

BLOCK WATCH

Fall is here and soon we'll be seeing all the little Halloween ghosts and goblins on the streets!

Block Captain Appreciation Christmas Party 2004

We appreciate our Block Captains! If you are a Block Captain, please watch for your invitation to the upcoming Block Captain Party at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 1, 2004, at the Gorge Vale Golf Club.

Upcoming Block Watch Meetings

A variety of Block Watch Information Meetings will be held at **TWO DIFFERENT LOCATIONS** over the next six weeks. The details are as follows:

VICTORIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Block Watch Information Meetings

October 27, 2004 - Crystal Meth
Presentation by Cst. Brad Fraser

November 24, 2004 - Presentation
On Scams Going On

Location: Esquimalt Town Hall
1229 Esquimalt Road

VICTORIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Block Watch Information Meetings

October 26, 2004
November 23, 2004
December 7, 2004

Getting Started with Block Watch

Location: Victoria Police Dept.
850 Caledonia Avenue

**For more information on any of
these Block Watch Information
Meetings, please contact:**

The Block Watch Office
500 Park Place
Esquimalt Public Safety Building
Phone: 995-7409
Website: www.victoriaesquimaltblockwatch.com

VISION STATEMENTS

Safe Streets – Safe Neighbourhoods
Neighbours helping neighbours
prevent crime
Proactive – not reactive – crime
prevention

**SEE IT...HEAR IT...
REPORT IT!!**

Contacting Block Watch

Get in touch! Stay in touch! Keep informed!

We want to hear from you! If you have comments or suggestions about this newsletter, please let us know. Call the Block Watch Office at 995-7409 or send your email address to Bev at StewartB@police.victoria.bc.ca.

Welcome to New Start-Ups for Block Watch

This past summer, the Block Watch Program has begun to expand into the City of Victoria. A welcome is extended to the following new Block Watch neighbours:

- 1200 block of Yukon St., Fernwood
- 1300 block of Vining St., Fernwood
- 1200 block of Rudlin St., Fernwood
- 1500 block of Amphion St., South Jubilee
- 1083 and 1085 Tillicum Rd. Complex, Western Craigflower
- 1800 block of Hollywood Cres., Gonzales

Points of Interest

Anti-Graffiti Program

On November 2, 2004, the Township of Esquimalt will be kicking off their Anti-Graffiti Program. Esquimalt Council and staff members are very supportive of ridding or at least reducing graffiti in the community. They have supported a resolution that they will try to remove graffiti from municipal property within 24-48 hours by a variety of means, including municipal staff, and through sponsorship of a program involving mentally challenged adults within the community. The committee has received funding from: the Tudor House, Canadian Legion, and other community members; support from various utilities, such as Telus, Hydro, Shaw, etc. The Rock Solid Foundation, Emergency Planning Group and Block Watch are also involved. This initiative is quickly snowballing into a fairly big project in the community. A further project during the second week of May (National Youth Week) will continue the project in the community, which will involve the Military and the paint over at Macaulay Point.

Here is the schedule of events for November 2, 2004:

- 0900 Meet at the Fire Hall
 0945 The initial Community Clean Up begins. The area being targeted will be from Admirals Road to Lampson Street, between Esquimalt Road and Lyall Street.
 1200 CUPE Executive will be hosting a free BBQ in the Town Square for those assisting (behind the Municipal Hall).

Fraud Alerts:

Credit Cards

Stay alert for people with cell phones in their hand standing near you in the checkout line at retail stores, restaurants, grocery stores, etc.

With the new camera cell phones, they can take a photo of your credit card, giving them your name, number and expiration date.

Identification theft is one of the fastest growing crimes today, and this is just another example of the means that are being used, so be aware of your surroundings.

Banking

There is a new banking scam out where the supposed bank will email you, informing you that you have to confirm your account details by connecting to the website shown in the email.

Do not respond to such emails. They are most likely a scam to collect your banking information.

If you do receive any such email (from any banking establishment), please contact your bank via phone to confirm reliability.

Do not send your banking information in response to any unsolicited email. Banks do not normally double-check info in this manner. Check with your bank before sending your banking information anywhere.

Car Jacking

Be aware of a new car-jacking scheme. This could also be used as a ploy for kidnapping.

Imagine: You walk across the parking lot, unlock your car and get inside. You lock your doors, start the engine and shift into reverse.

As you look into your rearview mirror to back out, you notice a piece of paper stuck to the middle of your rear window. You shift into park, unlock the door and jump out of your car to remove the paper (or whatever it is) that is obstructing your view.

When you reach the back of your car, that is when the car-jackers appear out of nowhere, jump into your car and take off!

Your engine was running, women would probably have left their purse on the passenger seat and they practically mow you down as they speed off in your car.

Be aware of this new scheme that is being used extensively. Just drive away and remove the paper later!

Don't Become a Target for Fraud!

Protect yourself by:

- Never giving your credit card, social insurance number, PIN or bank account number over the phone;
- Never make an investment with a stranger over the phone;
- Beware of "get rich quick" or a "once in a lifetime opportunity".
- Most of us think we're too smart to fall for a scam, but think again. Thousands of people are victimized each year, adding up to billions of dollars each year. Here's an easy way to remember if you might become a victim: If you think it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

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Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween Safety Tips

Props, such as toy guns, swords and knives, should be made of soft rubber, Styrofoam, cardboard or other pliable material. Replica firearms that could be mistaken for real firearms should be avoided.

Children should use non-allergenic facial makeup rather than wearing a mask. Masks can restrict vision. If your child does wear a mask, make sure that he/she removes it when crossing a street.

