



Chief Cst. John Lo

## Welcome to the inaugural Chief Constable's Newsletter!

I intend on publishing a newsletter for Block Watch on a quarterly basis so that you can receive high level updates from your friendly Police Department

Thank you for participating in Block Watch! It really helps our entire community to have your extra eyes and ears paying attention to our neighbourhoods.



I would like to officially welcome back Jeff Palmer. Jeff served as a police officer for many years in our community and we are fortunate to have him back to raise the profile of Block Watch. I encourage you to sign up as many residents as you can so that we can collectively work together to keep our community safe.

### Community Safety



West Vancouver continues to be a very safe community and this feeling is reflected in the most recent Vital Signs Report published annually by the West Vancouver Foundation. Last year, our residents gave West Vancouver an A+ rating on feeling safe. Our Department is very proud of this rating and we will continue to work with our community partners and stakeholders to maintain that sense of safety in the years to come. If you have yet to read the Vital Signs Report, I encourage you to do so. It has an abundance of detail about our community: Visit [westvanfoundation.ca](http://westvanfoundation.ca) to find a copy of WVF Vital Signs 2022.

Our sense of community safety is also reflected in statistics throughout the region. Out of sixteen other municipalities, we are the third best with respect to non-violent crime and the second best with respect to violent crime (Canadian Crime Severity Index, 2021). All of our Block Watch participants have a hand in community safety so thank you again for your involvement and support.



## New WVPD Initiatives

### Foot Patrol Project

You will be seeing more uniformed officers conducting foot patrols in our community, particularly in Horseshoe Bay, Caulfeild, Dundarave, Ambleside and Park Royal. The objective of these foot patrols is twofold: 1) To deter crime and be more visible in the community and 2) to increase community engagement. We are very proud of the service we provide to residents and businesses so please feel free to say "Hello" to our officers when you see them in your neighbourhood. Support received from the public really goes a long way for our members.



### Translation Services

We are looking to reach out to more people in our community by translating the information we disseminate. This newsletter is an example of this initiative. We have a large Farsi speaking and Chinese speaking community and we recognize that the role of the police in West Vancouver is very different than the role of police in Iran or China. So it is important for our department to raise its profile with all residents and explain to newcomers to our community that the police are here to help and support them.

### Traffic Enforcement

We will also be starting up a traffic enforcement project in an effort to reduce collisions and to increase traffic safety awareness. You will see officers conducting enforcement throughout the community, including Horseshoe Bay, Dundarave, Ambleside, British Properties and other hotspots identified by our analytics, metrics & information gathered through targeted traffic monitoring by our volunteer Speed Watch program.



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## Three Requests

I have three requests for everyone who has taken the opportunity to read this newsletter:

- **Set up a morning and nighttime routine to protect your property.** This could involve locking doors & windows before you go to work and before you go to bed.
- **Call us when you see suspicious persons, vehicles or circumstances.** We will attend.
- **Do not fall victim to Fraud!** There are many sophisticated scams that target all segments of our population, but especially the elderly. Identifying suspects behind these scams is extremely difficult because they are well organized and often are calling from different provinces or countries (despite what the call display on your phone might indicate). If anyone is asking you to withdraw money from a bank, e-transfer money or buy gift cards, it's likely a scam. The best thing to do is hang up and report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501. If you do fall victim to a scam, call our police department right away and we will do our best to help you out.

Thank you again for your support. I look forward to reaching out again in three months with another update!

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