



New Westminster Police

BLOCKWATCH WINTER 2006

blockwatch is a partnership

with the community and the New Westminster Police Service

The success of every partnership is quality of communication. Clear communication ensures all partners in a program or project are aware of their respective role(s), expectations, and the goals or objectives to be achieved.

There are situations where communication may be flawed for various reasons. It is paramount that

breakdowns be recognized, addressed and corrected.

Where a partner experiences a "communication breakdown", follow these procedures:

1. note the time and location of the incident and the identification of those involved (name or PIN number);
2. request to speak with the Watch Commander; and
3. contact the Block Watch personnel.

Quality of service must be maintained.

The Community and The New Westminster Police Service ...

2gether we can ...
2gether we will ...
2gether we win.

The number 2 is powerful.

Cst. Bruce Ballingall

this ISSUE

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gone in less than 60 seconds

Thieves take pride in stealing and they steal cars for a variety of reasons. For example some get their thrills from ripping people off, destroying personal property, and driving around at dangerously high speeds. Stripping a vehicle for parts or for reselling overseas are two other reasons for the theft of vehicles. Many stolen cars are used as an accessory to commit other crimes. Stolen vehicles can result in higher insurance rates for policyholders and when used in other serious criminal acts, the reckless driving sometimes injures or kills innocent citizens.

Everybody's vehicle is a target. Included in the top twenty-five vehicles stolen in British Columbia are trucks, sports cars, family sedans, domestic and imports.

Motor vehicle theft increases every year. Part of the problem is that vehicles are stolen whenever the opportunity presents itself. Preventing auto crime is often a matter of common sense and adapting easy habits. Make your vehicle as unappealing a target as possible to lessen your chance of becoming a victim of auto crime.

home security audits and evaluations

The New Westminster Police Service Home Security Unit exists with one main focus, to assist local residents with tips about security and safety around their residence. While visiting local homes, trained volunteers are asked to provide tips, brochures, and speak to the public about security measures in order to help reduce the chances of a Break and Enter.

If you and your fellow Block Watch members would like to have someone visit your home to perform one of these audits and evaluations, you can schedule a date with the Crime Prevention Unit. For example, if your Annual Block Gathering is taking place in the next few months or in the upcoming summer, arrange to have a home security volunteer speak to your block at the gathering in order to ensure that all participants are benefiting from this service. This is the perfect opportunity to review the importance of home security. Everybody will leave with a piece of information that pertains directly to the security of their home because there is room for improvement in all of our current home security measures.

engrave your property

An additional step to having an inventory list of your household items and possessions is to engrave them or to label them with securi tags. Property that is marked and recorded serves four purposes. First of all, it deters the thief because it makes the property more difficult to sell. Second, it can be used as evidence in police investigations. Third, it is easily identifiable and can be returned to the owner if recovered. Fourth, a detailed inventory of the missing property will be helpful in an insurance claim.

Six steps are necessary to complete the engraving process:

1. Purchase an engraving pen for your block, and let the Block Captain keep track of it, or purchase your own. Alternatively, engravers can be borrowed from your local police. Securi tags are also available by filling out an application at the police station or through the BC Crime Prevention Association (BCCPA).
2. Engrave your items or record your securi tag with your B.C. Driver's License number.
3. Engrave all your articles in two places.
4. Photograph or videotape items you do not want to mark, such as jewelry and art. Place a ruler next to the items in your visual inventory to determine the size of the object.
5. Create an inventory sheet to record all items or for easier guidance, obtain a Residence Inventory sheet from the Block Watch Coordinator. The Residence Inventory sheet is already broken down into sections and general items are listed. Also, a complete household inventory and record of insurance policies and credit cards will be of value to police and insurance adjusters if you suffer a burglary or other loss.
6. Lastly, keep an extra copy of this inventory record at the home of a family member or trusted friend.

lights out — night patrol

Are you aware that New Westminster Police Service (NWPS) has programs that take place while most of us are already in bed for the night? Citizens Crime Watch Patrol (CCWP) and Volunteer Bicycle Patrol (VBP) are two popular volunteer programs that aim at keeping our community safer during the late hours of the night.

CCWP volunteers, are in their own vehicles, patrolling the streets of New Westminster watching for suspicious, criminal, or nuisance activity. Information is then passed along to the police via a 2-way radio; the police then

respond appropriately. This program is active at night and on special nights such as Halloween when the extra eyes and ears are really needed.

VBP operates anywhere a need exists in New Westminster, with particular attention to the downtown core area. Volunteers of this program patrol most hours during the day and night seven days a week. Essentially, the program shares the 'extra eyes and ears' philosophy and practice of Citizen's Crime Watch Patrol. This program exists

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home security with an alarm system

Choosing an alarm system is not as simple as it sounds. Many precautions need to be taken in order to obtain the best quality and service for your home.

Selecting the appropriate alarm company is the initial step and possibly the most important one. To get started conduct an initial screening of several companies. Your inquiries should consist of the following:

1. Is the company licensed?
2. How many years has it been in business under its current name? (Companies that have been in business for only a short time may not be around to honour your warranties.)
3. Does the company have a false alarm reduction program?
4. Does it carry professional liability insurance?
5. Can it provide adequate after-sales service?
6. What kind of training have the employees received?
7. Does the selected company and its equipment meet the standards of your insurance carrier?

