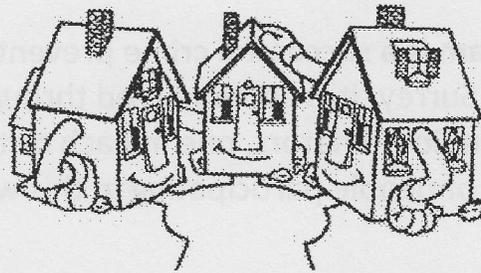


SURREY BLOCK WATCH



Block Watch®

INFORMATION PACKAGE

PHONE: 604-599-7601



Surrey RCMP

Block Watch Program

The **Block Watch** program is a successful crime prevention program operating in the City of Surrey. It is administered through the Surrey RCMP by five Crime Prevention Coordinators, one in each district. It's success is owed to the thousands of people participating in this worthwhile Program.

We welcome you and encourage you to take the steps to organize your **Block Watch**. By joining this Program you will be enhancing your home security and personal safety.

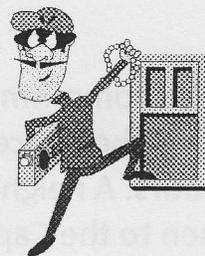
Crime does exist, it affects all of us and it is a serious problem. Often people speak out about how unsafe they feel in their home or on the streets. Everyone has a right to feel safe in their own home and in their community. **Block Watch** allows you the opportunity to take action to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

The Program was specifically developed to reduce residential break-ins to homes and vehicles, and to provide the tools for neighbours to effectively reduce other crime trends in their communities. **Block Watch** has other far reaching effects that enhance community safety today.



Block Watch aims to reduce crime and the fear of crime by letting you know you are not alone in your concerns. Read this information booklet, become informed and organize a **Block Watch**! If we don't answer all of your questions here, please give us a call.

There are more than 23,000 households involved in the **Block Watch** Program which represent more than 1,200 neighbourhoods organized in the City of Surrey. By starting a **Block Watch** you will be making a positive contribution toward the prevention of crime.



WHO IS BLOCK WATCH FOR?

Block Watch is for anyone living in a house, apartment, condominium, townhouse complex or mobile home. Even if you live on acreage, **Block Watch** can still be effective. We have ideas and information designed for you, whichever type of neighbourhood you live in. Communication is the key to a successful **Block Watch**.

A CRIMINAL ACT REQUIRES

1. Motivated Offenders

2. Suitable Targets

3. Opportunity



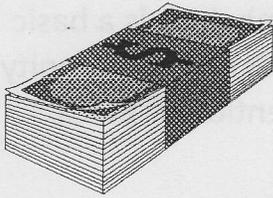
WHAT BLOCK WATCH IS AND ISN'T

- a) **Block Watch** is a commitment to be concerned about your neighbour's property as well as your own. After all, a watchful Neighbour is your best burglar alarm.

- b) It is also a **commitment to report a crime in progress or any suspicious activity to the police then communicate the information to your neighbours**. A neighbour should report criminal activity to the police first, then to the Captain.

- c) It is a way to be proactive, involved, and a leader in your community. It usually takes about one hour a month to maintain a **Block Watch**, but the time spent is worthwhile.

- a) **Block Watch** is **NOT** a program that encourages patrolling in your neighbourhood. At a training session you will find out why we don't recommend patrolling.
- b) **It is NOT a Program that requires you to attend several meetings.** To be a Captain or Co-Captain you're only required to attend one Training Session. You are asked to hold at least one meeting a year with your neighbours.
- c) **Block Watch is NOT about the invasion of privacy.** Neighbours are encouraged to "watch out" for one another, not to "watch" one another.



BLOCK WATCH HAS VALUE



The participation of volunteers is essential to the existence and effectiveness of the Program. When neighbours are looking out for one another, the potential for crime to occur decreases and a sense of safety increases.

Many insurance agents offer a discount on your home insurance when you are part of an **active Block Watch**.

HOW TO SET UP A BLOCK WATCH

Select the area (e.g., a block, cul-de-sac, an apartment floor, a complex) for your **BLOCK WATCH**. Your block can consist of as many homes as you find manageable and convenient for you. An average size is 15 to 20 homes.

You may only have time to become a participant, if so, try to find a few neighbours who are willing to volunteer as a Captain or Co-Captain.

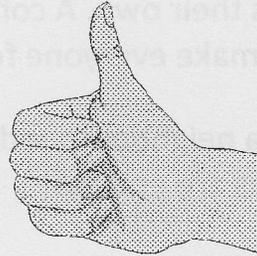
If you want to be Captain (in charge of a Block Watch) or a Co-Captain (assistant to the Captain) take these steps. As a Captain you may need to find a volunteer who agrees to be a Co-Captain. The more homes you are organizing the more Co-Captains you will need.

1. Fill out the application (obtained from your Crime Prevention Coordinator at your local community policing station) which is a basic criminal record search. Return the completed form to any community police station or the RCMP Detachment, for the attention of **Block Watch**.
2. Once you have been accepted, you will be contacted and invited to attend one Training Session. At the Session you will be provided with all the necessary material and information to set up your block. You will receive training in personal safety and home security.
3. After training you will be required to:
 - a) complete a map and list of participants of your block
 - b) meet your neighbours to introduce yourself
 - c) distribute the map, list and material to all participants
 - d) maintain contact with all participants
 - e) maintain contact with the Block Watch office

f) plan to hold an annual neighbourhood get-together

The **Block Watch** office must receive a copy of your map and participant list. You are not **officially** on the Program until we receive this information. After you are officially on the Program you can receive decals for doors or windows.

