



**BLOCK WATCH** ®

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

[www.blockwatch.com](http://www.blockwatch.com)



Don't Forget

– Day light Savings Time

Set your clocks **ahead one hour** at 2:00 AM, Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 2017**

### **March is Fraud Prevention Month**

- Keep personal information confidential. Do not give out personal information over the phone, through email or over the Internet unless you initiated the contact and know who you're dealing with.
- Keep your personal information safe. An identity thief will pick through your garbage or recycling bins, so be sure to shred receipts, copies of credit applications, insurance forms, etc.
- Protect your PIN and passwords. Do not reveal your PIN or passwords to anyone, including employees of your bank or credit union, family members and friends.
- Unusual transactions. Beware of "Too Good To Be True" offers. Be wary of unexpected offers or requests that are "too good to be true."
- Contact the authorities. If you suspect you are a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately.

[Source](#)

### **April is Auto Crime Enforcement Month**

Keeping a vehicle safe requires a conscious effort for vehicle owners to take all items with them, every time they leave their vehicle. Additional safety tips include:

- Do not leave your vehicle unattended while it is running
- Do not leave your smart keys, valet or emergency keys in the vehicle while it's unoccupied
- Invest in an anti-theft device, especially with older model vehicles

More safety tips can be found at [www.baitcar.com](http://www.baitcar.com)

[Source](#)

## **Emergency Preparedness Week - May 7-13, 2017**

The theme this year is “**Plan. Prepare. Be Aware.**” It is meant to help Canadians take action to protect themselves and their families during emergencies. This year's theme highlights the importance of having these measures in place but specifically emphasizes the need to keep up to date on current conditions, like the weather, that might impact you.

Click [here](#) for more information.

[Source](#)

## **Protect your Data – Cellphone**

- Passwords are a must
- Keep track of important information
- Software security is critical
- The right app can help
- Keep your eyes open for red flags
- Be phone-smart
- Watch out for “shoulder-surfing”
- Always have a back-up plan

For more information, click [here](#)

[Source](#)

## **“Can you Hear Me?” Scam hits Canada**

Click [here](#) to read about the scam

To protect yourself, follow these tips:

- Do not answer calls from numbers you do not recognize.
- If you do answer and are asked questions that seem to be fishing for a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer, do not respond and hang up immediately.
- If you believe you may have fallen for this, contact your bank and credit card companies to flag your accounts.
- Check your account daily - the earlier you identify unauthorized charges on your accounts.

[Source](#)

## **Hiking Safety Tips**

- Do not hike alone
- Plan ahead
- Leave word of your destination and schedule
- Exercise common sense
- Dress appropriately
- Take along the right equipment
- If you get lost, keep calm, stay dry, keep warm and stay put if possible

[Source](#)

## **Spring Break Travel Safety Tips**

- Check out [Travel Advice and Advisories](#) for in-depth information on your destination country.
- If you are travelling with children, be sure to read “[Tips for healthy travel with children](#)”, “[Children and travel](#)”, and “[Taking children on a plane](#)” and “[Carry a consent letter](#)”, if necessary.
- Your Canadian health insurance will not protect you when you are outside the country. Get the [best travel insurance](#) you can buy.
- Sign up with [Registration of Canadians Abroad](#) to stay connected to Canada.

For more information, click [here](#)

[Source](#)

## **Crossing the Border Travel Tips**

- Plan ahead and check border wait times
- Make sure your purchases or items coming into Canada are not on a list of prohibited goods
- Ensure you have proper identification for you and your family readily available
- If travelling with pets, know that dogs and cats that are three months of age or older need valid signed and dated certificates from a veterinarian verifying vaccinations against rabies.
- Declare all purchases and have your receipts readily available.

[Source](#)