

Be Scam-wary!



Luck: A rich stranger would like to share his fortune with you but just needs a little financial help to get his inheritance released.

Love: An attractive stranger wants to spend the rest of their lives with you but needs money to make it possible.

Kindness: A worthy cause needs your donation right away.

All these situations require one action -- make a payment. But before you do, consider three other steps:

1. Give yourself a few days to think it over. Any legitimate organization will give you time to make a payment or respond. Do not give out any information until you are sure it is not a scam.

2. Talk to someone you trust. Call your local Community Policing Center. Anyone who contacts you and tells you not to discuss this with others is a scammer.

3. Do some research. Google the phone number they called on or go to the website of the organization. Use the "contact us" page on their website to verify if the contact was legitimate.

At the end of the day, trust the feeling in your stomach. Investigate first and act second.

■ Loretta Revoczi

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The holiday season is here and with it our spirit of generosity, so when someone called claiming to be from the Police Foundation asking for a donation, I was ready to open my wallet.

The call began well. I learned what the money would be used for and it seemed like a good cause. However, when I asked to be directed to the website to make my donation, the tone changed. The caller became aggressive and insisted I give my credit card details directly to him.

I hung up and googled the organization. The home page of the Police Foundation warned that they never solicit donations via phone. It was a scam.

Scams come in all shapes and sizes, but they all manipulate emotions to get us to part with our cash. They target us through:

Fear: You haven't paid your taxes, your computer has been hacked, or a loved one is in trouble. You need to make a payment right away or face horrible consequences.

Thank you!

Our second annual Dine for Safety fundraising dinner Oct. 23 at Tamam Restaurant was a great success, thanks to outstanding community support from auction item donors and generous bidders.

More than \$4,500 was raised, to help the HSCPC fulfil its mandate to make our community safer and more livable.

Thanks to all our donors:

Helijet
 Sutton Place Hotel
 LiveNation
 Tamam Restaurant
 Cyclus Studio
 Carver Gifts
 Sula Indian Restaurant
 Starbucks
 Steamworks Brewery
 Everything Wine
 Shoppers Drug Mart
 Purdy's Chocolates
 Capilano Suspension Bridge
 Hastings North BIA

Mike Radford
 Gabriele Maurus
 Dean Shinkoda
 Shabira Rajan
 Melinda Freitas
 Lara Davis
 Peter Wong
 Charlie Kiers
 Lester Poon
 Tommy Luong
 David Huynh

Happy Holidays!



To all Hastings Sunrisers –
 A happy and peaceful holiday season
 from staff and volunteers at your
 Community Policing Centre!

Our office will close at noon
 Thursday, Dec. 20
 And re-open at 9:30 am
 Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2019

Pedestrian Safety

Nina Kreis - Q&A!



As winter has shortened daylight time in BC, most of us drive, bike or walk to work when it is still dark and return home when the sun has already set. Being on the road in this season is not simply inconvenient, very often it is dangerous. Nearly half (43 per cent) of all traffic accidents involving pedestrians in B.C. happen between October and January.

As many as 63 pedestrians died and over 2,600 were injured in traffic incidents in B.C. in 2016 (the latest year for which ICBC posted official stats). The number of homicide victims in the province in the same year was just slightly higher, 87 people. What makes it worse is that in B.C., 69 per cent of crashes involving pedestrians happen at intersections.

Traffic safety experts acknowledge that even when drivers proceed with caution, it's hard to see pedestrians in poor visibility. That is why ICBC has started distributing free pedestrian reflectors as part of their annual safety campaign. Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre is one of the places in Vancouver where anyone can pick up a reflector and learn useful road safety tips.

Pedestrians are advised:

- ◆ To be careful at intersections and try to make eye contact

with drivers or cyclists when crossing the street;

- ◆ To wear reflective clothing to be more visible in the dark;
- ◆ To remove headphones and take a break from the phone while crossing the road;
- ◆ And definitely not to jaywalk.

Drivers are recommended:

- ◆ To slow down at intersections and be ready to yield to pedestrians, especially near transit stops;
- ◆ To stay focused on the road and leave the phone and other hand-held devices alone;
- ◆ To remember, if a vehicle is stopped in front of your car or in the lane next to you, it may be yielding to a pedestrian.

Through ICBC's road improvement program, over 100 pedestrian and cyclist safety projects were completed in 2017, including sidewalks, countdown timers and pedestrian activated flashing crosswalks.

But in the end, our safety depends on us. Rushing through an intersection on yellow or red light can put people's lives at risk as much as running towards a crosswalk when countdown timers are showing the last few seconds of green.

■ Olga Shaporenko



Meet our new Volunteer and Office Coordinator. Nina Kreis joined the staff team in June and is making a very positive impact on HSCPC. Nina took a few minutes out of her busy schedule to answer a few questions from Bulletin writer Loretta Revoczi.

Tell us a bit about yourself?

I came to Canada when I was 15 from Germany. For the next 20 years I moved back and forth between the two countries but now I am permanently settled here in Vancouver.

What drew you to this job?

I like working in the non-profit sector where the mission is the most important thing, not the profit margin. I love that I have room to develop new ideas at the CPC.

What inspires you to come to work every day?

The people! And not knowing what each day will bring!

What is the most challenging aspect of work in the community policing center?

Every situation can be different. Each person who walks through the door has different needs. Sometimes they need to feel heard and taken seriously, other times they need practical support. I am continually learning; it is really interesting but some days it can take a lot of energy.

Why is being part of a volunteer and community based organization appealing to you?

It is super rewarding to work with such a diverse range of people. It's inspiring to be around volunteers who are willing to dedicate time to make our community a better place to live. The CPC has a lateral management style so we learn as much from our volunteers as they learn from us.

What developments would you hope to see happen at the CPC?

I'd love to see more retirees volunteer. We can learn so much from their experience and their roots in the community.

What do you love about Hastings Sunrise?

It's a little village in a big city. It feels like a tight-knit neighborhood and there is always something new to discover. ■

Working together for a safe community

The Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre works in partnership with the Vancouver Police Department



Other Partners:

