

WORD ON THE BLOCK

CALGARY COMMUNITY BLOCK WATCH COUNCIL

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR, JOEY SARPAL

Please join us in welcoming Joey Sarpal as our new Program Coordinator. Joey joined the Calgary Community Block Watch Council in March of this year and one of her first responsibilities has been to review our current program to ensure that it is relevant in today's society. Joey has done considerable research into other such programs in Canada and the U.S.A., and is currently defining how we may enhance our own program. Joey will soon be conducting focus groups with our Block Watch Presidents to receive their input.

Joey has a Bachelor of Applied Justice Studies from Mount Royal College and a Professional Specialization Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration, concentration in government management, University of Victoria (final stages of completion). Joey has also been an active volunteer with several crime prevention organizations in the city.



(above) Our new Program Coordinator, Joey Sarpal.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING, JANUARY 14, 2009

Block Watch staff and Board Members met with Block Watch Presidents from 25-30 communities at the start of this year. The purpose of this meeting was to pass a special resolution to change our name to "Calgary Community Block Watch Council". Following the Special General Meeting, they adjourned to a General Meeting of the Presidents. There was a discussion about the website redevelopment project that we have recently received funding for, and suggestions were welcomed.

The meeting also gave Presidents an opportunity to network and share program ideas and suggestions, and was a big success. More meetings of this type will definitely be planned for the future.

NEW NAME, LOGO AND TAGLINE

We also have a fresh new logo and tagline to go with our name change in order to reflect a more collaborative community approach to our Block Watch Programs. The logo represents the "community" and the "outstretched arms" represent the protection and inclusion that a Community Block Watch Program provides. Our thanks to Dave Fulton, President - South Calgary Community Block Watch and Cathy Smith, volunteer, art teacher and Lillian's niece for conceptualizing our new branding.

NEW COMMUNITY BLOCK WATCH PROGRAMS STARTED

Since September, we have had a number of community members who have come forward to act as the President of a Block Watch Program in their communities. This position has a very important role in coordinating communications amongst the members and organizing the program activities. They are either revitalizing a Block Watch Program which had become inactive or they are getting one started for the first time.

These new Block Watch Presidents are from the communities of: Forest Heights, Glenbrook, Somerset, Pineridge, Spruce Cliff, Parkridge Estates Mobile Home Park, Shawnessy, Martello Court Condo Watch, 333 Riverfront Ave. S.E. Condo Watch, Highwood, Applewood Park, Sunnyside, Windsor Park, Martindale, Killarney/Glengarry, Varsity, Mount Pleasant, and Temple.

Many other established Block Watch Programs have had a change of leadership and we would like to thank all of the new Presidents that have volunteered their time and energy towards overseeing the program!

2008/2009 Block Watch Council Board Members

- **Chair:** Stephanie Stone, Mediator and Conciliation Officer, Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service
- **Vice-Chair:** Paul Chawla, Claims Supervisor, Alberta Lawyers Insurance Association
- **Treasurer:** Sammi Ha, Accountant, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- **Secretary:** Gayle Ritten, Team Lead, Geophysical Services, Encana
- **Director:** Michael Boisclair, Commercial Account Executive, Renfrew Insurance
- **Director:** Mark Iantkow, Director, Libertas Adult Education
- **Director:** Ian Longaphie, Senior IT Technician, Hatch Ltd.
- **Director:** Kathleen Radford, Lawyer, Code Hunter LLP
- **Director:** Greg Steinrath - Manager, Strategic Services, Animal & Bylaw Services, City of Calgary

Calgary Police Services Block Watch Liaison:
Inspector Doug de Groot, District 3, Nose Hill Station

STAFF:

- Martin Cull, Executive Director
- Lillian Jones, Executive Assistant
- Joey Sarpal, Program Coordinator
- Lori Winder, Communications/Website and Database Coordinator
- Chuck Gobeil, Volunteer

Board Member Emeritus for Calgary Block Watch Council:

Gerry Baxter, Executive Director, Calgary Apartment Association
Gerry Borbridge, Retired C.P.S. Chief of Police

“CURBSIDE”

This month, our spotlight is on the 12 Communities Safety Initiative (12CSI), which encompasses the communities of Abbeydale, Albert Park/Radisson Heights, Applewood, Calgary Marlborough, Crossroads, Dover, Erinwoods, Forest Heights, Forest Lawn, Marlborough Park, Penbrooke Meadows and Southview .

As a result of several community consultations and a Safe Streets, Safe City Report, it was recognized that safety and security were major issues. Drug houses and prostitution were raised as issues, but the underlying issue was “image and pride”, as it was recognized that, although there were pockets of problems, the criminal statistics were average for the city.

This led to the formation of the 12CSI, a local crime prevention collaboration which was established in 2007, and which will foster community action on the issue of crime prevention by providing support, facilitation and advocacy, thereby creating safer neighbourhoods for all who live, work and volunteer in the Twelve Communities. It works within the boundaries of 16th Avenue NE, Deerfoot Trail, 50th Avenue SE and City Limits, which has a population of 85,000.

12CSI is a multi faceted approach with a wide variety of participants. It supports existing programs like Calgary Community Block Watch. It encourages the education and active participation of children, youth, their families and the community in general. It promotes understanding of our diverse population and encourages everyone to be a good neighbour. It does all this with the help of over 50 dedicated people and 28 organizations – and more are coming on board as you read this.

12CSI will show a decrease in crime, an increase in participation and an increase in bylaw compliance. In fact, numbers are starting to show this trend.

- This article was reprinted with permission from 12CSI.

The Wild Rose Foundation Quarterly Grants Program and Johnson Insurance are sponsors of the Calgary Block Watch Council.



MAKE A CLEAN-SWEEP OF CRIME!

Research has shown that areas of neglect in a community invite opportunities for crime to take hold. A great way to help reduce crime and improve the appearance of your neighbourhood is to participate in a one-day community clean-up of your **outdoor open spaces** (not residents' basements and garages).

Only community associations can apply for the program, so Block Watch leaders will need to work in conjunction with their community's Executive to organize volunteers, advertise the event and meet the event guidelines. The City of Calgary Waste & Recycling Services and Animal & Bylaw Services will provide (free of charge) the truck from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, and usually a foreman and bylaw officer attend to oversee the process.

This is a great opportunity for Block Watch members and community associations to work together. It offers a great opportunity to get to meet some of your neighbours while caring for your community. A community is only able to use this program once per year, on a Saturday during April, May, June, September and October.

- Block Watch leaders may want to set up a table for registration in the Block Watch Program from interested community residents that show up to participate in the clean-up.
- Community retailers, such as Sobeys or Safeways may be willing to donate water or snacks to the participants of your clean-up. If not, perhaps the community association would have funds to purchase refreshments for this initiative that benefits the community.
- Good places to advertise the event are in the community newsletter, local school newsletters, church and retail bulletin boards. A flyer template can be obtained from the Community Block Watch office at 403-509-2565.

For more information about the Community Clean-up Program, call 403-230-6666.