

Richmond

BLOCK



10th Anniversary Issue!

WATCH

Newsletter

Working together to prevent crime

Fall 2002

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

Thank you to Captains and Co-Captains for their help in making the program a success!



Greetings from Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie

On behalf of City Council and the residents of Richmond, I would like to extend sincerest greetings to everyone involved in Richmond's Block Watch program.

This year is the Tenth Anniversary of the Block Watch Program in Richmond. The Program was

introduced by Cst. Ed Ryhal, who recently retired from the RCMP after many years of service to Richmond and the Steveston Community Police Station.

Block Watch is a highly successful program here in the City of Richmond and is based on the concept of neighbours helping neighbours. It is a free program, community based, funded by the City of Richmond and administered by Richmond RCMP. Block Watch aims to help residents organize their neighbourhoods to prevent crime in their community. All that is asked is that neighbours keep an eye on one another for everyone's safety and benefit, and if someone sees something suspicious, to call the police.

In addition, Block Watch provides information on general home security, street signs and window stickers, discounts on home insurance, use of an engraver to participants to engrave their valuables, an informative newsletter, and, importantly, a greater sense of community and safety among neighbours.

I wish the Block Watch Program and everyone involved continued success.



Supt. Ward Clapham

Superintendent Ward Clapham is the Team Leader/Officer in Charge (OIC) at Richmond Detachment, "Upon assuming my role as Richmond Detachment's new OIC

words could not express how excited and impressed I was to learn that we have a Block Watch program incorporating over 9,000 community participants."

Ward's passion is in the area of Community Policing. His interest in these areas began in 1991 soon after the philosophy was introduced to the RCMP. He has published several articles and workbooks in the areas of Community Policing and Root Problem Solving. For the past 7 years, Ward has been lecturing in the area of Community Policing across North America and is very active implementing this philosophy at all levels.

"Block Watch is an excellent program and an excellent example of how the police and the community can work together to make our community a safer place to live. I look forward to meeting some of you at an upcoming Block Watch meeting."

"My compliments to all of you involved in this outstanding program!"



Cst. Ed Ryhal

A special dinner was held January 25, 2002 to honour Cst. Ed Ryhal, as he retired from the Steveston Community Police Station. Cst. Ryhal joined the RCMP in 1987. In 1992, Ed and Lyn Scott established the Block Watch program in Richmond and spent many hours training the new Captains and Co-Captains.

In 1996, Ed and Cst. John McRae opened and operated the Steveston Community Police Station. The dedication and hard work they put in made the station a very important part of the Steveston community and a very important part of community policing in Richmond. Ed, along with his wife, Linda, established the Crime Watch Program out of the Steveston Community Police Station.

continued on page 2...

continued from page 1...

Ed epitomized the true community constable on his many “walk-about” in Steveston. He became well known to the many business people and visitors to the area. In particular on July 1st, when the Steveston Salmon Festival and Parade took place, Ed could be seen directing traffic at No. 1 Road and Moncton, talking to the visitors and, generally being the friendly, helpful, hardworking “Sheriff of Steveston”.

Ed and his wife, Linda are travelling and enjoying retirement now. We would like to wish them good health and “happy trails” from all their friends and colleagues in Richmond.

Lyn Scott

“How wonderful it is to contribute to the 10th Anniversary Issue of Richmond Block Watch. It seems like only yesterday when I started working with Cst. Ed Ryhal...in fact it was 1993! 110 homes were involved and I spent many hours talking to these people asking them for advice in improving the program. Home Hardware, our first program sponsor, started donating engravers and have been doing so for nine years.”

“The community really reached out to Block Watch. Richmond’s population was soaring and the program really grew quickly. We needed a way to communicate urgent information to neighbourhoods. To address this need, our automated Telephone Fan Out System was developed.”

“To all the Volunteers, thanks for helping me make informed decisions and your incredible support in getting me through the ‘birthing’ stages of this wonderful program and beyond. I would also like to thank RCMP Break and Enter Squad members and 9-1-1 Telecom Operators for all their support in assisting me during Training Sessions. I would also like to thank the City of Richmond’s Works Department for installing all the Block Watch signs in our neighbourhoods.”

“I enjoyed the opportunity to take on this role in the community and all the wonderful people I have met. Although I have left the program, I will always remember it fondly and know that it will prosper under the stewardship of Wendy Milford and Sheila Yamamoto.”

Tips, Tips and more Tips

Thank you to the Richmond RCMP members for suggesting the following tips:

“Don’t hide keys outside your home or apartment. If you need to leave a spare key with someone, leave it with a friend that can bring it to you if you need it.”

Cst. Jolaine Percival, School Liaison Officer

“Have a hiding spot inside your house to put small things of value that you use frequently and don’t keep in a safety deposit box. Jewellery boxes and dresser drawers are the first place criminals look for valuables. Note: Remember where your hiding spot is!!”

Cst. Julie Powroznik, Crime Prevention Unit

Easy ways to reduce your risk of theft:

1. Always ask trades people to show identification through a window.
2. Trim hedges and bushes around all entrances to your house for added visibility.
3. Install motion lights at least eight feet high.
4. When you go away on vacation, cancel your newspaper and have someone pick up your mail.
5. When vacationing, conceal valuables in a safety deposit box.
6. If you’re leaving your house for an extended period, ask a neighbour to park in your driveway.

Cst. Gary Law, Crime Prevention Unit

“Keep your house visible – although fences and trees are often installed/planted to increase security and/or privacy, they can, sometimes shelter an intruder from view of the neighbours and the street.”

