



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

PREVENTING THEFT IN SCHOOLS – NORTH VAN.

There has been a marked increase in thefts from high schools in North Vancouver. Cash and bus tickets continue to be an easy target but Iphones and Ipods are the number one thing thieves want. They are easy to resell and if the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM card) is removed and replaced with someone else's SIM card, it is harder to identify the original owner of the Iphone.

What can you do to protect your property?

- Use a Pass code Lock. It's a four digit code that you program into the Ipod Touch or Iphone that prevents unauthorized users from unlocking your device and reading its data or using its services.
- Register the serial number of your Ipod through the Apple website. The police can then track you as the owner through that serial number.

Source: <http://bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=50&languageId=1&contentId=13209&index=10>

REVENUE AGENCY FRAUD

It is also the prime time for scam artists to perpetrate a fraud, on the unsuspecting, by pretending to be the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and sending potential victims a letter or email. The letter or email states that there is money to be claimed by

Block Watch

News March 2010

the victim, from the CRA and that all that is required is for the victim to provide certain information so that their file can be "updated" and the monies released. It asks for the information to be faxed, or emailed, to them and provides a fax number.

The letter looks official enough, and may even sound reasonable. Its intent, however, is not. The fraudsters are looking to gain identity and banking information from the victim so bank accounts can be accessed through false pretences.

That information can be found on the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca under "contact us", and scroll down to "Fraudulent Communications" and click on "beware of fraudulent communications". There it tells you that the CRA will NOT request personal information, of any kind, by email. They will NOT divulge any of your information, of any kind, to another unless formal authorization is provided by you.

Source: <http://bc.rcmp.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=50&languageId=1&contentId=13604>

AN UNINVITED REPAIRMAN – WHAT DO YOU DO?

On February 9th Langley RCMP received a report of two suspicious males in the Brookwood area. These two attended a residence claiming to be employees of TELUS who needed entry to the home to check phone lines.

The astute home owner denied them entry when she saw no evidence of their being TELUS employees, i.e. Uniform, identification, marked vehicle, shirt with logo.

TELUS offers the following useful tips for residents in the area when dealing with individuals stating they work for TELUS:

A legitimate TELUS employee will always have:

- *TELUS ID, which should be readily handed over and which customers may take down information from*
- *A TELUS business card*
- *TELUS-branded clothing*
- *A TELUS-branded vehicle*
- *A work order or trouble ticket*

In most cases TELUS advises they will contact the client by phone prior to arriving at their home to

- *Notify them,*
- *Ensure they're home*
- *Arrange an appointment, and*
- *Ensure they have the right equipment and material on-hand.*

Source: <http://bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=50&languageId=1&contentId=13497>

SNOWMOBILING SAFETY

In BC, to cross Highways and secondary maintained roads – you need to register your snowmobile with “Motor Vehicle” Buy a plate and get ICBC road liability insurance. The “Optional” Off Road liability insurance that can be purchased with the BCSF Snowmobile Permit does not cover road crossing.

Make sure your helmet is safety-certified, the right size and in good condition. A visor is essential for clear vision and wind protection and the chin strap should be snug. Wear glasses or goggles that offer protection from the sun.

Don't snowmobile alone. “Snow plans” describing your machine and your planned route can be time- and life-savers. Leave one with your family or friends.

Know your abilities and don't go beyond them; know your machine's capabilities and don't push beyond them. Know you're riding area. Get a map.

Source: <http://www.bcsf.org/safety/safe-riders-you-make-snowmobiling-safe/>

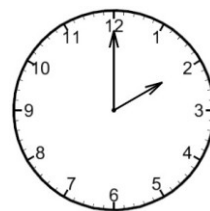
SAFETY FOR REALTORS

1. When you are introduced to new clients, meet them in your office first.
2. Photocopy a client's driver's license, obtain the car make, and license number.
3. Ask them to complete a client identification form and verify the client's identity.
4. Let your office know where you are, your schedule, and who you are meeting when going to a property.
5. If you're showing several properties, phone your office occasionally to check in (if you're suspicious or fearful of someone, use these calls as a reason to return to the office immediately — BE CREATIVE).
6. Program speed dials on your cell phone for 911 and use it when danger first appears.
7. Never put yourself at risk to avoid social awkwardness. You have every right to be cautious. When in doubt—don't.
8. Take a self-defence course.

Source: <http://vancouverrealestateblog.ca/2008/02/vancouver-realtor-safety-guide/>

DON'T FORGET

– DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME



Set your clocks **ahead one hour** at 2:00 AM, Sunday March 14, 2010

This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms.