

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Get Back to Basics** - step outside of the social media and just be social to build community
- **Winter Project** - create a digital catalogue of your property
- **Recipe Contest** - check out the back page to find out how you can contribute your favourite recipe to share with Block Watch!

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# Block Watch Beat

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## Target Hardening... It Is that Easy

Often when we talk about Block Watch a common theme for discussion is Target Hardening. It isn't a difficult task, it isn't an expensive task - but it is something you need to do in order for your Block Watch to be successful and not be a target for property crime predators.

Property Crime is opportunistic. Thieves are looking for ways to score the biggest gain by the least amount of work. This means if we target harden our homes - it's difficult and they will move on. Target hardening could be the physical element of

ensuring doors and windows are adequately locked and secured at all times. According to Home Controls Blog, the most common entry points for



- 23% of the time is a first floor window
- 22% of the time is the back door
- 9% of the time is the garage
- 6% of the time unlocked storage areas
- 4% of the time basements
- 2% of the time second floor windows

residential break ins in the US are:

- 34% of the time the Front door

Do your part and ensure these areas are secured using primary and secondary locks, motion sensor lights and being aware.

## Something Talked About & Not Always Acted On

by Candice Critchlow

Disasters could strike B.C at any time. This might be the big earthquake or maybe it's a simple windstorm. One example that touches many of our hearts would be the forest fires. Various people were evacuated and had nothing but the clothes on their back. We want your community to be prepared but hopefully it never has to happen to you. Where it starts is with saying hi and getting to know each other, which is what Block Watch is all

about. Maybe it starts at a community BBQ or a Block Watch meeting where you talk about your groups' specific risks based on location and demographics of your group. This could develop into you starting a more detailed plan for what you might do in a situation such as a "muster station" aka a meeting place or something more complicated such as which neighbours have what resources/skills that you as a group can draw on.

This Block Watch group plan is just one more aspect of safety to consider at your events. This can be fun such as a house hunt to find items that you already have and put them in bags or maybe it is doing a street walk about to map out the area. Whatever it is, being prepared is better than not being prepared. Some great resources are available at [www.gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC](http://www.gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC) for condos, households, and even neighbourhoods.



*Crime prevention is the recognition and appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it.*

*Preventing Crime is up to you!*

*The photos will be useful to police to identify any recovered items and will also be useful to support an insurance claim*



# The Crime Triangle

by Kelly Pater

In the Crime Prevention World we refer often to the Crime Triangle. Unlike a circle that “can’t be broken” the triangle can!

The theory simplified is that society can’t control one’s Criminal Desire, as pictured on the triangle. However one can control the opportunity given to the Criminal desire. If we remove the Opportunity = we remove the Victim.

What does removing the Opportunity look like? It can

be some of the most basic things to do around your home, your business and your vehicle.

- Ensure your valuables are removed from your vehicle at all times
- Secure your home– if you’re in the back of the home, secure the front
- Use secondary locks on windows and sliding doors
- Never leave your garage

door open-it’s a candy store to the property criminal

- Never give out your personal information over the phone
- Be wise when making purchases over the internet - buyer beware!

By removing these opportunities, we don’t become a victim therefore breaking the triangle and moving the Criminal Desire onto somewhere else.

# Digital Photo Catalogue of Property

by Kimberly Kelley

Now that the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is over, and the winter weather makes you want to stay indoors. Take some time to start a new project.

Have you thought about creating a digital photo catalog of all your personal and household items? This will prove to be especially beneficial to police and insurance companies. In the unfortunate event of theft,

fire, flood, or other types of damage. It’s easy and only takes a few simple steps:

- Take photos of your belongings
- Place a ruler beside items to reference size and scale
- Include photos of any distinguishing marks or features

- Take photos from different angles
- Ensure any serial numbers are visible

Store the photos in an online storage database or use a memory stick, or external hard drive. Keep in mind that external storage devices should then be kept in a safety deposit box, fireproof safe, or at an alternate safe location that is not in your residence.

# Block Watch Kids

Your Kids are an important part of the Block Watch network in your neighbourhood! I bet if you ask your kids, they know more about who’s who and who belongs where in the neighbourhood then you do. Use your kids to your advantage as you get to know

neighbours– Kids often make friends quicker than we do as adults. Don’t forget the ol’ cliché - out of the mouths of babes. Don’t disregard what your kids may see or hear and share with you. Teach them early the principles of Block Watch - especially about getting to know your

neighbour, reporting suspicious activity and people. Don’t forget the important education of teaching your kids about Strangers-who is good stranger and bad stranger, know your neighbourhood so they can go to a safe place for help, rather than open a door to a stranger, speak through the door.

# Meet Crime Prevention Coordinator Roy Morgan

Roy joined the world of Crime Prevention in Canada in 2010 when he was the Coordinator for the City of Vernon/Regional District of North Okanagan. In August 2016, he became the Crime Prevention Coordinator for the Regional District of Central Okanagan out of West Kelowna. Roy came to these positions with a vast experience from his days as a Police Officer (Bobbie) in the UK.

