

For Immediate Release

NOBODY KNOWS “CHRISTMAS CRIME” BETTER THAN “THE GRINCH” AND HIS TRUSTY DOG “MAX”

HOW TO THWART HOLIDAY SEASON CROOKS - TIPS FROM METRO VANCOUVER CRIME STOPPERS

Vancouver, B.C. (December 6, 2022): If only crooks on your doorstep were as easy to identify as The Grinch and his little dog Max. They are the world’s best-known “Christmas criminals”.

You might remember how The Grinch commanded Max to pose as a reindeer and - using all his might - dragged a sleigh stuffed with stolen presents in the Dr. Seuss classic “*How the Grinch Stole Christmas.*”

Both The Grinch and Max (or at least, suspects matching their description) paid an unwanted visit to a home in Cloverdale today to fill their sack. Fortunately, both of them were under the watchful eye of Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers.



“We had The Grinch and Max out today to make a point about how anyone can help prevent theft at Christmastime”, Annis said, “With so much online shopping these days, it’s easy for someone to quickly snatch packages sitting too long at your door. We’ve all seen videos of it, so it’s important to watch for porch pirates who follow delivery trucks and steal packages within minutes of delivery. Preventing theft is largely common sense, and we hope our list of Christmas crime prevention tips will help. It’s just a matter of putting it into action.

“If you see a crime in action, at Christmas or any time of the year, call 9-1-1 or the local police. And if you have information about some nefarious deed that someone’s up to, or if you can ANONYMOUSLY identify someone up to no good, give that tip to us at Crime Stoppers. We’ll send it on the relevant authorities to investigate without ever contacting you back.”

Anyone with information can contact Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS, or 1-855-448-8477 (new number), through the “P3” Crime Stoppers app, online at solvecrime.ca or through Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers’ [Facebook page](#).

FROM THE GRINCH AND MAX (AND CRIME STOPPERS TOO), TIPS FOR A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

1. **ONLINE SHOPPING IS EASY. SO IS LOSING YOUR PACKAGES ONCE DELIVERED.** If you’re not able to watch for your delivery, ask neighbours to help watch. You can return the favour for them too.

(more)

2. **USE YOUR APP AND KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR HOME SECURITY VIDEO FEED.** Maybe you'll spot a crook stealing your Christmas lawn display, or packages from your porch.
3. **THINK TWICE BEFORE CLICKING "YES" ON THAT ONLINE SHOPPING CART.** Organized retail crime costs Canadians almost \$5 billion a year, so buy from established businesses, not unknown sources. Shoplifted or stolen goods may be sold online or through flea markets, with the money often going to gangs dealing in drugs or illegal weapons.
4. **THINK ABOUT WHO NIGHT BE WATCHING YOUR SUNNY VACATION PICS ON SOCIAL MEDIA.** Remember, your post tells the whole world you're not at home.
5. **RECYCLE THAT CARDBOARD.** Boxes discarded outside your house tell thieves that expensive gifts lie within. Goodbye 65-inch TV.
6. **ETCH YOUR DRIVER'S LICENCE NUMBER ON VALUABLES, IN CASE THEY GET STOLEN.** Ask local police to help do the etching. Also take phone pics of your valuables showing make, model and serial number.

DOWNTOWN AND AT THE MALL

7. **DON'T LET YOUR CAR BE A "MALL FOR THIEVES".** Before you lock up your car, leave nothing visible inside. Not even pocket change or empty bottles or cans.
8. **KEEP IT "LIGHT".** Find a busy, well-lit section of the parking lot and lock your gifts out of sight in the trunk.
9. **LEAVE YOUR GARAGE DOOR OPENER AT HOME OR IN YOUR POCKET.** A thief who takes your remote sitting from your console, and finds your address from something in the car, considers that an open invitation to come check out your garage!
10. **WATCH YOUR POCKETS IN THE MALL.** - Keep purses and wallets where you can keep track of them and thwart pickpockets who look to take advantage while jostling with holiday crowd

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that offers rewards for anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators in the communities of Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers accepts tips in 115 different languages and will pay a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest of a criminal, recovery of stolen property, seizure of illegal drugs or guns or denial of a fraudulent insurance claim. Tipsters stay anonymous by using code numbers to check back later and collect their rewards. Find MVCS on Twitter: [@solvecrime](https://twitter.com/solvecrime).

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For media inquiries or interviews please contact:

Trevor Pancoust

tpancoust@pacegroup.com

778.386.0843