



BLOCK WATCH®

An Informative Newsletter for British Columbia Published Monthly by the Block Watch Society of BC.

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LOCK OUT – AUTO CRIME

After a noticeable increase in thefts from vehicles in the Aldergrove area, Langley RCMP's Community Safety Officer, a variety of Volunteers and Auxiliaries hit the street to conduct a Lock out Auto Crime blitz.

On May 27th and 28th, the group (in partnership with ICBC) 'hit the streets' in Aldergrove between 264 & 276 Streets and 32 and 35 Avenues checking to see if valuables had been left in plain view inside parked vehicles. A total of 430 notices were left on vehicles in the area.

As they continued along, GPS units, handbags, tools, wallets, money and cell phones were left in many more vehicles in plain view.

Vehicle owners are reminded to remove ANY articles of value from their vehicle each and every time they leave it unattended. Even the smallest amount of loose change will serve as an enticement for thieves. Unfortunately, the smallest theft could result in significant damage to your vehicle. Protect your property – always!!!

Source: <http://bc.rcmp.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=50&languageId=1&contentId=14943>

POLICE GIVE WARNING TO KNOCK-OFF SELLERS

In April of 2010 Prince George RCMP began an investigation into a home run business where the owner was selling counterfeit products commonly referred to as "knock offs", "designer goods" or "look-alikes".

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The products were believed to have been manufactured or created in violation of Copyright or Trademark laws. The counterfeit product was "an imitation of a legitimate item that bear a forged copyright or trademark (logo, artwork, design or name)."

Dealing in counterfeit products is against the law and anyone found committing these offences is liable to face severe criminal penalties including large fines and imprisonment. The Copyright and Trade mark Owners may also take civil actions against anyone who deals in this type of illegal merchandise.

Source: <http://bc.rcmp.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=50&languageId=1&contentId=14998>

NEW CAMP FIRE RULES START JULY 1

People will be sitting around smaller campfires in B.C. this summer under new rules taking effect on Canada Day.

The government is shrinking the size of fires from one metre across to about a half metre as of July 1 to try to reduce the risk of wildfires caused by careless people, Forests Minister Pat Bell said Thursday.

The new rules also require campers to build a fireguard around their fires by scraping down to the dirt and clearing away potentially flammable debris, such as twigs, leaves and needles.

A shovel or at least eight litres of water must be stored nearby to extinguish the fire. Failure to comply with the new rules will result in a \$345 fine. An additional \$345 fine will be levied for campfires lit during a ban.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/british-columbia/story/2010/06/24/bc-smaller-campfire-rules.html>

SURREY SAFER SUMMER CAMPAIGN

To ensure a “Safer Summer”, the Surrey RCMP recommends the following tips:

- Make sure door and window locks are working. Use them.
- Lock the front door and secure the garage while gardening in the back yard.
- Close and Lock all of the windows each time you leave your home.
- If you have an alarm ensure to set it before you leave home
- Before going on vacation or away for a weekend, take the time to secure your home, arrange a caretaker to pick up your mail and consider timer lights activated at dusk.

Source:<http://bc.rcmp.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=50&languageId=1&contentId=15144>

B.C. EATERIES TARGETED BY IMPOSTERS POSING AS HEALTH INSPECTORS

Several Nanaimo restaurants have been targeted by scammers posing as health inspectors who threaten fines. The Vancouver Island Health Authority is warning restaurant operators to be wary of the scam that involves a series of suspicious phone calls.

Restaurants in Victoria and on the Lower Mainland have also been targeted. Officials believe the scam is linked to an attempt to circumnavigate online Craigslist security settings for identity fraud.

VIHA does not ticket restaurant operators for failing to schedule an inspection, instead restaurant inspections are unannounced. Environmental health officers carry photo identification and do not routinely call food service establishments. Unless an immediate health order exists, a series of enforcement actions will take place before a restaurant is ticketed or shut down.

In all cases, restaurants have received phone calls from a person advising them to write down

a numeric code from a subsequent automated call. This is followed by another caller, who claims they are from the health department.

This person requests the numeric code then seeks to set up a restaurant inspection. The caller threatens fines if the restaurant does not comply. In one incident in Victoria, the restaurant owner was berated for not following instructions after several phone calls. Phony inspectors claimed they would not take care of the establishment anymore. The owner waited for a scheduled appointment but no one showed up. Restaurant operators are encouraged to request VIHA identification and report suspicious activity to police.

Source:<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/eateries+targeted+imposters+posing+health+inspectors/3147645/story.html>

TOP 10 EXCUSES FOR USING A CELL PHONE WHILE DRIVING

It's been five months since B.C. implemented the ban on using a hand-held cell phone while driving and police have issued more than 8,000 tickets. But despite the danger and the fine of \$167 and 3 points, people are still choosing to break the law.

1. It was an urgent work call!
2. But I was stopped at a red light.
3. I was just checking my voicemail - I didn't make a call.
4. Driver: But I have it on hands-free! Police officer: Sir, it's not hands-free if it's in your hand. "Hands-free doesn't equal speakerphone. Under the new law, a driver cannot use a hand-held electronic communication device and this includes hand-held cell phones, iPods and other electronic hand-held devices."
5. But it was my mom calling!
6. I didn't know I'm not from here. I'm from Maple Ridge.
7. I drive better than most people – not like the ones that eat while driving.
8. I was just setting up my hands-free device.
9. But it's my first time. Can't I just get a warning?
10. It was my wife calling and I didn't dare ignore her.

Source http://icbc.com/about-ICBC/news_room