



OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE
SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA

*Working together for a safer community
La sécurité de notre communauté, un travail d'équipe*

Ottawa Neighbourhood Watch

**Crossing Bridge Neighbourhood Watch
Official Start Up – Information Session
November 25th, 2009**

Crossing Bridge Neighbourhood Watch Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Opening remarks
Councillor Shad Qadri
Inspector Mike Rice
3. Ottawa NW OPS Presentation
(Cst. Ryan Strotmann, Victor McNabney)
4. Crossing Bridge Neighbourhood Watch
(James Blanchard)
5. Questions and Answers
6. Adjourn

Ottawa Neighbourhood Watch Outline

1. Why Neighbourhood Watch?
2. Neighbourhood Watch: What it is – and is not
3. Watch Roles and Responsibilities
4. Things Every Watch Member Should Know
5. Make the Right Call
6. Questions and Answers

Why Neighbourhood Watch?

- It is one of several core crime prevention programs supported by the Ottawa Police Service (OPS)
- Reduces crime in the community
- Encourages neighbours to be alert for potential crime and look out for one another's interests
- Combats crime before it starts by reducing the opportunities for crime to occur

“It's based on the concept of good neighbours working together.”

Neighbourhood Watch

What it *IS*, and is *NOT*

Membership in a Watch IS About

- **Making your home less inviting** as a target for thieves.
- **Participating in Operation Identification**, making your property more difficult for burglars to dispose of.
- Being **alert to suspicious activities** in your neighbourhood.
- **Responding appropriately** to potential threats.

“For Neighbourhood Watch to be totally effective, each resident should take an active role in both security improvement and observation.”

Home Security Improvement

- Target Hardening is the process for making your residence an unattractive target for a Break and Enter thief, and reducing your chance of being a victim.
- You will want look at the following:
 - Exterior grounds
 - Locks
 - Frames, hinges, and doors
 - Sliding doors and windows
 - Basements
 - Garages

Target Hardening – Exterior Grounds

- **Reduce areas of concealment**
 - Trim bushes around windows
 - Trim branches of trees below 4ft
 - Sheds up against windows
- **Locks on gates and outbuildings**
- **Adequate lighting**
- **Use of Motion Detectors**
- **Remove climbable objects**
- **Car is locked at all times**
- **Garage door is closed and locked**



Neighbourhood Watch

What it is NOT

Membership in a Watch is NOT About

- being a **busybody**
- being a **vigilante**
- **time-consuming** duties and obligations
- **fees for a service** – it's free run by the community



Neighbourhood Watch

What it is *NOT*

Neighbourhood Watch is not



This program is no longer supported in the City of Ottawa

Workings of a Neighbourhood Watch

A Watch has an organizational structure:

Watch Coordinator

- Responsible for the operation of the entire Watch

Block Captain

- Responsible for monitoring 10 – 20 Watch members

Watch Members

- Keeping your home secure
- Remaining alert to any suspicious activity, and reporting it promptly to the Police
- Monitoring your neighbours' homes during their absences

Workings of a Neighbourhood Watch

An active and effective Watch;

- has representation and participation at local Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator's quarterly meetings. Shares information and best practices with the other NW programs in Kanata and Stittsville. Maintains a current membership list.
- communicates Crime Alerts and other reports amongst its members as they are issued by the CPC, on a timely and regular basis.
- understands the roles of the two partners
- identifies local Issues to the Community Police Centre Officer, who initiates resolution and responses by the Ottawa Police Service and the City of Ottawa

Things Every Watch Member Should Know



When to Call the Police

- If something looks suspicious – **Call the Police!!**
- Even when a crime has already been committed, some **people are still reluctant** to inform the Police. If you don't want to call, then at least inform your Block Captain or Coordinator. If people know about crimes being committed, they become more watchful and are less likely to be victimized.