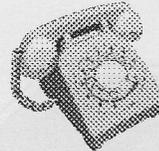
Way to go! You did it!



MAINTAINING YOUR BLOCK WATCH

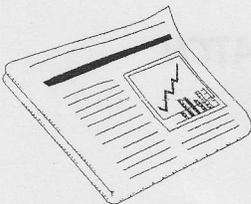
Report Crime:

If a crime occurs, the victim must first report it to the police, then the Captain. The Captain notifies **Block Watch** participants and the **Block Watch** office.



Report Suspicious Activity:

All participants are encouraged to report suspicious occurrences to the police and then to the Captain. Information not shared is useless. Communication is the key.



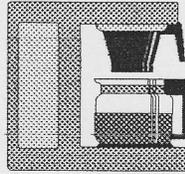
Deliver Quarterly Newsletters:

The newsletter is published quarterly. The Captain or a designate is required to pick them up and personally

deliver them to participants.

Hold a Neighbourhood get-together: This gathering is so important because it brings everyone together so they will meet and know their neighbours. A successful **Block Watch** depends on neighbours caring about each others safety as well as their own. A cohesive group that focuses on crime prevention will make everyone feel safer.

You could hold a neighbourhood party, barbeque, garage sale, pot luck dinner, etc. Ideas are endless!



Update: When new residents move into the area, approach them and tell them they are invited to join your **Block Watch**. Sign up new residents, update your map giving the new information to your **Block Watch** and the **Block Watch** office.



STOP CRIMINALS IN THEIR TRACKS!

START A BLOCK WATCH

BENEFITS OF BLOCK WATCH

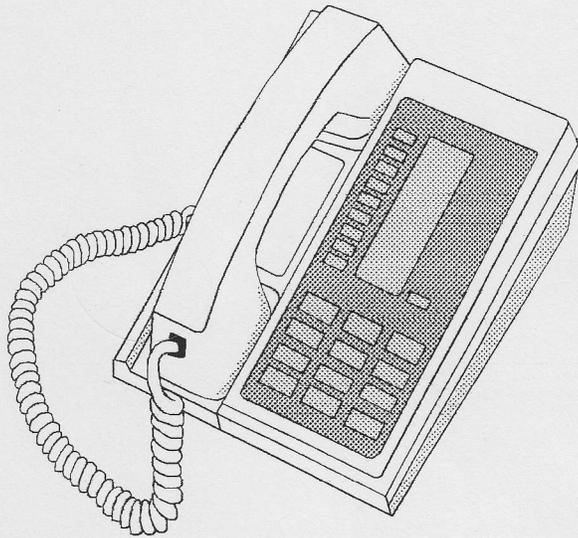
1. You will get to know your neighbours better and this will allow all of you to take ownership of your neighbourhood or complex.
2. Everyone will feel better knowing that others are alert and paying attention to suspicious people or vehicles.
3. By being aware of who lives around you, you will also be aware of who may be needing more assistance, such as the elderly or people living alone.
4. You will feel confident that your neighbours will do their best to watch your home while you are away.
5. You may be entitled to a discount on your home insurance. Ask your insurance agent if it is available through them.
6. You will learn vital security advice that you will share with your neighbours.
7. An active Block Watch can improve the quality of life in your neighbourhood.
8. You and your family will have a sense of community spirit and children will begin to know who to trust in their neighbourhood.

9. By being part of a dedicated neighbourhood group you can work through problems occurring in your neighbourhood.
10. A caring Block Watch staff Coordinator will offer solutions to crime related problems. They will also liaise between you and the police, when police attention is required.

SAFETY TIPS...

1. Leave outside lights on every night, light up your neighbourhood! Thieves would rather work in the dark so no one can identify them. A well lit neighbourhood makes residents feel safer being outside. A *cheap form of security*.
2. Never, never open your door when you don't know or trust person or persons who are there. Talk through the door or a nearby window. Do not open the door.
3. When you are at home and someone comes calling, don't pretend you are not home. Burglars want to find homes where no one is inside so they can break-in.
4. When you go out, make sure your home looks occupied. Leave more than one light on and close your drapes.
5. If you are going away for a length of time, tell your neighbours. When they know your plans they will be more aware of suspicious activities going on around your home.

6. Never leave a garage door opener in your car because thieves may break-in to steal it. They may look at your registration papers to find out where you live and drive into your garage and break into your home.
7. Never give out your personal information over the phone. Just because someone tells you who they are, doesn't mean they are telling the truth.



Other Important Phone numbers:

Surrey Bylaw

604-591-4370

RCMP non-emergency (and report desk)

604-599-0502

Crime Stoppers

604.669.8477 or 1.800.222.TIPS (8477)

- OR you can also email Crime Stoppers www.solvecrime.ca

- OR Text TIP by texting 'BCTIP' in subject line and send to CRIMES (274637)