



**BLOCK WATCH**®  
An Informative Newsletter for British  
Columbia Published Monthly by the  
Block Watch Society of BC.  
[www.blockwatch.com](http://www.blockwatch.com)

### **FRAUD IN CANADA — HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?**

Nearly 80% of all mass marketing frauds in  
Canada involve organized crime groups.

- Almost 58% of Canadian adults report that they were targeted during the past 12 months by one of twelve frauds – approximately 4% fell victim.
- Nine out of ten Canadians speak to no one about the fraud attempt.
- Just under one in ten victims (7%) report being victimized by more than one type of fraud during the past year.

You should consider contacting your local police service as well as reporting the fraud or attempted fraud to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or [www.antifraudcentre.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre.ca).

Source: <http://bc.rcmp.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=50&languageId=1&contentId=17667>

### **CRIB SAFETY (NEW RULES)**

The federal government has unveiled new regulations around how cribs are manufactured, in a bid to make them safer for infants.

Since 2009 close to three million cribs have been recalled in Canada, most of them of the drop-side variety, because of potential suffocation risks.

The biggest recall involved a Canadian-designed and manufactured crib made by Stork Craft, of Richmond, B.C. About two million of its cribs

# **Block Watch News January 2011**

were recalled, including 968,800 in Canada, after four children suffocated.

While the new regulations don't address drop-side cribs, they do broaden the definition of a crib to include stand-alone bassinets, and eliminate the distinction between standard and portable cribs.

The regulations also add new flammability and side-height standards. Cribs made and sold in Canada will also have to eliminate any toeholds that can allow a child to climb out.

The government is also continuing its consultations on drop-side cribs. Proposals before the government would ban the controversial cribs, along with any with sides that are not rigidly attached.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/consumer/story/2010/12/01/con-crib-regulations.html>

### **ICBC & RCMP HELP LANGLEY RESIDENTS PROTECT THEIR OLDER MODEL VEHICLES FROM AUTO CRIME**

Older model vehicles often aren't equipped with anti-theft devices, making them prime bait for car thieves. In Langley, pre-2001 Honda Civics, Dodge Caravans and Plymouth Voyagers are at a high risk of being stolen. The focus of this initiative is to distribute steering wheel locks, while supplies last, during the month of December to local residents who own these target vehicles and other pre-2001 vehicles not equipped with an anti-theft device.

Operation Lock Up is one part of ICBC's overall auto crime strategy, which has contributed to a 55 per cent decrease in auto crime in B.C. since 2003.

Source: <http://bc.rcmp.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=50&languageId=1&contentId=17733&title=Langle>

## DRIVERS NEED TO DO BETTER – RESULTS FROM COUNTERATTACK LAUNCH IN LOWER MAINLAND

RCMP Traffic units across the Lower Mainland are releasing results from Dec. 3-6, covering the launch of the December Counterattack season. And the main message?

“The public is not getting the message,” said Superintendent Norm Gaumont, responsible Traffic Services in RCMP policed areas across the Lower Mainland.

“We focused on the four main issues that cause fatalities and serious injuries – alcohol impairment, speed, seatbelts and intersections. And frankly, the number of charges and violations is disturbingly high.”

There were 394 tickets handed out for speeding, including 17 for excessive speeding where the driver's vehicle was impounded.

There were 165 recorded seatbelt infractions – at a time when the RCMP is seeing a slight upward trend on seatbelt related deaths.

“Approximately 40% of our fatalities are the result of not wearing a seatbelt or not using a child restraint device,” says Supt. Gaumont.

Sixty-six drivers were handed prohibitions or suspensions for driving while impaired. Of that number:

- three drivers received three-day prohibitions with vehicle impoundment

- 21 drivers received three-day prohibitions without vehicle impoundment
- 24 drivers received 90-day prohibitions
- three drivers were charged criminally with impaired driving

source: <http://bc.rcmp.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=50&languageId=1&contentId=17961&detachmentCategoryId=541&title=Lower%20Mainland%20District>

## CONSUMER TIPS FOR BUYING GIFT CARDS IN BC

The new rules around pre-paid purchase cards (gift cards or gift certificates) came into effect on November 1, 2008, and apply only to cards purchased after that date. The new rules state that cards may no longer be allowed to have expiration dates or to charge fees, with a few exceptions.

**Educate yourself about the exemptions to the law.** There are certain cards that are allowed to have expiration dates or charge fees, such as mall cards.

**Get the details.** Cards with expiration dates and fees must contain disclosure information. It is always a good idea to read the fine print, so you – or the person you are buying for – aren't surprised by the terms and conditions.

**Ask questions of the retailer.** You may want to know if the card is redeemable online or if the store even has the option to shop through their website.

**Buy from a trusted source.** Be careful and do your research if you are considering buying a pre-paid purchase card online, from an unknown auction site or from a company you have never heard of.

**Keep your receipts.** It's always a good idea to keep your receipts for any consumer transaction.

Source: <http://www.consumerprotectionbc.ca/consumers-other-businesses-home/consumer-tips/382-consumer-tips-for-buying-gift-cards-in-bc>