When Roy took over his position in August 2016, there were 26 Block Watch Program in the area

that covered West Kelowna, Lake Country, Peachland, Electoral Area East and West and Westbank First Nations Land. Some of these Programs were in-active and communication between the communities and the RCMP had ceased. With Roy's work - communication was corrected and the program was gaining momentum, Captains were being retrained and over the next 16 months, the area increased to 79 active blocks. By promoting the three principles of Crime Prevention; Neighborhood

Awareness (Block Watch) Target Hardening (Security Assessment of their home) and the importance of Marking Property for identification, Roy keeps groups informed and interested..

Roy uses an email system to keep in touch with the Captains, Co-Captains and over 2350 homes.

Roy states " the main focus is to keep a commuicaiton link between him as the Coordinator, the RCMP and the Community to encourage a community spirit within each neighbourhood"



*The Block Watch Society Board is elected by members of the Society. The Board Members are often involved in Crime Prevention Positions in the Communities.*

## Meet Your Board

Meet **Regan Borisenko**. Regan is the current Crime Prevention Coordinator for the City of Vernon. Regan has served on the board for the past year.

**Kelly Pater** is with the Abbotsford Police Department as their Crime Prevention Coordinator and has served on the Board for the past 3 years.

**Candice Critchlow** is with the City of Port Coquitlam. She is the former Block Watch Coordinator with Burnaby and has served on your board for the past 3 years.

**Dave Dickson** is with the William Lake RCMP Det. Serving as the Community Safety Manager. This is Dave's first term on the Board

**Kimberly Kelley** is with Victoria

Police Dept. and serves as the Community Programs Coordinator. She is in her first term on the Board

Cst. **Romi Mattu** is with the Vancouver Police Department Community Policing Services Unit and is in her first term on the Board.

**Gabriel Pelletier** is the Community Programs Coordinator with Surrey RCMP Det.

## Back to Basics

by Cst. Romi Mattu

Does anyone else feel like the social media movement is taking us away from the basics of human interaction? No one talks on the bus anymore, not even about the weather. Riding the train while commuting to work feels like a cone of silence. If anyone does break from the norm, they are likely to be meet with an annoying glance, if anything at all. Heads are buried in phones, ears are covered up with headphones, fingers are doing the communicating with pictures, and emoji's and tweets. How can we get to know our neighbors

when we are too busy watching the latest You tube video or updating our Facebook or following our friends on Instagram. Last year I started a new Block Watch for a brand new condo complex and was instantly tasked with how to engage my new neighbors to get involved and build a community. We were all strangers and it appeared people were content to remain that way beyond the cordial elevator door holding. Being new to condo living and moving from a tight knit neighborhood where people took the time to invest in the community, I was less willing to give

into living anonymously amongst my neighbors. It started with a wave, an introduction and a commonality, our dogs. But it happened. Slowly. Day by day. Week by week. One year later, we have the strong beginnings of a real community. It took longer than I hoped but it happened and now we will continue to build upon our new found sense of community. Happy New Year and cheers to all the new Block Watch Teams in 2018.



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**Business Tagline or Motto**

In 1993 the Block Watch Society was officially registered as a non-profit society. Since its inception the Block Watch Program of BC has been influential in reducing residential crime and promoting increased feelings of neighborhood security.

**The main objective of the Block Watch Society of BC** is to partner with communities to build safer neighborhoods by encouraging residents to take a proactive approach to crime prevention and safety. Through education on target hardening, property marking and reporting suspicious activity Block Watch provides a means for the community to take responsibility for its own safety by reducing the opportunity for crime.

## Block Watch Recipe

Abbotsford Block Watch



### French Toast Roll Ups

3 tbsp. unsalted butter melted  
3 tbsp. granulated sugar  
2 tbsp. brown sugar  
1 tbsp. ground cinnamon  
2 lg eggs  
1/4 cup milk  
2 tbsp. granulate sugar  
2 tsp ground cinnamon  
8 slices white bread crusts cut off  
3 tbsp butter (for saute pan)  
Maple syrup - for serving

1. in a small microwave safe bowl, melt 3 tbsp. butter until just melted. With a fork, stir in 3 tbsp. granulated sugar, 2 tbsp. brown sugar, 1 tbsp. ground cinnamon until a smooth spreadable mixture forms—set aside
2. In a shallow bowl whisk together the eggs and milk and set aside
3. In another sm. Bowl stir together 2 tbsp. granulated sugar, 2 tsp ground cinnamon set aside
4. After trimming the crusts from each slice of bread, roll each slice out to about 1/8 inch thickness. Spread each slice with a thin layer of the butte rmixture and roll up tightly
5. Place 3 tbsp. butter in a large non stick saute pan on medium

heat. Saute the roll ups in two batches. Dip one roll at a time in the egg mixture and place in the hot pan. Allow roll ups to saute for 1-2 minutes per side until golden brown and slightly crisp on the outside. Remove to a work surface and sprinkle with the cinnamon sugar mixture

6. Serve immediately with maple syrup

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We are inviting you to submit your favourite recipes to share with other Block Watch Participants. Please submit your recipe to [blockwatch@blockwatch.com](mailto:blockwatch@blockwatch.com) by **March 1st** for inclusion in the Spring Newsletter. The winning recipe will be chosen based on ease of making and taste of the recipe - YES you're recipe will be taste tested!