

PREDATOR RIDGE BLOCK WATCH REPORT – December 30, 2018

Block Watch areas have been established in all developed areas of the Predator Ridge community except for Commonage where organizing activities are underway. This report summarizes activities undertaken to date. Dates listed are approximate only as many discussions were being held. Attached as Appendix A is a map showing the various areas registered and locations of Block Watch signs which reflect a completion of the registration process for each area.

- Block Watch (BW) initially started in Mashie Crescent in August 2014 when Bernie Hollett sent a note to all Mashie residents inviting participation in BW. Following discussions with Regan Borisenko of the City of Vernon Protective Services and orientation sessions in the fall of 2014 Mashie Crescent became the first area to be registered at Predator Ridge – December 2014. BW signs were posted at both ends of the Crescent to complete the registration process.
- Upper Longspoon in early 2015 was the next area to express interest in BW when Allan Speevak initiated discussions with the upper Longspoon area residents and Regan Borisenko.
- Bob Scott as Chair of the Predator Ridge Community Emergency Response Committee (PRCERC) through the PR Newsletter in July 2015 invited other areas to join BW with a need for volunteers. This was the start of a broader BW organizational effort.
- In late July 2015 The Falcon Point groups met with Regan Borisenko to discuss becoming part of BW. In August Falcon Point organized into four areas and started sign up.
- Note that as part of the walk about to sign up residents' co-captains gave the PRCERC handbook to a resident which was a good opener to BW discussions. This then occurred in all areas of Predator as part of sign up.
- Early September, 2015, Upper Birdie Lake commenced organizing.
- Late September, 2015, Dormie started its organizing activities.
- On September 27, 2015, discussions were held with Regan Borisenko on how the entire Predator Ridge Community would be organized following the principle of areas that made sense from a community perspective (minimum 10 homes to upwards of 40).
- On October 4, 2015, a seminar was held to overview the use of security cameras. This raised the consideration of a security camera at the main PR entrance. This remains a consideration for PR management.
- On October 21, 2015 an orientation/training session was held for Dormie residents which then allowed this area to become official BW areas with sign installation (November 2015).

- On November 24, a training session was held in the clubhouse with a significant turnout (79 persons representing 61 residents).
- In December 2015, four Falcon Point areas became registered with signs that followed.
- A co-captains meeting was held on January 12, 2016, at Pallino's to discuss the way BW works. The session was attended by Regan Borisenko and the City of Vernon (COV) Bylaw officer to explain what belongs with BW and what is Bylaw. Over 50 co-captains are involved with BW. A communication network was to be set up between lead co-captains in each area. This has been completed (attached as an appendix).
- In April 2016, Upper Longspoon (three areas) became registered with signs that followed.
- On June 20, 2016, a training session (53 residents in attendance) was held in the Clubhouse with a co-captains meeting that followed. Two new areas in WhiteTail were identified as the next areas to be organized.
- On July 26, 2016, a training session was held for Lower Longspoon and Osprey Green Townhomes with 34 in attendance from 22 homes. Registration was completed and a sign installed.
- BW activities for the remainder of 2016 include a co-captains meeting to consider what has been learned to date and how do we make BW better as we go forward.
- All BW areas are required to submit by year end 2017 an updated map and residents list to Regan Borisenko even if there are no changes. This is necessary to ensure continuation of official BW status.
- A co-captains meeting was held on Dec 5th, 2016 in the Clubhouse at which Regan Borisenko from the CoV reviewed progress to date and addressed several questions from co-captains on how Block Watch works.
- In 2017 with the completion of Whitetail and the start of Havencrest co-captains were recruited and resident sign up has started. It is anticipated that Whitetail will become registered by mid-2018. Havencrest will follow sometime in 2019 as residents are just moving in (3 have signed up as of Nov 1, 2017).
- A BW orientation session was held on Sept 27, 2017, in the lower clubhouse with 40 residents from 26 homes in attendance. Regan Borisenko from the Protective Services Division of Vernon did a site tour to look at sign locations and general organization of the BW units. Certain areas were identified as needing more Block Watch signage.

- A Block Watch orientation session was held at the Vernon City Council Office on December 12, 2017 open to all Vernon BW residents. A number from Predator attended.
- Work started prior to year end 2017 on organizing Commonage. This area will get most of the attention over the next few years as it is the next large area for development.
- As of this date December 15, 2017, substantially all developed areas of the Predator Ridge community are covered under Block Watch.

2018 UPDATE

- Organization of Whitetail and Havencrest continued through out in 2018. Both areas were established with Block Watch unit numbers and co-captains in place. As both areas are new, they will need further work in getting to completion including the addition of co-captains. Block Watch signs have been placed.
- Late in 2018 organization of Block Watch units started in the Commonage area. This area is very new and not unlike Havencrest an early start works well. At year end 2018 three new units have outlined and await file numbers to formally recognize the units. Five co-captains have been recruited for the area. Organizational activities will continue through out 2019 including orientation sessions and the placement of signs.
- In addition to creating new units the Block Watch network was used to inform residents on Emergency Preparedness. Several documents were created on how to be prepared for an evacuation in the event of a wildland fire and were to be distributed by Block Watch co-captains to ALL residents. Most homeowners received this material however there is a need to complete distribution in the spring of 2019.
- A Captains meeting was held on December 18, 2018 with 21 co-captains in attendance. Regan Borisenko provided a list of reported incidents at Predator and showed the new orientation videos (note Regan is currently President of the BC Block Watch Society and he intends to use Predator as an example of how a Block Watch organization can work). Individuals at this meeting were each asked to comment on the materials or any questions on Block Watch – a great approach to involvement. While stats showed some activity at Predator Regan pointed out we are still a low incident community. These stats were provided to all Block Watch units. There were several good suggestions on how to discourage incidents such as low-level dusk to dawn lighting. Meetings like this are very valuable with the exchange of good information.
- There is a need to strategize on what incident information should be distributed to all residents – what is relevant? More to follow on this in 2019.

- Meeting were held with Predator Security on how best to manage overall site security. While Predator security is focused on construction areas, they play a complementary role to home owner responsibility.
- Overall there is an increased awareness of community security whether it is criminal or just basic emergency preparedness. So more to come in 2019.

2019 UPDATE

- The year was primarily about continuing to form new Block Watch units, recruit co-captains and sign ups residents especially in the lower Commonage area. New Block Watch units were established including numbers 66, 67 and 68. This allowed for early signups as the area developed.
- A couple of orientation meetings were held in the Commonage Room. In addition, the PRCMC held a May 13 Town Hall meeting on Community safety with about 180 in attendance. Including David Lind Fire Chief and Sue Saunders EMO from the Fire and Rescue Services group and a presentation from the Search and Rescue group located in Coldstream.
- Communications continued with the City Protective Services Division and Regan Borisenko. There was a move to expand Block Watch beyond the basic Community security to include FireSmart and other initiatives related to Community Safety.
- The new upper Commonage area continued development with a recognition that there will need to be new Block Watch units in that area.
- The year had limited crime events most related to illegal vehicle entry – all associated to unlocked vehicles. No serious criminal events occurred.

2020 UPDATE

- The year continued with ongoing signups as best could be done under COVID rules. Regan Borisenko held two virtual orientation meetings.
-
- Certain areas needed recruitment of co-captains as normal turnover occurred.
-
- There was limited crime other than a couple of vehicle entries (vehicles unlocked), a stolen truck (keys left in an unlocked truck) and a break in into the Predator Pro Shop.
-
- Communications continued with the Predator Security group. While their responsibility is construction areas, they continue to patrol resident areas to the benefit of residents.

- An Area Block Watch committee was established with the approval of Regan Borisenko. This committee supports development of the Block Watch community as well as provides advice on communications – particularly related to incidents to provide facts but also protect privacy (sometimes a delicate balance).

2021 UPDATE

- Several areas required new co-captains and this work continues. This will be an ongoing challenge. COVID considerations are a challenge.
-
- The upper Commonage are continued development. Four new Block Watch units were mapped and numbered – Numbers 91, 92, 93 and 94. A new captain was recruited in Unit 93 and has already signed up all 5 new residents in that area – a job well done. Other areas do not have residents yet.
-
- Two new co-captains were recruited for Unit 54. Other areas will experience some turn over this year.
-
- Feb 23 and 25 webinars on Predator Community safety were held. The Block Watch committee made a presentation on its organization with sign ups in the 85% range and a target of 90% for all residents within each group.
-
- The Area Block Watch committee also participated in a Zoom call to share knowledge on Block Watch organization with Turtle Mountain and the Rise communities.
-
- A new initiative is the introduction of an Area Coordinator who would assist Regan in organizing community units (not unlike Predator at 24 units that takes a lot of administration and support). Jim Popowich was selected as the first Area Coordinator whose main responsibility is the administration of all Block Watch activities within Predator Ridge, on behalf of the CoV Protective Services. To assist the work of the Area Coordinator, the name of the Block Watch Committee was changed to, the Block Watch Coordination Committee.
-
- Limited criminal activity has occurred year to date.

2022 UPDATE

This was a sorrowful year with the untimely passing of our Block Watch leader here at Predator Ridge, Jim Popowich. It was due to Jim's initiative and ongoing perseverance which saw Block Watch grow from nothing to 25 Block Watch neighbourhoods in just a few years. The community will miss him deeply.

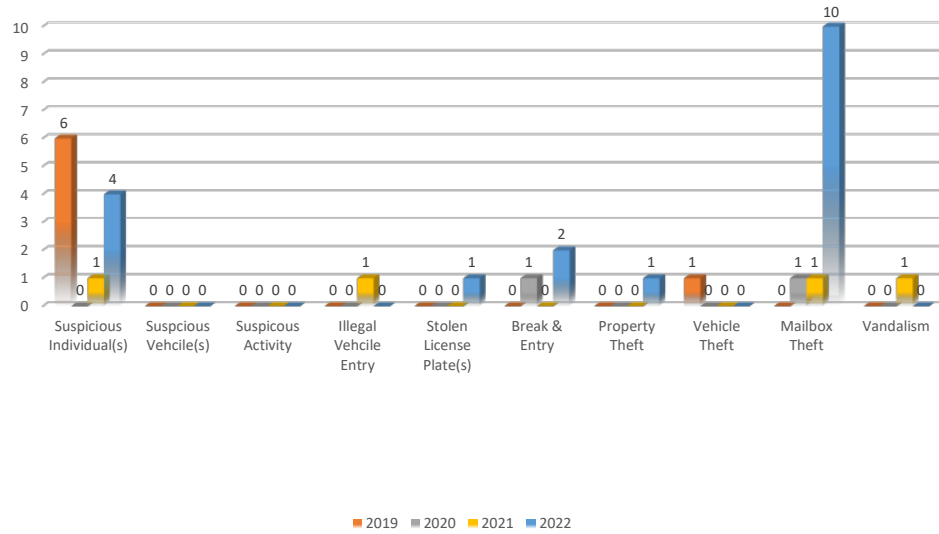
Luiz Araujo stepped in and provided leadership for Block Watch after Jim's passing, and did a wonderful job maintaining all the information, and moving the organization forward.

Another major event was the retirement of City of Vernon's Regan Borisenko who had managed Block Watch for both the City of Vernon and was also President of the BC Block Watch organization. Laurie Carpenter now stepped in to take over the reins for the City of Vernon Block Watch.

An initiative which Regan and Jim had spearheaded (introduction of an Area Coordinator and Predator Ridge Committee) fell by the wayside as the City of Vernon felt it was necessary that all Block Watch Captains report directly to the Crime Prevention Officer (Laurie Carpenter). Instead, a small team at Predator Ridge comprised of Gord Wilson (chair of the PRCS group), Jane Topozini and Gord Ball developed the Predator Ridge Block Watch Support Committee. This group is a sub-committee of the PRCS Committee and is charged with supporting Captains here at Predator Ridge, although the reporting relationship still goes to the City of Vernon Crime Prevention Officer. Luiz Araujo at this time decided to take a step back from leadership with Block Watch, although still maintain his role as Captain. A kickoff meeting with all the Captains and Co-Captains was held January 9, 2023, at which time unanimous support was received to proceed.

Crime at Predator Ridge for 2022 was higher than previous years, as referenced by the crime map. Most significant was mailbox break-ins, of which 10 were reported during the year. Feedback from Canada Post is that no mailbox is secure, and the best defense is to empty your mailbox daily.

TOTAL TYPE OF OCCURENCE PER YEAR



2023 UPDATE (as of May 22 2023)

The year started with a successful meeting of all Captains and Co-Captains on January 9, 2023. At this session, the Block Watch Support Committee under leadership of Gord Ball was endorsed, and several other key initiatives were decided upon, and actions assigned. These included items on Communication, Consistent Engagement and Training, development of a new Web Portal for Captain’s use, and investigating the potential use of cameras.

Work continued with these initiatives, and a follow-up meeting was held with Captains on May 24, 2023. At this meeting, a review was held of progress on the actions, plus 2 new packages were discussed – a Captain’s Help package and a New Resident Welcome package. In addition, the new Web Portal was demonstrated, and the expectation is that it will be ready for Captains use in the coming months. Guy Morazain has been the principal technical architect of the Portal, with Jane Topozini and Gord Ball providing content expertise. Unfortunately, Guy is moving out of town, and we will have to find someone to take over the technical expertise side.

There were no crime activities reported year to date.

On May 9, Gord Ball made a presentation on Block Watch to the Predator Ridge Community Safety Town Hall, and on May 22, Gord Ball staffed a Block Watch booth at the Predator Ridge Welcome to New Resident’s event.