

# CRIME PREVENTION

## WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

## NEWSLETTER

### Disrupting Fraudsters and Cybercriminals – What We Can Learn

RCMP and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) partnered to bring together a diverse group of cyber and counter-fraud experts from many organizations to disrupt fraudsters. They called the operation Maple Disruption and were able to disrupt over 3,000 fraud related actions. These included shutting down malicious email accounts and websites, flagging suspicious transactions, and blocking cryptocurrency addresses linked to fraud. Unfortunately, the reality is that even with these shutdowns there are thousands of other scam networks because fraud is a global phenomenon. This past March for fraud prevention month, CAFC highlighted that in 2025 they received over 112,000 fraud reports involving over \$704 million in reported losses. Although fraud is ever changing, you can play a part to disrupt fraud by staying educated and reporting scams.



Be wary of unsolicited emails, text messages, and phone calls asking you for personal or financial information. Fraudsters can spoof their caller ID and email addresses. Spoofing is a tactic where attackers disguise themselves as a trusted source. They change their ID, number, and email addresses to look like a known contact. This past March, Richmond RCMP highlighted a high number of impersonation-based scams where fraudsters posed as official government agencies, financial institutions, or loved ones. Fraudsters used fear and urgency to pressure victims into transferring money or handing over cash. If you are unsure who you are talking to, verify the information with a trustworthy source such as contacting the originating source through a known, legitimate phone number or talking to a credible employee at a bank, government agency, or law enforcement agency.

Fraudster will ask you to pay with unconventional methods such as e-transfers, cryptocurrencies, and gift cards. These methods are hard to track and difficult to recover. According to CAFC, one of the top frauds in 2025, based on the frequency of reporting, was identity theft. It can occur through phishing attempts, data breaches, mail theft, dumpster diving, or posted information on social media. Thieves develop credible stories by going through stolen information or social media. In some instances, they offer a “courier” to pick up cash directly from your address. Legitimate financial and government institutions will never send someone to your home to pick up money. Make it harder for fraudsters by shredding physical documents that contain personal or financial information and picking up mail frequently. Check your online accounts, credit reports, bank and credit card statements regularly and report any irregularities. Limit the information you are posting online so fraudsters and compromised accounts cannot find sensitive information about you. If you are a victim of a scam report it to your local police and to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. Reporting helps law enforcement track how fraudsters are operating and learn the patterns of the crime. Ultimately, these reports lead to the creation of fraud-prevention bulletins to prevent you, your friends, and your family from becoming victims of fraud.

## Spring Checklist

A new season is about to arrive. The warm weather encourages people to go out and enjoy themselves. Whether you are spring cleaning, working on the exterior of your home, or enjoying a day at the park, it is also time to switch gears into spring/summer crime prevention. Below are some tips for working on your home and protecting your items outdoors.

**Check your doors and windows** – Make sure all points of entry are closed and locked before you leave home. An open door or window give thieves the easiest opportunity to enter your home. Thieves do not always just look for ground floor entry, they may also look to enter from an open window or door on higher floors. They use existing tools left in the backyard or open shed to gain entry to higher floors. Therefore, put away your tools and ladders. If you have these items in a shed, lock it up after use.

**Increase visibility of your home** – The visibility of your home can make it less of a target. Increase the visibility of your home by trimming the bushes and trees and installing bright lights. Clearing the sightlines unblocks the view of your home from the street and neighbouring houses. Lights make your home brighter at night and reveal hiding spots. If you have motion sensor lighting, it draws attention to movement around the home.

**Check electronic crime prevention tools** – Make sure your camera is in good working condition and you are able to download the footage. If you do not have security cameras, it is recommended to purchase one that can record in high definition. Put it near major points of entry that are able to capture the person's face and overall description. In addition, schedule timers to turn on lights. Timers work best for those who are thinking of going on vacation because it makes your home look lived in.

**Check in with your neighbour** – Whether you are staying in town or traveling for the summer, you can connect with a neighbour to help make your neighbourhood safer. If you are preparing for a vacation, ask a neighbour to help take care of your home. Your neighbour can help keep an eye on your home and help to make your home look lived in while you are away.

