



the community beat

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Crime prevention in our successful community



City Watch – When a Plan Comes Together

BY BRIAN HOSKIN



headed off, with canoe on roof, for a 10:00 am meeting with Charles from the Fire Department. We were scheduled for a joint Building and Fire inspection at a commercial complex on Boyd Street in Queensborough. I left the Building Department at City Hall and was on my way down Eighth Avenue when mid block between Henley and Twelfth Street I noticed something didn't look right. I had to look twice. This young man was straddling a bicycle that was obviously too small for him. He was beside a pickup truck which had a trailer attached to the back; the kind of truck and trailer that a Landscaping Contractor would use. I noticed the tail gate of the pickup was wide open. In each hand of the young man was a large industrial gas powered weed-eater. He was awkwardly fumbling with the two weed-eaters as he was trying to get the undersized bike in motion. The scene just looked ridiculous. I had to interrupt my trip to Queensborough and make a right onto Twelfth Street and then another right to double back through the lane for another look. I arrived at the end of lane and there he was peddling up Henley Street with the weed-eaters. I called 911 and asked for the New Westminster Police Service. Once I had the NWPS on the phone I explained what had transpired thus far and explained that I was now following this troubled looking young man west-bound on Edinburgh Street. I was in a slow speed pursuit; O.J. Simpson-style and keeping my distance. I continued to chat on the phone. I was asked "where are you now?" "I am still on Edinburgh coming up to Twelfth, I just crossed Twelfth..." This went on and on, block after block, and the whole time I am thinking this criminal is

► **Last summer I accepted** an invitation to learn about City Watch. I stood in the lobby of City Hall and listened to Mayor Wright, my CUPE Representative, George, and others talking about how every City employee could be the eyes and ears for our police force, watching out for suspicious activity, and so on. Yeah right, as if an opportunity would ever present itself. Much to my surprise it wasn't even two weeks later when an opportunity to make a difference did in fact present itself.

It was the end of the week, Friday, June 25th. I had a busy day of building inspections planned and immediately after work I was to meet with my running club for a social event I had organized; kayaking in Deep Cove. One club member complained that she gets a sore back in a kayak so I offered up my 14 feet Frontiersmen canoe. So I

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Dear members,

For Block Watch and Crime Free Multi-Housing Program article submissions or inquires, please contact:



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crimefree@nwpolice.org
604-529-2446



Block Watch
blockwatch@nwpolice.org
604-529-2446



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555 Columbia Street
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Police Non-Emergency Number
604-525-5411

Emergency
911

◀ Cont'd from page 1: City Watch

bound to notice this bright blue canoe following him. Fortunately, he never looked back. From the cell phone I heard, "a cruiser should be coming up behind you now." I pulled over to let the black and white go by. After ending the call I pulled back out, headed up the street, and parked the SUV I had borrowed to transport the canoe. There was the criminal handcuffed on the curb. I let the Constable know that I was now late to meet Charles from the Fire Department. I handed the Constable my card and cell number and we arranged to meet later on Boyd Street so that I could give a statement. When the Constable arrived I learned that he had found a Landscape Contractor on Eighth Avenue looking perplexed, gazing into the back of his pickup truck, and thinking he must have forgotten his weed-eaters at home. I explained to the Constable that I had recently learned about City Watch. I was 'hi fived' by the Constable as he said, "I love it when a plan comes together." The case went to Provincial Court on August 19, 2011.

Quayside Tower 1 Block Watch

► **Quayside Tower 1** recently held its first Block Watch gathering. What we did NOT know was that we are only one of a few Quayside residences that are Block Watch affiliates. We also did NOT know we qualify for house insurance discounts (by some insurers) by being part of the Block Watch Program.



Jennifer Sanford speaking to the residents of Quayside Tower 1.

Our "party" was a time of Human Bingo; getting to know each other. We had excellent prizes courtesy of the Paddle Wheeler Riverboat Tours, Pacific Breeze Winery and others. We had presentations by Jennifer Sanford of the New Westminster Police Crime Prevention Unit and James Crosty, President of the Quayside Community Board. James and Jennifer shared with us a lot of the recent crime incidents occurring at the Quay that we did not even know were happening with regularity. Consequently, New Westminster Police talked about apartment security and telemarketing fraud. This created more awareness, making our home a safer place.

Finally, we enjoyed donated drinks and snacks from Oasis, wine courtesy of Pacific Breeze Winery, and tons of door prizes from local merchants (Boat House, Donald's Market, Rona,

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Know What's Going On in Your Neighbourhood



► **New Westminster Police Service** has made available an online interactive criminal activity mapping system allowing residents and merchants to see certain types of crimes that have occurred in their neighbourhood.

