



# SAFE HOMES, SAFE COMMUNITIES

A Surrey RCMP Crime Prevention Newsletter

## Fall 2015

## Engaging our Youth: Citizen Police Academy



**Did you know the Surrey RCMP recently held two Citizen Police Academies – one for youth and one for adults? Participants met every Wednesday evening for eight weeks from September 16th to November 4th. This interactive series aims to foster a better understanding between Surrey residents and the police and explore how we can work together to improve public safety.**

The 2015 Youth Police Academy was made up of 26 diverse, energetic, and bright students from secondary

schools across the city. They took part in presentations and demonstrations on many different topics including basic law, drugs, forensics, mental health, and crime prevention. The youth also provided our staff with a fresh perspective on policing issues, making it a learning opportunity for us as well.

### Meet some of the participants

Anab is a student from Kwantlen Park Secondary. She applied to be part of the Academy to educate herself on policing as a career. Her goal

is to be the first female Somali police officer in BC.

Cedric attends Fleetwood Park Secondary and said, "The best part of the program has to be when we got to see a [mock] crime scene and learn how they are processed." He explained that what made it even more exciting was the fact that he got to wear an actual "bunny suit" which is a suit police officers often wear over their clothing when attending crime scenes so they don't contaminate evidence.

Jaspreet comes from Princess Margaret Secondary and wants to pursue a career with the RCMP when she gets older. She said she learned so much about policing that she didn't know before, such as the work the Surrey RCMP do through their Police Mental Health Intervention Unit.

Jerry attends Langley Fine Arts but resides in Surrey. Something that he feels he can immediately apply and share with others is the importance of reporting crimes and being part of proactive programs like Block Watch.

Visit [www.surrey.rcmp.ca](http://www.surrey.rcmp.ca) to learn more about the Citizen and Youth Police Academies.

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## Message from the Officer in Charge



**The work of policing involves three main areas: crime prevention, crime reduction and enforcement. We have skilled police officers, staff and volunteers who ensure we are addressing each of these public safety pillars.**

In the realm of crime prevention, we were a proud partner of the 2015 Rakhi Project, which shines a light on the issue of domestic abuse and the silence that often surrounds it. In October, we held our third series of Neighbourhood Safety events to talk to residents about how they can play a role in preventing crime. We are also continuing with our "Coffee with a Cop" events and our Citizen and Youth Police Academies.

Crime reduction involves us looking at the crime that is occurring and targeting those who are the biggest offenders. Our crime reduction team meets weekly to identify these offenders and develop a plan for arrest. We are making arrests regularly and I am

pleased with the progress I have seen using intelligence-led policing to reduce property related crimes.

Our enforcement efforts have been focussed on three main crime issues: shootings, property crimes and robberies.

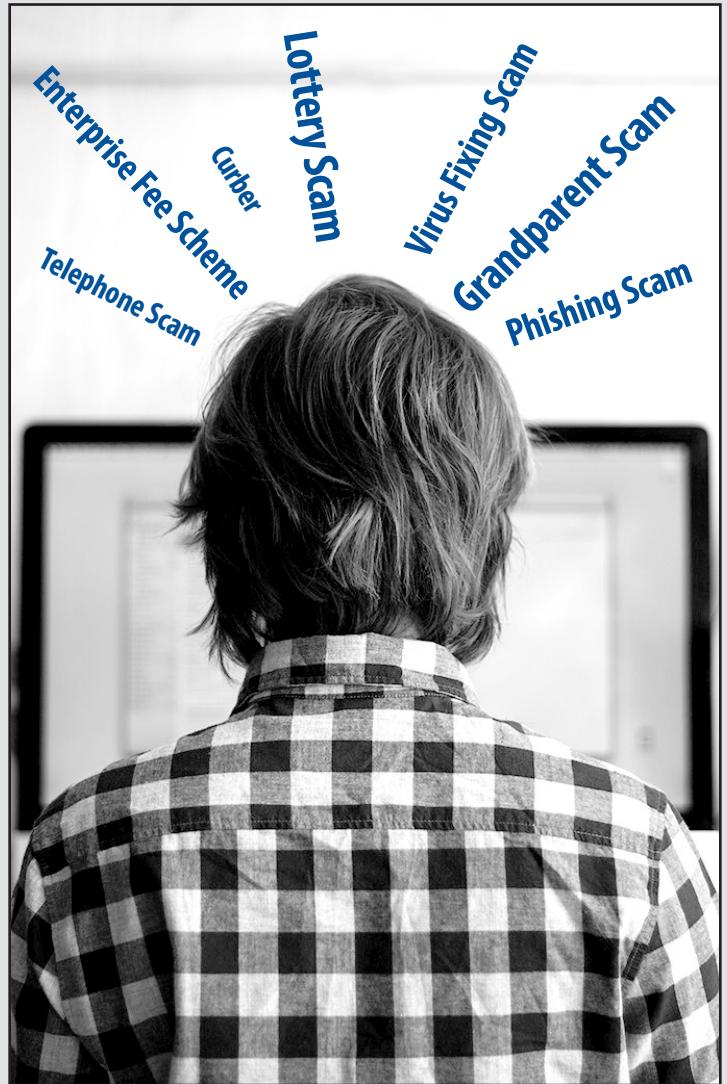
The large-scale enforcement action we have undertaken since the spring against those involved in the low-level drug trade has helped to destabilize these groups and impact their operations. We have a number of active, ongoing investigations. I remind the public that we cannot make arrests without sufficient evidence. We need those who are involved and their friends and family to tell us what they know. The tip line is 604-915-6566.

