

Richmond

**BLOCK**



**WATCH**

Newsletter

*Working together to prevent crime*

Fall 2001

Richmond Block Watch • 6900 Minoru Boulevard, Richmond, BC V6Y 1Y3 • Tel: (604) 207-4790 • Fax: (604) 207-4792

## New Faces

### We have some new faces at Richmond Detachment:

Supt. Ward Clapham comes to us from Nanaimo and looks forward to working with the Block Watch Program.

S/Sgt. Colin Abel just arrived in the Crime Prevention/Victim Services Section which is also responsible for the Block Watch Program.

### We also have some new faces in the Block Watch Program:

Wendy Milford has been employed by the City of Richmond for the past 14 years, including 13 years with the Richmond R.C.M.P. Crime Prevention/Victim Services Unit. Wendy joined the Block Watch Program in January when Lyn Scott retired. Wendy started her new position on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please don't hesitate to contact Wendy or Sheila at the Block Watch office. Hopefully, we can succeed in making Richmond's Block Watch Program an even more successful program, one street at a time.

Sheila Yamamoto joined the Block Watch Program in the newly created position of Assistant Co-ordinator. Sheila will be assisting Wendy in ensuring the Block Watch Program continues to grow in Richmond. They both look forward to meeting all the existing Block Watch volunteers over the next few months, and to welcoming new volunteers to the Program.

### Note to Block Captains:

We are in the process of updating our street maps. Over the next few months, we will be sending you a copy of your street map. Could you please update it and return it to us ASAP. Thanks!



*Teresa Sameshima, Frances Murphy, Madolyn & Gordon Fleming, Susan Greenwood and Carol Sargeant hard at work at the Planning Day.*

## Planning Day

We would like to thank Walter Harms, Frances Murphy, Terry Pallin, Susan Greenwood, Carol Sargeant, Gordon and Madolyn Fleming, Teresa Sameshima and Colleen Chambers who all attended our recent Block Watch Planning Day held on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The Planning Day was held to introduce Wendy and Sheila to some of the Block Watch Area Co-ordinators and to discuss any suggestions or concerns regarding the Program. A great deal of valuable information was exchanged and the Block Watch Staff will be working very hard to implement the suggestions. It was also agreed that the Planning Day was a great success and we will be holding another session next year! Again, thanks to those who attended, we really appreciate your time and comments. For those who were unable to attend, we look forward to seeing you next time!!

## Richmond Property Crime Statistics

|                   | July 2001 | Aug. 2001 | Sept. 2001* |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Residential B&E's | 65        | 89        | 27          |
| Theft of Auto     | 104       | 114       | 36          |
| Theft from Auto   | 268       | 270       | 89          |

\* as of September 11, 2001

## Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Course Series

Are you ready for our next major earthquake? Take all four of our Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Courses and you and your family will be prepared to survive on your own for a minimum of 72 hours following a major earthquake and other emergencies. The following emergency preparedness courses are being offered:

- Personal Preparedness
- Emergency First Aid
- Rapid Damage Assessment
- Utilities & Fire Suppression

Beginning September 24th, these emergency preparedness courses are being offered at Thompson, South Arm, Hamilton, Steveston and Cambie Community Centres. Participants can register by phone, in person, by fax or by mail. Registration forms are available online at [www.city.richmond.bc.ca](http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca).

## New Neighbourhoods Join Block Watch

Bennett Road  
 Blair Drive  
 Fisher Gate  
 Lynas Lane  
 Pearl Court  
 Trites Road

## Garage Door Alarm

You've got your front and back door alarmed, but...did you ever think about putting an alarm system on your garage doors? Alarms for garage doors are a must when your garage is attached to the house. Just remember - you need a longer entry time (to get out of the car and collect all your belongings, etc.), most people have 20-30 second delay for their front and back doors, use a 60 second delay for the garage door. (This only works if your alarm system is capable of 2 different entry delays!) Tip: Don't have your alarm box (the one with the backup battery) in your garage!

However, for most people with "Basic Alarm Packages" cannot do this and need to upgrade all the electronics in the alarm. Isn't it better to be safer than sorry - get an alarm system for the garage today - you'll be happy you did!

Remember to remove your garage door opener from your car when parked. Use an engraver to mark the opener with your driver's license number, so the police will know who to call if it ends up in the wrong hands.

Thanks to Terry P., who gave us this great suggestion at our recent Planning Day!

## Upcoming Event:

The British Columbia Crime Prevention Association Gala Benefit. Night to include Dinner, Dance, Entertainment and Silent Auction.

When: Saturday, November 3rd, 2001

Where: Stanley Park Ballroom  
 Bayshore Inn, Vancouver, BC

Agenda: Reception & Silent Auction 6:00 pm  
 Dinner 7:00 pm

Tickets: \$98 per person including taxes

Dress: Black Tie

Hosted by the Vancouver Metropolitan Lions Club to support the British Columbia Crime Prevention Association and the Richmond RCMP

RSVP and order tickets through:

Cst. Annette Martin 604-278-1212 (Local 2286)  
 Wendy Milford 604-207-4790

## **Vandalism: The malicious damage or destruction of property.**

Vandalism is one crime that many people seem to shrug off nowadays. People seem to think, "It doesn't cost me anything" so they ignore it. But that's where they are wrong. It costs everybody! Either in higher insurance rates or, in the case of public property, higher taxes.