## Personal Belongings and Outdoor Activities

The local parks and outdoor sporting areas will be busy as many are looking to enjoy the sunshine with their friends and family. Carry only essential items and keep them with you at all times. If you need to put something aside, such as a bag or sporting equipment, ask a trusted individual to watch over them while you are busy. If no one is available, bring the items with you and keep it in your sightlines. For smaller personal belongings, consider using a fanny pack or a small cross body bag so you can still effectively move while keeping your items safe. In some cases, you may need to leave items in your car. Plan ahead and put them in the trunk of your vehicle.

For cyclists, always secure your bike to a bike rack. If you are expecting to make stops along your ride, take a bike lock with you. Never leave your bike unlocked and unattended even when you are gone for just a couple of minutes. Register your bike with Project 529, a bike registry that can aid in the recovery of a lost or stolen bike. The app stores your bike information and allows police to identify its owner quickly. This program also works for scooters and ebikes.

## Trash or Treasure



Auto theft is usually a crime of opportunity, and it is often the small things we overlook or genuinely forgot. Taking just a few seconds to lock up, check your pockets and clear out your valuables can make all the difference in keeping your car safe. Make sure you always have your keys, wallet and cell phone with you. Before walking away, think like a thief for a moment. Take a look at your vehicle and see if there is anything left behind that makes it an easy target. Remember, if you can see it, so can a thief. It only takes a split second for an opportunistic thief to notice a bag on the seat, so make “hide, lock, and take” a non-negotiable part of your routine. Here are some commonly stolen items that people have reported: wallets, sunglasses, license plates, tools, laptops, backpacks/purses, shoes, and jackets.



## To Start a Block Watch Group

Interested in starting a Block Watch group? Let us tell you a little about Block Watch! Block Watch is a program that brings the police and the community together. This program helps you build connections and relationships with people in your neighbourhood and the police while striving for the common goal of crime prevention.

### Select a Group Lead

- ◇ Each group lead has to submit an application and will be contacted for a suitability interview. Candidates will then need to complete a free Police Information Check.

### Recruit and build your group

- ◇ Upon confirmation from the Block Watch office on completing and passing all required steps in becoming a Block Watch Lead, you may begin to recruit homes that are near to you with the provided recruiting materials from the Block Watch office. To build an effective Block Watch, try to involve 50-75% of households in your area.

### Complete activation of your team

1. **Complete** Block Watch Lead/Participant training – invite everyone in your group to participate in a virtual/in-person training session.
2. **Submit** your participating household list.
3. **Qualify** for Block Watch street signs once the above steps are completed.

If you are interested in creating a Block Watch group in your area, email us your name and address at [blockwatch@richmond.ca](mailto:blockwatch@richmond.ca) or call 604-207-4829.

# BUSINESS LINK

## WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

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### Crime Prevention—Fencing

Protecting a commercial property starts with strong perimeter security and fencing plays a crucial role in that effort. A well designed fence establishes a clear boundary between private and public property. It also acts as a physical barrier against unauthorized access. Choosing the right fencing system is essential to ensure both safety and long-term durability for your property.

First, not all fencing options provide the same level of protection. For example, chain link fencing provides very little security and no concealment.

Although they are inexpensive, it is very easy to climb and cut making them not ideal for perimeter security. The design of the fence creates handholds and footholds making it easier to climb. Also the weakness of the steel makes it easily cut by bolt cutters. Consider other designs such as welded wire mesh panel fencing or barb wired fencing which are more resistant to tampering and intrusion.

Regular maintenance is another key factor in effective perimeter security. A well-maintained fence signals that the property is actively cared for. Routine inspections also help identify weak points and compromised areas. Additionally, you can make adjustments or add additional security measures to strengthen your fencing system. Increase the height of the fence as it suggests to thieves an access delay and difficulty to climb over the fence. Pick fencing material that have built in climb resistance designs which make it very hard for opportunistic thieves. Lastly, add auxiliary crime prevention tools to monitor the perimeter. Lighting and cameras uncover hiding spots and acts as an extra pair of eyes. If your property has security guards, these secondary tools can help them in monitoring the area and keep your business safe.



#### Please report all suspicious or criminal activity to the police.

Richmond RCMP Non-Emergency line [604-278-1212](tel:604-278-1212). If you witness a crime in progress, dial **9-1-1**.

Online reporting available at [bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/richmond/report](https://bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/richmond/report) for the following:

- Damage/mischief to property under \$5,000
- Damage/mischief to a vehicle under \$5,000
- Hit and run to an unoccupied vehicle or property
- Theft of bicycle under \$5,000
- Theft under \$5,000
- Theft from vehicle under \$5,000
- Lost property

