

CRIME PREVENTION

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME**NEWSLETTER**

Keep Your Personal and Tax Information Safe

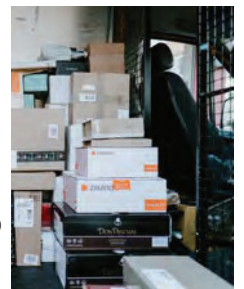
Tax season can be a stressful time of the year. If you are hiring someone to do your taxes, make sure to do some research beforehand because scammers are waiting for opportunities to steal your personal and financial information, money, and identity.

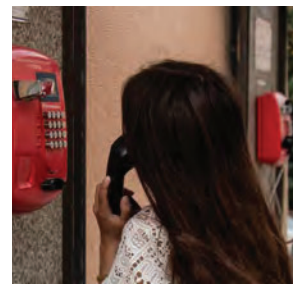
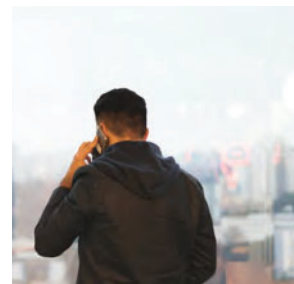
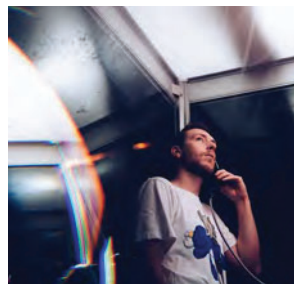
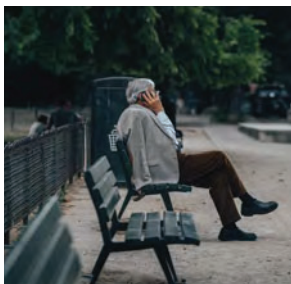
- ◆ Choose a credible tax professional and always verify their credentials.
- ◆ Check for consumer complaints to see if there have been any complaints filed against them and have they been resolved. i.e. Better Business Bureau, Chartered Professional Accountants British Columbia
- ◆ Meet with the person that will be handling your taxes before handing over your personal information.
- ◆ Request a quote in writing before authorizing the work.
- ◆ Do not sign a blank tax return. Only sign after you have reviewed the completed CRA tax form. You are responsible for everything that appears on your tax return.
- ◆ Do not post or send any personal or tax related information on any social media platforms.
- ◆ Whenever possible, only send hard copies of documents to service provider and not via email.
- ◆ Be on the watch for tax-related scams: phishing, identity theft and CRA scams.

Parcel Theft Prevention

Parcel theft is on the rise. Online shoppers should be aware that their packages may become lost or stolen and what they can do to protect their packages. No one wants to deal with the hassle of a stolen package as it often leads to a series of steps to replace it or get your money back, if that's even an option. Even though most delivery carriers track packages up to the minute, they do not take responsibility once it is delivered. While no one can stay home indefinitely waiting for their packages to arrive, there are ways to proactively prevent parcel thefts.

- Estimate delivery date— Most online stores provide an estimate date of arrival or a date range, make sure you are not away on vacation during that time.
- Schedule delivery date with courier— Contact the courier directly to schedule a delivery on a day that works best for you.
- Delivery address— Send it to a trusted friend or family member's address that you know are always home.
- Nearest access point— If courier only delivers during your work hours, have it deliver to the nearest access point and pick it up on your way home.
- Store pick up— Reserve it online for pick up in store when possible. This also allows you to check the merchandise before purchasing, to avoid the need for an exchange or refund.





See Something, Say Something

Have you ever seen something suspicious or witnessed a crime? Is reporting it to the police the first thought that comes to your mind? It may be tempting to just forget about a minor offense rather than reporting it, but the lack of action reduces the chance of criminals getting caught, which could lead to an increase of the frequency and severity of occurrences. Reporting remains one of the best ways for residents to provide the police with an accurate understanding of what is happening in their neighbourhoods. From that, it also helps crime analysts identify trends, patterns, methods, and hotspots, which then allows the police to strategically utilize and focus their efforts properly in order to curb or solve the issues in the neighbourhood. By reporting, you can help and play a proactive role in preventing future crimes from taking place.

Never assume someone else will call in what you have seen. It is better for the police to receive information from multiple people than no reports at all. Everyone sees and focuses on different details and those specifics could help solve cases. Something that may appear small or insignificant might be the “missing piece” that the police were looking for.

