reconstruction. GardaWorld is one of the top five security firms in terms of quality of services provided currently in Afghanistan.

"We have a staff of hundreds of people, for the majority local Afghan nationals, supporting our clients, all of whom are working on development projects throughout the country, says Managing Director Pete Dordal who oversees GardaWorld's Afghan operations. GardaWorld works closely with relief and development organizations including the United Nations, USAID and


the Asia Foundation, providing the security necessary for their vital work to take place.

"Our approach to providing security services in emerging markets and unstable regions is unique", notes GardaWorld President LeMarque Sheppard.

"We employ a soft power approach that emphasizes close cooperation with local groups, enabling us to become a vital part of those communities. This allows our clients to operate safely and securely, and accomplish their missions successfully."

GardaWorld differs from many companies in our industry in our overall approach. "We believe that the most effective security is invisible, low profile and risk-avoidant. We do meticulous planning and preparation to keep our clients secure," Mr. Dordal says. "Our people are more senior and experienced than most in private security companies. They are experts with deep experience in protective services and information-gathering."

Watching as Afghans went to the polls to cast their ballots, GardaWorld's experts felt a deep sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. The elections mark a fragile first step toward self-government and nationhood but a real and tangible one, like the schools and hospitals that are sprouting up all over Afghanistan under GardaWorld's watchful eye.

"Making your world secure" is much more than a mission statement; it is a solemn pledge and commitment becoming a reality day by day. 

"GardaWorld is playing a key role in the national elections in Afghanistan"

## Back to School = Safety Awareness



With the school year now in full swing, it is a good time for all of our armored crews, and all of us actually, to review some safe driving tips that, while always important, have heightened significance as children return to school.

### Tips for better safety

- When backing up, watch out for children walking or riding a bicycle to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch out for young people who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking about getting there safely.
- Slow down, and watch for children congregating near bus stops.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- Know that it is illegal to pass a school bus stopped to load or unload students.
- Drivers who can see a bus ahead should slow down in preparation for its possible stop. It's easy to misjudge the speed at which a vehicle can overtake a bus, and buses make frequent stops. Drivers who slow down sooner will be better prepared to stop.
- Learn the flashing signal light system that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions. Never pass a bus when flashing lights are displayed. Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop. Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm indicate the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended sign is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before starting to drive again.

\*Source: The Kansas Highway Patrol, School safety article in the Fort Scott Tribune.

## “PROJECT GARDA” Crime Investigation Showcases Garda Corporate Security Prowess

It had all the elements of a great “who dunnit” crime saga – a daring theft under mysterious circumstances, thieves with a penchant for fast cars, nightclub hopping, bling and expensive booze.

When a band of thieves robbed a Garda armored truck parked outside a bank in suburban Toronto at approximately 10:30 PM on Thursday, February 6, they set in motion one of the more successful and colorful criminal investigations in recent memory.

The robbery itself was low-key. The red Garda armored truck arrived at the bank and its crew went inside to perform their duties. Once completed, they returned to the vehicle to find that the rear door was open and money missing. How the thieves managed to open the vehicle's door as well as an interior locked door baffled investigators at the outset. The Garda officers onboard the armored truck heard and saw nothing when they returned from servicing the bank.

Police canvassed the area in hopes that someone witnessed something that would shed light on the theft. Garda issued an appeal to the public, offering a reward for information in the case. All leads went nowhere.

Clever as they were however, the thieves greatly underestimated the skills of Garda Corporate Security, combined with the York Regional Police and *Sûreté du Québec*. All three organizations joined forces in breaking the case, which the police codenamed “Project Garda.”

“Invaluable assistance was provided throughout the investigation by Corporate Security officers at Garda,” Armand La Barge, Chief of York Regional Police, told the news media. “This cooperation proved to be the key to the success of the project. We could not have asked for more professional or capable partners in this investigation.”

### Cracking the Case

As police in the two provinces continued their investigation, Garda investigators were hard at work on the case as well. Garda Chief Security Officer Guy Cote and his team soon discovered that a Garda employee related to the individuals eventually arrested in the case had furnished the thieves with the information they needed to commit the theft.

