



**BLOCK WATCH** ®

**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 SPEED LIMITS**

Starting September 6<sup>th</sup>, school zone limits go back into effect, **30km/h from 8:00a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.**

### **WHAT YOU AND YOUR BABY-SITTER NEED TO KNOW**

- Introduce the babysitter to your children and pets.
- Give a tour of your home, indicating areas which are off-limits or dangerous to the child.
- Leave emergency telephone numbers, including neighbours who can provide assistance, and the number at which you can be reached.
- Make sure the babysitter knows when to use 9-1-1 if it applies in your area.
- Brief the babysitter about allergies, medications or other medical information.
- Indicate what TV programs, music or computer games are allowed.
- Establish rules regarding visitors, whether it be the babysitter's or the children's friends
- Overall, ensure the babysitter, understands the routines of your household. Some examples include, bedtimes, snacks, chores, activities and homework.
- Let the babysitter know what time to expect you home, and phone if that changes.
- Call the babysitter at least once while you are out and make sure all is well.

Source: <http://safety-council.org/safety/public-safety/children/what-you-and-your-babysitter-need-to-know/>

## **Block Watch News**

**September, October & November 2011**

### **WHAT'S HOT**

Since ICBC launched the free mobile application in May, the practice knowledge test app has been downloaded almost 13,000 times from the Apple App Store, where it's available for free to iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad users. ICBC's practice knowledge test has been used more than 156,000 times through the app.

Source: <http://icbc.com/news/aug11-01>

### **HALLOWEEN SAFETY**

- Improper masks can interfere with a child's vision or breathing.
- Swords, knives and other accessories should always be made of flexible material.
- Flimsy materials, flowing skirts and baggy sleeves can all be hazards around candles or flames.-
- Unwrapped treats or those in loose packaging from unknown sources may be unsafe to eat.
- Look for costumes, beards and wigs that are labelled "Flame-Resistant." Nylon or heavyweight polyester costumes are best. Even so, "Flame-Resistant" does not mean fire-proof.
- Keep pets inside and away from trick or treaters and lit candles, especially if they are easily frightened or overexcitable.
- Tell your children to stay in well-lit areas and only visit homes that have their outside lights turned on. Make sure they know never to go inside homes or cars.
- Examine the treats your children bring home before they start eating them. Throw out any treats that are not wrapped, have loose or torn wrappers.

Source: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/life-vie/halloween-eng.php>

## **FIREWORKS SAFETY**

- Check local bylaws to see if fireworks are allowed
- Fireworks should only be handled by adults using EXTREME caution
- DO NOT use fireworks that appear to have loose fuses, appear old, or show signs of damage.
- Ignite one firework at a time.
- Bury certain firework devices (Roman Candles) up to half their length in a bucket of sand or earth.
- NEVER hold lit fireworks.
- If a firework doesn't go off, do not approach or pick it up for at least 30 minutes.
- DO NOT attempt to relight the device.
- After 30 minutes, immerse in water and throw away. Source: <http://bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ViewPage.action?contentId=1121&siteNodeId=50&languageId>

## **PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE FOR WINTER**

One of the first things motorists need to do is look critically at their tires. Even if the area you live in doesn't see much snow, temperature of seven degrees or lower affect tire performance. Winter tires are designed to function better in lower temperatures and can shorten stopping distance by approximately 25 per cent over all season tires.

To prevent break downs make sure your vehicle is recently serviced. Check all lights, belts, hoses and battery levels and top up the coolant, windshield washer fluids and fuel regularly.

For long or remote trips, motorists should carry tire chains and a winter driving survival kit that includes a cell phone, jumper cables, extra clothing, food, flashlights, candles and an assortment of tools and supplies.

Drivers of commercial vehicles over 27,000 kg and operating outside the Lower Mainland or Vancouver Island are required to carry tire chains now through to April 30.

Source:

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010TRAN0081-001247.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010TRAN0081-001247.htm)

## **RCMP WARNING: SCAM**

A Coast resident was defrauded after posting an item for sale on Craigslist.

A potential buyer from the United States contacted the seller and an agreement was made. Before the seller received any payment or delivered the item, the buyer contacted the seller to advise he needed funds sent to him via Western Union in order to cover customs broker fees.

The seller wired the funds, satisfied with the buyer's explanation that the monies would be reimbursed via Paypal once the entire purchase was complete. The buyer then contacted the seller again advising the customs brokerage fees were higher than expected and he needed more money, at which point the seller realized he was being scammed.

It is unlikely the wired funds will be recovered.

RCMP wish to remind the public again to be very cautious when shopping or selling on-line and use due diligence. Refer to [www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca) for tips and information about popular scams and how to protect yourself.

Source: <http://www.coastreporter.net/article/20110818/SECHELT0101/308189996/-1/sechelt/weekly-police-report>

**BCCPA Annual Training Symposium takes place on November 3-5, 2011, for more information, please go to [bccpa.org](http://bccpa.org)**



**Remembrance Day - Nov.11**