



Saanich Police

BLOCK WATCH

Spring 2012

"I haven't had a Meeting in three years, and my Map is from the late 1990's.
So what??"

Some insurance companies are now asking for proof of a recent block watch meeting. What this may mean to you is disqualification of your home insurance discount and worst case scenario, a denied claim because the discount was received fraudulently.

For some insurance companies a certificate is no longer enough proof; they want to know that your Block Watch group is active. A current meeting date is the only way to prove this! When was the last time you held a meeting? If you are unsure, give us a call. We are here to provide help with keeping your Block active and provide suggestions and materials for meetings. Spring is a great time to plan for a front yard neighbourhood BBQ or small get together in the park.

In This ISSUE

- Update your map and have a meeting
- Newsletter Distribution
- Volunteer Corner
- Reporting Crime
- Welcome to New Blocks
- Chief's Message
- Inspector's Message
- Contact Information

Have your meeting and at the same time take the opportunity to update your map. New neighbours come and go; welcome newcomers and give them the chance to become a member and reap the rewards of Block Watch.

Two very important pieces of information that we find are commonly changed with annual map updating are e-mail addresses and phone numbers.

Spring Crime Prevention

- Lock your doors even if you are in the yard.
- Check your motion sensor lights. Are they all working?
- Lock your windows when you go out.
- Lock up ladders and sheds. Why give thieves more tools to work with?
- Be aware of home improvement scams!



Newsletter Distribution

In the Block Watch office we are always looking for ways to make things greener and more accessible to our participants. One way we can do this is by making the newsletter available as a download rather than using paper.

While approximately 5000 participants have taken advantage of this method, another 2500 participants have not! While we don't mind making paper an alternative for those people who may not have a computer, we would really like to see the paper copies go to people who genuinely need them, rather than to people who don't know there's an alternative.

If you are currently getting a paper copy and would rather have an electronic version, please let your Captain know so that we can adjust the number of newsletters we print. For future reference we are leaving previous editions of the newsletter on the website at saanichpolice.ca

Thanks so much for your continued support and feedback. We appreciate it!

Volunteer Corner

Cara-Lynn Webb is our Area Coordinator for the Camosun/Jubilee area in Saanich. In her own words she tells us how she became involved with the Block Watch program.

"I always thought someone else would step up to the plate and start a block watch in our neighbourhood. This is something retired people do right? Well, no, anyone can spend the little bit of extra time to make a difference. So when I stopped at a block watch booth for the 5th time, I decided I too could make a difference, so I signed up!

The best reason to be involved with Block Watch is to pull communities / neighbourhoods together again like they used to be. Neighbours who then know each other and talk, share stories and help each other out in a time of need. With this brings a sense of security; **you have more than the dog or house alarm watching over your home and family...you have Block Watch neighbours.**

Being an Area Coordinator is a pretty small commitment. Area Coordinators act as a resource and liaison between the Block Watch office and the blocks within their area.

A small commitment can make a big difference and I am glad I have taken it on."



Reporting **Crime:** the **Hows** and **Whys**

There are many good reasons for reporting a crime.

- You or someone else may need protection from the person who committed the crime.
- It can help to protect you, your loved ones and community from future crimes.
- It can give you an opportunity to deal with the harm done to you or others.
- When police are called as soon as a crime has been suspected, there is a better chance of arresting the person responsible.
- Your report may stop someone from committing another crime.

If you do see a crime, it's the type of crime that determines the way you report it. You would call 911 to report any crime that is in progress and requires immediate action, to either render assistance or apprehend suspects. These would include:

- Break and Enter in progress
- Armed Robbery
- Shooting



- Stabbing
- Assault
- All crimes where lives are in jeopardy
- Physical disturbances
- Injury accidents
- Prowlers
- Any crime being witnessed.

Use the non-emergency number (250-475-4321) when calling about any crime after it has occurred where there is no suspect present or minor incident complaints where time is not a critical issue. These would include:

- thefts,
- property damage
- Non- injury motor vehicle accidents
- Inquiries or Information
- Suspicious activity
- noise complaints



We welcome these **new blocks** to the
Block Watch Program

- 4800 Block of Excelsior Road
- 3900 Block of Oakwood Street
- 1600 Block of Morningside Place

A Message from our Chief



Hi folks. Just a note to let you know how much we all **appreciate what you do as members of the Block Watch program**. Your commitment to being our eyes and ears in the community helps us to keep your family, friends and neighbours safe. It also provides us the opportunity to message crime prevention practices in protecting your identity, target harden your homes and businesses and **make the bad guys think twice before they come onto your street or cul-de-sac**.

Your calls to our communications centre throughout the year have provided our members with information that, in many cases, have enabled them to prevent a crime, catch a suspect in the act or given us the means to lay a charge after an investigation.

Without those calls and the vital information they provide, we wouldn't have one of the lowest crime rates in the region, province and indeed, the country.

Police can't do it alone; we are all in this together. With your help, we will continue to live, work and play in one of the safest communities in the country. **Once again, thanks for all that you do every day. - Chief Constable Mike Chadwick**

A Message from Our NEW Inspector of the Community Liaison Division



Hello Everyone, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am **Insp. Brett Fryer** and I am honored to be the Inspector responsible for our **newly created Community Liaison Division**. Up until the creation of this new stand-alone Division, our community liaison functions, including Block Watch, Schools Liaison, Crime Prevention, Youth and Family Counselor, Bike Squad and Volunteers were all part of our Uniform Division.

This new Division was created to ensure that the **Saanich Police engage in innovative strategies** that will increase our capacity to dedicate the appropriate time, energy and resources necessary to work alongside our citizens and community partners in delivering a variety of pro-active policing initiatives.

Over my 27 years with Saanich, I have had the privilege of working in a variety of investigational areas including Patrol, Financial Crimes and Child Abuse. I have spent the last four years as the Inspector leading our Staff Development Division where I was responsible for recruiting, training and HR functions of the Saanich Police. I have also worked as both a School Liaison and Crime Prevention Officer so **I am excited, once again, to have the opportunity to work directly with all our staff and community partners in continuing to keep our neighbourhoods safe.**



Follow Block Watch on Twitter! [@SaanichBlkWatch](https://twitter.com/SaanichBlkWatch)

Contact: Saanich Police
Block Watch Office
250-475-4365

blockwatch@saanichpolice.ca
www.saanichpolice.ca



BLOCK WATCH®

If you have observed a crime, or a crime has occurred to you or your property, contact police immediately, not the Block Watch office. Call 911 in an emergency or 250 475 4321 for a non-emergency if the crime has already occurred or is non-life threatening.

Property Crime Stats: saanichpolice.ca/crimewatch/be_stats.html