Children should always walk on sidewalks and not directly on streets. They should cross streets at corners and look in all directions before crossing. All traffic signals should be obeyed.

Never cross streets between parked cars, in the middle of blocks or diagonally across intersections. If there are no sidewalks, children should stay as far left of the roadway as possible and walk facing traffic.

Almost everybody is nice, but sometimes a few people play mean tricks on children at Halloween. These tricks can include putting dangerous things in candy and treats. Always have your parents check your treats before eating them.

Halloween is a time for ghosts and goblins and fun with your friends. Be safe, be careful and have a fun Halloween!

Halloween Crime Prevention Tips

The following crime prevention tips can help make Halloween safe and more enjoyable for everyone:

- Do not leave your home unattended;
- Keep your pet(s) indoors or in another safe place;

- Walk through your neighbourhood with others to discourage acts of malicious mischief and speeding motorists;
- Set a specific time limit for your child/children to be out;
- Only give homemade treats to children you know. Make sure the treats are properly wrapped;
- Give commercially wrapped treats to children you do not know;
- All fruit should be cut and closely examined before eating;
- Instruct your children to never enter the home of a stranger;
- Never invite children into your home;
- Children should never be allowed to go out alone;
- Always know who your children are with;
- Always escort your children. If you are unable to, you should select another trusted adult to escort them;
- Adult escorts should carry flashlights;
- Children should walk, not run, to avoid tripping;
- Children should never accept rides from strangers;
- Instruct children not to stray from their group;
- Turn your porch light on to let children know it's all right to visit your home;
- Know the exact routes your children will take;
- Children should never take shortcuts through backyards, alleys or parks;
- Children should carry trick or treat bags that have strong handles or straps – this allows a child to carry the bag in one hand, leaving the other hand free;
- Children should wear identification bracelets;
- Children should trick or treat during daylight hours;
- At night, children should stay on well-lit streets;
- Children should wear costumes made of white or light coloured material. The costumes should be fireproof. If the costume is made of dark material, attach reflector tape on the costume to increase night-time visibility;
- Children should wear comfortable, proper fitting costumes and shoes. Oversized costumes, shoes, boots or loose fitting high heels can make it difficult for children to walk.

Other Safety Tips for Halloween

- All vehicles should be parked, if possible, in garages. If parking on the street or in the driveway, don't leave any money, cell phones or brief cases, etc.
- Remove all portable plants/planters from the front of your house to the backyard.
- All homes should be well lit inside and outside. If you are not at home, make it look like you are.
- Pumpkins can be a fire hazard if lit and kept inside your home. They should be placed several feet from the home and extinguished carefully.

General Safety Tips

Safety Tips

Following these guidelines will not guarantee your safety, but will minimize your availability to an assailant.

General:

- Create a safety plan.
- Listen to and act on your intuition. It's better to be safe and risk a little embarrassment, than stay in an uncomfortable situation that may be unsafe.
- If you are in danger or are being attacked and want to get help, yell "Call 9-1-1!" or give specific directions to onlookers; for example: "You! Get the police!"
- Have your keys ready when approaching your car or building.
- Vary your routine: drive or walk different routes every day.
- If you suspect that someone is following you, by foot or in a car, don't go home (or they will know where you live). Go to a trusted neighbour or public place to call police, or go to the police station.
- Do not label keys with your name or any identification.
- Don't talk about your social life or vacation plans where strangers can overhear you.
- Always carry enough change for a telephone call.

In Your Home:

- Have lights in all entrances.
- Have good locks on all doors and windows.
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbour

or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.

- Don't use your full name on your mailbox, in the phone directory or on your answering machine.
- Do not leave a schedule of your times away from home on your answering machine.
- When you're away from your home, leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- If you live alone, do not let strangers know. Invent a roommate or big dog.
- Check who is at the door before opening it, and do not open the door to an unexpected visitor.
- Don't hide extra keys in easily accessible places. Criminals will find them.
- Ask for photo identification of all repair persons, etc. If you are still suspicious, call to verify.
- Never give personal information to telephone solicitors.
- Consider creating a "safe room" with a separate phone line or cell phone and strong locks. If someone breaks in, you can retreat there (with children) and call for help.
- Do not let strangers into your home to use the phone. Offer to make the call for them.

In the Event of a Burglary:

- If you find a door or window has been broken while you were away, do not go inside – the burglar may still be there. Call police from a neighbour's home.
- If you encounter a burglar in your home, do not confront him – he may be armed and attack you. Stay calm, note details about his physique, facial features, clothing,

as well as any method of transportation (i.e. on foot, car or bike). Telephone the police as soon as he leaves and give them your full name, address and the description of the burglar.

- Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected the premises for evidence. You can start making a descriptive list of missing items for both police and your insurance agent. If you later discover additional missing property, notify the police and your insurance agent.
- If a door seems to be the point of entry and there is no evidence of forcible entry, it may be that the door was either left unlocked or that the burglar has a duplicate key. In such a situation, all the locks of your home should be changed.

Defense Against Dogs:

- When confronted by a threatening dog, our impulse is often to turn and run – the worst response, since movement triggers the chase instinct in dogs.
- Stand very still and try to be calm.
- Don't scream at the dog and run.
- Be aware of where the dog is. Look in its general direction, but don't stare into its eyes. This is considered an aggressive challenge.
- Let the dog sniff you.
- In a low voice say "No! Go home!"
- Stay still until the dog leaves. Back slowly away until it's out of sight.
- If you are knocked down or fall, curl into a ball and keep your hands over your ears, face and neck. Try not to scream or roll around.