



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

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

## Back to School Safety Tips

### Did you know?

- When children see an approaching car, they first notice the **colour** - not how **fast** the vehicle is traveling.
- A child's field of vision is one-third narrower than an adult's.
- Most pedestrian traffic injuries happen to five to nine-year-olds in mid-block crossings, and to 10 to 14-year-olds at intersections.

[Source](#)

## Back to School Speed Limits

Starting September 7<sup>th</sup>, school zone limits go back into effect, **30km/h from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.**

## Trick or Treating Safety Tips

If you SEE something, SAY something.  
Halloween is popular with criminals too



- Bring a flashlight;
- Walk instead of running;
- Do not cut across lawns or take short-cuts;
- Take masks off when walking from one house to the next;
- Do not go inside houses and do not get into vehicles;
- Only visit houses that are lit;
- Stay away from animals you are not familiar with; and
- Vandalism is not just a 'trick' - it is against the law and has consequences.

[Source](#)

# Block Watch News

September, October &  
November 2016



## “Street-Proofing” Safety Tips

- Know your home address and home phone number and how to contact your parents on their cell phones or at work.
- Know how and when to call 9-1-1 in an emergency situation: at home, from a cell, and from a public telephone.
- Travel and play in groups, regardless of your age. The popular 'buddy system' works best. If you become separated or lost, tell someone with a nametag (e.g. a cashier or security guard) right away; if there is no one with a nametag, preferably tell a female.
- Be polite, but avoid long conversation with strangers. If someone you don't know asks you a lot of personal questions, like where you live, *Do Not Answer*, just run away.
- Don't be afraid to say NO to adults who ask you to do something for them, like find a lost pet, join them in an activity, or give them directions.
- Never accept a ride or gifts from strangers, or even someone you may know, without checking with your parents first. Keep a safe distance (two arm lengths) from strangers and cars that approach you.
- Establish a secret word or phrase for your family. This should be used in emergencies to identify a 'safe person' other than their parent or child giver.
- Do not wear headphones or use portable electronic devices that can distract you from your surroundings when you are walking in the neighbourhood.
- If you are taking a public bus home, sit near the front of the bus, near the driver.

[Source](#)

## Remembrance Day - Nov.11



## **National School Safety Week – October 17 – 23**

Click [here](#) for more information

## **November is National Safety and Crime Prevention Month**

Click [here](#) for more information

## **Crime Prevention Week is November 1-7, 2016**

For more details, please click [here](#)

## **Online Dating Scam**

One of the biggest concerns when it comes to online dating sites is whether or not people are who they say they are. Unfortunately, there's reason to be skeptical. Scammers create fake profiles and get to know their victims, creating a bond and an element of trust.

Once trust is established, they'll ask you to send money – and if you do, they'll disappear once they receive it.

Signs someone is after your money:

- Asking you to move conversations to personal e-mail or instant messaging.
- Expressing outward emotion right away.
- Using a tragic event or other misfortune as an excuse not to meet.
- Asking for help with medical bills, a financial issue, airplane tickets or other personal situations.

Claiming to be from the same area, city or country but always traveling on business.

[Source](#)

## **Pokeman Go Safety Tips**

- Stay in public areas, preferably where there are other people around. Never trespass onto private property
- Go Pokémon hunting in groups.
- When you're driving, it should be Pokémon STOP. Leave the phone alone while you're behind the wheel.
- Wear proper clothing when walking around. Dress in bright colors if out at night and wear proper footwear.

[Source](#)

## **Autumn Driving Safety Tips**

Every day thousands of people are on BC roads driving for either work or personal necessity. Our driving skills are pushed to the limit when winter weather – fog, rain, snow and ice make roads more hazardous.

Winter conditions can be challenging for even the most experienced driver. A driver's chances of being injured or killed in a crash dramatically increase during BC's winter driving season, which runs from Oct. 1 to March 31.

- **Lower Mainland** – Casualty crashes increase 16 per cent from about 51 in October to 59 in December.
- **Northern Central** – Casualty crashes more than doubles from about 18 in October to 44 in December.
- **Southern Interior**– Casualty crashes increase fourfold from about 23 in October to 93 in December.
- **Vancouver Island**– Casualty crashes increase 19 per cent from about 22 in October to 26 in December.

[Source](#)

## **Bullying Tips & Tricks**

Everyone has a role to play in stopping bullying. Choose not to ignore it, take a stand, and report bullying to police or a school official.

Use the **Gawk-Talk-Walk-Block** approach:

- **Gawk** - Show confident body language by being calm, standing up tall, and making eye contact with the bully.
- **Talk** – Tell the bully that what they are doing bothers you.
- **Walk** – Walk away or end the chat/thread after you've stood your ground.
- **Block** – Plan safe routes, avoid unsupervised areas, and choose not to associate with bullies.

Click [here](#) for parenting tips to deal with bullying.

[Source](#)

