



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

**BCCPA 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Symposium** takes place on **October 30-November 1, 2014, “Responsibility + Action = Power”** for more information, please click [here](#)

Some of the featured workshops include:

- Technology in Community Policing 2.0
- Developing Culturally Responsive Crime Prevention Activities in Aboriginal Communities in B.C.
- Crime Reduction: An International Comparison

[Source](#)

## **Youth Crime Prevention**

- [CybersafeBC.ca](http://CybersafeBC.ca): This website was launched in April 2014 and it provides information to help youth play safe and stay safe in the digital world. Youth ages 10-16 can register, take the course, pass the exam and become CyberSafe Certified.
- Youth & Gangs: The society has produced two videos: [Making Smart Choices and Exit Strategies](#). The latter was produced in June 2013 and provides a powerful retelling of how and why 3gang members got out of gang life.
- Promotional cards will also be distributed for [LegalRightsForYouth.ca](http://LegalRightsForYouth.ca): a self-help website for youth with a range of legal issues: crime, housing work, abuse, etc.

[Source](#)

## **Block Watch News September, October & November 2014**

### **Back to School Speed Limits**

Starting September 2<sup>nd</sup>, school zone limits go back into effect, **30km/h from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.**

### **Online Shopping Safety Tips**

Start by verifying that a site is trustworthy. Look for things like sales, returns, and privacy policies. Check to see if there is a real physical address and phone number for the business.

Always follow these simple cyber safety tips:

- Double check that the web address begins with <https://> (“s” is for secure!).
- Pay by credit card instead of sending cash or a cheque in the mail.
- Never use public Wi-Fi to make purchases online.
- Read the site’s privacy policy to find out how your information will be used.

**Online auctions** are a popular way to buy tickets to a sold-out show, or get tickets below the retail price.

- If an item’s sale price is too good to be true, it most likely is either fraud or counterfeit.
- Review the seller’s feedback rating. If it is negative and you become doubtful of their trustworthiness, take your business elsewhere.
- Place your bid and complete your transaction on the auction site. Steer clear if the seller wants to negotiate by email.
- Keep a paper trail of receipts, emails and any other correspondence.

[Source](#)

## Halloween Safety Tips

- Wear a light-coloured or bright costume, reflective tape or arm bands to heighten visibility.
- Wear a costume that is properly fitted to reduce the chance of tripping on it.
- Select a costume that is constructed from flame-retardant materials.
- Make sure your vision is not restricted. Consider completing your costume with make-up rather than masks. Masks may require that the eye-holes be cut larger for the sake of good peripheral vision.
- Shoes should fit properly even if they do not go well with a costume.
- Before the kids hit the streets, it is important that parents be aware of the route that their children plan to follow.
- If you are unable to take them out yourself, consider asking another parent, an older sibling or babysitter to do the honours for you.
- Ensuring your child is wearing a watch also allows you to establish an agreed upon curfew.
- Teach your children to recognize the places along his/her route where they can obtain help: Police Station, Fire Station or any other well indicated public place.
- Stay on the sidewalks (If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left-hand side of the street facing traffic).
- Save your treats: Wait until you get home before sampling your treats. Though tampering is rare, a responsible adult should check out all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items.

[Source](#)



**REMEMBRANCE DAY - NOV. 11**

## Crime Prevention Week is November 1-7, 2014

Click [here](#) for more information

## If you experience a Break-In...

- If you come home and see a slit screen, a broken window or an open door, don't go in – call 911 from a neighbour's house or a public or cell phone.
- Fewer than 3% of break-ins occur when someone is home. If you do happen to surprise a burglar, it is best not to confront them, as they may turn violent.
- If you think you hear someone breaking in, leave safely if you can and call police. Otherwise, lock yourself in a room with a phone and then call 911.
- If a crime has occurred, do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.

[Source](#)

## Street Scams to watch out for

Never give or loan money to a person who approaches you on the street, and never give cash for a cheque. People will take advantage of your trust. Some examples are:

- "I need money for a hotel / bus."
- "I lost my wallet; I need money for gas for my car; I'll pay you back tomorrow."
- "I don't have a bank account in the city, can you cash my \$1,000 cheque in your ATM?"

[Source](#)

## Preventing Bicycle Theft

- Always lock your bike up with a reliable locking mechanism
- Use bike stands when available
- Leave your bike in well-lit areas
- Engrave an identification number—usually your driver's license number—on your bicycle
- Take a picture of your bike to help identify if stolen.

[Source](#)