



**BLOCK WATCH**®

An Informative Newsletter for British Columbia Published Monthly by the Block Watch Society of BC.

[www.blockwatch.com](http://www.blockwatch.com)

### **POLICE TO COUNTER THIEVES WITH 'BAIT CARS' DURING OLYMPICS**

Police will use "bait cars" to trap automobile thieves here during next month's Winter Olympics, provincial solicitor general Kash Heed said Tuesday.

The bait cars are part of an increasingly successful battle against local property crime, widely blamed on drug addicts, since Vancouver won the 2010 Games.

"Strategic deployment of bait cars, which has cut auto crime by more than half since 2003, will provide drivers with greater peace of mind," Heed said in a statement.

Police bait cars are equipped with interior video and audio recorders and satellite tracking equipment, plus a device that lets police remotely disable the engine in order to apprehend a suspect. Items like cameras and laptops are equipped with tracking equipment to help police find and identify them if thieves smash bait car windows to grab valuables.

Source: [http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/afp/100127/canada/oly2010\\_canada\\_crime\\_security](http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/afp/100127/canada/oly2010_canada_crime_security)

### **BEWARE 2010 OLYMPIC SCAMS**

**Counterfeit Tickets:** Just about every sporting and entertainment event has issues with counterfeit tickets. If you are

# **Block Watch News February 2010**

in search of last minute tickets to an Olympic event be very wary of the source from which you are purchasing your ticket. Authorized fan-to-fan tickets can be purchased by Canadian and U.S. residents via the 2010 Olympics official website at [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com).

**Bogus Olympic Merchandise:** Be aware of knock-off Olympic memorabilia, including collectibles and sportswear being sold near sports venues and online. Consumers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the official 2010 Winter Olympics logos, graphics and branding and consider shopping directly from the [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com), the official 2010 Games website.

**Rental Property Scams:** Phone ads for British Columbia rental properties are popping up on Craigslist and other online classifieds. Scams typically require the victim to wire a large deposit of money to the supposed landlord in order to receive the keys to the rental home. The money is wired and communications stop. Victims lose their money and a access to place to stay during the event. If you are looking or accommodations during the 2010 Games, the Olympics has an Official web site [www.2010destinationplanner.com](http://www.2010destinationplanner.com) that provides a list of hotels, bed and breakfasts, private home rentals and rooms on cruise ships that are available.

**Problems with Travel Packages:** Millions of people are expected to arrive in Vancouver-Whistler for the Olympics, making accommodations and travel options limited in the area. Before making travel plans be sure you know who you are doing business with. Check Canadian tourism businesses out at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

Travel agencies should be licensed with Consumer Protection BC and Property Management firms with the Real Estate Council of B.C.

Source: <http://mbc.bbb.org/article/scams-arrive-as-winter-olympics-approach-14970>

### **BEING PREPARED FOR BACK-COUNTRY ADVENTURES**

- Being safe means being prepared.
- Map out the trip in detail.
- Travel with others and practice rescue techniques.
- Carry radios and ensure they are in good working order.
- Take an avalanche course - it can be fun and interesting.
- Review avalanche bulletins and phone ahead of time for avalanche and weather information.
- Be prepared to change plans based on the weather and avalanche reports.
- Assure that everyone on the team is equipped with the right tools, maps, experience and physical fitness level needed for the trip.
- Leave a copy of the route with someone who is not travelling.

Source: [http://www.ec.gc.ca/EnviroZine/english/issues/50/feature3\\_e.cfm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/EnviroZine/english/issues/50/feature3_e.cfm)

### **PREVENTING MARIJUANA GROW OPERATIONS**

The means to prevent a tenant from starting up a grow lab are simple and non-intrusive. By screening prospective tenants and conducting regular inspections of your property, you can virtually eliminate the likelihood of a grow operation being set up.

#### **Screen Prospective Tenants:**

- Check and record identification.
- Check their references.
- Advise them verbally and in your lease that you check your property regularly (with proper notice).
- Let them know you have regular contact with neighbors.

- Ask which tenant will be signing for Hydro and Telephone.
- Be there when tenants move in.
- Do not accept cash payments for rent

#### **Check your property at least once every four to five weeks – Look for:**

- Homes that do not appear to be lived in (may have little or no furniture in the main living areas), but may have occasional visitors (1 or 2 times weekly) at unusual hours.
- Homes that are lived in, but never have lights on in the majority of basement windows.

Source: <http://www.nanaimocrimestoppers.com/landlords.php>

### **RENTERS CAN HELP PREVENT CRIME IN THEIR COMMUNITIES**

The Crime Free Multi Housing Program brings together apartment owners, managers, residents, police and the community to work together. The program is unique in that it provides training that focuses on:

- teaching crime prevention techniques
- awareness of criminal activity such as grow ops, meth labs etc.,
- proper tenant screening,
- reducing criminal activity through CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design). CPTED addresses issues like unlit parking lots, locks, building/shrub/tree visibility, mailbox security, etc., and
- promoting residential/community interaction or, in plain language, *For more information about the Crime Free Multi Housing Program in BC visit [www.bccpa.org](http://www.bccpa.org) or call 604-291-9959, ext. 223.*

Source: [http://bccpa.org/bccpa/newsroom/latest/Feb\\_19\\_2009\\_BCCPA\\_media%20release-crime%20Free%20Mulit-Housing.pdf](http://bccpa.org/bccpa/newsroom/latest/Feb_19_2009_BCCPA_media%20release-crime%20Free%20Mulit-Housing.pdf)