“We cannot disclose all the aspects of our investigation,” Mr. Cote explains, “but using computer forensics, we were able to confirm that the employee under suspicion was indeed involved.”

With that breakthrough information, police quickly identified the thieves and, in April 2009, York Regional Police and *Sûreté du Québec* executed a number of Criminal Code search warrants in both Toronto and Montreal, arresting five people and seizing cash and a number of items purchased with the stolen funds, including expensive vehicles, a boat and jewelry. Police held a news conference displaying many of the items

purchased with the stolen funds and the story was reported extensively in the Ontario and Quebec media.

When he announced the arrests, Chief La Barge, revealed that apprehending the suspects probably prevented those arrested from committing another robbery that was being planned at the time of their arrest.

“It was a challenging investigation that spanned Ontario and Quebec involving extensive means of investigation with our investigators working closely with these two law enforcement agencies in the identification and apprehension of those responsible for the theft,” said Mr. Cote, at the press conference announcing the arrests. “These outstanding law enforcement professionals applied tremendous effort and

resources in solving this major crime.

“The safety and security of our people is a top priority,” he emphasizes. “This case highlights the importance of our people maintaining the security we need to conduct our business safely and securely. Any employee who is approached and asked about our procedures or operations should immediately report the incident to corporate security.

“Perhaps the questions are benign,” Mr. Cote acknowledges, “but Project Garda is an example of a case where there was clear criminal intent that led to the theft. Each and every Garda employee is responsible for safeguarding the security of the company and our people. The Corporate Security Department is here to assist when suspicious situations occur. It is important for all to know that we have an anonymous phone line to gather any information regarding suspicious activities: 1-800-859-1599 x 2222.”



“These outstanding law enforcement professionals applied tremendous effort and resources in solving this major crime.”

Would you like to suggest an article about your role at Garda or about any other topic?



Send us your ideas to: [suggestions@garda.ca](mailto:suggestions@garda.ca)

Text  
Joe Gavaghan  
Corporate Communications

Editorial Board  
Majorie Gosselin  
Myriam Lafreniere  
Lara Osseiran  
Nathalie de Champlain  
Marketing and Communications

Art Production  
Sylvie Emond  
Alexander Doche

The GARDAs

## Garda Kudos

- > To **Garda Screening Officers at Vancouver Airport**
- > From Dennis Florido, Air Canada Security Manager

“Yesterday Air Canada concluded its involvement in their majesty’s (Japanese Royal Family) visit to Vancouver and I just wanted to bring to your attention how much we appreciated the work performed by the Garda crew here at YVR. Each of them performed their duties in a professional and highly efficient manner. This ensured the easy, efficient, and secure movement of the numerous parties involved, including the motorcade, from street side to airside and back. In particular we’d like to single out Yogi Lal and Suki Sunner for their strong involvement and efforts. Their participation, comprehension, and execution in directing the other guards ensured a successful security component for this visit.

“Gary, Millie, and I all take this opportunity to thank your employees for their strong efforts in both this visit and their day to day operations. Please convey this thanks on our behalf. They are a solid group of performers and our thanks also go to you for assembling such a good crew.”



- > To **Robin Sasseville, a security officer at SNC Lavalin in Shipshaw**. Robin, who joined Garda in March 2005, saved the lives of two people during his work shift in May 2009. During a routine patrol, Robin heard some unusual noises and, upon investigation, saw two people who fell from their boat while fishing. After reassuring them, he contacted the local authorities. He then helped them to get out of the river and administered first aid. For his courage and quick response, Robin, who was the subject of several news stories, was praised by local police.



- > To **the Cash Logistics trainers in Quebec**, for the exceptional quality of work and involvement in the province of Quebec. A special thanks to **Gilles Cutnam** who is very informed about new legislation that could affect Garda and who is constantly adapting his training. And a unique acknowledgment to **Marcel Gagnon** who is eligible for retirement but has chosen instead to continue to give firearms training to hundreds of employees every year.