The crime maps plot out crimes that have occurred in the last 3 months and highlight auto crime and break-and-enters. Also available to view is a monthly updated Density Map showing a high-level overview of crime density in different areas of the city. To view the maps, visit www.nwpolice.org and click on Crime Maps.

Crime maps only show theft of auto, theft from auto, and break-and-enters. These maps do not show any other crime activity types.

Visit www.nwpolice.org and click on Crime Maps

Window Bars

Important safety message from New Westminster Police and Fire Departments

► **To our valued New Westminster residents,**

We have been alerted to the installation of bars on bedroom and basement windows in city houses and apartment buildings. However, fire and building codes prohibit the use of bars and obstructions in windows and other emergency exits, as they pose a LIFE HAZARD.

We at the New Westminster Police and Fire Departments urge you to remove all bedroom and basement window bars IMMEDIATELY. Bars not only pose safety risks to occupants in the home, but also to first responders should they need to get in during an emergency.

Safe and effective security alternatives are available – please call the New Westminster Police Crime Prevention Unit at 604-529-2446, or contact a local locksmith for more information. If you have any other questions about window bars, please call the City of New Westminster Building Department at 604-527-4580.

... remove all bedroom and basement window bars immediately. Bars not only pose safety risks to occupants in the home, but also to first responders should they need to get in during an emergency.



NEW WESTMINSTER

Community Safety Grant

The City of New Westminster and New Westminster Community Policing Committee (NWPC) have partnered together to offer residents an opportunity to come together and talk about community safety by offering the Community Safety Grant.

The Community Safety Grant aims to encourage local residents and merchants to participate in community safety and livability by hosting neighbourhood safety meetings and events. These safety meetings or events are used as a forum to talk about crime prevention, whereby police staff or volunteers would like to attend and talk to your group or host an information booth.

The Community Safety Grant is a way to promote safe, livable and cohesive neighbourhoods, which in turn build the best community in which to live, work and play.

For more information
on the Community Safety Grant
visit www.newwestpolice.org or
www.newwestcity.ca.

Crime Prevention Tips for Emergency Preparedness

► **When preparing your family** for a disaster situation, you may want to consider preparing your home and vehicle so that they are not a target for thieves. The following is a list of tips to consider when preparing for an emergency.

Place your emergency kit and survival supplies in a locked safety box in your home

During a disaster, homes are vulnerable to break and enters. Ensure your emergency kit and survival supplies are safe from theft by placing them in a locked safety box or have them well hidden in your home. Don't forget to lock up your extra batteries as well.



Look at investing in fire and waterproof safety boxes.

Consider using a solar powered motion sensor lighting around your home

During many disasters, power to your home can sometimes be cut off. Install motion detector lights around your house. If a thief is snooping around your home, the lights turning on and off will attract you or the neighbours' attention. Ensure you install these lights at a tamper proof height so that thieves will not be able to disable them.



Remember: install at a tamper proof height.

Use a gas cap lock for your vehicle

Many gas stations close up or run out of gas during a disaster. Always keep half a tank of gas in your vehicle. Consider investing in a gas cap lock, so your fuel will not be siphoned.



There are different styles of locking gas caps: push-on, threaded and quick-on are a few options.

Use secondary locking devices for your doors and patio doors

There are a number of different secondary locking devices you can use for your home and there are also options with alarms. Contact your local locksmith to see what options are out there. Remember: always keep your doors and windows locked and ensure you are always using your secondary locking devices.



Remember to always lock your doors and windows.

Mark your valuables

If your home is broken into and items are taken from your home, property marking will aid police in the recovery of your stolen possessions. Ensure you have made an inventory of all your valuables by documenting their make, model and serial numbers. There are a few options when it comes to marking your property. You can engrave or use SecuriTags through TB Vets. For any items that cannot be marked, take pictures or a video recording.



It is a good idea to keep an inventory list of your items in your locked safety box at home.

Start or join a Block Watch or Crime Free Multi-Housing Program

Take advantage of one of these effective crime prevention strategies. If you are away from your home during a disaster, your neighbours can watch your home/apartment and let you know of any suspicious activity that occurs, including calling the police if needed. The more people involved in looking out for each other, the better chance a crime will be prevented.



Block Watch: the most effective crime prevention tool for your home.



Key Issues with Police Access

Condominium Security Starts with Police Access

BY FRANK FOURCHALK, GOVERNMENT LICENSED LOCKSMITH/SECURITY CONSULTANT

owners or renters. This includes parking areas, locker rooms, amenity rooms, workshops, exercise rooms, etc.

