



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

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

### **PUT SAFETY FIRST THESE LONG WEEKENDS**

Long weekends can mean highway travel, boating trips, camping, swimming and fun at the cottage. While all these activities create lasting summer memories, they all share the potential for injury. Be prepared for a safe and fun season.

Source:  
<http://www.redcross.ca/article.asp?id=9762&tid=024>

### **ICBC INVESTS \$8 MILLION TO MAKE B.C. ROADS SAFER IN 2012**

In 2012, ICBC invested approximately \$8 million in road improvement projects and safety studies in nearly 100 communities throughout the province. Since the [safer roads program](#) was launched in 1989, ICBC has invested more than \$110 million in road improvement projects across B.C.

The most [recent evaluation](#) of the program found that two years following a project's implementation, there is on average, a 20 per cent reduction in severe crashes and a 12 per cent reduction in property damage crashes. And more importantly, the benefits of road improvements continue well beyond two years.

Source:  
<http://icbc.com/news/2013mar20-04>

# **Block Watch News**

**June, July & August 2013**

## **CAR 67 – SURREY**

Car 67 is a partnership between the Surrey RCMP and the Fraser Health Authority (Mental Health and Addiction Services). A uniform RCMP member and a clinical nurse specializing in mental health work together and respond to calls received involving emotional and mental health issues. The Car 67 team will drive in an unmarked police vehicle to enhance privacy of the individuals and families that they serve.

Car 67 provides on-site emotional and mental health assessments, crisis intervention and referrals to appropriate services. Car 67 facilitates admission to hospital in cases where this is needed and will take over for regular general duty police officers of the responsibility of dealing with mental health issues involved in particular calls where their specialized knowledge is required.

Source:  
<http://surrey.bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=79&languageId=1&contentId=298199>

## **SUMMER HOME SAFETY TIP**

- **Maintain it.** A home that's well cared for is a less attractive target for thieves. Trim hedges that exceed window-height and cut evergreen branches up at least three feet from the ground to eliminate hiding places on your property.

Source:  
[http://www.canadianliving.com/crafts/home\\_and\\_garden/5\\_tips\\_for\\_keeping\\_your\\_home\\_safe\\_this\\_summer.php](http://www.canadianliving.com/crafts/home_and_garden/5_tips_for_keeping_your_home_safe_this_summer.php)

## HIGH RISK DRIVING CAMPAIGN

**Failing to yield:** It may not always be easy to decide who has the right-of-way at intersections.

**Ignoring traffic control devices:** If you're approaching a light that's been green for a while, slow down and prepare to stop if the light changes. Remember that yellow lights mean you must stop unless it is unsafe to do so.

**Following too closely:** Leaving a safe following distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front gives you time to react to the unexpected.

**Speeding:** Speed is one of the most frequently cited contributing factors in police-reported car crashes.

**Improper passing:** If you're planning to pass, make sure you do it safely and legally.

Source:

<http://icbc.com/road-safety/safety-campaigns>

## CYCLIST SAFETY TIPS

It's important to perform regular maintenance and safety checks on your bike to prevent mechanical breakdown.

Look for signs of wear on your helmet and make sure you use an approved bicycle helmet that meets safety standards. It's the law in B.C. and you could be fined for not wearing one.

When turning, always hand signal well in advance of any turn. First shoulder check, then hand signal and then with both hands on the handlebars, shoulder check again before turning.

Wear bright, reflective clothing so you're as visible as possible. If you ride at night, you're required to equip your bike with a white headlight visible at 150 metres and a rear red light and reflector visible at 100 metres but consider adding more lights for increased visibility.

Source: <http://icbc.com/news/2013may21-02>

## SWIMMING SAFETY

### Walk, do not run

Do not run around the edges of the pool. The area around the pool can be slippery when kids have been splashing around.

### Be careful getting in and out of the pool

Be careful when you get in and out of the pool. If there is a handrail, use it.

### Look before you leap or dive in

Shallow water, underwater logs or big rocks are all dangerous when you are diving into lakes or swimming holes. Diving head first into a pool or lake can cause serious injury.

### Do not go beyond your abilities

When you go in the water, swim only where you feel comfortable. Do not go farther or deeper than you can handle. At beaches swim parallel to the shore, and stay inside roped-off areas.

### Never swim alone

Never swim alone. Use the buddy system. Make sure you watch out for each other. Even when a lifeguard is around, it is best to have a "buddy".

**Play carefully** Wrestling and tumbling in a pool or lake can be very dangerous. Hitting your head against pool walls or floors, or rocks in lakes, can knock you unconscious. If you do not get help, you can drown very quickly.

Source:

<http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile39.stm>

## FIGHTING WILDFIRES SAFETY

The desire to get away from the pressures of heavily populated areas has resulted in an increase in subdivisions and developments in forested areas. Each year there are more than 2,000 forest fires in British Columbia. Although most are far from populated areas, many can threaten or burn homes, summer cottages and cabins.

For more [tips](#)

Source:

<http://bcwildfire.ca/FightingWildfire/Safety/>