On July 6th 2017, a Richmond resident looked outside and noticed two men wearing gloves and using a spray bottle to frantically clean a car, not a typical way to wash a car. The woman thought this was strange, took a picture, and called the police just before they sped away in a second waiting vehicle. Due to quick reporting of the suspicious activity, the police were able to arrest the two males, who were known to the police. The car was reported stolen out of Surrey. Although this strange car wash incident may look small, it provided valuable information for the police to recover a stolen vehicle and arrest the suspects.

When you identify suspicious activity or a crime, know the numbers you need to call.

Emergency: 9-1-1	Non-emergency: 604-278-1212	Online Reporting: https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/richmond/en
When immediate action is required: someone’s health, safety or property is in	Police matters that do not require an immediate response	Damage/Mischief under \$5000
A crime is in progress or has just occurred	Reporting a crime with suspect, but the suspect is not on scene or with lengthy delay	Theft under \$5000
A suspicious circumstance that may indicate an imminent criminal act	A suspicious circumstance that may indicate an ongoing criminal activity	Lost Property

Crime Prevention is a Breeze

As the weather becomes warmer, so should our awareness for crime prevention. To prepare for upcoming season, it is crucial for us to remind ourselves of crime prevention habits. Let's focus on the following: home, vehicles, and valuables.

Home— Open windows and sliding doors are opportunities for thieves to easily gain entry into your home. Make sure to check all windows and doors to see if they are closed and locked properly before heading out of the house. When you are finished with tools and ladder, put them away securely in a locked shed, garage, or storage room. Thieves can use tools that are left outside to break into the house.

Vehicles— It can be tempting to keep your windows down during hot summer weather. Do NOT do it. Even just a tiny crack is enough for thieves to get in and steal your belongings. Keep your windows up at all times when it's unattended. Remember to remove all valuables out of plain sight and never leave a set of spare keys in your car.

Personal Belongings— It is common to leave bags, jackets, and sporting equipment on the side lines or benches when participating in outdoor activities such as picnics, barbecues, canoeing, and basketball etc. However, distracted owners with unattended valuables are exactly what thieves are looking for. Carry only essential valuables and keep them with you at all times or ask a trusted individual to watch over them while you are busy.

Crime prevention is a breeze when you build these tips into your daily habits.

To start a Block Watch Group

Interested in starting a Block Watch group? Let us tell you a little about Block Watch! Block Watch is a program that brings the police and the communities together. This program helps you build connections and relationships with people in your neighborhood and the police while striving for the common goal of crime prevention.

Select a Captain/Co-Captain

- ◇ Each Captain/Co-Captain must submit an application and complete a Police Information Check

Recruit and build your group

- ◇ Recruit homes that are near to you. To build an effective Block Watch, try to involve 50-75% of households in your area. We will provide you with recruitment packages.

Complete activation of your team

1. **Complete** Block Watch Captain/Participant training - Register as many of your group as you can for a virtual training session.
2. **Submit** your participating household list.
3. **Qualify** for Block Watch street signs once above steps are completed.

If you are interested in creating a Block Watch group in your area, email us your name and address at blockwatch@richmond.ca or call 604-207-4829.

BUSINESS LINK

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

Don't Get Reeled In

Phishing scams are a common tactic that scammers use to steal your personal and financial information by pretending to be a legitimate sender. Phishing comes in all shapes and sizes nowadays and unfortunately are very easy to fall for if you do not know the signs to watch for. Not only are cyber criminals increasingly sophisticated with their phishing campaigns over the years but are now targeting individuals as well as businesses. Spear phishing is one of the most common tactics used to target businesses and organizations. It is a targeted attack where cyber criminals collect information beforehand so that they can send a personalized message and pretend to be someone that the victim knows.

Spear phishing could look like:

- ◆ An email from your IT department asking you to reset your password
- ◆ An email from your colleague asking you to open a file or click on a link in order to provide feedback
- ◆ An email from an existing client or vendor asking you to update the company's banking information for payment purposes
- ◆ An email from your boss asking you to send an urgent wire transfer to a foreign account
- ◆ An email from an existing supplier informing a change in payment details and to make future payments to their "new" account

Watch for these red flags:

- ◆ Unusual urgent requests that doesn't follow the regular procedure
- ◆ Incorrect email address or use of personal email instead of a company's email
- ◆ Asks for sensitive information, such as security code to the office, account password
- ◆ Includes unsolicited attachments or links that has an odd file name or file type

How to protect yourself and your business

Educate your employees on how to spot phishing attempts so that they can protect themselves and the company from cybercriminals and hackers. Cybercriminals not only target businesses for money but also for employees' personal information. Establish protocols and procedures for your employees to internally verify suspicious communications and provide an easy way for employees to report phishing attacks. Protect all work devices, operating systems and application by regularly updating them and installing security patches.



SCAMMERS ARE AFTER YOUR:

