



# HASTINGS SUNRISE COMMUNITY POLICING CENTRE

## How To Make Your Block Safer!

Photo supplied by Cst. Krenz



Block Watch captains outside VPD, 2120 Cambie St.

The safest community is arguably one that always looks after itself. The police can't be everywhere, all the time, but if community members take an active role looking after one another they can help prevent auto theft, break and enters, and arson, among other crimes.

This is the premise behind the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) Block Watch program. Starting in Seattle in 1974, Block Watch made its

way up north 25 years ago, first to Surrey, and is now stationed all across the Lower Mainland. The VPD started with the program in 1989 and now includes more than 600 teams across the city. It has resulted in a decrease of 48 to 62 percent in residential break-ins for participating homes.

What is it exactly? It's a free – FREE – community-based program operated by the VPD Block Watch program. It helps empower citizens to become actively involved in their community and lower crime. It helps to educate community members so they know what to look for and how to act.

"I started with Block Watch three years ago," said Block Watch Program Administrator Leah Kelsey. "The people that started a Block Watch for a reason had really amazing stories. ... It didn't always happen quickly but with the right training, team work and right police connections, these citizens made a difference and solved problems."

Block Watch teams are trained to identify and report suspicious and criminal activity," said Kelsey. "With better understanding of what suspicious activity looks like, and more awareness of what is going on around them, a new team's crime statistics can sometimes rise temporarily. But, more reports to the police lead to more attention by police, and this is ultimately how police resources get assigned. If a crime or interrupted crime is not reported, from the police perspective it never happened.

There are several success stories from this program each week, according to Constable

Dave Krenz, who is the current VPD officer assigned to the program.

"Once a week I receive an e-mail from a Block Watch captain or member on how they identified a property crime suspect BEFORE they hit a house or a car," said Krenz. "They kept the suspect under surveillance and called the police in to arrest or challenge the individual. One Block Watch has been responsible for several dial-a-dope arrests in one specific area."

The program continues to evolve, as well. The Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre (HSCPC), the VPD Block Watch and the Chinese Community Policing Centre are currently developing a pilot project "to expand Block Watch by focusing on Chinese ESL (Chinese with English as their second language) across the city," according to Kelsey.

"We've made two important observations: one, we need to identify how to support our existing captains to more easily involve their Chinese ESL neighbours on their team," said Kelsey. "And two, we need to increase awareness and understanding of the Block Watch program within the Chinese ESL community."

It doesn't take much to get involved. You need an active community – the ones that put the most in often get the most out of it – and have to nominate a captain and co-captain. From there, you need the involvement of 10 or more

Photo supplied by Cst. Krenz



Cst. Dave Krenz & Leah Kelsey

community members. Training sessions for the captains follow and then it's as simple as submitting your Block Watch map and keeping a vigilant watch.

That isn't asking so much, is it? It's a small, easy price to pay for more peace of mind and more community spirit.

■ Bryce McRae

### Become a HSCPC Member

Learn more about what's happening in your community, meet neighbours and support safety initiatives that benefit all.

You can attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting.

You will be kept informed through our newsletter, which is published several times a year with local articles written by your neighbours.

How? Visit our office at 2620 E. Hastings Street and fill out a membership form. The annual fee is \$5 for current volunteers, \$10 for others.

### Inside this Edition:

Garbage Gatherers  
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Ped Watch - VPD Safety Program

To start a Block Watch in your neighbourhood, phone (604) 717-2857, e-mail [blockwatch@vpd.ca](mailto:blockwatch@vpd.ca) or visit [www.vpd.ca](http://www.vpd.ca) and follow the links.



Luella bags lawn litter.



A smiling Saturday Clean-up crew awaits after-job BBQ.

## The Garbage Gatherers

I've been a resident of the Hastings-Sunrise community for over a decade and have watched it change, for the better.

About four to five years ago, on those Saturday mornings I was able to rouse myself out of bed to run my errands before noon, I began to notice people wearing reflective vests wandering the streets, picking trash up off the sidewalks. I figured they must be either doing volunteer work or community service, but didn't think any more of it.

Until I became a volunteer at the Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre (HSCPC), that is.

During my orientation meeting, I learned the truth behind the garbage gatherers: they are members of

the community who come out, twice a month, to clean up the public areas (sidewalks and alleys).

Studies have shown that crime levels decrease when a neighbourhood is maintained. It is called the Broken Window Theory. A study in the 1980s, by George Kelling, proved that petty crime in New York subways was reduced simply when the graffiti was removed.

Further studies have shown the crimes rates drop and crime does not move to adjacent neighbourhoods. So the HSCPC has set up the Community Clean-up Program to help make the community a safer place.

It seemed like a great way to get involved in the HSCPC and fit easily into my work schedule. My

first time out, I realized that I was finally finding a way to make up for all the cigarette butts I thoughtlessly discarded when I was a smoker. After two hours, I felt like I had given something back to the community I am happy to call mine.

But, it's not just my community. Although volunteers organize and lead the program, all members of the community are welcome to help out. Clean-up dates are advertised on posters throughout the Hastings Sunrise area. You can simply drop by and give two hours of your time to help (and meet some great people).

If nothing else, think twice before dropping that gum or take-out coffee cup on the ground.

■ Luella Iwasuik

### Volunteer Focus

## Joe Wood: Keeping Things Bright

For some people, volunteering can be the perfect way to gain new skills, dust off and polish up older ones, and join other like-minded individuals in supporting and pursuing common goals and objectives.

For some organizations supported by volunteerism, having a dedicated group working for free can make all the difference in the world between having a thriving endeavour or having just a great idea, unmoved and unfunded.

Some endeavours, like great ideas, seem to grow legs of their own, and create their own momentum of support, cheered on from all demographics, defended as if by right of birth. Examples of such endeavours that come to mind are the Food Bank, Big Brothers and Sisters, Special Olympics and the Salvation Army, to name just a few.

So it was rather gracious of Joe to take time away from his very busy schedule recently to talk about volunteering in general, and what it means to him to be a Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre volunteer.

Having logged more than 700 hours since February 2008, Joe's a very active member of the HSCPC. He takes part in Speed Watch and Street Front Office, and since the spring of 2011 he has been the heart and soul of the Graffiti Paint Out program. But Joe's especially proud to have been part of the annual VPD/PNE Trailer project the last four summers, and has enjoyed being the lead coordinator for this high profile CPC initiative for the last two years.

"It takes months to plan and coordinate and get things together," says Joe. "But it's so fulfilling to know you're out there making a difference somehow. I like what the CPCs are doing: a bridge between the police and the public. I like making contacts and connections with people, and taking part in community programs that help keep things bright."

At age 34, Joe is a 17-year veteran of the fine-dining restaurant industry where he has honed his skills in every capacity from bussing to management.

Continued on page 3: Joe Wood

# What's An EMERGENCY ?

By Cst. Lora Dujmovic,  
Neighbourhood Police Officer (NPO)



Cst. Lora Dujmovic,  
Neighbourhood Police Officer

Are you confused about when to call for police at “911” and when to call the VPD Non-Emergency reporting line?

Many reports to police do not require a police officer to attend in person. The VPD Non-Emergency Line (604) 717-3321 is in place to reduce the call load from 911. This frees up operators to take calls from people in immediate need of a police officer (For example, a crime in progress such as a robbery or a break and enter, a fight or a drunk driver). The general rule is to call 911 anytime there is a suspect on scene (or just leaving), if you or anyone else is in imminent danger or if there is potential evidence for officers to collect.

- 6. Crank calls are being received by you and your family several times a day. 911 or Non-Emergency
- 7. A child at school tells you son that he is being abused at home. 911 or Non-Emergency
- 8. Someone is following you home from work but you don't know who it is. 911 or Non-Emergency
- 9. Your neighbours are on vacation and two unknown men are seen in your neighbour's backyard looking in a basement window. You see a car running with a person in the driver's seat. 911 or Non-Emergency
- 10. On your way home from work you walk across a parking lot and see a male exposing himself in his vehicle. A friend tells you the next day you should call police. 911 or Non-Emergency

Take the following short quiz to test your knowledge of when to call 911 versus Non Emergency.

**Please circle the correct answer:**

- 1. You come home to find your front door has been kicked in, you then hear a noise upstairs and no one is supposed to be home. 911 or Non-Emergency
- 2. In the morning you discover your car has been broken into with glass on the ground, no one is seen in the area. 911 or Non-Emergency
- 3. You are out walking your dog at night and see a male and female walking ahead of you trying car door handles. 911 or Non-Emergency
- 4. You receive a suspected scam letter trying to recruit you as a Secret Shopper with a very real looking cheque in your name. 911 or Non-Emergency
- 5. Someone has spray painted vulgar words on your fence and a neighbour states he saw two young girls standing by the fence the previous evening. 911 or Non-Emergency

Three ways you can report to VPD Non-Emergency are: (1) By phoning (604) 717-3321; (2) On line at [www.vpd.ca](http://www.vpd.ca) or; (3) In person at 2120 Cambie or 3585 Graveley Street in Vancouver.

Remember, your local Community Policing Centres do not take police reports. However, the Neighbourhood Police Officer, staff and volunteers at the Community Policing Centres still want to know what you have reported to police. Why? It allows volunteers to focus on problem areas and allows the Neighbourhood Police Officer to track crime trends and focus on the problem areas.

*Constable Lora Dujmovic is the Neighbourhood Police Officer (NPO) for the Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre and welcomes residents of the Hastings Sunrise area to visit the office at 2620 East Hastings to report problems or concerns in your neighbourhood.*

■ Quiz answers on page 4

Photo by Charlotte Bleuer



## Continued from page 2: Joe Wood

Three years ago he went back to school part-time to pursue what he realized was his real interest: policing and criminology.

It's cool to hear Joe talk about his four-year anniversary with the HSCPC coming up. It's just another occasion to celebrate, give thanks over a coffee for sure, but it's also a testament to the kind of dedication and commitment Joe brings to this CPC. It's this sense of commitment and dedication to serving others and giving back to his community that inspires Joe to one day become a member of the VPD.

“At the CPC, I work my butt off, but it doesn't feel like work. I know it would be the same as a member of the VPD. I'd like to feel proud to be part of something my kid will say is cool someday.”

Like it says on the Vantage Point website, (formerly Volunteer Vancouver): “People want to make a difference. Outstanding organizations enable them to do so.”

Outstanding citizens like Joe Wood are out there making a difference, supporting great ideas, and fulfilling a growing need in our Hastings Sunrise community by making connections and keeping things bright.

Many thanks Joe, and cheers to you on your upcoming anniversary.

■ Dominic Sabatino

# Be Street-Smart: Walk Safely!

## DID YOU KNOW?

More pedestrians are killed in motor vehicle collisions than any other road user. In Vancouver, pedestrians account for more than half of all collision fatalities.

Elderly pedestrians are far more likely to be killed in a pedestrian-struck collision than any other age group.

## PEDESTRIAN TIPS

Always make eye contact with an approaching driver before crossing the road. Assume drivers cannot see you.

Wear bright reflective clothing at night or during poor visibility.

Don't jaywalk - cross roads at crosswalks and obey pedestrian traffic signals.

## CYCLIST TIPS

Don't ride bicycles on the sidewalk- stick to the right-hand side of the roadway or in designated lanes.

Use a bell on your bicycle to warn approaching pedestrians and other road users.

Bicycles are vehicles and must follow all rules of the road.

## DRIVER TIPS

Yield to pedestrians on roadways.

Watch for pedestrians at intersections, especially when making left - and right-hand turns.

Expect the unexpected - a vehicle stopping in the lane beside you may be yielding to a pedestrian crossing the road.

PED WATCH is a public safety campaign of the Vancouver Police Department and its partners to encourage pedestrians, drivers and cyclists to watch out for one another.

To find out more about PED WATCH, visit [vpd.ca](http://vpd.ca).



Each safe step is a forward step

### ANSWERS: When To Call (from page 3)

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. 911           | 6. non-emergency  |
| 2. non-emergency | 7. 911            |
| 3. 911           | 8. 911            |
| 4. non-emergency | 9. 911            |
| 5. non-emergency | 10. non-emergency |

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### Office hours:

- Mon - Fri: 9:30am - 4:30pm
- Saturday: 10:00am - 4:00pm
- Sunday & Holidays: closed

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