There can be many motives for vandalism. Perhaps revenge. Possibly a young wannabe trying to impress his peers by showing how "brave and courageous" he is by destroying some object. Maybe someone just frustrated with life. Whatever the excuse, there is no legitimate reason for this crime.

The Richmond RCMP needs your help to reduce this crime. However, they cannot be everywhere at once. They need the assistance of responsible citizens. That's where Block Watch members can help. The RCMP need to know when and where it is happening while it is still happening. They need information. Simply by making a call when you see something of a suspicious nature, perhaps a group of youths gathered at a school late at night.

### **The RCMP has many programs to prevent and discourage crime.**

If you want further information on any of these programs, please call the Richmond RCMP Crime Prevention Section at 278-1212 Local 2308.

Remember, vandalism is a crime - we need to work together to eliminate it. Be part of the solution. Get involved!

## **Auto Theft is Still Out of Control**

For the third time in the past four years, auto theft claims handled by the Insurance Corporation of BC have dropped from previous year's levels. However, the fight against auto theft is far from over. ICBC handled over 18,000 stolen vehicle claims in 2000. Although the majority of these vehicles were recovered, one third were written off due to the excessive damage that incurred. These statistics are a reminder to everyone not to be complacent and continue to make it difficult for thieves to steal our vehicles.

## **Thieves Take Pride in the Art of Stealing, Not What They Steal**

Most cars are stolen by people who are not stealing for profit. They steal to destroy personal property or to drive at dangerously high speeds. The cost to ICBC policyholders was more than \$79 million dollars in 2000. Stolen vehicles are often used in other serious criminal acts. The reckless driving of these individuals sometimes injure or kill innocent people. For these reasons alone, we cannot forget that the effects of auto crime often span outside of the realm of loss of property.

### **Thieves are Lazy**

Thieves target vehicles that pose the least amount of hassle. A quick and clean getaway depends on how quickly the thief can get in to a car and start it, as well as the kind of tools needed. No matter where you park your car, you risk being a victim of auto crime.

### **What Can You Do?**

To avoid being a victim of auto crime, there are many things you can do. First, leave a clean car. What may seem like a cheap item to you, can be money to a thief. Remember that thieves see success as not only stealing expensive items from one car, but also stealing many less expensive items from many cars. Second, lock your car doors and fully close your windows. A thief doesn't need fancy tools to get into an unlocked car! Third, always use an anti-theft device. If you harden your target, you decrease your chances of having your vehicle targeted. Parking in well-lit and well-traveled areas is another preventative measure you can take to deter auto crime. The fight against auto crime is never-ending, but taking these simple steps can ensure that you will not be on the losing side.

For more information, visit the ICBC website at [www.icbc.com](http://www.icbc.com) or contact:

Alex Lee, ICBC Loss Prevention Coordinator, at (604) 275-7016 or e-mail: [alex.lee@icbc.com](mailto:alex.lee@icbc.com)

## Block Watch Parties

The 2nd Annual Kilby Drive Block Watch Neighbourhood Party. The Oaks Resident Association had a Block Watch Party on Sunday, June 10th and even though it rained, they had a good time and lots of great food! Special thanks to Stella Wong for organizing this event.

Hamilton area residents enjoyed a Family Community Picnic on Friday, June 15th. They had a good turnout, including Richmond Fire Department, Emergency Preparedness, the City of Richmond's Recycling Program.

Windsor Court had a Block Watch Party in July, which Cst. Law attended. They had a good turnout and a lot of fun activities for the kids.

Waller Court had a Block Watch Party in August, Cst. Andrew, Cst. Luk and Cst. Ryhal attended from Steveston COPS. They had a good crowd, great food and a good time was held by all.

Lassam Road had a Block Watch Party on September 8th. Cst. Ben Maure and a team of paramedics attended. They had a great day, great weather, great food and it was lots of fun. Again special thanks to Lisa Widas for organizing this event.

The 9371 King Road complex had a Block Watch Party. They had good weather, good food and again, a good time was held by all. Thanks to several members of the Block Watch Planning Committee, with an extra thank you to Faye Dudley. Also a special thank you to the Kingswood Pub for supplying the beverages and to Crown Pizza for supplying the pizza!

Fairbrook Crescent had a Block Watch Party in the lovely backyard of the Bellinger home. They also had great weather, a great location and everyone had a great time.

September 23rd was the date of the Block Watch Party at Finlayson Court. They had lots of fun, good weather and welcomed all their new neighbours to the party!

Thanks to everyone who organized or participated in the above parties. Please let us know if you had a Block Watch Party and we will mention it in the next newsletter.

We hope that next year is another great party year!



*The gang from Lassam Road*



*The party on Fairbrook Crescent*

## Questions? Suggestions!

We'd like to ask for your feedback and input. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve the program or newsletter, we'd appreciate your comments. Please don't hesitate to call/write to:

Richmond Block Watch Program Office  
6900 Minoru Blvd.  
Richmond, BC V6Y 1Y3  
Phone: (604) 207-4790



Royal Canadian  
Mounted Police



City of Richmond

