



Chief Cst. John Lo

Welcome to the Chief Constable's Block Watch Newsletter!

Updated messages for West Vancouver Block
Watch providing high level updates from your
friendly Police Department

Hello Block Watch Captains, Co-Captains, and Participants,

I would like to provide you with an update on what our crime trends look like so far this year and give you some tips on how you can prevent yourselves from being a victim of crime.

Crime Trends

In the first quarter of this year, Property Crime was up by 5% compared to the same quarter of last year. The main driver of our Property Crime increase was vehicle thefts. We had 14 vehicle thefts so far this year in comparison with 6 vehicle thefts last year.

Auto theft is a significant issue nationally and internationally and the federal government recently announced an Action Plan to address auto theft.

More details of the Action Plan can be found here at the link below;

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2024/05/government-of-canada-unveils-national-action-plan-on-combatting-auto-theft.html>

One way that you can protect yourself from auto theft is to establish a nighttime routine that involves making sure that your vehicles are locked and that your car fob/keys are placed away from the doorways of your residences. There is some very sophisticated equipment (frequency scanners) on the market that can duplicate car fobs if they are within a certain range of the scanner.

On a positive note, Residential Break and Enters are down 45% and Violent Crime is down 5% from last year.



Stay Safe Year Round

Residential Alarm Systems & Security Cameras

Equipping your house with an alarm system and home security cameras will help deter criminals, especially if you advertise somewhere on your property that you have these systems and cameras in place.

The more sophisticated security cameras systems are the ones that allow you to live stream remotely and alert you immediately when your alarm is going off.

We had a file earlier this year where the homeowner contacted us when they saw suspects inside their residence through a live stream security camera. This resulted in the recovery of the suspect vehicle and the identification of persons of interest.



Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI is being used more and more as a tool to defraud and manipulate individuals. One trend that law enforcement agencies are seeing globally is the use of voice duplication software. In these cases, the voice of a person will be synthesized, and the suspects will call a family member of the person who has had their voice synthesized claiming that they are in a dire situation and need help (money).

These synthesized voices sound like the real person and can be extremely convincing. One way that you can protect yourself is to create a code word with your family members that only you and your family know about. If you or your family members ever need to reach out to each other in an emergency, then the code word is shared to authenticate the conversation.

The bottom-line is don't ever send any money unless you know with absolute certainty that you are sending it to the right person.

Suspects are becoming extremely savvy with new and innovative technologies so please be cautious when you receive "emergency" calls or text messages.



Thank you again for your support of West Vancouver Block Watch. Block Watch is a key partner for us in keeping West Vancouver safe. Please don't hesitate to report any suspicious activity or persons to us. I look forward to providing another update in the Fall.

Chief Constable John Lo
West Vancouver Police



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POLICE**

Excellence in Response & Investigation for a safe West Vancouver

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