



## WHAT BLOCK WATCH IS:

**BLOCK WATCH** is really just an extension of what you are probably already doing on an informal basis. We tend to know and watch out for our closest neighbours, but a group of neighbours at one end of the block, who are doing this, may not know the group of neighbours at the other end of the block. Organizing a **BLOCK WATCH** makes this attitude of watchfulness more systematic, and provides a block map with neighbours' names and telephone numbers that can be used in the case of an emergency.

**BLOCK WATCH** involves two commitments:

1. A commitment to be concerned about your neighbour's property, as well as your own; and
2. A commitment that when you see suspicious activity, you will take action by calling your neighbour or 9-1-1. It's as simple as that, but it's very effective.

## WHAT BLOCK WATCH ISN'T:

1. **BLOCK WATCH** doesn't require you to perform any special tasks, go to a lot of meetings, or take on extra responsibilities. You don't have to patrol the neighbourhood, or chase burglars. **BLOCK WATCH** just involves being alert as a part of your everyday life. For example, when you go to the window to open or close the drapes, instead of just opening or closing them and turning away, you might stop for a second and glance around the neighbourhood to be sure everything is okay. When you go out to get into the car to go to work, instead of heading for the car with "tunnel vision", glance up and check the neighbourhood. It is this kind of "**watching**" that is involved.

2. Being part of a **BLOCK WATCH** doesn't require you to live in your neighbour's hip pocket, or tell them every aspect of your business. You can still conduct your life in privacy. All it requires is that you and your neighbours be familiar enough with each other to know who belongs in the neighbourhood and who doesn't, which cars are a part of the neighbourhood and which are not, and when something suspicious is going on. It doesn't require you to be any friendlier than you want to be.

This program is successfully operating in many North American communities, and because it functions with the organized involvement and cooperation of community members, it is a proven crime deterrent. Community members are the key factor to safe communities