Then there's the "mechanical key." This key fits all mechanical doors in the building. Some examples of areas this key would fit are elevator, boiler, and electrical rooms. There may be a few random rooms with separate keys as well like the gardening and janitorial storage rooms.

Up until a few years ago, lockboxes were seen all over condominium entry areas. Hydro and Gas as well as Cable and Telephone were as common as ten dollar bills. Often you would see five or six lockboxes attached to the outside of buildings. Inside these boxes were the building's "common" keys as well as keys to individual rooms where trades needed access.

► **So why don't police officers** have access to condominiums in an emergency? I realize the fire department is considered first response in a medical emergency. But how does a City justify a police officer randomly pushing codes on the enterphone panel in an attempt to gain entry into a building. Aren't we contributing to another medical emergency if the officer can't gain access quick enough?

Crime Prevention starts with "Crime Attention" and we need to pay very close attention to the resources available to our men and women in blue. Let's offer them the tools they need to keep us safe. We can start by giving them a key to something I call the "lockbox of life" which is attached to the front of each and every condominium in the city. I'm referring to the "fire department" lockbox.

This box contains keys that are vital to the safety of residents in the event of a fire. What about a different kind of emergency that can be just as devastating? I'm talking about a "crime in progress" like a robbery, assault, etc. Time is of the essence and police need emergency access now! Give them a key to the fire lockbox and help save lives.

So what keys are inside this lockbox and what exactly do they access? Let's start with the "common key." This key fits all exterior doors and any area that allows access to common property. Common property is defined as real property owned by "tenants in common," who each have an "undivided interest" in the entire property. In other words any area shared by condominium

The fire department has always had their individual lockbox. In the event of a medical emergency or fire, the firemen open the lockbox, remove the common key as well as the service keys. These keys will give them free access to the entire building with the exception of the individual apartments.

So let's now look at the other half of the equation, the police. Give them a key so they can add it to their arsenal of crime fighting tools. You don't want to be put in a position where you need the police in a hurry and they're stuck at your condos front door trying to gain access.

In closing, let's review the facts. Police officers are locked out in an emergency. Imagine, locking out the very people hired to protect us. Changes need to be brought to the table for the safety of the community, changes that need to happen sooner than later. Changes that would involve removing all lockboxes with the exception of the fire department's. Give a fire lockbox key to the police department so they can do their job. Don't worry about the "bad guys" gaining access to these steel Chubb keyed boxes – after all, they have Abloy high security locks for added security. Your keys are safe inside these mini vaults as long as the lockbox keys are not lost or stolen from the carriers.

www.yourhomesecurity.ca



Block Watch BLOGG



Block Watch Society Newsletter

The **Block Watch Society** will be taking their monthly 1 to 2 page newsletter and changing it to a quarterly edition. With this change, the newsletter will be much more comprehensive. The Society would also like to hear Block Watch stories from each community, so if you have a story you would like share in their newsletter, please send it to blockwatch@nwpolice.org.

New Block Watch Manuals

The **Block Watch Society** will soon be distributing new Block Watch manuals. The Block Captain/Co-Captain manuals and the Participant manuals will now be combined into one comprehensive manual. Don't worry if you have an old manual – the information is still the same, so, please keep using your old manuals.

Block Captain Identification

If you haven't received your **Block Captain Identification card**, contact the **Block Watch Office** and make an appointment.



NWPS Volunteer



**Block Watch
Captain**
Bruce BALLINGALL
Expires: 2010/05/31

Durham Street Annual Block Party

Durham Street Block Watch had their annual Block Party after their neighbourhood garage sale. They had a fantastic turnout and two new families signed up to join their Block Watch group.

Special thanks to Marya McLellan and Angela Codrington for organizing another successful Block Watch block party!



300 Block Durham Street's Block Party



**Looking to rent in New Westminster?
Own or manage a rental property?**

The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program (CFMH) is designed to create safer apartment communities through creating relationships between owners, managers, residents, and police.

Check out our program at www.nwpolice.org or call 604-529-2446 to find a member building in New Westminster or to learn more about how to join.

Build it and they will come. Maintain it and they will stay.