The recent rise in robberies has kept our Robbery Unit busy. Over the summer months over 30 individuals were arrested, many of whom were involved in multiple robberies. Personal robberies make up almost 40% of our reported robberies. Being distracted by cell phones or other electronics can make you a target, so please keep your eyes up.

As you can see, the community plays an important role in all aspects of policing – from observing and reporting, to engaging with us, to protecting yourself, your home and your business. Thank you for your involvement.

**Chief Superintendent  
Bill Fordy**  
Officer in Charge  
Surrey Detachment

## Be Fraud Aware



More and more we are hearing about people becoming victims of scams. Unfortunately, there are many scam artists trying to get you to part with your hard earned savings or gain access to your personal information. Remember to always trust your instincts – if something seems too good to be true, it usually is.

If you're not sure about the legitimacy of an email, phone call, or letter from an agency requesting that you send money or your personal information, contact the agency directly. However make

sure you don't use the contact information that was provided to you in the correspondence; instead, look it up for yourself.

You can get information about the latest scams on the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website ([www.antifraudcentre.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre.ca)) or you can call your Surrey RCMP Crime Prevention Programs Coordinator to ask for assistance.

# Fraud: Common Scams

## Telephone Scam

These scams are typically associated to agencies such as the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). Callers claiming to be from these agencies threaten clients into paying a fictitious debt or fine to avoid arrest or deportation. Both agencies have put out extensive warnings to Canadians about these fraudulent calls and what to do should they encounter such a call.

## Enterprise Fee Scheme

The most famous version is the “Nigerian Letter”. This is an unsolicited request for modest financial assistance in exchange for a great deal of money. Another version targets investors who have lost money on an investment, and offers to purchase or exchange shares and help the investor minimize his losses. The central feature of the enterprise fee scam is to ask for an upfront payment to cover transaction costs, whether to “unlock” a larger sum of money or facilitate a transfer of shares. Either way, the fraudster keeps the fee, but doesn’t deliver what was promised.

## Curbers

These unlicensed dealers get junk cars and then sell them from parking lots. They advertise through local newspapers and online ads. Curbers do not disclose the vehicle’s history to the buyer, often hiding a lien, accident damage or rolled back odometers. Sometimes the car turns out to be stolen. Be sure to check if the name or location on the vehicle documents matches the curber’s ID.

## Lottery Scams

Lottery scams that come through the mail may seem like a thing of the past but Consumer Protection BC continues to get calls about this scam that often targets seniors. An individual will typically receive a letter stating they have won a large amount of money and be instructed to send back a “processing fee” along with their personal details. Never pay upfront for any prize; a legitimate prize will never require you to pay anything.

## Virus Fixing Scam

These scammers will call unknowing victims and tell them their computer security has been compromised. The caller states that in order to fix it, the computer owner will be required to pay for and download a program onto their computer. The catch: there was never anything wrong with the computer and the owner has now downloaded malware and spyware onto his computer.

## Phishing Scams

This is the creation of email messages and web pages that are replicas of existing, legitimate sites and businesses. These web sites and emails are used to trick users into submitting personal, financial, or password data.

## Grandparent Scam

In the typical scenario, a grandparent receives a phone call from a con-artist claiming to be one of his or her grandchildren. The caller goes on to say that they are in some kind of trouble and need money immediately. Typically they claim they’ve been in a car accident, are having trouble returning from a foreign country, or need bail money.

