

Subject: FW: North Vancouver RCMP School Safety Program A Success

Date: Tue, 8 Mar 2005 11:24:14 -0800

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

I am forwarding this to you to enlist your support for the Parkgate Policing Station. If you read all this (policing) stuff you will understand why it has jumped to the number one priority list on my agenda.

Ernie Crist

-----Original Message-----

From: Kelly WEEKS [<mailto:kelly.weeks@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2005 10:32 AM

To: bfearnley@cnv.org; bperrault@cnv.org; bsharp@cnv.org; ckeating@cnv.org; Darrell Mussatto; ktollstam@cnv.org; rclark@cnv.org; rheywood@cnv.org; Alan Nixon; Ernie Crist; James Ridge; Mayor Harris; Lisa Muri; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Richard Walton
Cc: crabold@cnv.org; Jeanine Bratina; Colleen Brow
Subject: North Vancouver RCMP School Safety Program A Success

Recently in North Vancouver a 12 year old girl was involved in a possible abduction attempt while she was walking to school. The girl was approached by two males in their 20's and they tried to lure her into their vehicle. Feeling threatened, she ran to the nearest adult for help; a lesson taught to the children involved in the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation - School Safety Patrol Program.

In 1998 the North Vancouver RCMP developed the School Safety Program (or the S.S.P.), lead by Sgt. Bob Beaudoin. At the time we were averaging between 8 - 10 children struck by vehicles in school areas per year in North Vancouver alone! Seeing the need for a change, the RCMP members went into schools to teach the students about school zone safety. The lessons learned by the children have paid dividends in creating an awareness of the possible dangers they face daily.

The S.S.P. emphasizes the creation of "Pedestrian Awareness" as well as "Child Awareness" for both students and the drivers in school zones who encounter them. The aim of the S.S.P. is to form a wider "Safety Pocket" around schools and school zones. The program stresses to children the importance of saying, "NO" to strangers. Also the program aims to teach the students to seek safe refuge if they feel threatened, and to get help from an adult or teacher immediately.

North Vancouver now has a compliment of 13 schools currently enrolled in the School Safety Program and due to it's success it has expanded to schools in other areas. 8 municipalities in total are now involved in the S.S.P. including 48 schools, and over 2000 students a year are trained.

Since the programs inception in 1998 there have been no children struck by vehicles in any of the North Vancouver schools involved in the S.S.P. As last week's incident proved, the knowledge and tools given to the children involved in the program empower them to remain alert, and safe on our streets.

KELLY WEEKS

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