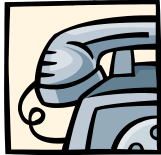
Things Every Watch Member Should Know



When to Call the Police (Cont'd)

- Typical criminal activities which may occur in your neighbourhood are:
 - **Break and entry into homes and motor vehicles**
 - **Vandalism**
 - **Public Disturbances**
 - **Physical or Sexual Assaults**
 - **Illicit drug transactions**
 - **Thefts of all kinds, including outdoor equipment and bicycles**

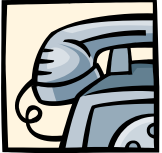
Things Every Watch Member Should Know



When to Call 911

- Violent crime or property crime in progress.
- Above noted crimes have JUST occurred and suspects were seen fleeing (you have a description and last direction).
- Above noted crimes have JUST occurred and there is likely evidence at the scene (sexual assault).
- Car accident with injuries.
- Dangerous or impaired driving and you are following, or JUST witnessed and have a description and last direction.
- Medical emergency.
- Fire

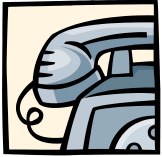
Things Every Watch Member Should Know



When to Call 613-230-6211

- Need Police soon
- Minor vandalism in progress (incl'd'g graffiti)
- Suspicious activity or vehicle.
- Disturbance
- Potential fight developing
- Alcohol and drug use in public (youth in parks).
- Youth under the age of 16 out between midnight and 6:00 am.

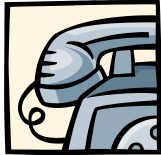
Things Every Watch Member Should Know



When to Call 613-236-1222 ext 7300
or attend any Police Station

- Reporting to the Police after the fact
- Any damage to house, yard or vehicle, not in progress.
- Traffic complaints - general or specific
- Disputes for record purposes (i.e. neighbour, stalking, civil when fear exists).
- Sexual assaults – will need to provide a written statement.

Things Every Watch Member Should Know



When to Call 311

- Any by-law issue or any general city enquiry.
 - Call about a noise problem as it is happening or the next day.
 - Graffiti not in progress.
 - Individuals in the parks between 11pm and 6am.
- . Note that by-law closes at 2am on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and at midnight on weeknights. Summer hours are till 2am every day.
- . You can call the police after these hours (230-6211).

Things Every Watch Member Should Know



When to Call Crime Stoppers
613-233-8477 or 800-222-8477



- You are concerned for your confidentiality.
- If you wish to remain anonymous

Things Every Watch Member Should Know

How to Call the Police – Do's

- Identify yourself as a Watch member.
- Be prepared to describe the person(s), vehicle or circumstances as fully as possible.
- Get an incident number
- Keep the suspects and incident under surveillance from a safe distance until police arrive.
- Make a second call if the activity gets worse, or you have a significant update.
- Inform your Coordinator or Block Captain when time permits.

Things Every Watch Member Should Know

How to Call the Police – **Do Not**

- Attempt apprehension or pursuit.
- Attempt to confirm your suspicions by approaching a home or vehicle where a crime may have taken place, or may still be in progress.
- Attempt high speed vehicle pursuit

Things Every Watch Member Should Know

Situation	Your 1 st Call	Then
<p>Crime in progress</p> <p>Urgent or life-threatening</p>	<p>Call 911</p> <p>Identify yourself as a Neighbourhood Watch member, provide dispatcher with as much detail as possible</p>	<p>Notify your Block/Street/Floor Captain who will then notify the Coordinator. If unable to reach the above call the Coordinator</p>
<p>Suspicious Activity</p> <p>Urgent need but not life-threatening</p>	<p>Call (613) 230-6211</p> <p>Advise dispatcher of the activity going on. Give as much info as possible. Description of individual or car and the direction of travel.</p>	<p>Same as above.</p>
<p>Non Urgent Case</p>	<p>Call (613) 236-1222 ex 7300</p> <p>This number is for administrative purposes, should you need to make a report of any kind or contact various departments or officers.</p>	<p>As above only if it could benefit the safety of the community. If a private matter no need.</p>
<p>City Services</p>	<p>Call 311</p> <p>For: Any bylaw issue or any city enquiry. A present noise problem or the next day. Individuals in the parks between 2300 and 0600.</p>	<p>As above if it will benefit the Neighbourhood Watch residents.</p>

Take away - Key Messages

Commitment

Neighbourhood Watch is a key core crime prevention program supported by the Ottawa Police Service.

Involvement

It is a community run program, by you, the public, for your community.

Partnership between

the community

the Ottawa Police Service

the City of Ottawa

Ottawa Neighbourhood Watch



Thank you