# How to Protect Yourself from Fraud & Identity Theft

- Don’t leave personal information lying around your home or in your car.
- Shred all documents containing personal information before disposing.
- Check your bank statements often to make sure the transactions were made by you.
- Don’t give out any credit card information over phone or email, even if the individual claims to be from a legitimate company.
- When entering your PIN, cover the keypad with your hand or body.
- Resist pressure to “act now”.
- Only buy from a reputable seller or official retailer.
- Pick up your mail as soon as possible after it’s been delivered.
- If you’re going on holiday, have someone pick up your mail or take advantage of Canada Post’s hold mail service.



# What to Do if You Are a Victim

1. Contact your local police and file a report.
2. Contact your financial institution and credit card company to make a report.
3. Contact the two national credit bureaus and place a fraud alert on your credit reports:
  - **Equifax Canada**  
1-800-465-7166
  - **TransUnion Canada**  
1-877-525-3823
4. Report frauds and scams to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501.
5. Report mail theft or mail box vandalism to Canada Post at 1-800-267-1177.
6. If your passport or Nexus card has been stolen, report it immediately to the police and passport office at 1-800-567-6868.

# News & Events



## Pulling Together Canoe Journey

The Surrey RCMP was a proud partner of the 2015 Pulling Together Canoe Journey, hosted by the Semiahmoo First Nation. In July, eight Surrey RCMP police officers and municipal employees paddled at some point during the 100 mile journey, along with 500 others. This annual Journey brings together First Nations communities, law enforcement, and other public service agencies in an effort to improve relations and provide cross cultural education.

## Neighbourhood Safety Campaign

The Surrey RCMP hosted 15 Neighbourhood Safety presentations this year to talk to residents about how they can get involved in crime prevention. Almost 1,000 residents attended the presentations where they were informed of local crime trends, current policing initiatives, and how to report crime and suspicious activity. Thank you to all attendees for taking the time to talk with police about improving the safety of our neighbourhoods.

## Neighbours Looking Out For Community

During the August wind storm that knocked out power for multiple days, the Surrey Food Bank not only lost power, but thousands of pounds of food. Recognizing the need, Harvest Wynde Block Watch, a Block Watch group in Newton, stepped up and organized a food drive in their neighbourhood. Mobilizing their neighbourhood, this group made a great impact to the community at large.

## Rakhi Project 2015

In partnership with the City of Surrey, the 5th annual Rakhi Project was held over the summer to help break the silence around domestic abuse. The focus of this year's campaign was on the role first responders play when answering domestic abuse calls. Over 1,000 Rakhi bracelets were sold in support of the project's message of protection and respect which blends South Asian tradition with domestic abuse awareness. The funds raised supported the Surrey Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (SCADA) conference.

## Order of Merit of Police Forces

This year, five Surrey RCMP police officers were appointed into the Order of Merit of the Police Forces (OMPF) by the Governor General of Canada. The OMPF honours a career of exceptional service in Canadian Police Services. Congratulations to Supt. Dave Attfield, Insp. Ghalib Bhayani, S/Sgt. Paul Mulvihill, Sgt. Philip Hasenpflug, and Sgt. Marc Searle.

## Partnership with Transit Police Continuing

Since January 2015, the Surrey RCMP and Metro Vancouver Transit Police have been working together on a year-long, joint operation to reduce crime and increase public safety around the Surrey central transit corridor. Two Constables (one RCMP and one Transit) have been providing a high visibility presence to deter disorder and engage with the community. The feedback from local businesses, commuters, and patrons has been very positive and, as such, this partnership has been extended until the summer of 2016.

## Police Officer of the Year Award Recipients

On October 8th Surrey RCMP police officers, volunteers, municipal staff, and partners were recognized at the Surrey Board of Trade's Police Officer of the Year Awards for their dedication to law enforcement and public safety.

**Police Officer of the Year**  
(nominated by community)  
**Insp. Ghalib Bhayani**

**Police Officer of the Year**  
(nominated by peers)  
**Sgt. Michael Sanchez**

**Arnold Silzer Community Policing Initiative Award**  
**Cst. Carl Garlinksi and Cst. Ryan Camping**

**Police Team Award**  
**Crime Reduction Unit – South**

**Auxiliary Constable of the Year**  
**A/Cst. Ken Merrells**

**Municipal Employee of the Year Award**  
**Marnie Neal**

**Volunteer of the Year**  
**Roger Reid**

**Police and Business Partnership Award**  
**Surrey Crime Prevention Society**