**Crime Free Multi-Housing Program
Welcome
New CFMH Member
Buildings in 2010/2011**

- 201 Carnarvon Street – Norge Apartments
- 205 Carnarvon Street – Emerald Court
- 215 Tenth Street – Fraser West Apartments
- 420 Ash Street – Cedarama Apartments
- 514 Thirteenth Street – Fraser Prospects
- 634 Twelfth Street – The Marrese
- 711 Fifth Avenue – York House
- 814 Fourth Avenue – San Mateo Apartments
- 1012 Fourth Avenue – Gregory Apartments

◀ *Cont'd from page 2: Block Watch Tower 1*

Peter Julian, MP, the River Market, Fraser River Discovery Center, New Westminster Police, Great Wall Tea Company, Tiny at River Market, Columbia Integrated Health Centre and Essence Home Decor). We also applied for local community grants for our meeting from BC Block Watch Society and the New Westminster Community Policing Committee which helped pay for some of our provisions. Most people walked away with a good feeling about our Tower and a prize for being actively involved in Block Watch. It pays to be in the Block Watch Program while bringing neighbours together!

Mike Hoyer, Block Watch Captain

The BC Apartment Owners and Managers Association, the Rental Owners and Managers Society of BC, and BC's Residential Tenancy Branch are proud to jointly present

The Landlord's Toolkit

A full day, interactive workshop on tenant selection, tenancy management and dispute resolution

New Westminster Workshop
Being held on **Tuesday, October 4th** in the basement of the **New Westminster Public Library**
(at 716 Sixth Avenue) from 9:30 am until 4:30 pm.
(lunch Included)

\$99 Per Person
for Landlords or
Owners

\$79 Per Person
for BCAOMA or
BCROMS
Members

\$49 Per Person
for
New Westminster
Police CFMH
Certified Property
Members

TO REGISTER CONTACT THE BC APARTMENT OWNERS AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

First Name	Last Name	Phone Number
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
Method of Payment		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> AmEx		
Credit Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration Date: ___/___ (mm/yy)		
Name as printed on card: _____		Signature: _____
<p><small>Please Fax, Mail, or Email this Registration Form to the BCAOMA Office Phone: (604) 733-9440 Fax: (604) 733-9420 Email: gbillings@bcaoma.com Payment can be sent to BCAOMA at 203 – 1847 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6Y 1J6</small></p>		

CFMH Safety Meeting – A Fun Way to Safety

► **In July New Westminster Police Service** Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) Coordinators Shelley Cole and Bruce Ballingall were invited by Ulryke Weissgerber of Metro Vancouver Housing Corp (MVHC) to conduct a CFMH Safety Meeting for McBride Place Complex. Metro Vancouver Housing provided barbecued hot dogs, refreshments and prizes to residents attending the meeting in order to raise the fun quotient for everyone while learning about crime prevention. NWPS presented safety and crime prevention information augmenting the fun atmosphere. The crowd joined in laughter as the megaphone chirped out a local soccer song and added to the entertainment. A catalyst for this successful event was the grant funding received through New Westminister’s Community Policing Committee in partnership with Metro Vancouver Housing and the City of New Westminister. Proof of this successful meeting is the 139 individuals who came and supported safety in their community. Great partnerships equal great events. Congratulations Metro Vancouver Housing and McBride Place.



CFMH Coordinators Shelley Cole and Bruce Ballingall conducting a CFMH Safety Meeting at McBride Place Complex.

Working Your “Green Thumb” Safely

► **It is the season** when every gardener or “wanna be” gardener is out in their yard, which usually means not paying attention to the security of their residence. TLC for plants can be very invigorating but also distracting, and can increase the opportunity for your home to be burglarized even with you in such close proximity.

Here are some valuable guidelines to manage the risk of being victimized or burglarized while enjoying your outdoor hobby.



- 1 When you are out of your home and in the yard or garden, ensure that all areas of egress or exit are secure. This includes vehicle(s) parked on your property. The “green thumb burglars” look for this prime opportunity to grab something easy and run (i.e. purse, laptop, etc ...)
- 2 When you are finished with gardening tools or ladders, make sure you secure them so they can’t be used to break into your home.
- 3 Trimming of hedges, shrubs, trees, etc ... is paramount to good sight lines for neighbourhood surveillance. This means you can see out and your “block watching” neighbours can see into your property to ensure there is no suspicious activity happening.
- 4 A low hedge or fence along the front of your property could assist in the delineation of what is private versus public property. Even a small row of flowers can accomplish this objective. It makes people think twice before entering your property.
- 5 Consider the placement of your yard furniture and accessories. Have you placed them in an area that increases the opportunity for them to be vandalized or stolen?

The New Westminister Police is reminding residents to use good security practices while working in and around homes and gardens. Crime prevention starts in the home with you. Do not give the thief an opportunity to commit a crime.

BLOCK CAPTAIN OR CFMH MANAGER

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____