



What Is Neighbourhood Watch (also known as block watch or community watch)?

It is a group of citizens who are concerned about local crime to property and persons such as break & enters, stolen vehicles, robberies, missing persons, etc. These citizens try to reduce/prevent crime through physical observation, security cameras, improvements to locks and windows, proactive communication with each other and local police.

They are neighbours who live/work in the same physical area. The size can be as small as one street with a dozen members up to several blocks consisting of about 100 – 150 members.

It does not replace reporting a crime directly to police.

What is Neighbourhood Protect?

It is a neighbourhood watch administration website that automates many of the tasks that traditional neighbourhood watches perform such as communication between citizens and with the police. It also organizes data so that

the police can search for meaningful information to help solve crime.

All posts are anonymous. The website is free to use.

Before The Internet – Managing A Neighbourhood Watch Was A Manual Process

- 1) Using a clipboard and paper, canvas each neighbour on your street to see if they want to join. Record their name, address and phone number of the ones who join.
- 2) Designate a block captain on each street. They will be responsible for canvassing the rest of the street and providing communication for that street in the future.
- 3) If a neighbour experiences/witnesses a crime, they phone their block captain. The block captain then phones the neighbourhood watch captain to pass that information forward. The neighbourhood watch captain then phones their police contact to inform them.

Neighbourhood Protect Automates Neighbourhood Watch

- 1) No more clipboards and sign-up sheets, use the website sign-up page.
- 2) Reduces canvassing effort as this can be done by email, text messages, phone calls and if necessary, some canvassing.

- 3) There is no need for block captains as the website manages all communication via email or text messages.
- 4) If a neighbour experiences/witnesses a crime, easily post this to the website to notify neighbours; email notifications are automated. This starts the video canvas process prior to police arrival.
- 5) Local police can join the police portal and monitor group communications.
- 6) Meetings are now optional because all communication is automated.
- 7) Communication is in real time.

Police Portal

A dedicated area for police to monitor posts, communicate with members and search data.



www.neighbourhoodprotect.ca

Virtual Neighbourhoods

Certain industries may be targeted by criminals due to a specific products/resource they have such as copper wiring/pipes, catalytic converters, pharmacies, etc. If one business is victimized, then it is likely that other similar businesses will soon be targeted as well. These businesses may wish to create a group based on their industry to help warn each other.

Why Bother Joining/Forming a Watch?

Certain crimes have increased such as vehicle thefts. Police resources have not increased, making it more difficult for the police to keep up with canvassing and gathering video.

More people have invested in security cameras but this information is no good if the police cannot get to it in a timely manner.

Neighbourhood Protect automates the canvassing process, reducing police resource requirements and effort.

If I/we already belong to a social media-based neighbourhood watch group, why should we switch to this website?

Continue using your social media group for general community posts and focus the crime posts to Neighbourhood Protect. While social media works fairly well with individual neighbourhood watches (NWs), it does not automatically connect NWs together nor allow

for the querying of the same criteria across multiple NWs at the same time.

- Many criminals travel and can affect more than just your neighbourhood.
- As good as your NW group may be, sharing crime information with all neighbourhood watches will make it even more effective.
- Quickly see crime happening near your neighbourhood that could affect yours soon.
- Better search tools for the police to help solve crimes in your neighbourhood and nearby.
- Better communication between neighbourhoods and the police than social media.
- Most social media crime posts are not seen by the police.
- Unlike social media, any future development will be specific to improving NW.

Is neighbourhood watch time consuming?

What if I don't have time for this?

Signing up and perhaps creating a group on the website only takes minutes to do. Then you can email, text or phone your neighbours to join. When you are outside, you can tell the neighbours that you see about the group as well. Canvassing is optional.

As neighbours join, they can do the same thing, sharing the workload.

If a neighbour reports a crime and you have cameras, checking video shouldn't take too long. Identifying a criminal before they target your property is well worth those minutes checking video.

Any chance to reduce crime also helps reduce the time to clean up and replace anything damaged or stolen. The few minutes it takes to participate in a NW is offset by the time saved in the reduction of crime.

Is My Privacy Protected?

Minimal information is collected from each member. The sign-up page only collects information similar to a phone book. There is no sensitive information collected such as age, birth date, government id numbers, etc.

It is web-based and relies on members protecting their login id and passwords from being easily guessed. Do not use the same credentials that you use for online banking and shopping.

Posts are anonymous, only the police can see who posted something for follow-up.



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