Wendy Milford, Block Watch Coordinator

“If you leave your keys with a parking attendant, leave only the ignition and car door key. Keep your registration documents with you, not in the vehicle. You may leave a photocopy, with your address blacked out, in the vehicle, but don’t use the glove compartment, store it in the trunk.”

Sheila Yamamoto, Assistant Block Watch Coordinator

Congratulations to Block Captain Mr. Karnail Dhaur who won a Home First Aid Kit at our Emergency Preparedness meeting last spring!

Other Safety Tips

Halloween:

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

Over the Christmas holidays:

1. Carry all your purchases in one large shopping bag.
2. Consider using a "fanny pack" type of purse turned to the front.
3. Be cautious in the washroom, someone may reach over the cubicle and take your bags or purse from the hook on the door.
4. Park in well-lit areas.
5. If you are storing your bags in the trunk and returning to the mall, make sure you move your vehicle to another parking spot in case someone is watching you.

Emergency Preparedness Tips:

1. Choose an out-of-province contact person – in the event of an emergency, instruct all family members to call the out-of-province contact person to check in.
2. Remove heavy items from top shelves – during an earthquake the majority of injuries are caused by flying and falling debris.
3. Put a pair of shoes under your bed – glass is a major hazard after an earthquake – the shoes will protect your feet.
4. Drop, cover and hold! When the shaking starts – drop under a table or piece of sturdy furniture that will provide cover and hold onto the table legs until the shaking stops.
5. Choose a family meeting place to ensure everyone gets out safely. Choose a location away from buildings and overhead hazards, such as power lines.

6. Learn the location of gas, water and electrical utilities and how and when to shut them off. For more information about utilities, visit www.bcgas.com

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit their website at www.city.richmond.bc.ca or call the emergency program office at (604) 233-3333

Glove Compartments:

1. Remove valuables from your glove compartment and leave it open when you park your car.
2. Empty and open your ashtray – criminals have been known to break into cars for very small amounts of cash.
3. Your car registration papers show your home address, if a criminal steals your car, he knows where you live. So, photocopy your registration papers, store the originals at home, and leave the photocopy in the car with your home address blacked out.
4. Remember to always remove your garage door opener when you park your car.

What to do in the Event of a Burglary

1. 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 the Police from a neighbour's home.
2. If you encounter a burglar in your home, do not confront him – he may be armed and attack you. Keep calm, note details about his physique, facial features, clothing as well as any method of transportation – on foot, car, or bike. Telephone the Police as soon as he leaves and give them your full name and address and the description of the burglar.
3. 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 the Police and your insurance agent. If you later discover additional missing property, notify the Police and your insurance agent.
4. 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.

City of Richmond, Partners for Beautification Program

by Paul Morizawa, Coordinator, Parks Program,
City of Richmond

As residents of Richmond, we have the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of open spaces, trails, dykes, community parks, neighbourhood parks, and clean streets. These open spaces have become our legacy. The City of Richmond is growing, and the demand on our streets, open spaces and parks matches that growth. The Partners for Beautification program is a unique opportunity for community involvement relating to civic beautification. Residents of all ages, community groups, service clubs, and businesses which call Richmond home can make a difference in the park, streetscape, and dyke legacy that Richmond will bring into the millennium and beyond.

The components of the Partners for Beautification program include:

- Adopt-A-Street
- Adopt-A-Garden
- Adopt-A-Tree
- Graffiti Removal
- Adopt-A-Park, Trail, Dyke, or Walkway
- Adopt an Environmental Sensitive Area
- Sponsorship/Adopt through Donations
- Adopt-A-Traffic Circle (New)

To become involved or for more information, please contact the City of Richmond Parks Department at 604-244-1208, or visit www.city.richmond.bc.ca.

Federal Funds Available to Help Seniors Live More Independently

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. (CMHC) has funds to help low-income seniors (maximum annual family income of \$28,500) make their homes more comfortable, safe and accessible to live in and is actively seeking applications from qualified individuals.

CMHC's Home Adaptations for Seniors Independence (HASI) program provides low-income seniors and landlords with senior tenants with financial assistance of up to \$2,500 to make minor home adaptations to improve a home's accessibility as well as security. Some of the many adaptations that can be

made include security bars on windows, reinforce doors and replace locks. Home security systems are not eligible.

To qualify for assistance for HASI funds, the occupant of the dwelling to be adapted must meet the following criteria:

1. be 65 and over;
2. have a low total family income; and
3. ensure the adaptations will be done to a permanent residence.

For more details, call CMHC at (604) 731-5733



Richmond Auxiliary Training Program

Cst. Gary Law

Auxiliary Constables Coordinator

Richmond RCMP have recruited 15 volunteers for their Auxiliary Program. Cst. Gary Law said, "We received over 80 applications for the 15 spots – the response has been terrific! The Auxiliary Program is an important aspect of crime prevention and our graduates will help to make Richmond a safer place to live." Auxiliaries are being trained by RCMP officers to perform a variety of tasks, such as promoting the Block Watch program and assisting at traffic accidents and crime scenes. If you are interested in learning more about the program, please contact Cst. Gary Law at (604) 207-4732.

BC Crime Prevention Association Gala Evening

On November 2nd the Vancouver Metropolitan Lions Club is holding a dinner and dance for the Crime Prevention Association and Richmond RCMP. 25% of the funds raised are donated to crime prevention in Richmond. It will be held in the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel and tickets are \$88.00/person. Please contact Cst. Annette Martin at (604) 278-1212, local 2286 for tickets.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police



City of Richmond