



BLOCK WATCH ®

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

www.blockwatch.com



Don't Forget
– Day light Savings Time
Set your clocks **ahead one hour** at 2:00 AM, Sunday March 13, 2016

CANADA REVENUE AGENCY SCAMS - BEWARE

Taxpayers should be vigilant when they receive, either by telephone, mail, text message or email, a fraudulent communication that claims to be from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) requesting personal information such as a social insurance number, credit card number, bank account number, or passport number.

These scams may insist that this personal information is needed so that the taxpayer can receive a refund or a benefit payment.

Cases of fraudulent communication could also involve threatening or coercive language to scare individuals into paying fictitious debt to the CRA.

Other communications urge taxpayers to visit a fake CRA website where the taxpayer is then asked to verify their identity by entering personal information. **These are scams** and taxpayers should never respond to these fraudulent communications or click on any of the links provided.

To identify communications not from the CRA, be aware of these guidelines.

[Source](#)

Block Watch News March, April & May 2016

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK - MAY 1 – 7, 2016

The main objective is to increase awareness about individual and family emergency preparedness. A family emergency plan will help you and your family know what to do in case of an emergency.

Every Canadian household needs an emergency plan. It will take you about 20 minutes to complete your personalized plan online. You can then print it out. Before starting your home emergency plan, you will need to think about:

- Safe exits from home and neighbourhood
- Meeting places to reunite with family or roommates
- Designated person to pick up children should you be unavailable
- Contact persons close-by and out-of-town
- Health information
- Place for your pet to stay
- Risks in your region
- Location of your fire extinguisher, water valve, electrical box, gas valve and floor drain

[Source](#)

ATV SAFETY

- Learn about the area you will ride in. Get maps of the area, and stay on trails if they are provided.
- Get trained by a qualified ATV instructor and practice safe riding techniques at all times.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back. Ride in a group of two or more.

[Source](#)

MARCH IS FRAUD PREVENTION MONTH

This year marks the 12th anniversary of the annual education and awareness campaign that began in 2004 by encouraging Canadians to recognize, reject and report fraud.

Spearheaded by the Competition Bureau, Fraud Prevention Month is a unique effort that brings together 125 law enforcement agencies and public and private sector organizations to combat fraud.

During the month of March, the Bureau and its partners in the Fraud Prevention Forum carry out numerous activities and host a variety of events to inform Canadians about the impact of fraud and how to protect themselves.

Click [here](#) for tips to protect yourself.

[Source](#)

SOCIAL NETWORKING SAFETY TIPS

- Use caution when clicking links
- Know what you've posted about yourself
- Don't trust that a message is really from who it says it's from
- Type the address of your social networking site directly into your browser or use your personal bookmarks.
- Be selective about who you accept as a friend on a social network.
- Choose your social network carefully.
- Assume that everything you put on a social networking site is permanent.
- Assume that everything you put on a social networking site is permanent.
- Think twice before you use social networking sites at work.

[Source](#)

AVOID A RENTAL SCAM

As a renter, there are some precautionary steps you can take to protect yourself from falling victim to scams such as this. First and foremost, apply common sense.

Ensure a proper tenancy agreement is drafted and signed by both parties. This agreement should include names and addresses for the landlord. Ask the landlord to show picture identification as proof he / she is the person named in the document.

While it is not a requirement that they produce identification, the renter should be suspicious if they refuse.

As a renter, you might consider asking to see previous utility bills for the residence to confirm identity of the landlord.

Choose a currency method other than cash for payment of rent or deposits. Consider payment by personal cheque, money order, bank draft, or certified cheque.

For general information relating to entering into a tenancy or ending a tenancy, please visit the [BC Residential Tenancy Site](#).

[Source](#)

TAX PREPARATION SAFETY TIPS

- Check on qualifications.
- Learn about their service terms in advance.
- Ask for references. Get referrals from satisfied clients.
- Check with BBB. Visit www.bbb.org/mbc/ to determine if the tax preparer has a reputation for reliability and trustworthiness.
- Request a quote.
- Be on the watch for tax-related scams
- Phishing Scams.
- Identity Theft.

[Source](#)