



BLOCK WATCH ®

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

www.blockwatch.com

OPERATION **RED NOSE**

Operation Red Nose is a unique program dedicated to the fight against impaired driving. Essentially, it is a volunteer driving service provided during the Christmas Holiday Season to all motorists who have been drinking or who do not feel fit to drive their own vehicle. It is an original way of getting a safe ride in one's own vehicle without getting behind the wheel and... it's free.

For more information, click [here](#)

[Source](#)

AWAY FOR THE HOLIDAYS – SAFETY TIPS

- If you are going on vacation, leave your home in the care of someone you trust and let them know where you can be reached in case of emergency.
- Arrange to have your mail and newspapers picked up, the snow removed as necessary.
- Have a neighbour check both inside and outside the house every few days.
- Use timers on interior lights when you are going to be away or just out for the evening.
- Leave shades, blinds and curtains in normal positions.
- Do not share your vacation plans in social media, like Facebook and Twitter.

[Source](#)

Block Watch News

December 2014, January & February 2015

BEWARE OF GRANDPARENT SCAM

Grandparent scams (also called grandchild scams) are common scams that target seniors. These scams usually involve a phone call from someone who pretends to be your grandchild. If you get a call like this, be prepared: the scammer may already know your grandchild's name and what your grandchild calls you (for example, a nickname like Nona or Grampy).

Acting as your grandchild, the scammer claims to be in trouble and asks for your help. The scammer may try to convince you that your grandchild was in a car accident or has been arrested. You may be asked to wire money right away, without telling anyone. If you receive a call like this, DON'T wire the money or give the caller any further information. Hang up and call your grandchild, or another family member, to find out what's really going on. Then report the scam to your local police, and the

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre,

- Toll-free at 1 888 495-8501
- Email info@antifraudcentre.ca
- Website: Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

[Source](#)

PEDESTRIAN WINTER SAFETY TIPS

- **Walk on the inside edge** of the sidewalk so you are further away from traffic.
- Cross only at intersections or marked crosswalks, **never jay walk**.
- **Dress to be seen** especially at night and on dark/overcast days.
- Always **look for signs that a vehicle is about to move** (rear lights, exhaust smoke, sound of motor, wheels turning).

[Source](#)

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS

The Crime Prevention Unit recommends the below preventative tips:

- If shopping, avoid making multiple trips to your vehicle to store recent purchases. Potential offenders look for these obvious opportunities to target vehicles.
- Most major malls offer day-use lockers for this purpose; consider storing purchases there instead.
- If you must leave something in your car, lock your packages and gifts in your vehicle's trunk instead of in plain sight in the cabin of the vehicle.
- Although the holiday season can leave many of us feeling rushed and thinking about a thousand things; despite this always stay alert to your surroundings.
- Park in well-lit areas near other vehicles.
- Have keys ready before you get to your car.
- Check the back seat of your car before entering.
- Don't put your purse on the passenger seat, keep it on the floor or in the trunk.
- If you believe you're being followed, drive to the nearest business or police station and blow the horn to attract attention.

[Source](#)

TRAVELING SAFETY TIPS

- Don't put your home address on luggage tags
- Review travel advisories before you depart (www.voyage.gc.ca)
- Use traveller's cheques and carry minimal cash
- Carry money, passports, visas and other important documents in a money belt or money pouch
- Wear minimal jewellery and use the hotel safe
- Use the same crime prevention tips as you would at home
- Let someone at home know your itinerary and how to contact you

[Source](#)

CHARITY SCAM PREVENTION TIPS

All that is needed is a little background research on a charity you wish to donate to. If it is legitimate, all its financial information should be available online. If you happen to experience door-to-door solicitation, always ask to see identification and proof of the charity's registration number. Ask for written information about the charity. A real fundraiser will know all about the charity's mission, where the money is to go and proof of a tax deduction. Failing that, call the charity and ask directly if door-to-door solicitation is its way of doing business. If none of this information is readily available, it should be a huge red flag.

[Source](#)

HARPER GOVERNMENT HELPS OUT PRINCE GEORGE IN FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

\$2.4 million in federal funding over five years for the crime prevention project *Crime Preventing through the Strengthening of Youth, Families, and the Community*, which will help children and youth in Prince George, British Columbia.

The project is comprised of three core components: child/youth classes which focus on developing communication, problem solving, and coping skills; classes which teach parents and caregivers effective skills; and family classes which allow the children and parents to practice what they have learned through practical exercises. Strengthening family relationships will help children and youth steer clear of delinquent and criminal behaviour. This project is linked to the City's Crime Reduction Strategy.

The City of Prince George will deliver the project in collaboration with the School District #57 and Prince George Native Friendship Centre to 400 children and youth aged 6 to 14 and their families.

[Source](#)