Next, ask for written proposals from the top companies who have passed your initial screening process. When reviewing the proposals check for the following:

1. Does the proposal identify exactly what you will receive, and at what cost?
2. Is the system user-friendly?
3. Can it be set up to allow for pets?
4. Will the company provide you with a written contract if you purchase the system?
5. How much notice, or what does it take, to get out of the contract if

the alarm company or alarm system does not meet your expectations?

6. Is there a warranty on the equipment? If so, do you understand the warranty and is it laid out in a clear manner?
7. Does the company have firm policies regarding the prevention of false alarms and can they provide these policies to you?
8. Does the company offer a monitoring service? If so, who exactly provides it and what types of services are provided?
9. Will it provide an annual preventive maintenance program?
10. Does the company have on-site technicians available for service, or is servicing contracted out?
11. The contract should clearly state if all of the security equipment is owned by the customer. Are you buying or leasing?

Once you have chosen the best proposal, it is time to arrange to have the company install the system. When the installers arrive at your home, ask them to show you their security license. If they cannot produce a license that states "Alarm Service," do not let them do any work. Thus, alarm service employees who are licensed for sales only are not permitted to install alarm systems.

Lastly, when the installation is complete, make sure you receive adequate instruction, both orally and in writing, regarding the operation of your system. If possible, do not pay in full for your system until you are completely satisfied with both the product and the amount of instruction you have received.

When used together with other crime prevention initiatives, such as Block

Watch, target hardening, crime prevention through environmental design, appropriate locks and adequate lighting, an alarm system is an effective deterrent to crimes against property and persons. There are many different systems on the market, and many companies promoting them; therefore, it is important to select your security alarm company carefully.

lights out — night patrol

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with one main focus, to reduce auto crime activity within the city. While riding throughout the city, volunteers are asked to give out brochures, reminder notices to vehicles, and speak to the public about auto crime. During the course of their duties the volunteers act as ambassadors for the City of New Westminster and the Police Service by reporting any additional criminal or nuisance behaviour to the police, and in general, responding to local citizens in a helpful manner.

The police also need the citizens of New Westminster to be the 'extra eyes and ears' by making sure to report any crime or nuisance behaviour observed. For information on other Crime Prevention Unit volunteer programs, visit the New Westminster Police Service website at www.newwestpolice.org.

increase your knowledge

The Crime Prevention Unit has compiled a selection of VHS videotapes pertaining to techniques and topics. They are available to borrow for either individual or group viewing. A list of available videos are as follows:

Auto Theft: Reduce Your Risk
Graffiti

Robbery In Progress: Minimizing the Risk
Robbery Prevention Program

Block Watch: Personal Safety

Crime Proofing: It's Your Choice

Home Security Tips

JIBC Auto Theft: What's Wrong With This Picture?

Complete Guide to Home Security

Hardening the Target

Personal Safety

Never be a Victim

Children and Drugs

Child Safety

Children and Bike Safety

Seniors' Safety: At Home and on the Streets

Block Watch Television Series:

- Apartments
- Lighting
- Suspicious Activities
- Evidence
- Suspect Identification
- Property Identification
- Glass
- Block Maps
- Working Together to Prevent Crime

reminders



Vacating Positions

If you are a Block Captain and would like to be replaced, a new Block Captain can be recruited by having a block gathering and asking for a volunteer, asking the Co-Captain to take over as Block Captain, or when delivering the Block Watch newsletter, you can ask a neighbour to be your replacement.

When an interested candidate has been found, this potential Captain must take the responsibility of notifying the Block Watch Coordinator or office in order to fill out a Block Captain application and a criminal record check form. If a Captain is not found after trying the above options, call the Block Watch office so that Block Captain recruitment letters can be sent out as a final attempt to find a replacement.

Captain and CoCaptain Renewals

If you are the Captain or CoCaptain of a Block Watch, it is important for you to complete a renewal application form every year in order for your Block Watch to remain active and to keep our files up-to-date. Call the Block Watch office

or Coordinator to request an application form be mailed to you to avoid an expired Block Watch.

Block Maps/Membership Lists

If a year or more has gone by since your block map/membership list was last updated, it is possible that some participants have moved away and new neighbours have moved onto the block and need to be informed that a Block Watch program is in operation. Also, current participants may have updated contact numbers to provide to their neighbours. If there have been any changes, it is important to revise the map/membership list and make sure all Block Watch participants receive a copy. Also, forward a copy to the Block Watch office. Please note that changes are not permitted over the phone.

In order for Block Watch to run successfully, it is very important for the Block Watch Coordinator to have up-to-date information from every block on an annual basis or whenever changes occur.

Dear Members,

We would be very interested in hearing from you! If you have pictures or stories that relate to Block Watch Neighbourhoods, eg. gatherings or how the program helped you or someone in your neighbourhood, and would like to see them published in your Newsletter, please submit them to, or for more details contact:

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Questions, comments, concerns, or Block Watch changes can also be sent to bw@nwpolice.org