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Cops release catchy tune for bait car thieves
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Vancouver man who killed pedestrian is B.C.'s most-wanted auto thief

BY DAMIAN INWOOD, THE PROVINCE MARCH 31, 2011 COMMENTS (39)

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An enhanced bait vehicle program to include trailers, was introduced on March 31, 2011, in Richmond, B.C. by BC Solicitor General Shirley Bond, (blue sweater) as pictures of the ten worst theft offenders are displayed. Xiao Sean Zhang is at left.

Photograph by: Ian Smith, PNG

A 25-year-old Vancouver man, who went to jail for killing a pedestrian in a 2006 hit-and-run, is now B.C.'s most-wanted car thief.

Xiao Sean Zhang is wanted for theft, possession of stolen property and driving while disqualified.

"You may remember Mr. Zhang from the infamous incident back in 2006 when Mr. Zhang hit a visiting doctor from New Zealand at a crosswalk near Granville and Drake, narrowly missing his 20-year-old daughter," said Sgt. Gord Elias, spokesman for the Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team (IMPACT), on Thursday.

"Mr. Zhang sped off at a high rate of speed with the victim still on the

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hood of his car, went round the corner, throwing the victim off, and continued at a high rate of speed over the Granville Street Bridge.

"Witnesses were so appalled at what they saw, they took up chase and tried to box

Mr. Zhang in and Mr. Zhang rammed those witnesses to get away."

In 2007, Zhang was sentenced to 11 months in jail for the hit-and-run death of Dr. David Higgins.

Elias released the sixth-annual list of B.C.'s top 10, most-wanted car thieves at the launch of Auto Crime Enforcement Month in Richmond.

"I believe this is our best top 10 list ever," said Elias. "Most of them are prolific car thieves and many of them have been previously sentenced and have breached their conditional sentence orders, went back to their life of crime and are on the run. Our ultimate goal is to get them all in custody by the end of April."

Police also unveiled the "bait trailer" as the latest weapon in their fight against stolen

vehicles.

Solicitor-General Shirley Bond said that, although auto thefts were down 22 per cent in 2010, the number of trailer thefts remained steady at 500 per year.

The bait trailers will be armed with GPS technology and stuffed with property marked with "[MicroDotDNA technology](#)," so it can be traced by police. "It's adding another piece to the tool kit," said Bond.

Police statistics show B.C. vehicle thefts dropped from 11,000 in 2009 to 9,000 in 2010. In 2003, the number of stolen vehicles was 26,000, said Bond.

Thefts from vehicles also dropped 15 per cent from 19,000 in 2009 to 16,000 in 2010.

The Ford F pickup truck series and Honda Civics were the top two vehicles stolen in B.C. in 2010.

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This is our best Top 10 list ever, cops say of B.C. car thieves

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